

THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

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

VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

AUG/SEPT 2008 ISSUE #65

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KALENDER

German Society Activities

Sept. 28 Ecumenical Service
Oct. 18 Society's booth at
Schifferstadt Oktoberfest
Nov. 15 Annual Awards Banquet

Other MD German Events

Sept 13 Mencken Day at Pratt
Library
Sept 13-14 Hagerstown Festival
Sept 16 Historical Society Banquet
Sept 20 Delaware Saengerbund
Oktoberfest Newark, DE
Oct 4 Oktoberfest - Germania
Lodge, Cockeysville
Oct. 14 German American Day at
McDaniel College
Oct. 14 7 pm Concert at Zion,
presented by German
Embassy, brass quintet etc
Oct 22-23 Sour Beef lunch and
dinner at Zion
Oct 29 7:30 pm Play: Life of Dietrich
Bonhoeffer - Zion Adlersaal
Nov. 29-30 Christkindmarkt at Zion

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have arrived at that time of the year which Germans Americans love to celebrate. It is a time of festivals, fun and happy spirits. Our fellow citizens join with German Americans in Oktoberfests throughout our state and nation. I urge our members to go forth, enjoy the season and spread the spirit of Gemuetlichkeit; teach the rest of the citizens how to be friendly to one another; take a break from politics, sing some songs and taste the ethnic foods and drink of our heritage.

James Schaub, President

ECUMENICAL SERVICE Sept. 28 AT ZION

Two weeks after the all of the Berlin Wall in 1989, our society joined with the German Historical Society and Zion Church to host an ecumenical service in thanksgiving for the freedom of our fellow Germans who had suffered so long under communism. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the event. Please plan to attend. Our Society sponsors the brass component of the music, and assists in providing refreshments after the service, which commences at 5 pm on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 28. Plan to attend. It is a most enjoyable get-together for the local German American community.

HILARY HAHN SCHEDULE

The honoree of our 2008 Awards Banquet, Hilary Hahn, is taking time for her world concert tour to attend our banquet and receive the award: a Marylander who has made significant contributions to our state and nation. At age 28, Hilary Hahn is one of the world's most accomplished violinists. Her fall schedule: Sept 4 - Switzerland (Geneva Victoria Hall); Sept. 18 & 19-Norway (Bergen Grieghallen); Oct. 4 -6 Canada (Vancouver Orpheum Theater); China - Oct. 10-21 (various cities); Germany - Oct. 30 (Duesseldorf); Germany Nov. 1 (Hamburg); UK Nov. 5 & 6 (Liverpool); **USA - BALTIMORE (German society Banquet - an award ceremony, not a performance).** USA - Nov. 26 - 29. San Francisco

See Page 2 for banquet ticket information and details.

BANQUET TICKETS ON SALE; FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

Invitations have been mailed to our members for our annual awards banquet, to be held on Saturday, Nov. 15 in Zion's Adlersaal. Our honoree is world-famous violinist, Hilary Hahn, a native Marylander who made her violin debut at Zion Church as a young child. This year's annual Awards Banquet will likely be a sell-out, so the practice of waiting until the last minute may mean missing out on the event. Tickets are \$60 each. The event will be a first class. The venue is small: 110 tickets are reserved for our members and their guests. If you want to be sure to get in, send your check for tickets starting right now. Mail your check, payable to the German Society, to the program chairman, Dr. Mohamed Esa at 150 Brahms Drive, Westminster, MD 21157. In order to accommodate as many attendees as possible, this year's event will not have a dance floor; there will be chamber music instead of a dance band. Our banquet committee is planning an exquisite dinner, preceded by hors d'oeuvres. Beer and wine included.

The ticket price will not cover all the expenses of the event, and we ask our members and friends to subscribe as sponsors of the event, at \$25, which may include the sponsor and spouse.

