



# Vereinsnachrichten

*Founded in 1783 and Incorporated by Act of the General Assembly of Maryland*

*Chapter 100, February 3, 1818*

## President's Message-Anton Smoot

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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*

Liebe Mitglieder –  
Dear Members,

I hope this message finds all of our members well and safe. A warm welcome to all of our newest members that have joined our great society in the past couple of months.

This coming April I will be stepping down as President of the German Society of Maryland. The past 3 years have been an amazing journey and I could not have done my job without the help of many people. All of your ideas and suggestions provided a great tool in helping me not only do my job but also guide the society into the future. The extremely talented and knowledgeable members of the Board of Directors guided me in all the important decision that had to be made. A heartfelt thank you to all of you for your input, knowledge and guidance during my tenure. It truly has been an honor to serve as your president!

Things were quite a bit different in the German Community when I joined in 1986. Even though we have lost some clubs, we are making progress on several other fronts. I am happy to report

that our society is financially sound and that our membership is strong and growing. The German Society of Maryland is continuing its goal to preserve and promote the German heritage, language, traditions and history thru many programs. I encourage all of our members to visit our website to discover all the wonderful events that are happening now or in the near future.

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

Additionally, a complete listing of all the scheduled events for all the German Organizations in Maryland can be found at [www.md-germans.org](http://www.md-germans.org). All these organizations are working very hard to provide not only traditional events but also encompass new ideas for the future. Visit the website and get out among your fellow Germans!

***Our annual meeting will be held on April 21st at The Zion Lutheran Church in Baltimore. I encourage all of you to attend and look forward to seeing you at this very important event.***



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, best wishes and speedy recovery to any of our sick or shut-in members and I hope to see many of you at an event.

*Mit freundlichen Grüßen,  
Anton G. Smoot  
President  
[agsmoot@verizon.net](mailto:agsmoot@verizon.net)*

## Unser Kalender

April 1-8, 2017	Schuler School Exhibition, 'Fur to Feathers'
April 21, 2017	Annual Meeting-Zion Church 6:00 PM; Dinner 6:30 FREE to members
April 23, 2017	AATG Awards—Zion Church 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM
April 29, 2017	Club Fidelitas Spring Fest/Valley Mansion
April 30, 2017	Women's Auxiliary
May 6, 2017	Maifest at Zion Language School; 10am-2pm
May 21, 2017	German Society Picnic, North Point State Park
July 22, 2017	117 <sup>th</sup> Annual German Festival/Maryland State Fairgrounds



*Proud Member of the German American Heritage Foundation*

### Publication Dates:

January-March: Deadline 12/15

April-June: Deadline 3/15

July-September: Deadline 6/15

October-December: Deadline 9/15

### Links:

#### German Society Website:

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

#### Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein:

[www.md-germans.org](http://www.md-germans.org)

#### German Marylanders:

[www.germanmarylanders.org](http://www.germanmarylanders.org)

#### German American Radio:

[germanamericanradio.com](http://germanamericanradio.com)

## The Women's Auxiliary of the German Society of Maryland celebrate their 100th Anniversary

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, the Frauenhilfsverein will celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The German Society extends their congratulations to President Eva Kelleher and all of the members, both past and present on this wonderful milestone.

The Auxiliary (Frauenhilfsverein) was founded in 1917. The founding happened quite by accident and proved to be a great assistance to the German Society. Many of the wives and daughters had joined the German and Austrian Red Cross Society in Baltimore in 1914. Keep in mind that the Society consisted, at that time, exclusively of men. When relations between the United States and Germany were severed, it made it impossible for the women to continue their work. They offered their services to the German Society of Maryland. The Executive Committee of the German Society resolved to organize a 'Ladies



Auxiliary' to exist independently but coordinate efforts with the Society. On April 17, 1917, the 'Ladies' Auxiliary to the German Society' was formally organized with Mrs. Carl A. Luederitz as president, Mrs. Henry Wood as vice president, a secretary, treasurer and twelve committee members. They assumed immediately the charitable work of the society.

The timing was perfect because it was around the time of the First World War and many Germans living in Maryland had lost their jobs due to the anti-German hysteria and really needed the assistance. The aid came from the German Society

and the Auxiliary. During that time, more than fifty families were provided with food, warm clothes, shoes and fuel. By January 1, 1918, the Ladies' Auxiliary had grown to 186 members.

