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Nobel Prize Winner To Be Honored As 2005 Distinguished German-American of the Year



*Dr. Blobel at the construction site
of the Frauenkirche in Dresden
on May 21, 2000.*

Dr. Günter Blobel, winner of the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1999, will be honored with the 2005 "Distinguished German-American of the Year Award" presented each year since 1987 by the United German-American Committee Council of 1000. "

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New Campaign Aims To Restore
German-American Friendship
Garden

We are delighted to pay tribute to this truly great German American," noted President Bern E. Deichmann.

Dr. Blobel was born in Waltersdorf, a small Silesian village in what is now part of Poland in 1936. In January 1945, his family was forced to flee the Russian Army and settled in Freiberg in Saxony. "I was nine years old when we became refugees. My family moved from the eastern part of Germany via Dresden to the center of Germany. I had never before seen a big city and for me, Dresden was a wonderful place," Blobel said.

"A few days later we witnessed the bombardment of Dresden from 40 miles away. We saw the fire shine in the night sky and heard on the radio it was Dresden. A couple months later, after the end of the war, we saw the city again as we tried to make our way back to Silesia and the city was in rubble. I decided then that if ever there should be a chance in my life, I would like to help in the reconstruction."

Blobel was able to do that in 1999 when he donated the major portion of his Nobel Prize to the rebuilding of the Frauenkirche in Dresden. Blobel was afforded the Nobel Prize for his research explaining the process that enables each of the approximately one billion protein molecules in a single cell to be distributed to the right location within the cell. Proteins do most of the work. With time, they suffer damage and therefore they need to be continuously replaced by new synthesis. Each protein needs to be directed to a specific area in the cell to properly function. What Blobel

discovered is a "zip code" system for protein distribution: each protein carries a signal that is recognized by other specific proteins that help in targeting the protein to the correct address within the cell.

Blobel has been a professor at The Rockefeller University since 1976 and an Investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute since 1986. He has received countless awards and honors during his distinguished career. For more information about Dr. Blobel visit <http://nobelprize.org/medicine/laureates/1999/blobel-autobio.html>

Blobel will receive the "Distinguished German-American of the Year Award" at a formal ceremony on Saturday, January 21, 2006 at the Schützen Park in North Bergen, New Jersey. All members and friends of the United German-American Committee are invited to attend. Tickets are \$110 per person and include a cocktail reception, dinner and dancing.

The Council of 1000 was established in 1987 as a special donor recognition category. As a member of the Council of 1000, you receive all our publications in addition to being invited to this and other special events each year. We hope you will consider joining with your fellow German Americans and becoming a member by contributing your \$1,000 today.

For more information about becoming a Council of 1000 Member or to purchase tickets for the Council of 1000 Awards and Fundraising Banquet, call us toll free at 1 (866) 868-8422. ♦

Mission Statement

The United German-American Committee is dedicated to promoting and preserving the cultural heritage of German-speaking Americans.

We serve as a national membership organization through which Americans, proud of their German heritage and language, work together on vital issues of common concern.

The United German-American Committee of the USA was established in 1977 as an independent, tax-exempt, educational, not-for-profit organization.

We are committed to:

- Sharing a positive image of Americans of German-speaking heritage by focusing on their historical contributions to American society
- Strengthening the ethnic awareness and cooperation of German Americans
- Promoting the German language and culture
- Cultivating German American friendship and cooperation
- Supporting cooperative efforts among German Americans and their organizations

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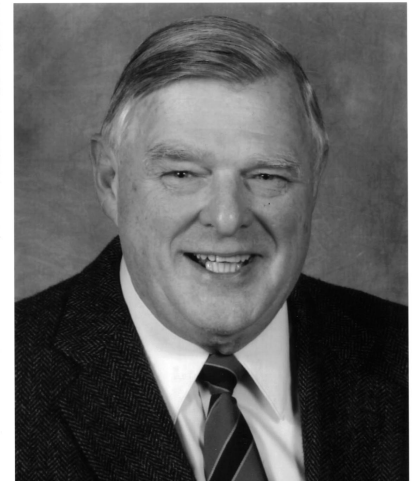
President's Message

