

# Allgemeiner Deutscher Frauen- Hilfsverein Newsletter—November 2014

Allgemeiner Deutscher Frauen-Hilfsverein

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German Ladies' General Benevolent Society

## *P r e s i d e n t ' s   M e s s a g e*



GLGBS at Oktoberfest 2014

Dear Members of the German Ladies' General Benevolent Society,

Fall season is a time to reflect, to count our blessings and to get some rest before the start of the busy holiday time. However, for the women and families our society is taking care of, very often there is no time to take a breath, no time to relax, no time to enjoy the change of the season. Because life is too stressful, too depressing, full of uncertainties and problems. And then a monthly check arrives, a poem included, which warms the heart, gives hope and brightens the day.

This is what our society stands for. This is our reward for countless phone calls, for home visits and for listening to every kind of problem. This is why we volunteer our time, why we continue to struggle for solutions and why we debate the best outcome for our clients. Because being able to help also falls back with joy and satisfaction to those who give.

Financial help is an important aspect of our work, but the emotional support, the social interaction is in many cases just as important to our clients. In fact, I find I receive more phone calls on our Society's phone from people who do not need financial help but are inquiring about where to find German conversation and companionship. We try to do our best with the offer of a personal meeting and referrals, but I see here a big chance for the membership to participate in our effort to reach out to people who are in need of a friendly ear to listen to memories and life stories. And maybe there will even be shared memories such as coming from the same area in Germany or even having similar life experiences. Even within our membership there could be more connections amongst the members, more inclusion of women who are not in our circle of old friends but live in our neighborhoods.

To keep our Society lively and interesting, we should establish and continue the Benevolent Society's mission not only as a group with a special mission but also as a group of friends. There will be a new membership roster in your mail pretty soon. Please take the opportunity and look up who else is living in your area and make an effort to get in touch.

I am looking forward to get a call from you. If not earlier, I will be happy to see you at our wonderful Christmas luncheon on December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Olympic Club. And if you are not able to attend that event, I am herewith sending my best wishes for the Holiday season and for a happy and healthy new year.

Thank you for your support of the Society all year round.

With deep gratitude,

*Karin Rohlf, President*

## **I n s i d e**

**FINANCE**

**'HER' STORY**

**CHRISTEL ANDERSON**  
in memoriam

**ELKE SCHLOSSER**

**THE STORY OF**

**OUR FLAG**

**DONATIONS**

**MEMBER NEWS**

**CHRISTMAS**

**CELEBRATION**

## OUR FINANCES

The current fluctuations in the Dow Jones are quite disturbing to those of us who watch our investments. The same goes for the investments of our Society. However, we have great confidence in our investment firm, Van Strum and Towne, and their strategies have served us well. According to them, in the current market environment they are focused on buying and holding issues that have attractive long-term appreciation potential and avoid issues where growth is unlikely to prove strong enough to support generous valuations.

Even though our annual income is predicted to be less than in previous years, mainly due to the maturity of high yielding bonds, the generosity of our membership has more than made up for the lower income. Donations in honor and in memory of loved ones have been outstanding and enabled us to distribute **\$77,587.00** in cash and food coupons to our clients from January to October of this year. The Board of Directors is very grateful for the support and so are our clients. Hopefully, we will be able to make their holidays gifts as generous as in years past.

*Notes from Our Finance Chair, Anneliese Miller*

## 'HER' STORY

“

Our economy is finally on the mend and luckily most of us came through the great recession unharmed. As we celebrate our good fortune this year, it is also good to remember that for many who are living on or below the margin, this news hardly makes an impression. Life will still be the same as they struggle daily to combat ongoing adversities with little or no remaining resources. The stock market may go up, but what if you lost all your assets in 2009, then lost your house to foreclosure, and then you and your husband simultaneously lost your jobs with little hope of getting another one sufficient enough to support your family. Add to that kids in school, inability to pay the rent, put food on the table—it's enough to bring on a stroke. Which it did. Things got so desperate for this family of four that there was no choice but to break up the family and shelter with friends. A job of sorts finally showed up for mom, but there would still be little hope of being able to rent an apartment for some time to come. This is a dilemma of our modern times. We helped this desperate family. They will all be together in their own home for Thanksgiving! We wish them and all our clients who live on the edge better times and at least some holiday joy in the coming days.

