

# THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

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

## VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

MARCH 2015 ISSUE #96

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\* = past president

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Liebe Mitglieder-Dear Members,

I hope this message finds all of our members well and safe. It has been a tough winter but warmer and nicer days are ahead of us.

On April 10th, 2015, we will be having our annual meeting at Zion Church of Baltimore. Please see the additional information in this newsletter so that you can plan accordingly. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this event. We will have a review of this past year and all the so important upcoming events that we have scheduled. Please make the time to attend!

This year will bring an end to my 2014-2015 term as President for the German Society. It has been a great year of learning and getting a better understanding of all the exciting happenings within the German community. I would like to thank all of the directors and members of the society for their guidance, dedication and input over the past year. As the society enters its 232rd year of existence, it is these qualities that will allow for many more years of greatness for all that is German. The German Society of Maryland is always looking for new members that are energetic and willing to put their talents to work. I encourage all of you to spread the word of this noble and honorable organization to anyone that would like to learn more about us. As always, please feel free to email me anytime you have a need.

As always, best wishes and speedy recovery to any of our sick or shut-in members and I hope to see many of you next month at the annual meeting.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Anton G. Smoot, President  
agsmoot@verizon.net

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the membership of The German Society of Maryland will be held on Friday, April 10 in the dining room of Zion Church, City Hall Plaza. Doors will open at 6:30 pm for a German-style dinner available to our members and their guests at no cost. The annual meeting will follow immediately after the dinner. The meeting traditionally concludes by 9 pm.

### THE TILLMAN DOCTRINE

Donald E. Tillman, when he was president of our Society in the early 1990's, held the theory that "Germans don't work well on an empty stomach." He therefore initiated the practice of serving food prior to the annual membership meeting. For nearly 25 years the custom has continued. The food varies, but always with the German tradition of various wursts, beer and sides. Members are urged to attend and bring potential new members as guests. The custom of bringing desserts to the event has helped make it most delightful, especially when the desserts are home-made. So, as urged by our president, make plans now to attend.

### MAJOR FUTURE EVENTS

Our newsletter will keep you advised of the major events set for 2015:

Student awards - May  
Our annual picnic - June  
The German Festival - July  
Stricker Bust dedication - September  
Oktoberfest - October  
Awards Banquet - November  
Christmas Market - December

**KALENDER**

- Jan 29 Quarterly directors' meeting
- April 10 Annual membership meeting
- May 17 High school student awards
- June tba Annual picnic
- July 25-26 German Festival in Timonium
- Sept. 12 Dedication of Gen. Stricker bust
- Sept tba Kirchgang - Berlin Wall Commemoration
- Oct. Events German American Heritage Month  
Friendship Garden event in Washington  
DeKalb Memorial in Annapolis  
Buergerverein Oktoberfest  
German American Day at McDaniel
- Nov 7 Annual Awards Banquet
- Nov. 11 Sgt. Henry Gunther Memorial
- Nov. 28-29 Christkindlmarkt at Zion

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 be found on our web site.

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

You are invited to add articles about your German ancestors to the website conducted by our director Shelley Arnold; [germanmarylanders.org](http://germanmarylanders.org)

Listen to German music and announcements of local German American activities on internet radio at [germanamericanradio.com](http://germanamericanradio.com)

You are invited to visit and participate in the interactive website "Der Wecker", founded by our member, Walt Mathers. Google search these 3 words: German American Forum

**THE HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY**

Two books tell a partial history of our Society. The first was printed in 1906; and the second was last published in 1984. Both books are on the internet. The "recent" one, "Pioneers in Service" is an 80 page summary which appears on our website. The story of our Society for the past 75 years needs to be told. Do we have anyone amongst us willing to undertake the task? Our archives and records are imperfect. The job will need a few reserchers. If the task appeals to you, speak up. A few people working together on the project can make it happen in short order. Now is the time to get started. Volunteer !

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS**

The Bylaws Committee has recommended the following changes to be voted on at the annual meeting:

**STUDENT MEMBERSHIP**

Students at any level may be admitted as members. Qualification: an interest in the mission of the Society and good character. No dues will be required. All communications from the Society to student members will be electronic. Thus the student application will require an e-mail address for receiving notices and the newsletter. Students do not vote.

**HONORARY MEMBERSHIP**

All persons designated as an honoree at our awards banquet, plus others selected by the Society who have brought honor to our Society or the German American community may be awarded honorary membership. . No dues shall be required.