We continue to make great strides in raising the profile of German Americans around the country while building momentum for the National German-American Cultural Center. On October 6th, President Bush issued a national proclamation celebrating German-American Day as did the Governors of 17 States. In Washington DC, we organized a clean-up of the German-American Friendship Garden on the grounds of the Washington Monument to highlight the day. German Ambassador, Wolfgang Ischinger, stopped by to personally thank each one of the volunteers who joined the project. We are most grateful for his support. You'll find the full story on page 5.

Our new brochure entitled "The Voice of Americans of German-Speaking Ancestry" has been published and well received. Directors and Area Representatives have been busy distributing copies at major festivals throughout the country and at meetings with representatives of the German-American community on both the East and West Coast. In the event you have not yet received your personal copy, please call our office toll free at 1-866-868-8422 and a copy will be mailed to you.

Progress is also being made on Hockemeyer Hall, the future home of the National German American Cultural Center. The building is the cornerstone of Trammell Crow's (the developer) retail and office development and construction is well underway. Even though the basic building dates from 1888, it will be totally renovated. This means that our maintenance costs should be minimal for many years. That is definitely very beneficial.

Although we are still working to finalize a trust agreement as well as complete the Purchase and Sale Agreement, we are gearing up to undertake a major fundraising initiative to raise the \$4 million dollars required to establish the National German American Cultural Center. You can find more information on page 3.



Bern E. Deichmann

We held our Annual Membership Meeting, followed by our Board of Director Meeting on Sunday, November 13th. While you'll find a full report on page 4, I want to take this opportunity to personally thank Honorary President Helmut Krueger, who did not seek reelection, for all his 28 years of dedication and hard work. Nevertheless, I know we will continue to look forward to his counsel.

With regard to our ongoing expenses, we often get questions from our members regarding the costs of running our Washington Office, particularly with regard to paid staff. We only have two paid employees, the Executive Director and the Administrative Assistant. You can find all related information in our audited financial statements as well as in our annual IRS 990 filing which is available to the public through Guidestar at www.GuideStar.org. Or, give us a call and we will be happy to send you a copy.

On a sad note, we are sorry to report that Walter Brand, honored for the "Distinguished German American of the Year 2003" with his wife, Maria, died suddenly. Please refer to the write-up on page 7.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We hope to see you at the Council-1000 Awards and Fundraising Banquet when we honor Dr. Günter Blobel as the "Distinguished German American of the Year 2005," on Saturday, January 21, 2006 at the Schützen Park in North Bergen, NJ. Please mark your calendar and join us for this Gala Event. ❖

Bern E. Deichmann

The National German American Cultural Center Planning Continues

President Bern E. Deichmann spent the month of October traveling and visiting with members in California, New York, New Jersey and Washington D.C. where he received feedback and input regarding the National German American Cultural Center. He recently shared the Board's most up-to-date vision in an interview with "The Ambassador."

The Ambassador: Why does the Board feel there is a need for a national heritage site and why in Washington DC?

Deichmann: When the United German-American Committee of the USA was formed in 1977, the founders envisioned a national organization to bring all Americans of German-speaking heritage together to work on issues of common concern. While German-Americans are active on the local level, as the largest ethnic group in the US, we have little clout at the national level. The founders' intent was not - and is not - to supersede the work or autonomy of local clubs and organizations but to unify all Americans of German-speaking heritage under one umbrella. The National German American Cultural Center would be a testament to that unification.

The Board decided to move its headquarters to the nation's capital a few years ago to take advantage of the unique networking opportunities with the White House, Congress, government, The German Embassy, and various international agencies. No other place in the country is more suited to highlight the contributions of German-speaking Americans to the development of our great nation. That's why we opened our offices at 1901 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, D.C. in 2004. Our ethnic group should stand alongside Polish Americans, Italian Americans, African Americans, and others who all make up the great melting pot that is the United States of America.

