

THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

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VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

SEPTEMBER 2011 ISSUE #79

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THE GERMAN AMERICAN LANGUAGE AND HERITAGE FUND KEEPING OUR PAST ALIVE FOR THE FUTURE WE INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE

In the spring of 2010 our Society received a gift of \$2,000 from Mr. Lou Grasmick and Dr. Nancy Grasmick with the challenge to use this gift as seed money for a fund raising project of the Society. A committee was formed to identify a goal for this effort.

The Board of Director's meeting of February 11, 2011 approved the "Fund Raising Appeal for the specific purpose of fostering the German language and promoting the German American heritage and traditions through educational and benevolent programs and to develop the unity and continuity of the German American community in the State of Maryland".

As its August 4, 2011 meeting the Board of Directors decided to support the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG)'s summer program for High School students by sponsoring one student from the membership of our Society. The tentative cost will be between \$4,000 and \$5,000.

At the start of the Fund Raising Appeal I have asked and so far received from 15 board members contributions in the amount of \$5,060. In addition Mr. and Dr. Grasmick contributed another \$1,000.00 enabling the Society to support Ms. Alessandra Daniels for her one year study program in Germany. She has thanked the Society and has started her program in Eschwege, Germany. Ms. Rachel Trageser also received a grant of \$1,000 for her student program at the University of Salzburg, Austria.

Our Society began as a benevolent organization supporting and helping newly arrived immigrants from German speaking countries when confronted with abuse, exploitation and poverty.

Now we are a cultural organization that tries to preserve the heritage of past generations by helping young people to learn German and to visit or study in Germany in order to have a life experience related to the past of the immigrant generation.

It is my hope that our members can share in this vision and will contribute to the Heritage Fund in an ongoing manner so we can each year send one student from among our membership to experience a glimpse of present day Germany, Austria or Switzerland in the expectation that this experience will convince them to keep alive what is part of their identity. Hoping and counting on your support,

Sincerely yours,
H.J.S. Otto, President

KEEPING OUR PAST ALIVE FOR THE FUTURE:

Yes, I would like to support the expansion of our educational program by my contribution to the Heritage Fund.

\$ _____

Signature

KALENDER

- Sept 29 History Society Banquet
- Oct. 2 23rd Ecumenical Service
- Oct. 8 Country Fair St. John's Church
- Oct. 26-27 Sour Beef event at Zion Church
- Nov. 5 Annual Awards Banquet
- Nov. 11 Veterans Day observance: Henry Gunther Memorial at cemetery
- Nov. 26-27 Christkindlmarkt at Zion Church
- June 23 (2012) The Great German Family Picnic at Kurtz's Beach

Visit the German Society's website:
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

You are invited to add articles about your German ancestors to the website conducted by our director, Shelley Arnold; (germanmarylanders.org) and to register to visit and participate in the website "Der Wecker", founded by our member, Walt Mathers.

OUR 23RD ECUMENICAL SERVICE RECALLS THE CHAINS OF COMMUNISM

23 years is not long in the memory of most of our older members, but already we have come to forget the horrors suffered by our countrymen under the yoke of communism. Religious activities were verboten and church-goers were persecuted. Under the years of Hitler followed by communist occupation of eastern Germany, church membership fell and has never quite recovered. When the Berlin wall fell, our Society joined with the entire German American community to celebrate the new-found freedom of religion of our brethren who were held down so long by communism: within a couple weeks of the fall of the wall, we assembled at Zion Church to give thanks to God for the freedom just won in our ancestral lands.

PLAN TO ATTEND

This year's ecumenical service will be held on Sunday, October 2 at 5 pm at Zion Church. This is the 23rd consecutive year of the service. We continue to express our gratitude by perpetuating this ecumenical service. Our Society, according to the custom dating back to the first such service, pays for the professional trumpeters who give a tone of splendor to the event.

PREACHER: REV. G. RICHARD DIMLER, S.J.

Father Dimler, a director of the German Society of Maryland will preach at the service. He is a member of the Jesuit order, studied in Germany, has a Ph.D. in German from UCLA, is a retired professor of German at Fordham University, taught at Loyola College and high school. He is a native Baltimorean.

REFRESHMENTS AFTERWARDS

Following the event, food and drink will be served in the prestigious Adlersaal of the Church. The stained glass windows of the Adlersaal bear the coats of arms of many of the states and cities of Germany; they are worth studying for historical purposes. Our Society makes a contribution for the cost of the reception, which is free to those in attendance.