**PROCESS OF AMENDING BYLAWS**

Reverting to procedures from former times, the Board of Directors may amend the bylaws at any time. (Currently, amendments are only allowed at the annual membership meeting. Time constraints prevent discussion and debate at the membership meeting..)

Bylaw amendments by the Directors may be rejected by the membership at the annual meeting.

Theodore J. Potthast, Jr.  
 Chairman, Bylaws Committee

**THE ANNUAL MEETING**

We need to know how many are coming to the annual membership meeting so we can buy enough food, beer, wine and sodas. So please send an email and call to tell how many will be in your party. Call our office manager, Bärbel Otto at 410-685-0450 or E-MAIL her at [germansociety@verizon.net](mailto:germansociety@verizon.net)

**HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS - MAY 17**

As far as we know, our Society is the only group in the USA which gives cash incentives to encourage excellence among high school students of German. For more than 25 years, we have given \$5,000 annually to this project. We work along with the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG), which we also recently supported with a \$5,000 gift to its national office. Our members are invited to the awards presentation at Zion's Adlersaal on Sunday, May 17.

If you attend, you will be impressed by the students.

## DEATH OF FRED WEHRENBURG

Past President Frederick Wehrenberg died on January 10. Fred served many years as a director and a leader of our Society. While serving as president his wife died, leaving him heart-broken and in a state of depression. He continued serving as president until a life-changing event required him to suddenly move to Chicago. One night Fred showed up at the door of then vice president Don Tillman, handed him all the documents relating to the ongoing events of the Society and announced he was on his way to Chicago. and Don was now the president. A surprised Don Tillman took the helm of the Society and ran it successfully for the next 5 years. Fred was elected a lifetime director for his lengthy service and his conscientious stewardship as an officer and director.

We mourn his loss and extend our condolences to his family.

## THE STRICKER MONUMENT

Our Society has acquired a monument to General John Stricker, and has arranged with the City of Baltimore that it be placed on Federal Hill. Past president Brigitte Fessenden is chairperson of the committee to arrange for the dedication of the monument. It is expected that the event will be well publicized and that it will be well attended by many members of our Society and by dignitaries from our State, by national German American organizations and by officials representing the Federal Republic of Germany and of Switzerland (the homeland of the Stricker family). Since the statue will be placed on city-owned property, the timing and other details are subject to the approval of city officials. Details of the event will be made public by the committee soon.

## PREPARING FOR OCTOBER

The Maryland legislature declared October to be German American Heritage month. How the month will be celebrated was left to the community, namely, to us. The government is not going to do anything or spend any money. It's up to us to tell about the many contributions of the German-speaking people who helped build and defend this country. As an important part of that community, the German Society of MD has a heavy burden placed on our shoulders. We plan things on our own and we join with other organizations to make known the heritage. Some of the things already planned for October are:

1. Spreading the knowledge of Gen. John Stricker, the hero of the Battle of North Point.

2. Honoring the memory of Major General Baron Johann deKalb, a Bavarian who commanded the Maryland Line in the Revolutionary War.
3. Participating in the Oktoberfest of the Buergerverein at the Timonium fairgrounds.
4. Promoting the commemoration of the death of Sgt. Henry Gunther, a German American from Baltimore, the last soldier killed in World War I.
5. Aiding German American Day for German language students held at McDaniel College.
6. Distribution of printed materials about Maryland's German American heritage.
7. Activities of our individual members to learn about our heritage and to teach it to our own families and friends.

## GEEBORN IN DEUTSCHLAND

Many present and past officers and directors of our Society have been born in Germany. Recent presidents: Brigitte Fessenden, The Rev. Siegfried Otto and Anton Smoot. Directors: Dr. Armin Mruck, Cristel van der Berg, Gerhard Meinzer and Eva Maus Kelleher. (An aside: directors Bernard Penner and Paul-Gerhard Otto were born in Canada. The history of our Society is replete with many immigrants holding offices. Indeed, our nation is a nation of immigrants.

## EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

President Smoot has announced the appointments of chairpersons to several committees:

Brigitte Fessenden - Stricker Monument Committee

Kurt Wittstadt - Awards Banquet Committee

Theodore J. Potthast, Jr. - Bylaws Committee

Any members wishing to serve on a committee should contact the chairperson.