The Ambassador: How did the Board decide to purchase Hockemeyer Hall?

Deichmann: Very few historic townhouses remain in the heart of the city and the Historic Preservation League (HPL) of Washington DC actively defends against their destruction. Hockemeyer Hall was saved due to the action of the HPL. The United German-American Committee was able to negotiate a favorable price with the developer.

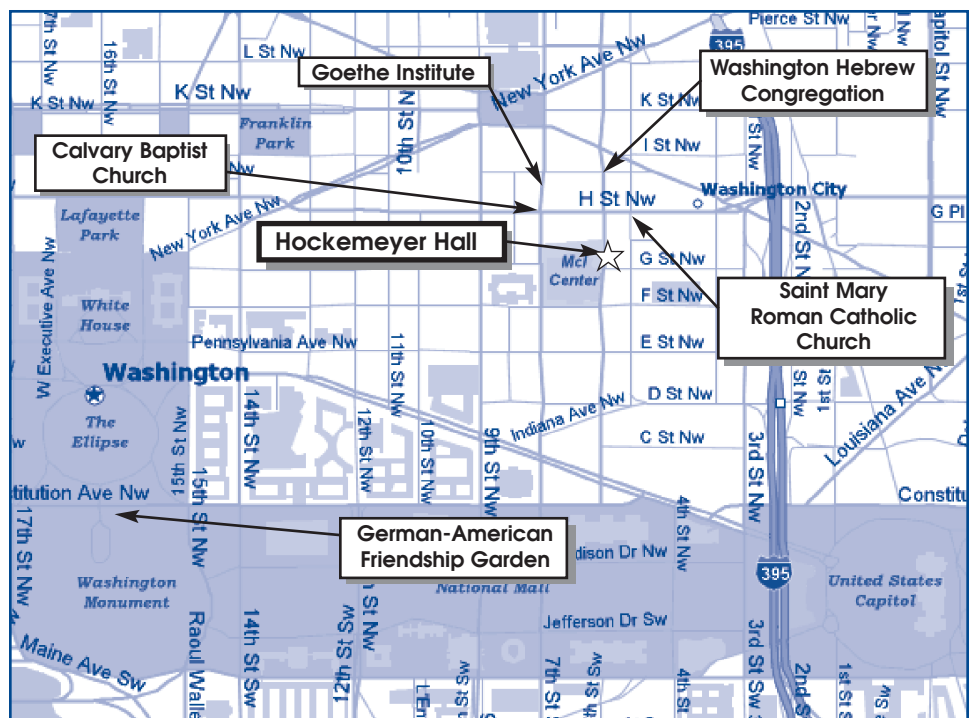
What is important for us is that Hockemeyer Hall was built by a German, first as a townhouse, and then as a gathering place for German Americans and their organizations. Located at 719 6th Street, between G and H Streets, the building is in an area that has become one of the premier residential and business downtowns in the nation. More than 4,200 new apartments and condominiums have been built in and around the neighborhood since 2002. Another 7,500 residential units are planned for the next four years.

The cultural and retail growth around the area has also been phenomenal. Immediately across the street from our building is one of the exits to the MCI Arena and the new Gallery Place, a retail

complex with movie theaters and upscale shopping opportunities, is one block away. One of the city's newest theaters, Woolly Mammoth, opened just two blocks down the street.

And many of the religious institutions established by Germans in the past century remain relevant to the neighborhood today. St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church was established in 1846 at 5th and H Streets, N.W., as the first Roman Catholic church in the nation's capital. The first pastor was Reverend Mathias Alig, born in the German-speaking part of Switzerland. Prayers in German may be seen carved on stone plaques in the vestibule. The Washington Hebrew Congregation was formed by twenty-one Jews of German ancestry in 1852 on the site of the Sixth and "I" Street Historic Synagogue. And, Calvary Baptist Church at 8th and H Streets, N.W., was completed in 1866 by the German-born immigrant architect Adolf Cluss. Calvary is the only surviving church building designed by the Cluss.