LEARN ABOUT BALTIMORE'S BEERS

HISTORICAL SOCIETY SEPT. 29

Our sister group, the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland, holds its annual banquet at the Adlersaal on Sept. 29 and will feature a lecture by Prof. Timothy J. Holian of the Univ. of Wisconsin entitled "The Long Road Home: Baltimore's Brewing Heritage and a Return to the Roots". Prof. Holian is an expert on the German influence in the industry.

Admission to the banquet is \$35 and includes a German meal, beer and wine. Social hour with begins at 6:40, ample free parking. Advance reservations and payment required. Send checks to Dr. Randall Donaldson, Loyola University Dept. of Modern Language, 4501 N. Charles St. Baltimore 21210-2699. Come and bring a friend.

NEW PROGRAM: NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITE RELATIVE, NEIGHBOR, OR ACQUAINTANCE, WHO IS A MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL GERMAN STUDENT, TO STUDY IN GERMANY THIS SUMMER!

The German Society of Maryland is beginning a new program this year to send a Maryland high school student to Germany during the summer. The German Language and Heritage Fund of the German Society of Maryland will cover the cost of the program, including the flight on Lufthansa. Members of the German Society may sponsor, or nominate, a high school student they know to compete to win this scholarship.

All secondary school students from Maryland, between the ages of 15 and 18, who have had at least two years of German, with a recommendation of their German teacher, are eligible. The Education Committee of the German Society of Maryland will select the winner from the students nominated.

The winning student will participate in the German Summer Study Program sponsored by the AATG, in cooperation with the German governmental agency, the Pedagogical Exchange Service (PAD). The student will live with a German family and attend classes at a German high school. Field trips will be organized to local points of interest. In addition to these group outings, the host families generally plan excursions to show their visiting "son" or "daughter" the area in which they are living.

A qualified American high school teacher of German will be available to supervise field trips, act as a liaison with the German school authorities or just provide a sympathetic ear to the American students. All participants are covered by AATG's accident and health policy. For more information and application forms see the German Society Website: <http://www.germansociety-md.com/>

THE GERMAN SOCIETY SUPPORTS GERMAN LANGUAGE EDUCATION IN MARYLAND WITH THREE DIFFERENT PROGRAMS

For about twenty years, the German Society has been presenting cash awards to high school students who excel on the national German language proficiency examination. This activity is a joint effort with the Maryland Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German. An awards ceremony for the students being honored and their families is held each year in May at the Zion Church in Baltimore.

In 2007 the German Society established an award program for college and university students who are majoring in German. This program provides up to four awards of \$800.00 each to outstanding students at Maryland colleges and universities.

A link to the application form is on the website:
<http://www.germansociety-md.com/education.htm>

A new program started this year will now send a high school student to Germany for the summer. This is an excellent opportunity to really improve German language skills. Members of the German Society may sponsor, or nominate, a high school student they know to compete to win this scholarship. The Education Committee of the German Society will select the winner from the students nominated. For more information, see the German Society website: <http://www.germansociety-md.com/>

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Dirla, Nancy
Dirla, Werner
Eberhart, Herbert O.
Goldberg, Lisa
Gunther, Stefan
Mangan, Kate
Mangan, Sarah M.
Moeller, William F.
Moeller, Helen M.

GET SET FOR A FUTURE RADIO STATION GERMAN AMERICAN RADIO DOT COM

Our Society has secured the rights to use the call signal "**Germanamericanradio.com**" for an internet radio station. The plan is that the station will belong jointly by all of the German American organizations in Maryland and in the Washington area and that each organization will be able to broadcast whatever it wishes. German clubs in our schools will be invited to post programs. This will be an internet radio station; listeners will be able to tune in from anywhere in the world, wherever there is an internet connection.

INTERNET RADIO VS. THE AIR WAVES

Many commercial radio and TV stations also operate internet radio stations. To listen to an internet station, an internet connection is needed, either with a computer, iPhone, iPod or similar electronic device. While conventional radio stations must be "on the air" and transmit signals on air waves which have a limited geographical range, an internet station is available "24/7" and can be received world-wide. Whenever a person "signs on" to the internet radio, the listener is presented with a menu of programs from which to choose; unlike radio on the air waves where the listener has no choice but has to hear what is currently being broadcast. Conventional radio requires expensive equipment and professionally-trained salaried personnel while internet radio can operate "on a shoe-string". For example, our investment thus far has been only \$300. A few thousand dollars for some equipment and computer programs and we will be up and running. Internet radio can also show pictures and video clips, just as do TV stations.