## KARTOFFEL, BITTE

Thanks to an article in the DANK Journal (German American National Congress) we have the statistics on the acreage in Germany devoted to vegetables. Potatoes do not even rank in the top 5. Germany's favorite veggie: Asparagus, at 24,100 hectares, or 20% of the cultivated farmed land in Germany. The next 4, in hectares, are: carrots, 10,200; onions, 9,700; cabbage, 5,800; and cauliflower, 4,300. 1 hectare = 2.47105381 acres.

## PASTOR ROGGELIN MOVES ON

The Rev. Holger Roggelin, a devoted member of our Society, has moved from Baltimore to Harrisburg where he now serves as pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church. Pastor Roggelin served for nearly 15 years at Zion Church in the City of Baltimore. He presided over many events and activities of our Society. We will sorely miss him. Since Harrisburg is not so very far away, we hope to lure Pastor Roggelin to attend some of our activities as time goes by. He has been a great source of inspiration to us. Congratulations and best wishes, Pastor Roggelin!

## CHARITABLE GIVING MONOPOLIES

When it comes to charitable giving, not many people think about helping to preserve a heritage or an ethnic culture. Charitable giving is sucked dry by hospitals, cancer, autism, alzheimers, diabetes, universities, churches, Red Cross, symphonies, orchestras, kids sports, veterans groups, firemen, police,, etc. Not a day goes by without a phone call soliciting your money. TV commercial show pitiful cats and dogs, hungry children, emotional appeals to tug at your heart-strings. Our mission, to preserve the German American heritage and culture, is mostly intellectual with no tear-jerking appeal.

## MOST CHARITIES USE PAID FUND-RAISERS

In an atmosphere where competition for charitable gifts is fierce, we don't hire professional fund raisers which rake off a huge percentage of your gifts. Every cent we collect as gifts goes to our mission. Our overhead is paid from members' dues and some investment income. And we watch our pennies. No salaries for officers or directors. Our projects thrive through volunteers.

## KEEP THE SOCIETY IN MIND

If you think that preserving the heritage you received from your ancestors is important, keep the Society in mind as you plan your charitable gifts.

Without your support, our heritage and culture could soon be lost and not be passed on to posterity.

## ERRORS: STRICKER & THE FLAG

Thanks to our member Wayne Schaumburg, we learn of some errors in last month's article about John Stricker and Mary Pickersgill. Mary was paid a total of \$574.44, not the \$345 we cited. The project took 8 weeks, not the 3 mentioned in the article. And the third commissioner who authorized the flag was Col. William McDonald, not Col. Armstead. Wayne also pointed out that John Stricker was related by marriage to Mary Pickersgill.

## ROBERT C. KLEIN , WWII VET

Towson resident Robert Klein died Feb. 4 of a stroke. As an army sergeant he helped liberate the Landsberg concentration camp in Bavaria in April, 1945. He seldom spoke of that experience, having been so horrified by it. In an interview many years later, he described the piles of dead bodies and the live Jews barely skeletons. He gave them candy but they were so emaciated it made them sick. A lengthy obituary by Fred Rasmussen appeared in the Sun of Feb.12. Mr. Klein returned from the war, graduated from college and became managing partner of a prominent Maryland insurance brokerage firm. Many members of the Klein family have been and are members of our Society.

## GET THE NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL

There are benefits to receiving your copy of the newsletter via e-mail:

1. You receive it 3 to 5 days before the US mail.
2. The pictures are in color.
3. You can forward the entire newsletter or just selected articles to friends and relatives.
4. You can enlarge the type on your computer, thus making it easier to read. This is a big help to the folks whose eyesight is diminishing.
5. E-mailing it to you cost the Society nothing, so the Society saves about \$1.15 per issue per member. That's a potential couple thousand dollars plus per year, like adding dues from 100 new members. To sign up, send an email to [germansociety@verizon.net](mailto:germansociety@verizon.net) writing "Sign-up for newsletter" in the subject.

## AN ADVISORY BOARD?

Most members have talents and skills which can help our Society's mission. They can't serve on the Board of Directors because they don't have the time, or can't take on additional responsibilities, or have limited interests. Yet, if called upon to help in a special project, they are willing to do so. Many non-profits have advisory boards; all hospitals do. The advisors are called upon for their individual expertise. If the Society should establish such a Board, would you be willing to serve?

