



## North American Heine Society

April 18, 2021

Dear Members,

We are probably all suffering from the syndrome of pandemic fatigue, end of semester exhaustion, and some general springtime lethargy or *Frühlingsmüdigkeit*. But with spring returns also life in some form or another, and so it is with great pleasure that I am able to report about our last meeting of the plenary assembly of the Society.

This was easily possible, yes thanks and no thanks to the pandemic and Zoom. On March 23, 2021, the members of the NAHS elected a new Board and a new President along with a Vice President.

The outgoing President Jonathan Skolnik opened the meeting to commemorate our decade long Secretary and Treasurer and esteemed member Jeffrey L. Sammons who passed away February 15, 2021. Robert Holub, a former President of the Society, spoke a few words of commemoration. Posted on our website is a moving [tribute](#) penned by our member and former President Jocelyne Kolb. I would like to thank Bob and Jocelyne for their gracious words.

We then elected the new Board, President, and Vice President.

The new members of the Board are:

Katja Garloff  
Abigail Gillman  
Tracie Matysik  
Michael Swellander

All were elected for a three-year term, with the exception of Katja Garloff, who graciously offered to serve a short term to make space for a new Board member in a year's time.

I was then elected as President, and Jonathan Skolnik was kind enough to agree serve for a one-year term as Vice President.

I would like to thank both Jonathan and Katja for their willingness to serve an additional year. I also would like to thank them for their years of service.

I would be remiss not to extend special thanks to Sebastian Wogenstein, our Secretary and Treasurer. Without his talent and commitment to annually organize and take care of the order and distribution of the *Heine Jahrbuch*, to kindly insist on, and ensure, payment of

our annual membership fee, and his launching, expansion, and maintenance of our [NAHS homepage](#), there simply would be no life of the Society. I am glad that Sebastian is willing to continue in his capacity as Secretary and Treasurer, and I look forward to working with Sebastian as we move into a new phase.

There are a number of initiatives I would like to point out:

1) The NAHS introduced a new category of free membership for graduate students. I would like to encourage all members to direct students interested in becoming members to the Secretary/Treasurer for registration: [wogenstein@uconn.edu](mailto:wogenstein@uconn.edu)

2) The NAHS is launching a new dissertation mentoring program to match graduate students who are writing their dissertation on Heine with experienced colleagues. For now, all questions and requests should be directed to me.

3) We are currently thinking about establishing a Jeffrey L. Sammons Heine Essay Prize. Eligible submissions would be papers accepted for publication by graduate students and early stage junior colleagues (pre-tenure). However, this is at an early stage of development and we are exploring possibilities to raise the necessary funds for such a prize.

4) Both the G.E. Lessing Society and the North American Goethe Society have expressed interest in closer cooperation and the NAHS is currently in conversation how to develop the synergy we all perceive exists.

5) For graduate students interested in doing research at the Heinrich-Heine-Institut in Düsseldorf, the institute has some financial support and I will be happy to put you in touch with the people in charge.

### **MLA 2022 Heine Session**

The session sponsored by the NAHS at next year's MLA is HEINRICH HEINE AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

The panel will explore how Heine's poetry, prose, and critical writings intervene in, and contribute to, the 19<sup>th</sup>-century emergent debate on human rights and anticipate later human rights conceptions. Organized by Sebastian Wogenstein and moderated by Alicia Ellis (Colby College), participants are Christoph auf der Horst (Düsseldorf), Helge Dedek (McGill, Montreal), Willi Goetschel (Toronto), Claudia Nitschke (Durham, UK), and Sebastian Wogenstein (U of Connecticut).

### **NAHS Website**

We would like to list all publications by members related to Heine since 2010. Please send your references to Sebastian Wogenstein.

### **Your Input**

I would like to get not only your view and opinions but would also appreciate to hear from you if you are interested in taking a more active role in the Society. Please feel free to write to me with any ideas, suggestions, or concerns.

With best regards and wishes,

Willi Goetschel