VOLUNTEERS ARE ESSENTIAL

The success of Germanamericanradio.com depends entirely on the participation of the community, i.e. the member clubs of the Buergerverein and AGAS, of which our Society is a member. It is also dependent on volunteers, at least 20, to produce programs, to assemble materials, to monitor programming to assure that no improper material is broadcast, to serve as reporters and perform many other functions to tell the story of our heritage. We are planning a training program for volunteers. We need volunteers, both for "on-air" reporting and for posting materials from many sources. There are already German-American internet radio stations in existence, and some will permit us to use programs from their archives. Our initial audience will target the Chesapeake and Potomac regions, we

hope to attract participation from other states.

PROFESSIONAL RADIO ASSISTANCE

Bob Mathers, managing director of station WTTR-AM in Westminster, MD has agreed to help us get up and running. He has significant experience in commercial internet radio, having established a very successful station in Atlanta, GA; he is also the owner of an internet station, GoldenOldiesRadio.com., a music station of early rock music of the '60's and '70's.

TARGET OPERATIONAL DATE

We are looking forward to getting together with the Buergerverein and AGAS for an organizational meeting and then sending out a call for volunteers. We expect to open the station by year's end.

NYC, THE TWIN TOWERS AND I

When I was 11 years old, my German uncle William took me to New York City for the weekend. It was during WWII. He took me to the waterfront and we saw the great ship Normandy lying on its side, the work, we were then told, of German saboteurs. Later, during high school, I spent a week there during the summer with friends. In my professional career I made many trips to NYC. In the late 1980's and the 1990's, whenever my German cousins came to America, I took them to NY and to the top of one of the twin towers. I loved standing on the roof with them and pointing out the glories of the great city. I have many photos of my German cousins there; they were very happy times.

Then came 9-11-01. I was traumatized, watching the plane crash into the 2nd tower on live TV, and staying glued to the TV as the towers fell. Over the past 10 years I have often looked at the photos of my German cousins, remembering our trips to the towers. I have not been able to bring myself to set foot in NYC in the past 10 years. On the 10th anniversary of 9-11 I was again glued to the TV watching the documentaries of the evil event. I think I had a catharsis; now I'm ready to go back to NYC and even visit Ground Zero, I'll do it soon, take some photos and send them to my cousins in Germany who stood with me on the roof of the towers of old.

Ted Potthast

AWARDS BANQUET SAT, NOV. 5TH

Our Society's major event of the year, our annual awards banquet is set for Nov. 5 at Zion's Adlersaal.

Every member will receive an invitation in the mail with the details of the event, including pricing and instructions on making of reservations. Dr. Mohamed Esa is the event chairman. Since the Adlersaal has limited seating, it is recommended that you make reservations early; seats are awarded on the first come, first served basis. The event will be catered by Old World, a firm specializing in German food.

HONOREE IS EVA MAUS KELLEHER

Our Society each year honors a German American Marylander who has made a significant contribution to our community, state or nation. Eva Kelleher, for many years has been a member of our Society and the president of our Auxiliary. She has also served as the principal of Zion's German Language School where many children have learned the rudiments of the language. The school also has advanced courses for adults. This year Mrs. Kelleher will also be teaching at the free weekly night courses of The Baltimore Kickers Club. Zion has a long history of teaching German. The courses continued during World War II and were led after the war by Elizabeth Roberts, a German war bride who married a colonel in the US Army. Mrs. Roberts retired in the mid 1980's when Mrs. Kelleher took over as principal. Mrs. Kelleher is a native of Germany who was naturalized after her marriage to William Kelleher.

PROGRAM SEEKS ADS, PATRONS, SPONSORS

For nearly 20 years the program at our annual banquet has published the roster of all members. It is the only time the names of our members are published and serves as an archive of our membership. To help defray the expenses of publication, we seek personal and commercial ads for the program, as well as patrons and sponsors. Many families also take ads to memorialize their ancestors who immigrated from German-speaking countries. We encourage both members and non-members to do so under our "Honor thy father and mother" promotion, and to include their photographs. Details of the promotion will be included when literature is mailed to our members along with the invitations.