## OUR MEETING DATE

Until the early 1990's our annual meeting was held in February. One year a series of ice storms caused it to be canceled three times. The last time one of our directors did not get the cancellation notice and showed up for the meeting, finding himself waiting all alone. He was so upset he resigned from the board. To avoid future weather problems, the Society changed the date of the annual meeting to the Friday after Easter, thus eliminating the likelihood of blizzards and ice storms.

## THE WILKENS FAMILY

The name Wilkens appears prominently in the membership rosters of our Society in the 1800's.

We read of a German American named William Wilkens, a wealthy but eccentric Baltimorean who rose from rags to riches and became famous for owning the world's largest pocket watch. Wilkens began his commercial career collecting hair and bristles from the Baltimore slaughter houses, and carrying them home in a wheelbarrow. As he prospered, he bought a white horse and a wagon. When the horse grew old and retired, Mr. Wilkens cared for him tenderly and when it died, he purchased a plot of ground opposite his factory and residence where he buried the horse.

He ordered his great watch from London in 1866 and it was finished in 1869 at a cost of \$2,500. It was 4 inches wide, gold and weighed 2 pounds. He had special vests made with large pockets. The massive gold chain to which the watch was attached was 4 feet long, cost \$800 and weighed 4 pounds. He wore the chain around his neck. His beloved white horse received equal prominence with himself on the engraving on the watch case. Wilkens wore the watch till the day he died. (Source: Evening Sun, April 11, 1896) Thanks to Walt Mathers

## THE HAMBURGER: ALL-AMERICAN

The history of the hamburger is set forth in the Feb. 23 issue of TIME magazine. It was invented in New Haven, Conn. by a Danish immigrant named Louis Larsen who named it because it had the same ingredients as a German dish called the Hamburg Steak, ground beef. The hamburger was quickly adopted by Americans. 119 years later, in 2014, we Americans ate 9 billion of them. McDonald's sells the most, but it is facing competition from small boutique burger shops springing up all over the USA.

## THE HISTORY CHANNEL...

...has been broadcasting documentaries of POW camps in the USA during WWII. There were 500 POW camps with 450,000 prisoners. (20 camps in Maryland). Many years later, a large group of former POW's were interviewed for the documentary. They said the 2 years in the camp was the best time of their entire lives. Nearly 200,000 German POW's returned as immigrants to America.

## DR. HANS G. GOEDICKE, 88

Dr. Goedicke, an internationally renowned Egyptologist, died Feb. 24. Born in Vienna, Austria, he was drafted into the German army at age 16. He received his doctorate from the Univ. of Vienna, after which he worked as an archeologist in Egypt. He came to Johns Hopkins in Baltimore in 1960 and ultimately became head of its Dept. of Egyptology. In 1982 he presented solid evidence that the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt occurred in 1477 B. C, 200 years prior to the then accepted timing; and he also confirmed that the parting of the sea, the drowning of the Egyptian army and the escape of the Jews was possible, based on geological evidence of volcanic activity, and not myth as claimed by many.

He resided in Guilford until his death. Dr. Goedicke had friends who are members of our Society.

## THE U-DEUTSCHLAND IRON CROSS

The archives of our Society contain an iron cross which is a souvenir of the 1916 visit to Baltimore of the U-boat and its captain, Paul Koenig. Walt Mathers, researcher par excellence, has uncovered the history of the cross. Iron ingots, carried as ballast in the submarine, were donated to the VDA, a wartime charity for widows and orphans. It presented the crosses to those who contributed to its cause. They turned over the iron to G. Krug & Sons to make the iron crosses and Hans Schuler, a Baltimore artist, was commissioned to make coins for each side of the iron cross, one side with the image of Capt. Koenig and the other of the U-Deutschland. When Capt. Koenig came to Baltimore in 1932, he took back to Germany all of the undistributed crosses which had been held in storage here. What happened to them after Hitler came into power is a mystery. The Society's iron cross will be on display during our commemoration in July, 2016 of the centenary of the historic visit of the world's first commercial submarine.