The Auxiliary has been consistent in their efforts to give. In peacetime, the great depression proved a challenge. In 1931 funds were distributed to those hit hardest. The Society and Auxiliary took care of a considerable number of seaman who became stranded in Baltimore during the layup of American shipping on the East Coast. Relief was pro-

vided not just in the city, but extended to needy persons of German ancestry in several of the surrounding counties.

Following both World Wars and even to this day the Women's Auxiliary has aided those emigrating from Germany.

The Auxiliary works closely with the German Society and continues to make it their mission to help those in need. They support the Red Cross, the victims of earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters and are supportive of groups and institutions that assist battered and abused women. The Auxiliary also supports the German language school at Zion, as well as other cultural events.

They strongly support and promote the German language which is evident in their meetings where German is spoken and their beloved German Volksmusik is sung.

# German Society of Maryland



## Family Picnic

**Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>**

12pm to Dusk

North Point State Park  
Trolley Station pavilion  
8400 North Point Road Edgemere, MD 21219

Binkert's Bratwurst

German Beer

Games and Crafts

Wade in the bay at the nearby beach!

Bring your friends and family and enjoy the day!

### Pot Luck

Please bring a side dish or dessert

Society will be grilling and providing beer and other beverages

### FREE

Donations welcomed

Please RSVP by May 7<sup>th</sup> to [germansociety@verizon.net](mailto:germansociety@verizon.net) or 410-685-0450



## *A Big Welcome to our NEW Members*

*Josef and Mary Göhring*

*Marlene Haas*

*Richard O'Hara*

*Kevin Schwab*



### REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS

Don't forget our Annual Membership meeting.

April 21, 2017 at Zion Church 6:00 PM

FREE to members. Bring a dessert.

RSVP: 410-685-0450 or via email at [germansociety@verizon.net](mailto:germansociety@verizon.net)

## *Did you Know? Baltimore's Battle Monument*

The Battle Monument which is located in Battle Monument Square on North Calvert Street between East Fayette and East Lexington Streets in



Baltimore, Maryland, commemorates the Battle of Baltimore with the British fleet's bombardment of Fort McHenry, the Battle of North Point, and the stand-off at Hampstead Hill, also known as Loudenschlager's Hill, and now Patterson Park. It honors those who died in September 1814 during the War of 1812.

It was sponsored by the City and the "Committee of Vigilance and Safety" led by Mayor Edward Johnson and military commanders: Brig. Gen. John Stricker, Maj. Gen. Samuel Smith and Lt. Col. George Armistead (of Ft. McHenry).

The monument was constructed between 1815 and 1826. It stands 39' tall. It is topped by the statue of Lady Baltimore wearing a crown of victory and she holds a laurel wreath in one hand and a ship's rudder in the other.

When it came time to restore the monument in 1997, the German Society stepped up with a \$5,000 donation. It wasn't the only contributor, but was the most generous. Our past president, Brigitte Fessenden was, at the time, the City's historic preservation planner and worked first hand on the project. The

total cost of the project was approximately \$150,000. To recognize the donors, a bronze plaque was installed. It is not clear what happened to the plaque and during more recent renovations, the fence holding the plaque was removed and either stolen or not re-installed by the city. This renovation, a few years ago, facilitated the removal of Lady Baltimore for her own protection. She was replaced with a concrete replica. The original Lady Baltimore is resting comfortably at the Maryland Historical Society.

## *100 Years Ago*

*Baltimore Sun, April 20, 1917, pg. 14*

For the past months, we have been flooded with stories of protests and demonstrations, many that include persons disrespecting our flag and/or our national anthem. These protests are for many reasons and the disregard for 'Old Glory' extends from kneeling during our national anthem to stomping on a burning flag.

Well here is a story that was printed in the Baltimore Sun 100 years ago (April 1917). It is the same story..two men refuse to stand for the national anthem. The difference between the 2017 protests and that of 100 years ago was primarily the punishment. Of course, one of our freedoms is that to peacefully protest and this article has been included to

provide readers with a glimpse of yesteryear.