SEPT. 10 SPECIAL DAY FOR MD GERMANS

Saturday, 9-10-11 was important to Maryland's German American community:

H. L. MENCKEN

It was "Mencken Day" in Baltimore, with lectures at the Pratt library with the Mencken Room open to the public. Henry Louis Mencken, known as the "Sage of Baltimore" was a member of The German Society of Maryland and is Maryland's most famous author in the world of literature.

GENERAL JOHN STRICKER

General Stricker, known as "The Hero of the Battle of North Point" was honored when The Society for the War of 1812 laid a wreath at his grave in the old Westminster cemetery in downtown Baltimore. John Stricker was an incorporator of our Society and served as vice president in the years following 1816.

HILARY HAHN

World famous violinist Hilary Hahn performed Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto at the Myerhoff Symphony Hall with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Among other works performed was "Charm", commissioned for the BSO to honor Charm City. Ms. Hahn was one of our awards honorees.

GERMAN AMERICAN DAY AT DC MALL

Our Society will attend the ceremonies at the German American Friendship Garden on Washington's Mall on Oct. 6th. Dr. James Schaub will read a proclamation from the Governor of Maryland. Others will read proclamations from President Obama and the Governor of Virginia. All are invited to attend. For information call our office.

ST. JOHN'S COUNTRY FAIR DAY OCT. 8

The 34th annual County Fair Day takes place Sat., Oct 8 on the church grounds at 3911 Sweet Air Road, 21131, Pancake and sausage breakfast from 7 am o 10:30 am. Thereafter pit beef, hot dogs, crab soup etc.

Ample parking. Country store, crafts and flea market. Country music plus a Christian band.. Children's games. German clogging. For information and directions: 410-592-6565.

NEW MD-GERMANY RELATION

Baltimore's Walters Art Museum has entered into a partnership with the Roemer Pelizaeus Museum in Hildesheim. They will exchange ideas, staff members and art projects. They will do exhibits together and arrange loans from other museums. Walters has 35,000 art objects, while the German museum's holdings exceed 1,000,000. Regine Schulz, curator of ancient art at The Walters will move to Hildesheim as a first step in the partnership.

SPECIAL THANKS

...to Dandridge Brooke, for his indefatigable labors in promoting membership in the Society. Dan spent long hours at the recent German Festival explaining the works of the Society at our booth. Dan joined our Society at age 28; he is 87 and so has been a member for longer than anyone in the history of the German Society: 59 years. He has been chairman of our membership committee "forever". (Ted Potthast recalls that when he joined 44 years ago, Dan was even then the membership chairman.)

U.S. POLITICIANS EMULATE GOEBBELS

The U.S. economy is suffering. In the midst of the recent debt crisis, the Democrats blamed the Republicans and they returned the charges. Both parties are telling whoppers about the other, They call it "the spin". Both parties are taking their cue from Paul Joseph Goebbels, Hitler's Minister for Propaganda from 1933 to 1945. Goebbels had a theory which worked then and apparently still does: tell a very big lie and repeat it often enough and people will believe it. The theory was around long before Goebbels made it popular. Our former German Society member, Henry L. Mencken, a hundred years ago, said that it is impossible to underestimate the gullibility of the American voter. Goebbels was highly educated: maybe he simply read Mencken's words and applied them to the Germany of the Third Reich. (Mencken was popular in Germany: he even corresponded with the Kaiser.)

GERMAN FOOD CONTRIBUTION TO USA

The current TIME magazine reports that Americans ate 7 billion frankfurters between Memorial Day and Labor Day. About 181 franks per second. The Germans brought frankfurters to America. They were made popular as a "street" food in Coney Island, NY where they were introduced for 10 cents each. When Nathans began selling them at 5 cents each, word spread that they were unhealthy. To combat that rumor, Nathan let the doctors at a nearby hospital get free hot dogs if they showed up wearing their white coats. They did, and business boomed. (Nathan's dogs are now in our local stores.)

