

# THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

Founded 1783 Incorporated by Act of the General Assembly of Maryland, Chapter 100 Feb 3, 1818

## VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

JULY-AUG 2010 ISSUE #72

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### 110TH GERMAN FESTIVAL JULY 24-25 WEEKEND

The Maryland German Festival will take place at the Timonium Fairgrounds on Saturday and Sunday, July 24 and 25. The magazine *Southern Living* cites it as a July highlight in the South. It calls it one of the oldest German festivals in the country; we believe it is in fact the oldest. Tom Werner, chairman of the festival and president of the Buergerverwin is planning new features this year, so that the event will not become repetitive. The old favorites, German wurst and beer, will be there in abundance along with non-stop German music. There will be dancers in festive trachten (regional costumes) and other entertainment.

#### **Volunteers needed**

Our Society will be present and we need help at our society's booth. to distribute literature and speak to the visitors. Please sign up for a couple of hours on Saturday or Sunday by contacting Mike Nieberding, chairman, who is scheduling time for workers. Mike can be reached at **410-796-7491**. Please let Mike know when you can be available. Our volunteers from past years tell us that it's a lot of fun talking to the visitors and that they learn a lot about German culture themselves from things that are told to them. All who come to the table are pleasant and there are no grouches at the festival.

### OUR LADIES, THE BAND AND BEER SAVE THE PICNIC

Our Society's June 26th event at North Point State Park was saved from disaster by our fast thinking ladies, by the presence of plenty of ice cold beer and by the band striking up their lively marches. When the caterer failed to show up, the chairmen, Walt Mathers and Ted Potthast thought they would need to fall on their swords. Brian Schafer, owner of Big Boy Foods, had promised a feast of German foods in vast abundance, and we advertised accordingly. Disaster struck when we had to announce that the food was not going to be at the picnic. A team of Kim Wittstadt, Shelley Arnold and daughter, Betty Nieman and Jean Arp quickly put their minds to it and ran out to buy food from the local markets.. In a short time they returned with pizza, chicken, cold cuts and other picnic food. Doug Polaski returned with cases of water to supplement the 22 cases of cold beer which the committee had brought to the site early in the morning. While many people left at the announcement of no German food, many stayed and enjoyed the event. In fact, member John Geppi said it was the best picnic he had ever been to. The location on the banks of the Chesapeake Bay and the gentle breezes all afternoon, and the geniality of our members and guests and the singalong made the event most delightful.



**KALENDER**

- July 24-25 Annual German Festival - Timonium
- Aug 21-22 Hagerstown Augustoberfest
- Oct. 2-3 Oktoberfest Frederick MD Fair Grounds
- Oct 3 Ecumenical Service (German Society, Zion church and Society for History of Germans)
- Oct. 16 Crabtoberfest Cambridge MD
- Nov. 11 Commemoration of Henry Gunther
- Nov. 13 German Society Annual Awards Banquet

Visit the German Society's website:  
[www.germansociety-md.com](http://www.germansociety-md.com)

Articles from many past newsletters are posted on our website. Dr. Maureen Helinski maintains the site. "Pioneers in Service", the history of our Society, can now be found on our web site.

For more local German-American happenings, check the web site of the Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland: [www.md-germans.org](http://www.md-germans.org)

**SOCIETY GOES CELLULAR**

We still have the same office telephone number which the German Society has held for the past 60-plus years, but now it's not a land line at an office. Our phone number (410-685-0450) now rings on a cell phone. Our office secretary Baerbel Oto keeps the phone with her, but when she is out of the country (as will be the case when you receive this newsletter) the phone will be in the custody of one of our officers. The officers will take turns answering the line and fielding the calls. Give it a try, the next time you need to talk business with our office.

**ECUMENICAL SERVICE PLANNED**

When the Berlin Wall fell in November, 1989 our Society joined with the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland and with Zion Church to hold a service of thanksgiving for the freedom of our German brethren from the throes of communism. The event has been held each year. Originally it was held on the eve of Thanksgiving Day, but as time went by and as family ties claimed the time of our members, the date was moved to a more convenient date, the Sunday closest to the feast of St. Michael (the patron saint of Germany), Sept. 29. This year it will be held on Sunday, Oct. 3. A reception, with food and drink, will follow in Zion Church's beautiful Adlersaal.

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

The President and Board of Directors of our Society is pleased to announce that the following new members have been accepted into our Society:

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Barrick, Laura           | Barrick, Lee              |
| Dausch, John K.          | Dausch, Sally             |
| Garcia, Christiane O.    | Herbert, Artemis          |
| Fleiter, Dr. Thorsten R. | Hirsch, Theresa Potthast  |
| Hofmeister, Carla        | Hofmeister, Raimund       |
| Linke, Brian Avery       | Linke, Dawn Dippel        |
| Miller, Charles W.       | Miller, Nancy D.          |
| Mitchell, Todd E.        | Opalka, Klaus O.          |
| Potthast, Andrew Joseph  | Regelin, Corey D.         |
| Regelin, Gale S.         | Rizzo, Lauren             |
| Rowe, Brian              | Rowe, Susan               |
| Schneck, Kay             | Katherine Elizabeth Walsh |
| Sara ie Walsh            |                           |

**DR. HELINSKI GIVEN LEADERSHIP AWARBY BY TEACHERS OF GERMAN**

The American Association of Teachers of German has named Dr. Maureen Helinski to receive its highest honor, the prestigious Friends of German Award. She was selected for her exemplary leadership in the advocacy of German language education and for her outstanding support and promotion of the study of the German language at all levels, local, regional and national. The presentation will take place at the AATG's annual meeting on Nov. 28 in Boston. Her selection was made by the national executive council of the AATG. Dr. Helinski has taught German at the high school and college level in Maryland. She has served as a Director of our Society and is the webmaster of the Society's website. She has been a member of our Education Committee for many years and has serviced the Society in many capacities.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE PLANS DRIVE**

Our Board of Directors approved a proposal for a membership drive to help increase the ranks of our Society and thereby bring in new talent as well as new revenue for our charitable and educational goals. The plan involves allowing our current members to give gifts of memberships at a discounted rate. Details will appear in our next newsletter.