VISIT OF POPE TO GERMAN SHRINE IN WASHINGTON, DC; ALTOETTING

Our member, Edward Gutbrot sent us a clipping about the visit of the German Pope, Benedict XVI to the shrine of Our Lady of Altoetting on the campus of Catholic University in Washington. A replica of the statue of the black madonna of Altoetting stands in an oratory beneath the main altar of the National Shrine. The Pope visited the oratory during his stay in D.C. The shrine in Altoetting, Bavaria has a long history. In a story on the internet it is said that when St. Rupert baptized Otto the Bavarian in the year 680, the Roman temple on the site became a Christian chapel which today houses the statue of Our Lady of Altoetting. If all the pilgrims since 680 A.D. were counted, Altoetting might be one of the most frequented sites in the world.

Goethe mentions the wealth of the shrine and its statue in one of his letters: "...there is a jet lack statue of the Mother of God that is completely dressed in diamonds." Since 1581 all of the rulers of Bavaria have had their hearts buried in the chapel. The most recent were that of King Maximillian III (1921) and Princess Maria Antonia (1954)

GERMAN SYMPHONY PERFORMS AT TOWSON UNIV. AND AT ZION

The Young German Society Orchestra will perform at Towson University on Sunday, October 12 at 7:30 pm at the Center for the Arts. Klaus Arp, conductor. Elgar's Enigma Variations; Medelssohn's Symphony No. 4 and Samuel Barber's Cello concerto with Towson's faculty member and cellist, Cecylia Barczyk, as soloist. 80 musicians have been brought from Germany by the embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany for a tour to commemorate 400 years of Germans in America. Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$15 for seniors and \$10 students. For tickets contact Towson Univ. Box Office in the Center for the Arts, (hours Tues-Sat noon to 4 pm). Phone 410-704-2787 or FAX 410-704-6006.

CONCERT AND COCKTAIL RECEPTION AT ZION TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 7 PM

The German embassy has also arranged a concert consisting of a brass quintet of the Young Germans on Tuesday, October 14 at 7 pm in the church. They will perform works of William Byrd, J.S. Bach, Henry Mancini and others. Also appearing are the Young American Virtuosi, an outstanding family group who will perform original compositions as well as pieces by David Popper and Pablo de Sarasate. The performance will be followed by a cocktail reception at the Adlersaal. Admission is \$10. Reservations required. Call the church at 410-727-3939. Profits benefit Zion Church.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY BANQUET

The 122nd annual banquet of The Society for the History of the German in Maryland, will be held in the Zion Adlersaal on September 12 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35. Send checks to Hon. Gerard Wittstadt, 8223 Carrbridge Rd., Towson, MD 21204. Reception at 6:30 dinner at 7:00 pm. Cash bar. German Society members and guests are cordially invited.

INVITATION TO MENCKEN EVENT

Once a year the Mencken Room at the Enoch Pratt Free Library is open to the public. This year's date is Saturday, September 13, "Mencken Day". S. L. Harrison will lecture: "Fourth-Estate Scolds: Mencken and Other Press Critics", 11 am. At 1 pm Susan Jacoby, author, will present the annual Mencken Day Memorial Lecture. Both lectures are in the Wheeler auditorium. The public is invited. H.L. Mencken was a German society member.

MORE ABOUT EDENWALD (CORRECTIONS TO PRIOR ARTICLE)

A recent newsletter printed an article about Edenwald which contained numerous errors. G. H. Siebert, a director of Edenwald and a former director of our Society, wrote to us to set the record straight. Mr. Siebert pointed out the following:

- The corporate name of Edenwald is "The General German Aged People's Home, Inc."
- It was sometimes referred to as the "Greisenheim".
- It has been in continuous existence since 1881.
- It moved from downtown Baltimore to Athol Avenue, before its move to Towson.
- It was never in financial difficulty.
- The corporation financed the construction of a magnificent building in Towson, and issued bonds in the amount of \$35,000,000.
- Eighty (80), not eight, residents were moved from Athol Avenue to Towson and the corporation paid the entrance fee for each of them. When those residents entered Athol Ave., they paid merely a fraction of the Fee to enter Edenwald.
- The old "Greisenheim" plaque is now embedded in the meditation garden at Edenwald.
- Through its long history, its directors have exercised prudent stewardship and kept it fiscally sound.
- The German name is still proudly preserved, even though federal equality laws prevent entrance restrictions based on ethnic background.

