

GSA

**GERMAN STUDIES
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER**

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2021

To say the year 2020 was one of change is quite an understatement. Like many academic organizations, the GSA responded quickly to the COVID-19 pandemic and continues to change in new ways. We hosted our first fully online conference in the fall. And after fifteen years of service, David Barclay retired from his position as Executive Director. Margaret Menninger replaced him at the start of 2021 but had begun supporting important parts of the GSA already in 2020, especially work on the virtual conference. Benita Blessing began working as Operations Director in 2019, and her extensive efforts helped make the 2020 virtual annual meeting a success. Janet Ward succeeded Johannes von Moltke as President for a two-year term (2021-2022), Sara Hall was elected Vice-President, and David Imhoof was elected Secretary.

In this spirit of change, the GSA newsletter will also be morphing into something new and more streamlined. To be sure, recent organizational changes and focus on the shifting nature of the conference help explain this simpler newsletter. At the same time, we hope a briefer, more focused newsletter will be useful to members.

Learn more about the GSA
and stay in touch at
<https://www.thegsa.org/>

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ABOUT THE 2021 GSA CONFERENCE

from Margaret Menninger, Executive Director

I'd like first to thank the membership for submitting what looks like a fascinating set of panels, roundtables, and seminars for the 2021 conference, and for responding to our membership poll. My aim, this year and moving forward, is to help make the GSA, both as a conference and as an association, as accessible as possible. This year that means that we will be running a conference with virtual and in-person sessions, but no sessions that are both. All panels and roundtables presenting at the conference will be asked (as the seminars already have been) to decide whether their participants wish to present in Indiana at the Marriott Indianapolis Downtown or if they need, for whatever reason, to remain away. The survey results suggested a roughly even split within the membership between those who were either determined to or excited to participate in person and those who remain unable to do so for either health or financial concerns. Our format this year is an effort to accommodate these preferences as best we can.

Our survey also indicated that the broad majority of the membership did not wish to increase registration costs for the conference more than was absolutely necessary. Honoring that preference means that as an association, we cannot possibly afford the still extremely high technical costs of full interactivity. There will be some aspects of the conference that will be available to both in-person and online participants, but they will be limited. Even so, there will be a notable increase in the "infrastructural" costs of this conference, and some of that will have to be reflected in higher registration fees. We are doing what we can keep to that rise to a minimum.

Last year's foray into the virtual conference was new for us and for many other associations and conference participants. This year, we will be running both an in-person and a virtual conference at the same time, an exciting new challenge. Stay tuned for more information coming soon via email and an updated conference webpage. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at *#thegsa2021*.

HELP SUPPORT OUR GSA COMMUNITY THROUGH THE GSA COMMUNITY FUND

Generous members of the German Studies Association established in early 2020 the GSA Community Fund to assist individuals in financial and/or professionally precarious positions to participate in the organization's annual conference – both now and in the future. Please consider a donation to help your colleagues. Half of your contribution will go to help offset membership dues and registration fees for scholars in need this year, and the other half will be used to grow the GSA Community Fund for the years ahead. The application process for requesting these funds this year will be announced shortly.

<https://www.thegsa.org/members/contribute>

FROM SECRETARY DAVID IMHOOF

What does the GSA Secretary do? The Secretary's main tasks for the GSA are to keep track of all meeting minutes, run elections, help publish the newsletter, supervise membership lists, oversee the archiving of organizational materials, and serve on the Executive Committee. I will be paying special attention this year to asking members how GSA membership can work best for them and helping to start an eventual GSA archive. Once we finalize plans for the 2021 conference, look for a survey on what our members hope to get out of GSA membership and thoughts on how to enhance the GSA's work generally. And we hope it's not histrionic to take the GSA seriously enough to start creating a permanent archive stretching back to the organization's founding in 1976.