**When we celebrate the holiday season next month with our wonderful annual Christmas Luncheon at the Olympic Club, 100% of your generous purchase of raffle tickets goes directly to our clients, helping to brighten their Christmas as well.**

## IN MEMORIAM

### CHRISTEL ANDERSON 1940-2014

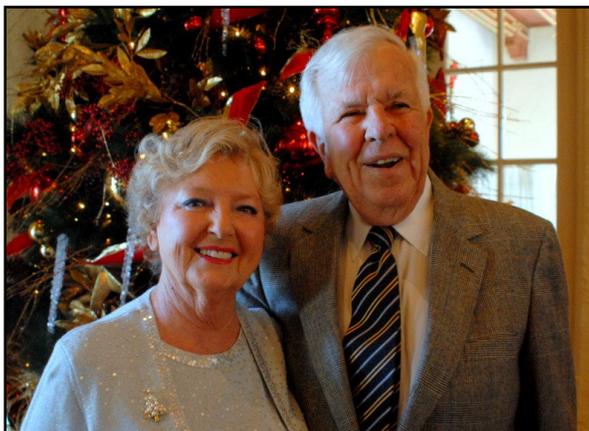
After a three and a half year battle and courageous fight against bladder cancer, Christel Anderson passed away at her home in Lafayette on August 20th.

Christel's early life experiences stayed with her and as she never forgot her own struggles, she knew first hand the difficulties that many of our clients endure even today. Christel believed deeply in the mission of our Society and was so happy to be able help people who were facing life's greatest challenges. She served as President of the GLGBS Board from 1999 to 2001.

Christel's spirit of giving and her personality embodied the spirit of Christmas, so it is no wonder that Christel was the driving force and focal point of our Annual Christmas Party raffle. Not only was she the creator of the coveted festive Christmas wreaths that every luncheon participant wanted to win, she also happily was in charge of dispensing the raffle items.

Christel was a flight attendant for Pacific Airlines and it was through this affiliation that she met her wonderful husband Dean. She so overwhelmed Dean with her charm, vivacity, and wit and she continued to do so for the remainder of their life together. Dean and Christel were the proud parents of Alexander, the handsome son whom she adored. It is with the deepest sympathy the GLGBS sends its heartfelt regards to Dean and Alexander, as well as those who cherished Christel. She will truly be missed.

*By Doris Solbach Linnenbach*



*Christel and Dean Anderson Christmas 2012*

## 'Our Story'

### OUR APPRECIATION FOR A MAGNIFICENT JOB THANK YOU, ELKE!

It has often been said that the GLGBS is in the DNA of the Schlosser Family. In 1966, Mrs. Elise Kuester (Elke's grandmother) joined the Society and shortly thereafter, in 1970, her daughter, Mrs. Evelyn Schlosser, also became a member. Evelyn soon joined the Board and served as President of the GLGBS 1982 - 1983. For her many years of dedicated service and continued life commitment to the GLGBS, Evelyn was given an *Honorary Life Membership* in 2008. Her continued support of the GLGBS has exceeded over forty years.

Elke, Evelyn's eldest daughter, first became a member in 1982 and soon joined the Board in 1984, eager to contribute her energy and talents to the cause in true Schlosser tradition. During her time as President of the GLGBS, 1993 to 1995, Elke wrote dynamic newsletters, revised the outdated By-Laws, devised new fund raising techniques for the Christmas Party, designed our Society's beautiful logo, organized the files of the Society and created scrapbooks to retain a history of the GLGBS. For over thirty years the Schlosser family has also been housing the Society's files (free of charge) at their Broadmoor Lumber Company Office in South San Francisco and they most graciously continue to extend this kindness to us today.

Elke brought with her a great deal of institutional knowledge of the Society's past. As Elke was a most successful business woman and handled her families finances for many years, she soon volunteered to take over the position of Treasurer. This decision to be Treasurer made our Board an all-volunteer organization, *as it should be*.

For seven incredible years, Elke has done a wonderful job serving as a volunteer accountant/bookkeeper/ for the Society. Her job was to send out all the checks and lovely poems to our clients every month in a timely manner. Elke has been a very dedicated and prudent overseer of our funds. And we thank her from the bottom of our hearts.

### THE STORY OF THE GLGBS FLAG

In many ways Elke has left a great legacy to our Society, but none more outstanding and visible than the beautiful green and white GLGBS flag. When all the German flags were presented at a "*Fahneneinmarsch*" or flag presentation ceremony at a recent Oktoberfest, Elke and her Mother decided to create a flag so that our Society would be represented along with the other groups in the German community. That is just one example of the way the Schlosser Family saw a need of the Society over the

years and acted to rectify it.