We are grateful to Mr. Siebert for correcting the erroneous information printed here earlier, which was based on hearsay and rumors. He is the current treasurer of Edenwald and has been a director of The General German Aged People's Home, Inc. for 25 years.

A GOOD IDEA FROM A MEMBER: COMMEMORATIVE DONATIONS

We recently received the following letter:

"I know you have mentioned donations in loving memory of loved one. However, I would like to change this just a little and place a gift IN HONOR OF.

Enclosed is a gift to The German society of Maryland of \$25.00 for the following: IN HONOR OF E. ANNE AND ROBERT SEEGER ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY, September 21, 2008.

Sincerely, E. ANNE SEEGER"

CONGRATULATIONS to Anne and Robert from the officers, directors and members of the German Society.

OUR SOCIETY WILL PARTICIPATE IN SCHIFFERSTADT OKTOBERFEST: OCT. 18-19; VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to staff the German Society's exhibit at this year's Oktoberfest at Schifferstadt in Frederick, MD. It is a true cultural event, as well as a celebration of the Maryland German Heritage. It will have all the essential ingredients of a true Oktoberfest: beer, wine, wurst, other German foods and music. But Schifferstadt offers much more - a German immigrant farm from the 1700's, a German home fashioned to survive raids from hostile Indians, now a museum for teaching life in colonial times. It presents a chance to capture the mood of Germany in the midst of rural Maryland. Plan now to come to this Oktoberfest and bring your family and friends.

Before we can register with the festival committee, we need to be sure we have enough volunteers to staff our table and pass out literature about our Society. You will meet interesting people. The museum grounds are only a few minutes off the route 15 exhibit of Interstate 70. Make your way up the highway to enjoy a Maryland outstanding German event.

To volunteer contact Mary Upman via email at maryehu@aol.com or call our office and leave a message. Dr. Mohammed Esa is chairman of the event.

"HONORTHY FATHER AND MOTHER" - PROGRAM IS RESUMED

Memorial donations for friends and relatives produced nearly \$2,000 in gifts to our Society last year: the gifts were acknowledged with commemorative language and photographs in the printed program at our Awards banquet. Forms for a write-up of a memorial were sent with the invitations to the awards banquet. Please consider a memorial donation at this time for a friend or a relative. If you need a form, call our office and leave a message and one will be mailed to you.

LOTS OF FREEBIES IN OCTOBER

The Baltimore Office of Promotion and The Arts has arranged for about 350 situations and events which will be free to the public, such as admission to many museums, shows and recreational events. To take advantage, check the website: freefallbaltimore.com. You will find some places of interest for the Maryland German heritage. Places we hope may be on the list: Mencken House, Lloyd St. Museum of Industry, etc.

HISTORY OF ZION PUBLISHED

Bernard Penner, Esq., a director of our society, has written an updated history of Zion Church which is now on sale for #15. The book supplements an earlier history published in 1955 upon the 200th anniversary of the church. This book celebrates Zion's 250th year.

We learn from Mr. Penner that prior to 1755 Baltimore had no Lutheran church and the Lutherans and Reformed were allowed to use St. Paul's Episcopal Church at Charles and Lexington Streets for services. German immigrants founded the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation at Baltimore Town in 1758, which shortly thereafter changed its name to Zion Church in Baltimore City. One of the church founders was Dr. Charles Frederick Wiesenthal, who served as the first president of The German Society of Maryland, at its founding in 1783. Dr. Wiesenthal is also known as the father of the medical profession in Baltimore.