My work focuses on the relationship between culture and politics in twentieth-century Germany. My first book (*Becoming a Nazi Town*, Michigan 2013) tackled these issues in interwar Göttingen. A 2016 collection edited with Margaret Menninger and Anthony Steinhoff, *The Total Work of Art* (Berghahn), and a special collection of *Colloquia Germanica* (2016), edited with Joy Calico, moved me further into music and sound studies. Joy and I also founded the GSA's Music and Sound Studies Network in 2013, and I have helped direct it ever since. I'm currently writing a history of the German recording industry and, much to my surprise, just published a textbook, *So, About Modern Europe* with Bloomsbury Press. I teach history and various other things at Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania and serve as Chair of History. I also help manage Susquehanna's requirement that all students to study abroad (which has been interesting lately). I direct a three-week program with students to Austria each summer. And I play in a rock band with some other professors called Faculty Lounge.



ABOUT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARGARET MENNINGER

Three months in, I am still discovering new elements of the Executive Director's job. Taking over this position in 2021 has meant that while I'm more practiced at the unusual, I'm still learning the routine. Right now, my primary occupation is ensuring that the 2021 annual conference and all its components fit together smoothly. Thinking ahead, I, along with many of the other GSA officers, intend to devote considerable attention to the question of how the association might evolve to represent and support our members better. With that in mind, once I have the details of contracts for hotels, virtual platforms, AV, etc. nailed down, I'd like to start holding "virtual office hours" where GSA members can come and talk about their hopes for the association. The GSA belongs to all of us. I look forward to your thoughts.

I teach history at Texas State University, where I am an associate professor and former NEH Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Humanities. My research interests have dealt primarily with the intersections of cultural philanthropy and civil society in the long nineteenth century, and I've published several articles on that subject along with a recently submitted book manuscript. I also have a broader interest in the conjunction between music and history. I've co-edited a book with David Imhoof and Anthony Steinhoff (mentioned above) and have another research project percolating about thinking about history via music. And, just to confirm your suspicions that the GSA may have suddenly been taken over by a bunch of band kids, I'm a habitual chamber musician.

ABOUT OPERATIONS DIRECTOR BENITA BLESSING

I have served as GSA's Operations Director since the summer of 2019. Although my onboarding with our Portland conference prepared me for a lot of GSA-related crisis scenarios, it was my years of developing and teaching courses on-line that prepared me for our 2020 Virtual Conference. Never could I have imagined that a decade of working in outstanding online programs would serve me so well in this position.

Oregon State University recently promoted me to Senior Instructor I. In addition to teaching on-campus and "ecampus" German and culture courses in the World Languages and Cultures program there, I teach a popular course on Vampires, Race, and Gender for the Honors College. I am also secretary of the Epsilon of Oregon chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, and serve as treasurer for the President's Commission on the Status of Women. My pandemic year has also included my getting certified in Instructional Design and working on my college's Remote Peer Support Faculty Team. Much of this intentional professional development and growth as a faculty member has helped me better support GSA members.

I joke that I am a post-disciplinary scholar, and GSA has been a real academic home for me in that sense. My first book was on antifascist education in post-World War II Soviet-occupied Germany (and has nothing to do with antifa today, as more one than one person has complained who has helped drive renewed sales), and my research continues to focus on childhood and education, broadly defined, with a finished manuscript on East German children's films and a new project on socialist playtime. I hope that my multi-disciplinary scholarship, experience in teaching in a variety of formats, and commitment to supporting other contingent faculty members in their scholarship helps make me an approachable Operations Director who can help others find their academic home at GSA, as well.



ELECTIONS

Elections will be held electronically April 12-30, 2021.

*Expect an email on April 12, 2021
with a link to the GSA's secure voting site.*

All positions are for three-year terms.