Continued on Page 7...



New Directors Elected

The Annual Meeting of the Membership was held on Sunday, November 13th, at the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The nominating committee, chaired by Board Director Bruno Karnas, put forth the following candidates for reelection to a three year term: Mr. Bern E. Deichmann and Mr. Theo Sawadski. Hans J. Trustorff was nominated for a one year term.

Nominations from the floor were called immediately after the presentation of the nominating committee's report and two candidates were presented including Peter Jürgen Holle [New York] and Werner Ropers [Florida]. Albert Kemper [New England] was nominated for a one year term.

Having achieved a quorum, all candidates were duly and unanimously elected.

As outlined in the bylaws of the organization, officers of the board are elected by the Directors from their ranks. The Board meeting immediately followed the Annual Meeting of the Membership. Officers, who serve for a period of one year, were elected as follows:

<i>President</i>	<i>1st Vice President</i>	<i>2nd Vice President</i>
Mr. Bern E. Deichmann	Mr. Walter Lehmann	Mr. Horst Stabenow
<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	<i>Recording Secretary</i>	
Mr. Erich Ast	Mr. Fred Hansen	

Honorary President and co-founder of the United German-American Committee, Helmut Krueger, chose not to stand for reelection. Krueger was thanked for his 28 years of service and honored with a round of applause by the directors and members of the organization. Frieda Bayer, Honorary Director, extended a special thanks to Helmut Krueger on behalf of all the Directors who had worked with him over the years. Krueger was also elected as an Honorary Director. ❖

Building Support Around The Country

As plans for the National German American Cultural Center take shape, members of the Board of Directors have been busy building support around the country. President Bern E. Deichmann spent time in Northern California in early October on a trip organized by Northern California Representative, Hank Stoffel, to meet with local clubs and organizations. In San Francisco, 17 leaders of the German American community of the Greater San Francisco Bay area came together at the German Consulate. Additional short visits included the Concordia Sport and Soccer Club and visits to the sites of Natur Verein and the Altenheim in Oakland to take a look at the facilities, the Oktoberfest in Alameda, an evening at the Sacramento Turnverein Oktoberfest, and a Sunday afternoon with the Gold Country German American Club in Grass Valley, CA.



Walter Lehmann, President of the Deutscher Club of Clark and 1st Vice President of the United German-American Committee receives an honorary proclamation from Mayor Sal Bonaccorso of the Township of Clark. Photo courtesy of Christa Wimmer.



Pictured from left to right: Hank Stoffel, Northern California Area Representative, Christa Benson, President, Gold Country German American Club, Bern E. Deichmann, President, United German-American Committee, and Theresa Arth, Gold Country Alpine Dancer

Deichmann also emceed the *70th Anniversary Gala* of the Deutscher Club of Clark in New Jersey on October 16th where more than 300 friends and supports came together for an evening of "good friends and good times." The *Deutscher Club of Clark* is one of the *founding clubs* of the United German-American Committee and Deichmann thanked them for their longstanding commitment to the mission and vision of the organization.

If your club or organization would like to learn more about hosting a member of the Board of Directors of the United German-American Committee, please contact our national headquarters toll free at 1 (866) 868-8422. ❖

Committee Launches Campaign To Restore German-American Friendship Garden

To commemorate German-American Day on October 6th, the United German-American Committee organized a volunteer initiative to clean-up the German-American Friendship Garden. Students and teachers from the Deutsche Schule Washington DC worked together with members of the United German-American Committee to weed, paint park benches, and generally spruce up the site.

We are delighted to report German Ambassador to the US, Wolfgang Ischinger, stopped by to personally thank everyone for their efforts on behalf of the German American community's national garden. During his visit, Ambassador Ischinger and President Bern E. Deichmann discussed the need for a more complete renovation of the garden especially considering the heavy damage to the water system which was incurred during construction around the Washington Monument. Namely National Park Service staff informed President Deichmann that the pump house was out of order and monies for repair were not budgeted. Without funds to repair the system, the sprinklers that water the plants and drive the beautiful fountains will not work.