THANKS TO FESTIVAL WORKERS

This year's German Festival at the Timonium Fairgrounds produced a good turnout: the German society booth displayed our fabulous exhibit and attracted much interest. We distributed substantial quantities of literature about our society and received many inquiries about membership and we signed up five new members on the spot. **Dandridge Brooke** worked 4 hours per day on both days of the festival. **Walt and Valerie Mathers** worked multiple shifts. The really tough work, putting up and taking down our display, was performed by **President Jim Schaub and his daughter, Katie, and Pastor Siegfried Otto and his son Paul**. In charge of scheduling the workers was **Ted Potthast**. Thanks to all the others who staffed our booth: **Merl and Jean Arp; Brigitte and Nicholas Fessenden; Shirley Santora; Amy Unverzagt; Scott Doellinger; Mary and Phil Upman; Connie Potthast; John Aymold; Christel van der Berg; Fred Riedel; Rob Fritzsche, Cecilia Muth Herman; Frank and Karen Gastel; Brian and Joella Truschler; and Lynette and Kraig Dean**.

Tom Werner, one of our directors and the president of the Buergerverein, supervised the entire festival, from the planning stage to the final execution. The food was abundant and the beer was flowing. The bands belted out the German tunes and the dancers were inspiring

COME TO THE ECUMENICAL SERVICE

SUNDAY SEPT. 28 5:00 PM AT ZION. DR. MARY UPMAN, NEW DIRECTOR

Dr. Upman became a member of our Society through the inspiration of another director, Dr. Mohamed Esa, with whom she was a colleague on the faculty of McDaniel College. She immediately took an active role by attending our functions and writing about them for publications in both German and English. We anticipate that she will continue to help in publicizing the works and deeds of our organization and take a leadership role in our activities.

Dr. Upman is a native of Massachusetts where she received her education at Radcliffe College, now part of Harvard University. Her major was in English, but she was attracted to German and received a scholarship which allowed her to study German language and literature at the University of Zurich. Thereafter she pursued German at Stanford University where she was awarded M.A. and PhD degrees. After an academic career which included teaching English and German in high schools in Texas, Florida and Maryland, she served on the faculty of Houston State University, Texas. She retired from full time teaching at North Carroll High School in Hampstead, MD and took on a position as adjunct lecturer in German at McDaniel College.

Dr. Upman has been contributing articles to our website as well as translating both English and German for it. She is a contributor to *Amerika Woche*, a national German newspaper published in New York. She is a contributor to our newsletter; worked on the German Festival and presently is handling the scheduling for our table at the Schifferstadt festival.

In addition to Dr. Upman, we count among our directors several other German teachers: Dr. Mohamed Esa, Dr. Maureen Helinski, Dr. Armin Muck and Linda Butt. The Society also has many members on the faculties of Maryland universities, colleges, high schools and German language schools.

WORK ON THE NEWSLETTER

Putting our newsletter together isn't very hard, but at present our editor has to do it alone. Due to constant interruptions, it is often delayed and many articles are canceled when time passes them by. We'd like to try something new: recruit 4 to 6 members, each having the job of covering a topic. The topics: upcoming Society events; past Society events; activities of other groups; news about our members; deaths of members; proposals for projects; status reports on pending projects; historical notes; miscellaneous local and national items of interest to our members.

If you would like to do reporting and writing, please join the newsletter committee. Adopt a topic. To volunteer, call Ted Potthast at 410-828-8137.