OLD STEIN INN RE-OPENS

We are happy to report that the Old Stein Inn has re-opened after a major fire closed it down for many months. Maryland has lost so many good German restaurants that we can ill-afford to lose another; make sure to patronize this and the remaining German American eateries to keep them prospering and preserve the heritage. We checked their website on Sept. 9 to find the chef's special for the day: Kaese Kreiner-Bratwurst stuffed with smoked Gouda and wrapped in apple-wood smoked bacon sauteed and served with potato salad and sauerkraut. Located at 1143 E. Central Ave., Edgewater, MD 21037. 410-798-6807 <http://www.oldstein-inn.com>

OUR MARYLAND GERMAN HERITAGE

Brig. General Raymond Winkel died Aug. 30 at age 65. Born in Baltimore, raised in Gardenville, attended Poly, went to West Point, was wounded in Vietnam, served in Germany, Saudi Arabia, Australia, England, Iraq and Afghanistan. He received a PhD in physics at Berkley, CA and served as head of the physics department at West Point from 1987 to 2009. In retirement he returned to Maryland and died here.

WE PROCLAIM: OCTOBER IS GERMAN AMERICAN MONTH IN MARYLAND

The German Society of Maryland hereby declares that October is officially German American month in our state! This is our decree and we are not daunted by the Maryland legislature which killed the bill at its last session to promulgate the declaration. We decree that all Marylanders shall celebrate the month by attending German American events. Go to the Sauerbraten dinner at Zion. Attend German American Day at McDaniel College on Oct. 18. Go to the Canton Oktoberfest on Sunday, Oct. 25, noon to 5 (Dillon Street, east of Clinton, sponsored by the United Evangelical Church of Christ, 3200 Dillon St. in east Baltimore.) Attend our Ecumenical Service on Sunday, Oct. 2 at 5 pm at Zion Church. Patronize a German restaurant to keep them above water in this tough economy. Make plans during October to support a new bill to get our legislators on board to pass the law.

100 YEARS OF CULTURE CHANGES

100 years ago, Baltimore City had 5 elementary schools which were taught in the German language. All of its high schools taught German. Today German is taught in only one public high school in Baltimore. Baltimore County has no high school in which German is taught. Baltimore County's superintendent of schools, Joseph Hairston, told his teachers on Aug. 18 that the county has seen a dramatic change in the past decade: Public schools now have a 52% minority population. His speech was entitled "Navigating the New Normal". The old "Normal" was when a school was a microcosm of the community: with the same "heritage, culture and customs." The county has 173 schools. Its students hail from 113 nations with 91 languages. In 2010 The Baltimore Sun reported that the population of the Baltimore City schools was 90% African American, 7% hispanic and 3% white.

It is not likely that we can expect German, as an a language, to be taught in either Baltimore city or county public schools while the present trends persist.

Our Society is dedicated to promoting the study of the German language, and it is not an easy task. Our concentration is on promoting existing programs, to keep them strong and grow larger.

GERMANY'S POPULATION IN DECLINE

The current National Geographic, reporting on world-wide population, shows the birthrate for the USA to be 2.0 and Germany's at 1.4. Maintaining a steady population requires a birthrate of 2.1 children per woman. Germany's population has been on the decline for the past 4 decades. The study reported that Germany (Europe's economic power-house) can only maintain its population through immigration.

COW CAPTURES GERMAN HEARTS

Yvonne, a Bavarian cow headed for the slaughter house escaped into the forest and wandered around for three months eluding hunters and the Polizei this summer. Tales of her sightings took precedence in the German media over the federal fiscal crisis, energy policy debates and the upcoming elections as she escaped the executioner. The cops ordered "shoot to kill" and put a bounty on her head. The public was enraged. The German tabloid "Bild" offered a \$14,000 reward for her safe return. They searched for her by helicopter and blared the "moos" of Ernst the bull, known as "the George Clooney of bulls" among Bavarian farmers. She passed up an opportunity to reunite with her 2-year old son, Freisi.

Yvonne's story received international publicity because she had made the statement that she was wild and wanted to be free. A public uproar began. Yvonne's fans wrote songs, created Facebook fan pages and followed her blog. The media hailed her as a "freedom fighter". After 3 months the lonesome cow ventured into a pasture seeking the company of other bovines and was taken into custody. The Gut Aiderbichl animal sanctuary bought Yvonne so she can live out her days, along with Ernst the bull and Freisi her son and hundreds of other runaways, including 300 cows, 550 horses, plus chimps, donkeys, camels and cats.

Germany still maintains small dairy farms. The tradition of the cows wearing bells can still be seen in the alpine regions; smaller bells in the summer and the giant bells when snows cover the hills in winter. Big bells are needed since the snow absorbs so much of the sound of the pealing of the bells.