## JUDGE CORNELIUS F. SYBERT, JR.

Judge Sybert, a member of our Society who cherished his German American heritage, often made our summer picnic a family reunion, bringing a dozen of his relatives to the event. He died Feb. 23 at age 86. "Neil" retired as Judge of the Circuit Court for Howard County, where he previously served as a prosecutor, a defense attorney, and land-use attorney and as president of the county bar association. He was a graduate of Loyola High School, Loyola College and the University of Maryland Law School. He served in the army during the Korean war. He followed in the footsteps of his father, C. Ferdinand Sybert, who was the State's Attorney for Howard County, a Circuit Court Judge and a member of the Maryland Court of Appeals. Judge Sybert was always most respectful of all who appeared before him, plaintiffs, defendants, witnesses and attorneys, said Ted Potthast another member of our Society who, as a trial attorney, tried many cases in Judge Sybert's courtroom. He is part of Maryland's German American heritage and will be long remembered within our Society.

## GERMAN SOCIETY MEDALS

For more than 100 years, the German Society of Maryland has awarded its medal to citizens who have performed significant services which benefit the community and which promote the ideals and principles of our Society. In some years the medal has several recipients. 2015 is one such year. No medals have been awarded for several years and a goodly number of persons, especially among our own directors, were selected to receive the medal. Most have served the Society and the entire German American community for many years and have been leaders of a number of organizations.

## LISTING OF RECIPIENTS

Our director **BETTY NIEMANN** was president of The Baltimore Kickers, the Edelweiss Club, vice president of the Buergerverein, a delegate to the GAV, (German American Verein) and council member of Zion Church. Her husband **BRUNO (DUTCH) NIEMANN** aided her in all these efforts and himself served as a director of Club Fidelitas and on the Zion council.

**CHRISTEL VAN DER BERG** served as our corporate secretary for many years, was a broadcaster on the Edelweiss Hour and is a lifetime director.

**JANE AWALT** served as a director and is a special benefactor of the Society.

**THOMAS A. WERNER** served as president of our Society, of the Baltimore Kickers and of the Buergerverein, currently serving as its treasurer. Tom is also our society's vice president for finance.

**BRIGITTE FESSENDEN** staffed our office, pro bono, in times when we had no office manager; served as chair of many committees; was our president for three years; currently is very active with our Society and others and is president of the Goethe Society.

## OTHER PAST PRESIDENTS

It is also customary for a past president to be awarded the Society's medal and those others who are recipients are: **JOHN AYMOLD, THE REV. H. J. SIEGFRIED OTTO, MICHAEL J. NIEBERDING, THEODORE J. POTTHAST, JR., JAMES SCHAUB, and FREDERICK WEHRENERG,** posthumously.

## OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

**DR. MAUREEN HELINSKI**, our webmaster and Chair of the Education Committee and of AATG committees.  
**BOB SHEPHERD**, president for many years of the Deutschamerikanische Buergerverein von Maryland.

## LEGISLATORS

Three members of the Maryland legislature have also been selected for the medal: **SENATOR NANCY KLAUSMEIER, DELEGATE SUSAN AUMANN and FORMER DELEGATE WILLIAM FRANK.** These are those most responsible for having October designated as German American Heritage Month in Maryland.

## STRICKER BUST DEDICATION

The Society has approval to place our monument to Gen. John Stricker on Federal Hill in Baltimore. Stricker was a founder and a vice president of our Society and lead the Maryland militia in the victory in the War of 1812. We hope that we will be joined in the dedication by all the members of the Buergerverein, by the national German American organizations, by the embassies of the Federal Republic of Germany and of Switzerland (the Stricker family was Swiss). by the Maryland National Guard, the successor to the Maryland Militia. And by all our members. Our Stricker Committee has a job on its hands, getting all these people to the top of the hill.

## A RECRUITING OPPORTUNITY

If you have a friend or relative whom you think would be a good member in our Society, bring him or her to our annual meeting. It is a very friendly atmosphere.

They can hear the reports of the Society's activities.