BALTIMORE'S IMMIGRATION HISTORY LECTURE GIVEN AT OUR OFFICE

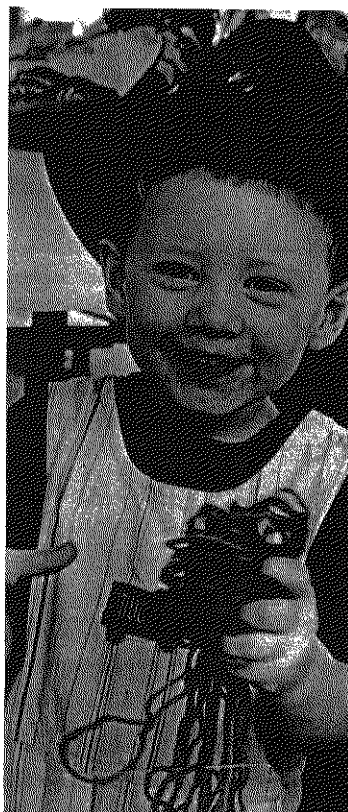
A lecture sponsored by the Baltimore-Bremerhaven Sister City Project was given in the Mt. Vernon offices of our Society on August 16 by Dr. Nicholas Fessenden and our director, Brigitte Fessenden. The attendance overflowed our meeting room with an interested and alert audience which not only peppered the speakers with questions, but volunteered many answers from their own knowledge and experiences. There was much discussion about the Locust Point dock in the Baltimore Harbor which was a main port of entry for emigrants from central Europe via Bremerhaven; B & O trains had tracks on the dock itself so that immigrants could get off the ship, pass through immigration procedures, get on a train and be taken directly to the midwest cities of Cincinnati and St. Louis. The German Society strongly supports the efforts to have Bremerhaven named a sister city.

FINANCE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Our finance committee continues its "wait and see" program regarding the investment of our portfolio. In April, it invested slightly more than 15% of our funds in equity mutual funds. The remainder stayed in a money market account. The market continued to fall, but our treasury held its own. Last year the finance committee liquidated all of our assets, pending reinvestment opportunities. We dropped the money managers. Earlier this month, the Massachusetts State Pension Fund fired its money managers (Legg, Mason & Co.) and invested in index and hedge funds. "We've determined that active managers add no value over long periods of time" said Michael Travaglini, director of the Massachusetts Pension Reserve, a 50 billion dollar fund. "Our objective is to eliminate all active management in the domestic equity portfolio."

PICNIC WAS PLEASANT

The last Saturday of June brought sunny skies to the German Society's annual picnic, this year held at Seminary Park in Lutherville. The crowd was smaller than usual, but those in attendance had a wonderful time, enjoying the congeniality and fraternity among our members. Thanks to chairman Tom Werner for arranging the location, and to President Jim Schaub for bringing the beer and sodas. The format differed



from the past, in that the picnickers brought their own food baskets and the Society arranged for the drinks. The smaller turnout may have been caused by the lack of German food which was provided as in past years, although the tickets were only \$6 rather than the usual \$16. The timing, at the end of the month, was also a deviation from the usual earlier date. The picnic committee will reconsider whether changes should be made for picnics in the future.

GERMANIA LODGE OKTOBERFEST

On October 4 the Germania Lodge will hold its Oktoberfest from 6:30-10:30 pm at 304 International Circle, Cockeysville, MD. Tickets are \$40 per person; \$18 for children 5-15; 4 and under are free. Contact Role Sorg at 410-252-1386 or rolfsorg@comcast.net

GERMAN AMERICAN DAY AT McDANIEL COLLEGE - 400 YEARS

On October 14 McDaniel College in Westminster will host a German American Day, with a theme of 400 years of German immigration to America. German Society members are invited. Dr. Mohamed, a member of our Board of Directors, is chairman of the day's activities. For information on the event, see the website: www2\mcdaniel.edu\german\gad

FIRE DAMAGES BINKERT BUILDING; WILL RE-OPEN LATER THIS MONTH

On August 5, fire damaged the store and factory of Maryland's premier German wurst maker, Egon Binkert on Philadelphia Road in Baltimore county. We look forward to a prompt re-opening of this famous German meat company in mid to late September. Since Mr. Binkert retired, the firm is being operated by his daughter and son-in-law, Sonya Binkert Weber and Lothar Weber, long-time members of our Society. We have relied on Binkert's supplying wurst and other delicacies for German Society events over many years. We urge our members to continue patronizing this excellent German meat store.