NOMINATIONS FOR HISTORY

MONICA BLACK

(University of Tennessee, Knoxville)

<https://history.utk.edu/people/monica-black/>

Monica Black (PhD, University of Virginia, 2006) is Associate Professor of History at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Her work focuses on the social and cultural history of Germany in the era of the world wars and in the decades just after WWII. In addition to a number of research articles, essays and a co-edited volume, she has published *A Demon-Haunted Land: Witches, Wonder Doctors, and the Ghosts of the Past in Post-WWII Germany* (Metropolitan / Henry Holt, 2020), and *Death in Berlin: From Weimar to Divided Germany* (Cambridge, 2010), which won the Wiener Library Ernst Fraenkel and the Hans Rosenberg book prizes. She is currently researching two book projects: one on the intersections of history and psychology; the other a wide-ranging cultural history of modern Germany. Black has received research fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), the American Academy in Berlin, the Shelby Cullom Davis Center at Princeton University, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the American Council on Germany, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation/Council for Library and Information Resources, the Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies, and the German Marshall Fund, among others. Black has been a member of the GSA since 2004 and has happily attended almost every meeting since then. She has served as chair of the DAAD/GSA article prize committee (2019 – 20), was a member of the DAAD/GSA book prize committee (2012 – 13), and served on the GSA's Task Force for Graduate Students (2006). Black is editor-in-chief of *Central European History* (CEH).

TERENCE V. MCINTOSH

(University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)

<https://history.unc.edu/faculty-members/terence-v-mcintosh/>

Terence McIntosh (PhD, Yale University, 1989) teaches in the Department of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His work focuses on early modern Germany, especially its social, religious, and intellectual history in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. His publications include *Urban Decline in Early Modern Germany: Schwäbisch Hall and Its Region, 1650-1750* (Chapel Hill, 1997) and several articles and book chapters. His current project, "Disciplining the Parish: Godly Order, Enlightenment, and the Lutheran Clergy in Germany, 1517-1806," examines the dynamics by which a shifting array of social, theological, and intellectual forces induced prominent churchmen, rulers, and secular thinkers to examine critically and recast significantly the purpose, scope, and nature of Lutheran church discipline at key moments in the early modern period. McIntosh has received research grants and fellowships from the DAAD, the National Humanities Center, the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung, the Franckeschen Stiftungen zu Halle, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has participated in ten GSA conferences since 1996.

NOMINATIONS FOR GERMAN STUDIES & CULTURE

HESTER BAER

(University of Maryland)

<https://sllic.umd.edu/user/hbaer>

Hester Baer (PhD, Washington University, 2000) is Associate Professor of German and Cinema and Media Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park, where she also serves as a core faculty member in the Comparative Literature Program. Her research and teaching focus on German cinema and media, feminist theory, and environmental humanities. She is the author of numerous articles and book chapters and of *German Cinema in the Age of Neoliberalism* (2021) and *Dismantling the Dream Factory: Gender, German Cinema, and the Postwar Quest for a New Film Language* (2009); co-editor of *German Women's Writing in the Twenty-First Century* (2015); and co-editor and translator of Nanda Herbermann, *The Blessed Abyss: Inmate #6582 in Ravensbrück Concentration Camp for Women* (2000). Her current projects include a monograph on West Germany's first feminist film, Ula Stöckl's *Neun Leben hat die Katze* (1968), and two co-edited volumes, *Nuclear Futures in the Post-Fukushima Age* and *Babylon Berlin*. Baer is the recipient of grants from the DAAD and the Fulbright Commission. She has served as the President of the Coalition of Women in German and of the South Central Modern Language Association. She is currently co-editor of the journal *Feminist German Studies*. Baer has been a regular participant at GSA conferences since 2001. Since 2016, she has served on the Editorial Board of *Spektrum: Publications of the German Studies Association*.

B. VENKAT MANI

(University of Wisconsin)