## THE SOLDIER & THE NURSE

A story about our Vice President and Director, Dr. Armin Mruck: About 10 years ago, Dr. Mruck received an e-mail from Hannelore Grimm, now living near Magdeburg, Germany. She wondered whether he was the Armin Mruck whom she had taken care of as a wounded soldier in a life and death situation in a Luebeck hospital in April/May, 1945. Together they had learned of Adolf Hitler's death. Together they had experienced the end of World War II. Schwester/nurse Hannelore had seen many soldiers die. She was determined not to let one more soldier die as much as it were in her power. She did succeed. Armin Mruck is still alive and active today. For half a century, Hannelore Grimm and Armin Mruck had lost all contact to each other. But they had never forgotten each other. Armin Mruck in one way had owed her his survival. She did not forget him because of her dedication to make this wounded soldier well again. One Christmas she mentioned the story to her computer-savvy son who then told her it was rather easy to find out if Armin Mruck was still among the living by going into the internet and google his name. In this way Hannelore Grimm did find his name and e-mail address and immediately sent that e-mail to Reisterstown, MD where the Mruck family lived. Fifty years had passed and Hannelore and Armin felt the need to write to each other on a regular basis and to tell their story, which was first published by BIS, then by the University Press of Oldenburg University, and more recently by the popular Zeitgut Verlag/Berlin. In the late 1980's Dr. Mruck had helped establish a partnership between Towson University, of which he has been a member since 1965 and the Carl von Ossietzky Universitaet Oldenburg. The book "Zwei deutsche Lebenswege zwischen Diktatur und Demokratie", Zeitgut Verlag, Berlin 2014 is available through [www.zeitgut.de](http://www.zeitgut.de) or [www.amazon.de](http://www.amazon.de)

## NEW MEMBERS:

**ROBERT WISCH** was recruited by our director, Gen. Hall Worthington. Robert was the principal speaker at the deKalb ceremony in Annapolis in 2014. He is the Commander of the Veterans Corps of the 5th Regiment Infantry and holds the rank of Lieut. Col. Robert was the inspiration of the 2012 deKalb commemoration ceremonies. Maryland's 5th Regiment was established in 1774 and formed a member unit in the Maryland-Delaware Line which was commanded in the Revolutionary War by Maj. Gen. Baron Johann deKalb. Col Wisch's article in the 5th Regiment newsletter brought about the first commemoration of deKalb in more

than 100 years, in 2012, then sponsored by the Veterans Corps and the Society for the History of the Germans in MD. In 2013 the German Society joined in sponsoring the event.

**JOHN H. FOERTSCHBECK, SR.** was encouraged to join our Society when he attended the ceremonies at the grave of Sgt. Henry Gunther on Veterans' Day John is a scholar of the history of Maryland Germans. He has published five books on local German history, most recently a magnificent survey of German churches, full of photographs and text, the result of several years of research, interviews and travel. On informal occasions, he can easily be spotted by his baseball cap imprinted with the logo "German John". Future issues of this newsletter will have descriptions and reviews of his books. They are full of local German American history and lore.

## THE WORKING POOR

Shawn Dippel, a lifetime member of our Society, has formed a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization with an unusual purpose: to help those who are working to support their families, but who nevertheless can't earn enough to pay their bills. Economic policies have caused many employers to cut workers' hours and keep wages low. Often their working status disqualifies them from welfare benefits. The new organization, Starboard Society, seeks out struggling families and helps them meet their heating and rent bills, put food on the table and to solve similar problems. Good work, Shawn!

## 1812 MEMORIAL IN BLADENSBURG

4,500 British troops, veterans of the Napoleonic War, defeated 6,000 Americans in the Battle of Bladensburg. MD and marched into Washington to burn the White House. (Those same troops were repelled by Gen. John Stricker and the militia at Baltimore.) In August, 2014 a large memorial was dedicated in Bladensburg to the soldiers who fought the losing battle. The 20-foot statue features the wounded Commodore Joshua Barney being helped to his feet by Charles Ball, a former slave who served in the navy under Barney. The cost was paid for by local, state and federal agencies and some local businesses. The Gen John Stricker monument is being paid for solely by The German Society of Maryland.



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***“The purpose of the German Society of Maryland is to preserve and promote the German heritage and traditions through educational, social and benevolent programs; and to develop the unity and continuity of the German American community in the State of Maryland.”***

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

“I hereby apply to be a member of the German Society of Maryland”

Annual dues \$25 Spouse may be included at no extra cost.

The German Society of Maryland  
P.O. Box 22585  
Baltimore, MD 21203-4585

Visit the German Society's website:

[www.germansociety-md.com](http://www.germansociety-md.com)

Articles from some 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)

This newsletter is published by The German Society of Maryland, an organization founded in 1783 and incorporated in 1818 by Act of the General Assembly of Maryland. It is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation pursuant to the provisions of §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Society is a member of the Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland, D.A.N.K. (German American National Congress) The United German-American Committee of the USA, Inc. and other civic groups which promote German-American culture and heritage. Please submit items of interest to Theodore J. Potthast, Jr., Editor, at 1819 Leadburn Road, Towson, MD 21204-1830 or fax 410-832-2903.