Jacques Kelly, columnist for the Baltimore Sun quoted Sonya Weber, daughter of Egon Binkert: "People don't always realize that we serve the German, Swiss and Austrian embassies in Washington", Mr. Binkert founded Binkert's in 1964 to sell authentic meat products to those who want certain traditional Middle European foods made in a time-honored way.

Kelly also quoted Lothar Weber: "The contents label of our sausages has maybe four items. The label on most commercial sausages is so long with additives you can't read it... We smoke our meat with burning sawdust instead of using liquid smoke the ways many other places do...I get my meats from a slaughterhouse that buys from Pennsylvania Dutch farmers."

MENCKEN INSPIRED PELOSI'S FIRST STEP INTO POLITICS

Know Your Power: A Message to America's Daughters, a new book by Nancy Pelosi, the first woman Speaker of the House of Representatives and third in line of succession to the presidency of the USA, reveals that her high school visits to the Mencken Room at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore inspired her to take her first step into public service. Her first public position was as a member of the library board of the City of San Francisco. Mencken, known as "The Sage of Baltimore", was a member of the German Society of Maryland. The book also acknowledges her debt to her education at The Institute of Notre Dame in Baltimore, a school founded by nuns from Bavaria. It appears that there may be a strong German influence on our Speaker of the House.

THE MENCKEN ALCOVE AT THE PEABODY LIBRARY- MT. VERNON

Just one block away from our Society's office in Mr. Vernon Place is the library of the Peabody Institute, now part of the Johns Hopkins University. In the six-floor Victorian library is the "Mencken alcove", a collection of books, articles and materials by or about Henry Louis Mencken, the Sage of Baltimore, a former member of our Society. The Mencken alcove contains a major research source on Mencken. It is open to the public (as is the Mencken room at the Enoch Pratt library) only on rare occasions. Most of the material in the Mencken alcove derives from the efforts of two men, both avid, long-term collectors of Menckeniana: George H. Thompson and Robert A. Wilson. Wilson, an alumnus of Hopkins, donated his collection in 2005; after Thompson died, his family sold some and donated some of his collection to the library in 2007. Thompson lived in Ohio. More than 200 boxes arrived from Ohio to the Peabody in April 2007. For information on Peabody's collection, call the library at 410-659-8179.

GERMAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TOUR AT MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY

Walt Mather, one of our members, arranged a tour for members of our society at the Baltimore Museum of Industry on Aug. 3. About 30 took the tour, including our president, Jim Schaub. The highlight of the event was a demonstration of the use of the Linotype machine, which was invented in the late 1800's by Ottmar Mergenthaler, a member of our Society; that invention revolutionized the printing industry and Ottmar became known as the "Second Gutenberg."

The museum contained a very large number of items with German names attached as their inventors. While the tour guide was helpful, she did not recognize many of the inventors as being of German origin. Our members undertook to point out the German American background of many of the artifacts.

President Jim Schaub has suggested that it may be an appropriate project for our Society to publish a catalogue of the Museum's German American holdings, for use in future heritage tours. The museum is a gold mine for displaying the inventiveness of the German American mind, and the printing of a brochure to demonstrate the heritage in Maryland is a worthy project for our society. We need people willing to donate time and brainpower to put such a publication together. If you can volunteer for the project, please contact president Jim Schaub.