### *Refused to Salute the Flag*

#### *Father and Son who Sat When Anthem was Played Arrested*

Edward Esslinger, a druggist, 72 years old, 1514 East Baltimore Street and his son, Dr. Richard I. Esslinger, a physician, 30 years old, were arrested at the New Theater last night when, it was alleged they refused to stand up when "The Star-Spangled Banner" was being played.

The theatre is showing a patriotic moving picture this week and just before each performance the national anthem is

played by the orchestra. When it was being played last night, it is said, Esslinger and his son refused to stand. Chief Yeoman W.J. Burdy, who has charge of the enlistment station for the navy in the lobby, was told of this. Burdy immediately went to the Esslingens and asked them why they did not stand. The elder Esslinger is alleged to have said that they had stood up once and would not do so again. Dr. Esslinger is alleged to have then said "To h---- with you and the flag too."

Both men were immediately arrested by Patrolmen Schaefer and Hobbs and locked up at the Western Policy Station.



## Getting to Know You!

'Getting to know you, getting to know all about you'...what a great song with a great purpose. The German Society would like to 'get to know you' our members. Our new page will spotlight our members.

Just provide us with:

Name, Where you live, What you do, Your 'German' connection, How long have you been a member of the GSM?, what are your Hobbies

Then send it with your photo to [bnsarnold7@gmail.com](mailto:bnsarnold7@gmail.com).

Also, if you have news you wish to share or news about a member that may have moved from the area, send it to me. Let's get to know each other!

### Meet Member Debra A. Hoffman



Debra resides in New Windsor, Maryland and works as a part-time professional genealogist specializing in Maryland and German research. She

is the owner of Hoffman Genealogical Services.

Debra's interest in German genealogy is due to her background and ancestry through her father. All of his lines are German with the exception of one. All of her father's ancestors came to the U.S. from the 1830s to the 1880s. They all settled in Baltimore.

Debra has been a member of the German Society for a few years and has enjoyed her membership.

Her passion is genealogy and that is what she spends all of her spare time doing. She does this both personally

and professionally. Debra serves on the boards of the Maryland Genealogical Society (MGS), the Mid-Atlantic Society (MAGS) and the Carroll County Genealogical Society (CCGS). She is also a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) and the William Winchester Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution as well as many other state and local genealogical societies.

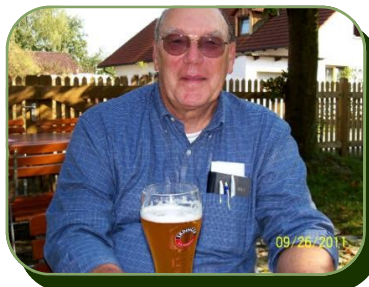
### Meet Member John Foertschbeck

John currently lives in Woodbine, Carroll County. He was born and raised in Highlandtown and attended Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church and Elementary school. He graduated from Mt. St. Joseph High School.

John worked as a Computer Systems Analyst for the US Government and as an independent Information Technology Consultant. He is now retired. Since his retirement he has authored several books; worked on local history projects with the Carroll County Genealogical Society and Carroll County Media Center; and has travelled with his wife (Josie), family, and friends.

His German connection begins with his paternal great-grandparents, Johann Foertschbeck and Anna Deuerling. They emigrated from Neufang, Oberfranken, Germany, arriving in Baltimore in 1886. His paternal grandmother's father, George Rockstroh, emigrated from Katerina, Austria, and his wife Mary Ahles was probably a first generation German-American from Baltimore. His maternal grandfather, John Betch, was of German descent but so far John has been unable to locate details relating to the Betch German origins.

John was a member of the Eichenkranz Gesangverein from 1960-1965 and is a member of the Baltimore Kickers, which he joined in 1963. He is a 'new' member of the German Society of Maryland, joining



in 2014. In 1960, he made his first trip to Germany. In 1963, he joined the Baltimore Kicker's group flight from New York to Frankfurt. Since these early trips he made many trips back to Germany visiting distant relatives and friends. His most recent trip was in 2013 with his son, John, daughter, Lisa, and grandson, Bennett Rhodes. Bennett and his brother, Jackson are studying German in high school.

Three of John and Josie's four children studied German, John and Frank at Mt. St. Joseph High School and Lisa, at Archbishop Seton-Keough High School. (His other daughter, Katie, studied Spanish.) While his children were in high school (1980-1988), his family

hosted exchange students from the Albert Schweitzer Real Schule in Solingen, Germany, and his kids travelled with the program to Germany on several occasions. His son John continued German studies at UMBC and also hosted students from Hannover and visited there as well.