<https://gns.wisc.edu/staff/mani-b-venkat/>

B. Venkat Mani (PhD, Stanford University, 2001) is Professor of German and World Literature and past director of the Center for South Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research focuses on two connected approaches to Migration Studies. The first comprises investigations of literatures of migrants and minorities in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The second constitutes construction of world literature through the concept of Bibliomigrancy. Representative of these two lines of inquiry are his monographs *Cosmopolitical Claims: Turkish German Literatures from Nadolny to Pamuk* (University of Iowa Press, 2007) and *Recoding World Literature: Libraries, Print Culture, and Germany's Pact with Books* (Fordham UP, 2017; winner of GSA DAAD Prize, MLA's Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Best Book in German Studies) and more recently, as co-editor, *A Companion to World Literature* (Wiley Blackwell 2020). Mani has received fellowships and grants from the Social Science Research Council for a Public Humanities Project for Wisconsin Public Radio on "Inside Islam, Dialogue and Debates"; the Andrew Mellon Foundation's Sawyer Seminar Grant for "Bibliomigrancy: World Literature in the Public Sphere," Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's Experienced Researcher Fellowship for *Recoding World Literature*. He is also part of UW-Madison's "Just Futures" project on Humanities Education for Anti-Racist Literacy (HEAL). Starting AY 2021, he will be a Race, Ethnicity and Indigeneity Fellow at the Institute for Research in the Humanities at UW-Madison working on his book project on refuge and forced migration. Mani has participated in every GSA conference since 2005 and has worked with research networks, seminars and organized panel series. He was Chair of the GSA-DAAD Book Prize Committee (2020) and is currently a member of GSA's first committee on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

NOMINATIONS FOR POLITICS, ECONOMICS, AND SOCIETY

MARIE SUMNER LOTT

(Georgia State University, Music)

<https://music.gsu.edu/profile/marie-sumner-lott/>

Marie Sumner Lott (PhD, Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester, 2008) is an Associate Professor of Music at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Sumner Lott's research investigates the musical cultures of nineteenth-century Europe with a focus on the composer Johannes Brahms and his contemporaries. She is the author of *The Social Worlds of Nineteenth-Century Chamber Music* (University of Illinois Press, 2015) and numerous articles in edited volumes and peer-reviewed journals. Her 2012 article on Brahms's Op. 51 string quartets, published in the *Journal of the Royal Musical Association* (U.K.), won ASCAP's Deems Taylor Award for outstanding writing about concert music. Her current research project focuses on Romantic Medievalism in the music of Brahms and his affiliates; travel to Germany for archival work on this project was supported by a GSU Research Initiation Grant and a Provost's Faculty Fellowship grant in 2016-17. Dr. Sumner Lott has participated in several GSA meetings as a presenter, panelist, and seminar member. She has experience serving in leadership positions within similar academic organizations, including on the Executive Board of the American Brahms Society (2015-present, Treasurer), the Executive Council of the American Musicological Society (2017-20, Nominating Committee chair in 2020), and within the South-Central Chapter of the AMS (Secretary-Treasurer, 2013-19).

DOMINIC NYHUIS

(DAAD Visiting Professor, Political Science)

<https://politicalscience.unc.edu/staff/dominic-nyhuis/>

Dominic Nyhuis (PhD, University of Mannheim, Germany, 2015) is DAAD Visiting Assistant Professor for German Studies at the Department of Political Science and the Center for European Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to his current appointment, he was affiliated with the Universities of Hannover, Frankfurt/Main, and Vienna. In his research, he focuses on contemporary German politics with an emphasis on political parties and legislative politics. In addition to this work on German federal politics, he is particularly interested in subnational and local politics. In his current research project "Representation and inequality in local politics," Nyhuis studies disparities in the representation of social groups in German local politics. His research projects are funded by the German Research Foundation and the Volkswagen Foundation. Nyhuis has participated in the GSA since 2019. He co-organized a seminar on "German party politics in times of change and uncertainty" during the 2020 GSA. For the 2021 conference, he co-organized a seminar on "German parliamentary democracy in transition." He also joined the Program Committee for the 2021 GSA as field co-coordinator for "Contemporary Politics, Economics, and Society."

BYLAWS UPDATE: CONDUCT & ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY UPDATE

The German Studies Association is committed to providing a respectful and professional environment for its members and for all GSA meeting participants. The GSA Board recently approved a second updated version of the Conduct & Anti-Harassment Policy, originally announced last summer, and updated with input from the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee at the Board meeting of November 2020. The new update expands the Policy's section explaining the Ombuds role.

The updated Policy is provided on the GSA website here: <https://www.thegsa.org/about/policies-and-documents/conduct-and-harassment-policy>.