The budget of the National Park Service is overseen by your elected *Senators* and *Representatives* in Washington DC. They *need to hear from you!* They know and realize their response to your inquiry or comments may translate into votes in the next election. That is why grassroots communications are so effective. You have the unique opportunity to have your message heard and, for better or worse, will most likely receive a personal response from your Member.

The United German-American Committee has launched a Congressional Information and Education Campaign to raise awareness about the plight of the German-American Friendship Garden. You will find a sample letter which you just need to copy and mail to your specific Representatives in Washington. Or, you can visit our website and click on the German-American Friendship Garden Campaign where you can quickly send your Member an e-mail. *Help restore the German-American Friendship Garden by writing your Congressmen today.* ❖



Ambassador Ischinger and Bern E. Deichmann thank students from the Deutsche Schule Washington DC for their hard work in the German-American Friendship Garden.

The Honorable

Re: German-American Friendship Garden

Dear Member of Congress:

As a constituent and an American of German-speaking heritage, I am writing today to ask for your support of the renovation of the German-American Friendship Garden. Situated on the National Mall, on the historic axis between the White House and the Washington Monument, the garden borders Constitution Avenue between 15th and 17th Streets where an estimated seven million visitors pass each year.

Funded by donations from around the country and overseas, the German-American Friendship Garden is part of the National Mall & Memorial Parks overseen by the National Park Service. It was mandated by Congress and dedicated in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan and Chancellor Helmut Kohl. President Reagan hailed it as a "visible sign of the United States-German friendship and the strength of our partnership."

Today, the garden is in a complete state of disrepair, overgrown with weeds and stray perennials. The marble encasing the flower beds has cracks and the plaques are undecipherable. The once beautiful fountains have not operated for over a year.

On October 6, the German-American Day, the United German-American Committee in Washington DC organized a group of volunteers to clean up the garden but the work required is beyond the capacity of high school and college students without professional help.

Most pressing is the repair of the pump station which feeds water to the garden sprinklers and fountains. It was damaged during construction on the Washington Monument over the past year. We were told by staff of the National Park Service that there are no funds available in the budget to fix the problem. Secondly, now that the parking area to the rear of the garden and the driveway have been removed, it is important that the two sections of the garden be joined. Additionally, proper signage needs to be installed.

The German-American Friendship Garden stands as a symbol of the positive and cooperative relations between the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany. It is appalling that it has been allowed to become a blemish on our nation's front door step.

Your assistance in encouraging the National Park Service to make the necessary repairs to restore the beauty of the German-American Friendship Garden would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Your Signature

Cc: Bern E. Deichmann, President, The United German-American Committee

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YES, I want to become a member or renew my membership with the United German-American Committee at the level indicated below:

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- Benefactor: \$500
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Continued from Page 3...

Other points of interest include the National Portrait Gallery and the Museum of American Art which are located just blocks in the opposite direction and scheduled to reopen in July 2006. Just one block further is the new International Spy Museum which draws hundreds of visitors daily. In 2007, the new Shakespeare Theatre Company's Harman Center for the Performing Arts will open just kiddy-corner from our building. The new Newseum is just four blocks down the street toward the National Mall – a seven minute walk from the Hockemeyer Hall. And, the Goethe Institute is just three blocks north-west. We're already in discussions regarding joint projects.

So you can appreciate that we will be in the midst of one of the most vibrant parts of Washington DC.

The Ambassador: How do you plan to raise the funds needed to support such a major undertaking?

Deichmann: I am glad you ask. The overall project cost for establishing the National German American Cultural Center will be \$4 million. The building acquisition cost will be \$2.2 million. We budgeted another \$250,000 for furniture, equipment, and lighting. For initial exhibits and program development, we estimated costs at \$350,000. And, we added an endowment of \$1 million for a reserve operating fund to ensure that the costs of the Center are secured for several years. Capital fundraising campaign costs are estimated at \$200,000.