John's hobbies are genealogy, local history, computer graphics design work, authoring, and traveling. His latest book, *German Catholic Parishes of Maryland and Pennsylvania*, self-published in 2013, presents an overview of German immigration in Baltimore, as well as, the growth of German Catholic parishes in Maryland and Pennsylvania. The book can be purchased online at [www.germanjohnsworld.com](http://www.germanjohnsworld.com).

### Meet Member John Dausch



Except for college in Ontario, high school teaching in Houston, and graduate school at U.Md. / College Park, John has been a lifelong Baltimorean.

Continued on page -7-

## German Language Courses-Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

### Why should schools have a German language program? Why should a student learn German?

By Shelley Arnold

This is the third and final installment of the article, German Language Classes, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. This is the 'Tomorrow' segment. If you read last issue's installment, you know that tomorrow is not a rosy picture. German classes are declining. Student enrollment is down. Why? The language is seen as a difficult language. When you think of learning German, you immediately think of long difficult words and extremely difficult grammar. There is no wonder students are not lining up to be placed on the German language waiting list at their high school or university. There are however, many good reasons for schools to offer and students to learn the German language.

**German and English have some things in common.** The German language is difficult, but there are some similarities with English. The main similarity is the alphabet. Unlike other languages, Germany uses the same alphabet. There are also words that sound similar, such as Mutter and Mother, house and Haus and many that have been taken from the English language such as baby, internet and computer. We English speakers are also seeing a bump in the number of German words entering into our marketplace through commercials, television, etc.

**Education:** In 2011, Germany was the fourth most popular destination for students from abroad with more than a quarter million foreigners being enrolled in German schools. Many of the universities offer low or no tuition...even to US students. See <http://www.nbcnews.com/feature/college-game-plan/why-american-students-are-flocking-germany-staying-n515961>.



Germany is proud of their 99% literacy rate. German belongs to the three most learned languages in the world as well as the ten most widely spoken languages in the world.

**Science:** The German language is used in the scientific world only second to English. German was actually the favored language in scholarly communication for the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (1). German scientist have snagged 22 Nobel Prizes in Physics (latest Peter Grünberg, 2007), 30 in Chemistry (the latest, Stefan W. Hell, 2014), and 25 in Medicine (the latest Thomas C. Südhof, 2013) and many laureates from other countries received their training in German universities. Eleven Nobel Prizes in Literature (latest Herta Müller, 2009) have been awarded to German-language writers, and seven Germans and Austrians have received the Peace Prize.

The Germans are also innovators and have been for centuries. Today, they are on the cutting edge of many new products and new technologies. They are committed to research and development and export more high tech products than any country other than ours. For this reason two thirds of the world's leading trade fairs take place in Germany including the granddaddy of them all, CeBit, which is the world's largest trade fair for information and communication technology. See <http://www.cebit.de/en/>.

**Germany's Economy:** Behind English, Germany comes in second after

Mandarin as the language all global minded managers should learn. Germany is the second largest exporter and is the largest economy in the EU, the fourth largest in the world. Germans are world class engineers as is evident with their multiple global companies including Lufthansa, Bosch, BMW, Volkswagen, etc. German products are associated with top notch quality and customer service.

It is estimated that 68% of Japanese students study German...Japan, the second most powerful economy in the world, shows that their students understand the business advantages of knowing German. US students should take heed. It is estimated that German companies account for about 700,000 jobs in the US with US companies in Germany providing about the same employment opportunities. German literacy could make the difference even with a similarly qualified candidate.

**Widely Spoken Language:** German is the most widely spoken native language in the EU, the second most-spoken language on the continent of Europe and when it comes to native speakers, German is number one (far more than English, Spanish or French). German is among the top five most widely used languages on the Internet, the official language of seven countries (Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, as well as parts of Italy, France and Belgium). In the English-speaking world, German is also the third most taught foreign language. German is at tenth place as one of the major languages of the world.