As at last year's conference, all GSA meeting participants for #thegsa2021 will be required to sign acceptance of the Conduct & Anti-Harassment Policy at point of online registration.

Please note:

- The Ombudsperson is available for all inquiries related to conduct and anti-harassment, and functions as a neutral and informed sounding board that can inform a potential complainant regarding possible steps to be taken.
- The Conduct & Anti-Harassment Policy explains the procedures by which a GSA member can make a complaint.
- The Policy offers details about the prompt and impartial investigative processes to be led by the members of the Conduct & Anti-Harassment Committee.
- The Policy explains the GSA's procedures for determining possible follow-up actions and remedies that may be ascertained as necessary to stop misconduct, discipline offenders, and protect complainants from retaliation.



IN MEMORIAM: MACK WALKER (1929-2021)



Mack Walker, professor emeritus of history at the Johns Hopkins University and distinguished scholar in the history of early modern Germany, died in Baltimore on February 10, 2021 of COVID-19-related pneumonia.

Born in western Massachusetts on June 6, 1929, Walker received his BA from Bowdoin College in 1950. After a period of commercial gardening with his brother, he attended Yale Law School for a semester and then enlisted in the Army. While stationed in Germany, he met his future wife, Irma, and became interested in the deep history of her homeland; he shared with students that he wrote *German Home Towns* in order better to understand his brothers-in-law. After his discharge, Walker entered graduate school in history at Harvard University, where he earned his PhD in 1959 under the direction of Prof. Franklin Ford.

Walker began his faculty career at the Rhode Island School of Design from 1957-59, served as instructor to assistant professor at Harvard from 1959-66, moved to Cornell as associate professor to professor from 1966-74, and then joined the faculty at Johns Hopkins as professor in 1974, becoming emeritus professor in June 1999. He served as Chair of the Department of History from 1979-82. At Harvard, Cornell, and Johns Hopkins, he helped train two generations of central European historians, who remember him fondly as a supportive teacher and generous mentor.

Walker published four important monographs and two useful collections of documents over his productive career. The two document collections, *Metternich's Europe 1813-1848 (Macmillan) in the Documentary History of Western Civilization* series and *Plombières: Secret Diplomacy and the Rebirth of Italy* (Oxford University Press) in the series *Problems in European History: A Documentary History*, both appeared in 1968. The first of his monographs, *Germany and the Immigration, 1816-1885* appeared from Harvard University Press in 1964. It explored the cultural and personal meaning to Germans of the circumstances that surrounded their momentous decision to leave home, family, and the familiar for the unknown and distant lands of North America. His second book, *German Home Towns: Community, State and General Estate, 1648-1871*, published by Cornell University Press in 1971, became his best-known and most widely cited work. Fifty years after its publication it remains both a centrally-important text for understanding the connections between early modern and modern Germany and a model of clear, engaging, but deeply analytical historical writing. It was reissued in paperback in 1998. Even today, it receives unsolicited testimonials from leading historians on social media as, for example, a "brilliant combo of social, economic, intellectual, political & cultural history" and "a dialogue with Hegel in the form of a social history." The work explores the tensions between liberty and insularity in the self-governing cities of the German southwest, both Imperial free cities and territorial cities, in the transition from a society of estates with liberties based upon privilege to a modern class society with liberties based upon universal individual rights. Walker's focus on the liminality of language, how the meaning of words and rhetoric changes over time, made *German Home Towns* a richly stimulating work for all students of German history, irrespective of the chronological focus of their research.

Walker next wrote *Johann Jakob Moser and the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation*, published by the University of North Carolina Press in 1981. The book drew on the massive printed legal compendium of that Württemberg lawyer-administrator, and analyzed the vicissitudes of his relationship with his ducal masters, to explore the conceptual background to the continued vitality of