Our clients will never forget Elke's thoughtfulness. Elke, we wish you great success with your latest venture, the beautiful Bed and Breakfast "Enchanted April Inn" in the Gold Country. Thank you again for a job WELL DONE!

*Contributed by Doris Solbach Linnenbach, Historian*



*Elke von Schlosser with finished Flag*



*Evelyn Schlosser assists Production*



*Doris Linnenbach and Elke von Schlosser display the Flag-*

# DONATIONS

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS RECEIVED JANUARY 1 - OCTOBER 31 - 2014

Arbeiter Bildungsverein  
Ackermann, Emmi  
Ahrens, Anneliese  
Alldaffer, Ilse  
Anderson, Ursula  
Avery, Renate  
Bayne, Ingrid  
Beam, Christine  
Berg, Linda  
Blanz, Maria  
Boehler, Margaret  
Bruggemann-Wong, Charlene  
Brugger, Gisela  
Buelow, Friederike  
Byrnes, Inge  
Campo, Anneliese  
Ceridono, Ingrid  
Cervarich, Ellen  
Chamlian, Christa  
Christoforidis, Edith  
Clement, Barbara  
Clyde, Monica  
Darm, Rosemarie  
Detert, Miriam  
Detjen, Christa  
Diermayer, Ingeborg  
Dobel, Inge  
Ewert, Christel  
Excelsior German Center  
Fallant, Eleonore  
Farrell, Lena  
Finch, Waltraud  
Fisher, Maggie  
Foley, Linda  
Frost, Ilona  
Gerken, Hile  
Gillette, Ingrid  
Goericke, Dietlind  
Gubbe, Marlene  
Gunnerson, Veronica  
Hagedorn, Ellinor  
Harris, Heide  
Hederich, Herta  
Heine, Margrit  
Heldmann, Tina  
Hellmann, Annemarie  
Highsmith, Kristine  
Hoegel, Anna  
Hofmann, Waltraud  
Holder, Astrid

Horst, Irmhild  
Hull, Elfriede  
Hyde, Heidi  
Jacobs, Jutta  
Jarrett, Sigrid  
Jones, Helga  
Jones, Marliese  
Kenasten, Renate  
Kiemtrup, Joan  
Kreske, Elisabeth  
Krevet, Ursula  
Kruse, Gesine  
Kuchlenz, Viola  
Lara, Henni  
LeBaron, Lieselotte  
Lewald, Felicitas  
Lewis, Hannelore  
Lindstedt, Eleonor  
Lloyd, Gisela  
Lonergan, Edith  
Lorentz, Hilde  
McKellar, Gisela  
McKinney, Greta  
Meier, Ursula  
Meyer, Edith  
Michael, Barbara  
Miller, Anneliese  
Meissner, AnnKatrein  
Nemeth, Marianne  
Niesar, Ortrun  
Nugent, Hildegard  
Ohlund, Helene  
Paltrineri, Ingrid  
Pearce, Karola  
Pilat, Erika  
Prothmann, Waltraud  
Querfurt-Yaeger, Regina  
Reeves, Ruth  
Sarkissian, Hildy  
Schlosser, Evelyn  
Scholz, Pamela  
Schulhauser, Marlene  
Schwab, Eleonore  
Schwab-Wilhelmi, Heidi  
Schwalbe, Brigitte  
Scoble, Barbara  
Sikora, Sigrid  
Smith, Caroline  
Smith-Freeman, Margot

Spencer, Diana  
Spencer, Simonne  
Sponholz, Ingrid  
Stoermer, Christian  
Stottmeister, Ingeborg  
Sydow, Edda  
Terstiege, Krista  
Thiel, Annemarie  
Tilley, Gretel  
Turner, Gisela  
Tuteur, Waltraud  
Umhofer, Maria  
Vierhaus, Agnes  
Von Rogov, Christel  
Waring, Irmgard  
Wegener, Sigrid  
Welter, Christine  
Weiler, Monika  
Weiss, Brenda  
Woryna, Rosita

## Donations In Honor Of:

Bock, Toni in honor  
of Dr. Wolfgang Linnenbach's  
90th Birthday  
Schlosser, Evelyn in honor  
of Dr. Wolfgang Linnenbach's  
90th Birthday

## Donations In Memory Of:

Wiegand, Mr. and Mrs.  
in memory of Dr.  
Henry Meffert  
Nussbaum, Ingrid in  
memory of Mary Menaul

## In Memory of Christel Anderson

Aliano, Victoria and David  
Anderson, Scott and Pamela  
Babcock, William and Janice  
Morgan  
Boehler, Margaret  
Brennan, Marilyn M.  
Buelow, Friedrike  
Ceridono, Ingrid  
Davis, Paul