**With reference to the Internet,** German websites make up a huge part of the worldwide web. Sites with the .de

ending constitute the most popular top-level domain in the world, with those domains affiliated with a particular country. In fact, the .de is only surpassed by .com, which is used in all countries. So when you learn German, you open the door to millions of other sites.

**Travel:** One fourth of the tourists that visit the U.S. speak German and Germany is the second most popular European destination for American tourists. The language is spoken by more than 100 million people worldwide.

**Our Global Heritage:** Where does the German language fit our global heritage? Some of the greatest minds, whether musical, literary, scientific or

artistic, contributed to their specific field in the German language. It is the language of Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Schubert, Wagner, Brahms, Dürer, Goethe, Nietzsche, Mann, Einstein and many more.

More locally we can thank our ancestors for the Christmas tree, Kindergarten and so many of our other day to day traditions. I particularly like our State song and the striking similarity to 'O Tannenbaum' as well as the beautiful colors in our state flag...hmmmm those colors look familiar.

Today, 17.1% of the US population boasts German ancestry, Maryland's German population is at 15.2%, giving us another good reason to offer the language. The German-Americans

continue to represent the largest ethnic group in the US and second largest in Maryland. The Goethe Institute reports that about 14.5 million people worldwide are learning German. It is taught in 144 countries around the world.

I love reading Mark Twain's comments on the language...one of my favorites, "Never knew before what eternity was made for. It is to give some of us a chance to learn German."

Why German? Warum Nicht????

(1) Schmidhuber, J. (2010) "Evolution of National Nobel Prize Shares in the 20th Century", Posted September 14, 2010

## *Getting to Know You!* (Continued from page 5)

His childhood home was a rowhouse with marble steps in the Patterson Park neighborhood, and he thought sauerkraut and turkey were a standard combo until shocked fellow college students who came from anywhere else advised him otherwise. His education was in history (particularly Maryland's), but his career was with the U.S. Treasury Department, from which he graduated after 30 years of service. During that time, he provided tours of certain historic sites in Baltimore and participated in Living History projects, including Civil War reenacting and portraying such figures as H. L. Mencken. In retirement, he daily posts on Facebook about historical and cultural topics he finds interesting. His paternal ancestry is Swabian and Bavarian, his command of German is moderate, he often attends German cultural events and Zion Church's German language service, and since 2002 has been a member of the German Society of Maryland.

## *Schuler School –Hosting 8th Annual Fur to Feathers*

The Schuler School of Fine Arts is hosting the 8th Annual Fur to Feathers Juried Animal Exhibition from April 1-8, 2017 at its historic studio in Station North. This year esteemed painter Christine Merrill will judge entries.

Christine Merrill was born in Baltimore and graduated from the Schuler School. She specializes in the depiction of dogs. Her work has been represented by the William Secord Gallery in New York City, where she has had eight successful one-person exhibitions.



The show will be held from April 1-8, 2017 at the school, located at 7 East Lafayette Avenue in Baltimore. Weekend hours are 2:00-5:30 pm and the exhibit will be open on weekdays from 1:00-4:00 pm.

If you have questions or want more information, please call(410-685-3568) or e-mail us at [schulerschool@gmail.com](mailto:schulerschool@gmail.com).

For more information: <http://www.schulerschool.com/events.php>

## *Join the German Society of Maryland*

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Annual dues \$25.00. Spouse included at no extra cost..

I wish my newsletter to be sent via email at the above email address:

I wish my newsletter to be sent through US postage at the above postal address:

Lifetime Membership: \$250.00

**Mail to:**

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

### *Musicians from Germany to Perform with Avanti Orchestra*

#### *You're Invited!*

Avanti Orchestra of the Friday Morning Music is honored and delighted to present on June 24, 2017 at 7:30 PM (doors open 30 minutes prior to the performance), Chilean born, Alvaro Parra, a first violinist with the Berlin Philharmonic, Berlin, Germany, Mr. Parra will perform the Beethoven Violin Concerto in D major and Brahms Symphony No. 4 in E minor. The performance will be held at the Cultural Arts Center, Montgomery College, located 7995 Georgia Avenue, in

Silver Spring, MD. There are no tickets and they collect no admission. There is free convenient parking. The goal of the Avanti Orchestra of the Friday Morning Music Club is to provide excellent concerts accessible to all.