the Holy Roman Empire in an era when Enlightenment rationalists dismissed it as farce. In 1992, Walker published *The Salzburg Transaction: Expulsion and Redemption in Eighteenth-Century Germany* with Cornell University Press, unraveling the meaning to contemporaries of the 1731 expulsion of 20,000 Protestant farmers and craftsmen by the Archbishop of Salzburg and their welcome by King Friedrich Wilhelm I of Prussia as settlers on the Lithuanian frontier of East Prussia. This work was translated into German by Sabine Krumwiede and published as *Der Salzburger Handel: Vertreibung und Errettung der Salzburger Protestanten im Deutschland des 18. Jahrhunderts* (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht) in the series Veröffentlichung des Max-Planck-Instituts für Geschichte in Göttingen in 1997. In his retirement, Walker began a project to explore the divergence of secular and religious language at the turn of the eighteenth century through the lives of the jurist, Christian Thomasius, and the pietist preacher August Francke at the University of Halle between the 1680s and the 1720s, which was never completed.

As scholar and teacher, Walker's greatest strength was his insightfulness. Even as he led an analysis of a text, figuring out where it fit in an historiographical context or even historical genre, he would often arrive at a sideways suggestion or insight that none in the seminar, or in the profession, would have had at hand or possibly ever thought of. This was perhaps the secret of his historical writing, particularly *German Home Towns*, for he examined something so familiar as a hometown but highlighted the significance of its webs, walls, and forms of citizenship that previous scholars had missed. The connections he made in *German Home Towns* invited his readers to see the movers and doers within the stolid hometowns, to sense the movement, the change that both challenged and reinforced the webs and walls. Such connections were intrinsic to the discussions in his seminars, when we were inspired to discover them ourselves in our own work.

During the course of his career, Walker twice won Guggenheim Fellowships as well as a Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities. He took up fellowships at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin in 1982-83 and 1991-92. He was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1980. He served as President of the Conference Group for Central European History (now the Central European History Society) of the American Historical Association in 1987. In 1987, he joined the inaugural Wissenschaftlicher Beirat of the new German Historical Institute, Washington, DC, where he worked closely with the Director, Hartmut Lehmann, to launch that important institution of transatlantic cooperation and to nurture broad support and participation in the program of the GHI by working with Lehmann, Konrad Jarausch, and Gerald Feldman to form the Friends of the German Historical Institute, Washington, DC.

Walker is survived by his wife, Irma, and by his three children. His son Benjamin works in Maryland in the field of computing, his son Gilbert in chemistry in Toronto, and his daughter Barbara in history in Nevada.

Mack Walker will be missed by his family and those who knew and worked with him. His contributions to the field of central European history were immense and still help shape the thought of contemporary scholars.

William D. Bowman, Gettysburg College
Kathleen Canning, Rice University
Kenneth F. Ledford, Case Western Reserve University
John Theibault, Voorhees, NJ

GSAers in the News: National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships

The GSA is pleased to share that the following NEH fellowships
have been given to German Studies scholars:

Anna Holian

Arizona State University:

"Setting up Shop in the House of the Hangman:
Jewish Economic Life in Postwar Germany"

Thomas Ort

CUNY Research Foundation, Queens College:

"The Afterlife of a Death:
Meaning, Memory, and the Assassination of Reinhard Heydrich"

Jens-Uwe Guettel

Pennsylvania State University:

"Radical Democracy in Germany, 1871-1918"

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: GSR BOOK REVIEW EDITORS

German Studies Review is looking for two book review editors, one for the area Literature/Culture, and one for History/Social Studies. Ideally, the editors should be at the level of associate professor or higher, but we will consider applications from colleagues of all ranks. Tasks involve monitoring the field for new publications, communicating with publishers, identifying qualified reviewers, sending out books and keeping track of reviews in process, and editing reviews. The incoming editors will be invited to help reshape *GSR*'s book review section, for instance by making use of online formats. *German Studies Review* comes out three times a year and publishes about 30 reviews per volume. The three-year, renewable appointment begins in August 2021.

The GSA provides \$3,500 per year for a graduate student assistant to support both book review editors. Question can be addressed to Katharina Gerstenberger, incoming editor of *GSR*.

***Please send letter of interest and a CV to Katharina Gerstenberger
(katharina.gerstenberger@utah.edu) by May 10.***

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and stay in touch at
<https://www.thegsa.org/>



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