Deutsche, Monika  
Doyle Virginia  
Fischer, Nancy and Bud PurteLL  
Guthrie, Karen and Albert Bur-  
row  
Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Don  
Hederich, Herta  
Heidenreich, Sigrid  
Jacobs, Jutta  
Kammerer, George and Patricia  
Klontz, Jan and Bryce  
Linnenbach, Dr. and Mrs. Wolf-  
gang  
Lippmann, Helga and Mario  
Lloyd, Gisela  
Morrison, Laurie and Richard  
Namdar, Marlen  
Nelson, Ute  
Panky, Shron  
Schilling, Ellen  
Schlosser, Elke  
Schlosser, Evelyn  
Soon Kwon, Catherine  
Trager Girls (Anita Costa, Cathy  
Debbs, Nancy Valez, Pat Trager)  
Von Rogov, Christel  
Wagner, Uta  
Wang, Plato (Wang Family)  
Weiss, Elaine and Stanley  
West, Carol S. Orchison  
Williams, Charles

Note: If we have forgotten someone, we apologize. We will make that correction in our next issue with many thanks..

# Members News

## Welcome to Our New Board Members

We welcome our newest Board members, **Friederike Buelow** and **Silvia Hildebrandt**. **Friederike** was born and raised in Germany (Heidelberg and Karlsruhe) and did not arrive on these shores until 1987. Friederike lives in Palo Alto with her family. She received her degree in Human Services from the University de Namur in Belmont and served as a volunteer and board member on the Ecumenical Hunger Program (EHP) in East Palo Alto from 2008 to 2013. **Silvia** was born in Redwood City. She went to College in Rhode Island where she received a degree in hotel management. Before taking over her father's business, Chrissy Imports, which she operates together with her brother Andreas, Silvia worked several years for Hilton Hotels as food and beverage manager. She has a son, Gianluca, who is all of eight years old. Mom is therefore an active school board member. Silvia also serves on the board of the Hillsborough Concours de Elegance. We thank both ladies for their willingness to share their talents and time.

**Carola Detrick** has graciously consented to take on the role as Treasurer, replacing Elke von Schlosser as of January 1, 2015. Many thanks to Carola for stepping up to the task. And thank you to **Brenda Weiss** for her past service on the Board.

### Welcome to Our New Members :

**Ursula A. Aalders, Stefanie Bastia, Sybille Butzlaff, Sabine Eisenhoauer, Eva Fettchenhauer, Linda Foley, Heike Harrison, Inga Hudson, Wally Kaustraeter, Amy Landolt Eber, Julie Mooney, Trudy Reinhard, Brigitte Rodgers, Diana von Welczeck, Heidemarie Woolf.**

## How You Can Help

**Do you know of anyone who may be in temporary financial distress due to unforeseen circumstances? Please call and let us know. Our telephone lines are always open. All inquiries are handled in strictest confidence. Applicants must be of German descent.**

### East Bay:

Anneliese Miller (510-526-0496)

Ortrun Niesar (510-652-6664)

Irene Reich (925-831-0117)

Irmgard Willock (925-254-8828)

**Peninsula:** Sigrid Heidenreich (650-342-1751)

Ingrid Sponholz (650-340-0210)

Uta Wagner (650-697-3004)

Silvia Hildebrandt (415-710-3413)

**San Francisco:** Doris Linnenbach (415-731-4455)

Edda Roloff (415-922-3962)

### **South Bay:**

Karin Rohlf, President (650-857-9121)

Ute Nelson (408-241-2926)

Friederike Buelow (650-493-6751)

**Napa:** Maren Namdar (707-252-1015)

**Marin:** Carola Detrick (415-246-8024)

**At Large:** Elke von Schlosser (916-939-9144)



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PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR  
**Annual Festive Christmas Luncheon**  
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

You, your daughters, granddaughters and a friend are cordially invited

Social Hour 11:00 a.m.—Lunch 12:00 noon

THE OLYMPIC CLUB at LAKESIDE

599 Skyline Boulevard

San Francisco, CA

Invitations have been sent - Please mail your reservations by December 1

*German Ladies' General Benevolent Society 415-391-9947*

LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT WE DO—send your e-mail address to  
[info@germanladiesbenevolentsociety.org](mailto:info@germanladiesbenevolentsociety.org). Go online to  
[www.germanladiesbenevolentsociety.org](http://www.germanladiesbenevolentsociety.org)