For Additional Information Email:  
avantiorchestra@gmail.com

### *Der Erste Mai Tag der Arbeit!*

May Day is an ancient festival to welcome the spring weather and to drive away evil spirits. It is also an occasion to campaign for and celebrate workers rights, particularly in Berlin. May 1 is a public holiday in all German states.



**Help the German Society be more efficient and save paper. If you have an email address and would like to receive your 'Vereinsnachrichten' via email, send an email to Bärbel Otto at [germansociety@verizon.net](mailto:germansociety@verizon.net). This action alone saves paper and postage**



## *Meet Director Tom Werner*



Tom Werner, born Thomas Alfred Werner, to Alfred and Mercedes (Will) Werner on January 26, 1941, has been an active member of the German community for over twenty six years.

Tom was schooled in Maryland Catholic schools and Connecticut public schools, moving to Connecticut as a young child and returning to Maryland during High School to attend Calvert Hall College, only to return again to finish High School and graduate from Staples in Westport, Connecticut.

Tom spent four years in the Air Force, stationed in Washington State and serving as an electronics technician for an air to air guided missile system. He completed college using the GI Bill attending the University Maryland University College, where he majored in Business Administration and minored in Economics. This education has served him well in business and as

he has served in multiple financial positions for several German organizations.

After college, he entered his life-long field of insurance. His first position was as a Home Office trained underwriter for INA in 1964. He left there around 1969 to join his father's independent agency, the Werner Insurance Agency. After the agency was sold, he did what any enterprising entrepreneur would do, he opened his own agency, Werner Agency, Ltd. His agency was not like retail agencies that we purchase our insurance from today. His agency was an Excess & Surplus Lines agency, meaning it catered to those businesses that had difficulty in finding insurance for reasons such as hazardous risk or required amounts of insurance. He worked with the retail agents in placing coverage. Tom sold his agency in 2006, when he retired.

Tom has three children, Alfred, Wendi and Jamie, from an earlier marriage. He has 5 grandchildren. He and Kay Schneck, also a member of the German Society, are long time residents of the Thornleigh neighborhood of Towson. Together they enjoy travelling as well as participating in the activities of the clubs that make up the Maryland German community.

It was a trip to Germany to meet his first grandchild that sparked the interest that led to Tom's deep involvement with the German-American community and in realizing the need to brush up on some German language skills before returning to Germany. That trip included skiing the Alps in Austria.

Tom has served as president of Club Fidelitas, Maryland Oktoberfest, Deutschamerikanischer Buergerverein von Maryland and of course, the German Society of Maryland. He has served many other offices including that of Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman of Investments for those clubs listed above as well as the Baltimore Kickers, where he has also served as president of the Board of Trustees and as a Board member. He is a member of all of the above as well as the Edelweiss Club, the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland and previously Deutsche Geselligkeit. He has sat and continues to serve on multiple boards, committees and time sensitive projects such as the festivals. He has been a delegate for the German Society to the Deutschamerikanischer Buergerverein and AGAS. He currently serves as Treasurer of the new German American Verein. He is a lifetime director of the German Society.

Tom loved canoeing and swimming, was a backpacker and skier and now enjoys travelling, reading and history. He is a valued member of our Society.

### *FREE STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS*

We encourage all students from first grade through university level to become student members of our Society. Email their name, grade or level, and name of the school to the Society at [germansociety@verizon.net](mailto:germansociety@verizon.net) and stating that you wish to become a student member. This is FREE. **NO ANNUAL DUES!**

## Baltimore Immigration Museum Update



Since last May, the Baltimore Immigration Museum, located in the historic Immigrant House (Deutsches Emigrantenhaus) at 1308 Beason Street in Locust

Point, has been open on weekends from 1-4 pm and by special appointment. The museum tells the story of Baltimore's immigration history, with the Germans representing the largest group. Visitors have included families, individuals, students and children from all over the country as well as from Germany; many have shared their family's histories and donated records and artifacts which are much appreciated.

Visiting groups included mem-

bers of the Renaissance Institute of Notre Dame University, 4th grade students of the Monarch Academy in Glen Burnie (Charter School), and most recently students of the University of Baltimore, as shown in the photo. Partnerships with other Baltimore institutions such as Baltimore Heritage, the National Heritage Area Association, AIA, the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service organization, and the Mayor's Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs have been established and proven to be the most helpful.