MEMORIALS TO ISOLDE BROOKE RAISES NEARLY \$2,000

Thanks to the generosity of the many friends of Isolde Brooke, gifts in her memory to the society have reached nearly \$2,000.00. The Society is most grateful to the following benefactors:

Abbott, Glenn & Barbara	Long, Albert
Bessent, Velma & John	Machacek, Betsy & Lou
Boyer, David & Virginia	MacMeekin, William & Joyce
Calwell, Carmelita	Manning III, Richard & Mary
Carter Jr. Charles & Audrey	McKown, Barrett & Anne
Chambers, L.B. & Gina	Mitchell, Carolyn
Goldsborough, Dorothy	Mt. Wash. Managm. Group
Highland Chapter 33, OES	Park, Dr. & Mrs. Lee Crandall
Hoffman, Patricia Ohler	Parker, Eleanor
Hunter, Rosemary	Ruf, Sharol F.
Hutchins, Olga	Scarborough&Associates
Ives III, Charles P.	Schmidt, Michael & Helen
Jackson, Dorothy	Skinner, Mr. & Mrs. Robert
Kauffman, Ray	Stellmann, Sandra
Kuckhoff, F. Albert	Thomas & Libowitz, P.A.
Linthicum III, George E.	West, Mr. & Mrs. Eugene

GERMAN FORUM ON INTERNET PROPOSED BY WALT MATHERS

One of our members, Walt Mathers, suggests that the Society institute a forum on the internet which would permit anyone interested to post events and ideas for information and discussion. Such forums are in common usage and serve as a place where anyone with information can pass it on to other interested parties. The cost of maintaining an internet site of this type is \$50 per year. Let Walt know whether you support the idea by communicating with him via e-mail. His address: whirlygigger@msn.com

GERMAN CLUBS INVITED TO SOUR BEEF DINNER AT ZION ADLERSAAL

Zion Church has been named a German Cultural Center. As part of this mission, it has invited the German organizations in central Maryland to take tables for its members at a Sauerbraten dinner of Thursday October 23. Dinner is served from 4 pm to 9 pm. The price is \$12.50, which includes a complimentary glass of wine or Spaten beer. Entertainment by Mike T. of FM 105.71

and live music by Alfred and Gene. Our Society hopes to have several tables at the event. Reservations are required. Call Betty Niemann at 410-769-8098 and ask to be seated at one of our Society's tables. Deadline for reservations: October 17th.

CONGRATULATIONS

...to our member, **INGRID CARSTENS-MILLER** who appeared on German national TV as part of a series on immigrants to the USA from Pomerania. Ingrid is a well-known writer of poetry, whose works have appeared in English and in German.

HAGERSTOWN AUGUSTOBERFEST

Those who attended the German Festival in Hagerstown Aug. 23 - 24 heard great Bavarian music, saw many folk dancers and enjoyed plenty of German food and beer. The festival celebrates the region's German heritage and raises funds. Its website contains the following: "The Augustoberfest Event pays tribute to the area's rich German heritage and supports scholarships to Hagerstown's sister City, Wesel, Germany. This exciting event is run by the non-profit organization, the Augustoberfest Foundation"

BOOK RECOMMENDED

Robert Fritzsche, a director of our Society and also president of the Gesangverein, spent several weeks at a hospital in Michigan while his daughter received treatment for a rare illness. (She is doing well now and is back in college.) While spending time in the hospital room, Rob read an inspirational book, "Breathing the fire" by Kim Dozier. The book takes the reader through Dozier's injuries inflicted by a car bomb while in Iraq as a CBS news correspondent, and the account of her long recovery. She credits her drive and stamina - her ability to get back up and forge on - to her grandparents, German immigrants who settled in East Baltimore. Rob highly recommends the book.

Dozier is a graduate of St. Timothy's School in Pikesville. She recently spoke at the opening of the school year at Stevenson University, formerly Villa Julie College in Baltimore county and autographed her book for the students.

KATIE HOFF - OLYMPIC MEDALS

The MD German American community was proud to welcome Katie Hoff home from the Beijing Olympics, after she won three medals. The 19 year old from Towson trained at the North Baltimore Aquatic Club along with the other local hero, Michael Phelps. Katie will attend Loyola College and help coach its swimmers.