For program development, we are in the process of seeking funding from major foundations to establish a digital library which will be a "one-stop-shopping" resource for information about German-speaking Americans including historical archives, genealogical databases, and links to all German American, Swiss American, and Austria American clubs and organizations in the United States. This will be available to all visitors at the center and online.

All funds raised to support the Center will initially be placed into a designated trust fund. They always have been. The Board of the United German-American Committee is committed to ensuring that our donors' wishes are followed. That is an absolute requirement. It is a matter of maintaining the charge which members have entrusted to us.

The Ambassador: When will the Capital Campaign be kicked off?

Deichmann: We need to finalize the Purchase and Sale Agreement with the United German-American Committee Acquisition Company and finalized the Trust. We will advise all clubs and members as soon as these have been finalized. We have started work on a brochure to outline the project and funding requirements, and plan to swing into high gear January 2006. This is absolutely necessary as Hockemeyer Hall is expected to be completely renovated and ready for occupancy in April 2007. ❖

Walter Brand 1932-2005

Walter Brand passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Friday, October 21, 2005 in his home in San Jose, California. Walter, is survived by his wife of 45 years, Maria, his sons Ralph and Raymond, their wives Caroline and Barbara, their grandsons, Christopher, Richard and Gerard, as well as his brother Werner Walter. He was a great supporter of the German American community. Together with Maria, he was the recipient of the Distinguished German-American of the Year Award for the Year 2003.

Walter was a master pastry chef and worked in that field in Germany, Switzerland, Australia, Hawaii and San Francisco. In 1960, he emigrated to Hawaii where he met and married Maria. They moved to San Francisco, started a family, and he began a 35-year career with United Airlines. Walter enjoyed singing in the Germania Choir and celebrating his heritage.

Memorial services for Walter were held on November 4th at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi in San Jose, CA. Maria asked that in lieu of flowers, contributions be sent to the United German-American Committee in Walter's memory to the Walter Brand Memorial Fund for the National German American Cultural Center in Washington DC. For that we are most grateful. We will always remember our friend and colleague Walter Brand. ❖

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Swiss Launch New Program To Reconnect Americans With Their Roots

The United German-American Committee strives to work on behalf of all Americans of German-speaking ancestry so we are delighted to be collaborating with the Swiss Embassy to promote a new nationwide program to encourage Swiss Americans to get back in touch with their roots.

Over a million Americans are of Swiss ancestry according to the 2000 US Government Census. More than 5,000 American cities have Swiss names. And, countless Americans are fascinated by the culture, diversity, and beauty of Switzerland. Famous Swiss Americans include Louis Chevrolet, namesake of the famous automobile, Pittsburgh Steelers Quarterback, Ben Roethlisberger, and Academy Award-winning actress Renee Zellweger.

Beginning in 2006, Swiss Americans and those interested in learning more about the country and its culture will have access to a tool that will allow them to explore their heritage:

www.swissroots.org. It will allow Americans to discover their "SWISS ROO+S" and the land of their ancestors with just a few mouse clicks. Through the website's interactive tools visitors to the site can also get in touch with Swiss people, chat with them and exchange ideas.

This project is organized by the official Swiss representation in the U.S. in cooperation with numerous local Swiss associations. It is supported by Switzerland promotion agencies, such as Presence Switzerland, Switzerland Tourism and Pro Helvetia. [swiss roots](http://www.swissroots.org) offers a platform to promote cultural, tourist, and economic interaction between the U.S. and Switzerland.

Known as the "Sister Republics," Switzerland and the United States have a long history of shared democratic values. Both nations place a great emphasis on sovereignty, individual rights, cultural diversity and an open and free economy. And both nations are built on a similar system of federalism: The U.S. Articles of Confederation were modeled after the old Swiss alliance of thirteen sovereign states, whereas the Swiss were inspired by the American Constitution when they formed the world's second federal state in 1848.

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