Please call Brigitte or Nick Fessenden at 443-542-2263 if you would like more information or visit the website at [www.immigrationbaltimore.org](http://www.immigrationbaltimore.org).

## In Memoriam-Sister Anne Colette Potthast

The Society extends their sincere sympathy to the family of Sister Anne Collette Potthast, SNDdeN. Sister Anne passed away on January 22 at the age of 87. She was the Grand-daughter of William Potthast, one of the founders of the Potthast Bros. Furniture Company. She is a long-time member of the German Society. She was a music teacher at

various elementary schools during her long career. Her musical talents became apparent while she was attending St. Bernadine's School, where she and former past president, Ted Potthast performed in a recital. She played the piano and Ted the violin. After entering the convent she became a student of Sacred Theology. This resulted in her

being a very sought after facilitator at retreats and religious services.

She is survived by fourteen nieces and nephews, great-great nieces and nephews in the hundreds. She was not alone with her membership in the Germany Society. Many of the Potthast family were and continue to be active members of the society.

## Spargelzeit

What do the Germans like almost as much as their beer? Why 'Spargel' of course. Spargel season is in the Spring and runs through June. Spargel, also known as asparagus, is huge in Germany. They celebrate with Spargel Festivals and at those festivals you can buy and eat asparagus prepared in a variety of ways. The local restaurants serve piles of Spargel and there are actually Spargel stands on just about every street corner. It is such a treat and loved in Germany, it has nicknames such as 'Königsgemüse (King's Vegetable)' and 'Frühlingswonne (Springtime Delight)'.

One huge difference is the German Spargel is predominantly white and the name refers to the white variety. The green variety is available and has been creeping into the markets over the past few years. It is my understanding that the difference is sunlight. The green has been allowed to poke through the ground, whereas the white has not. It is estimated that about 80,000 tons of Spargel are produced in Germany...and that amount only meets about 60% of the population's consumption needs.

Some Spargel tips: Peel before preparing (if this isn't done at the market, you may want to invest in an asparagus peeler), never snap like you do the



green, store in damp dish towel in refrigerator (no more than one day), do not use aluminum pots, use minimal water with a little salt and butter and sugar), the straighter the stalk the better, and if you can squeeze a little fluid from the ends, it is good and fresh.

The best news: 1 pound has only 70 calories. It is also rich in potassium, folic acid, and vitamins C, B1, and B2.

## The Origin of German Last Names—Top 100 German Family Names

The meanings of German last names are those as originally defined when these names became surnames. For example, the surname *Meyer* means dairy farmer today, whereas in the Middle Ages, *Meyer* was designated to people who were stewards of landholders.

Most names derive either from archaic professions (Schmidt, Müller, Weber, Schäfer) or places (not too many of those in the following list but e.g. Brinkmann, Berger, Frank).

(The acronyms OHG and MHG stand for Old High German and Middle High German respectively.)

1. **Müller** miller
2. **Schmidt** smith
3. **Schneider** taylor
4. **Fischer** fisher
5. **Weber** weaver
6. **Schäfer** shepherd
7. **Meyer MHG** -> steward of landholder; leaseholder
8. **Wagner** wagoner
9. **Becker** from *Bäcker* -> baker
10. **Bauer** farmer
11. **Hoffmann** landed farmer
12. **Schulz** mayor
13. **Koch** cook
14. **Richter** judge
15. **Klein** small
16. **Wolf** wolf

17. **Schröder** carter
18. **Neumann** new man
19. **Braun** brown
20. **Werner OHG** defense army
21. **Schwarz** black
22. **Hofmann** landed farmer
23. **Zimmermann** carpenter
24. **Schmitt** smith
25. **Hartmann** strong man
26. **Schmid** smith
27. **Weiß** white
28. **Schmitz** smith
29. **Krüger** potter
30. **Lange** long
31. **Meier MHG** -> steward of landholder; leaseholder
32. **Walter** leader, ruler
33. **Köhler** charcoal-maker
34. **Maier MHG** -> steward of landholder; leaseholder
35. **Beck** from *Bach* -> stream; *Bäcker* -> baker
36. **König** king
37. **Krause** curly-haired
38. **Schulze** mayor
39. **Huber** land owner
40. **Mayer** steward of landholder; leaseholder
41. **Frank** from Franconia
42. **Lehmann** serf
43. **Kaiser** emperor
44. **Fuchs** fox
45. **Herrmann** warrior
46. **Lang** long
47. **Thomas Aramaic** twin
48. **Peters** Greek rock
49. **Stein** rock, stone
50. **Jung** young
51. **Möller** miller
52. **Berger** from *French* -> shepherd
53. **Martin** latin war-like
54. **Friedrich OHG** > peace,> powerful
55. **Scholz** mayor
56. **Keller** cellar
57. **Groß** big
58. **Hahn** rooster
59. **Roth** from *rot* -> red
60. **Günther** Scandinavian warrior
61. **Vogel** bird
62. **Schubert MHG** Schu-ochwürchte -> shoemaker
63. **Winkler** from *Winkel* ->angle
64. **Schuster** shoemaker
65. **Jäger** hunter
66. **Lorenz** derived from *latin* Laurentius
67. **Ludwig OHG** luth famous, war
68. **Baumann** farmer
69. **Heinrich OHG** heim -> home > powerful
70. **Otto OHG** ot ->inheritance
71. **Simon** Hebrew God has listened
72. **Graf** count, earl
73. **Kraus** curly-haired
74. **Krämer** small trader, dealer

75. **Böhm** of Bohemia
76. **Schulte** from *Schulthei* debt-broker
77. **Albrecht OHG** > noble> famous
78. **Franke** of Franconia
79. **Winter** winter
80. **Schumacher** cobbler, shoemaker
81. **Vogt** steward
82. **Haas MHG** - nickname for rabbit hunter;
83. **Sommer** summer
84. **Schreiber** writer, scribe
85. **Engel** angel
86. **Ziegler** brickmaker
87. **Dietrich OHG** people's ruler
88. **Brandt** fire, burn
89. **Seidel** mug
90. **Kuhn** councilman
91. **Busch** bush
92. **Horn** horn
93. **Arnold OHG** strength of an eagle
94. **Kühn** councilman
95. **Bergmann** miner
96. **Pohl** Polish
97. **Pfeiffer** piper
98. **Wolff** wolf
99. **Voigt** steward
100. **Sauer** sour

**Source:** About German <http://german.about.com/od/names/a/German-Surnames.html>

## German American Internet Radio's Bright Future

The internet radio station [germanamericanradio.com](http://germanamericanradio.com) has found itself on the ground floor of a world-wide revolution in the future of radio. The days of AM and FM radio are numbered.

Canada is already closing down AM radio. Norway is the first country to abolish FM radio and replace it with digital radio. [germanamericanradio.com](http://germanamericanradio.com) is a prime example of digital radio. Already,

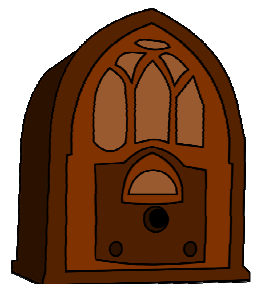
throughout the world, digital radio accounts for 19% of all radio transmissions.

[germanamericanradio.com](http://germanamericanradio.com) was conceived at a meeting of the Board of Directors of our Society during a discussion of the demise of the programs of the Edelweiss Club and the Radio Klub. The station is now entering its 4th year of broadcasting and has about 2,000 regular listeners. It has received financial support from

our Society, the Edelweiss Club and many of our members.

In January it launched a classical music station, which is currently accessible over the internet and will soon be heard on internet radios; many automobiles are now equipped with internet radios accessible via satellite.

Prepare yourself for the future by tuning in and getting used to internet radio via [germanamericanradio.com](http://germanamericanradio.com).



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*This newsletter is published by The German Society of Maryland,  
founded in 1783 by Act of the General Assembly of Maryland. It is a  
non-profit, tax exempt corporation pursuant to the provisions of  
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*Please submit articles or items of interest to*

*Shelley Arnold, Editor at [bnsarnold7@gmail.com](mailto:bnsarnold7@gmail.com)*

## The German Society of Maryland

P.O. Box 22585  
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-4585  
410-685-0450  
Email: [germansociety@verizon.net](mailto:germansociety@verizon.net)

Visit us on the web  
[www.germansociety-md.com](http://www.germansociety-md.com)  
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