

The German Society of Maryland

Vereinsnachrichten

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

Chapter 100, February 3, 1818

Issue 108 January 2018

President's Message-Kurt D. Wittstadt

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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

It has been a very busy Herbst filled with many exciting events for the Society and it has been great to see so much of our society involved. From Oktoberfest's, sour beef and Christkindlmarkt's the German Society was well represented. With our outreach and partnerships, we added successful new events that we participated in. First the APG Oktoberfest was a resounding success that featured activities for families both young and old. A special thank you to Linda Edwards, from APG, for all her support, German American radio and all our members who helped at the booth. For our second outreach we partnered with Schifferstadt Architectural museum at their annual Oktoberfest. Thank you to Melanie Gettier, from Schifferstadt, for inviting our society and supporting our outreach. It is a pleasure to be able to work with Schifferstadt in this manner as they have been an honoree at our annual awards banquet. All this outreach would not be possible without the effort and support of our members.

Our pinnacle event, the annual awards banquet, honoring Ger-

hard Meinzer was an exquisite affair. It was an honor to present the award to Gerhard whom I count as an inspiration and mentor. I was pleased to see so many of our members, friends and dignitaries in attendance. The food was plentiful and delicious and the dancing was lively.

Celebrating the Christmas season in Maryland we have been able to partner with the Christmas Village in Baltimore. It was a pleasure to celebrate their opening ceremony of their 5th season in Baltimore and bring attention to the German Society of Maryland. Visiting with the Christkind at Zion's Christkindlmarkt and the Christmas village was fun for our whole family.

December marks the Society's 200th anniversary of our charter and February our 200th anniversary of our incorporation. We are excited to celebrate this milestone with a festive gathering at Zion Church of Baltimore on the exact date of our incorporation February 3. We will highlight the Societies rich history through the last two centuries, from our beginnings to our ongoing mission to support and promote the



German cultural connection of Germany and Maryland. I hope to see everyone attend this joyous occasion to toast our society for this is an event truly not to be missed.

Please feel free to contact me if you have an interest in becoming involved in our ongoing outreach. A warm welcome to all the new members that have joined our Society, and please keep your thoughts with all our shut ins and those in need this holiday season. May this festive season and new year bring joy to you and yours and goodwill and civility toward each other be shown throughout the new year.

Fröhliche Weihnachten und glückliches Neues Jahr!

Unser Kalender

February 3, 2018

The 200th Anniversary Celebration of the GSM Charter

April 13, 2018

German Society Annual Meeting-Zion Church

What a Bargain!



At a recent archives committee meeting in September, the committee had the opportunity to view membership records from 1914....103 years ago.

The dues in 1914 were \$5.00. As a point of reference someone googled the inflation rate and found that \$1 in 1914 is worth \$24.00 today.

If the German Society had kept pace with inflation, your dues today would be \$120.00!!

I would say that the \$25.00 dues payment you make is quite a bargain!

Publication Dates:

January-March: Deadline 12/15

April-June: Deadline 3/15

July-September: Deadline 6/15

September-December: Deadline 8/15

Links:

German Society Website:

www.germansociety-md.com

Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein:

www.md-germans.org

German Marylanders:

www.germanmarylanders.org

German American Radio:

germanamericanradio.com

German Day at Friendship Garden



What a beautiful day in the District! Many German Society members joined members of other German Associations at the German-American Friendship Garden on October 6, 2017. A.G.A.S. President, Gerhard Meinzer welcomed the groups.

The National Anthems of both countries, sang by the Washington Saengerbund, opened the festivities. Embassy representatives, Helger Mahnicke and Melanie Knaetsch also welcomed the visitors to DC and to the beautiful Friendship Garden and reflected on President Ronald Reagan's 1987 proclamation

declaring October 6 as German-American Day. This day celebrated the 300th anniversary of German American immigration and culture to the United States.

The Pastor Cordula Schmid-Wassmuth of the Vereinigte Kirche DC gave thanks for such a beautiful day and prayed for peace. Her words of faith and encouragement, her plea for peace as she prayed, "One day, I know, you'll give us



a perfect peace that lasts forever. One day every sorrow will be erased and every tear wiped away. But I dare to ask for peace sooner than that. I dare to believe, along with King David in Psalm 27, that "I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." I dare to plead with you: Give us peace. This

set the tone as it reminded us that America and Germany share a peaceful relationship, which is what the garden exemplifies.

This annual event is hosted by A.G.A.S, the Association of German-American Societies of Greater Washington DC. Member organizations of A.G.A.S, including our German Society of Maryland shared greetings while Dottie Kirchner of the Deutsch-Amerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland, stressed the fact that Maryland was blessed to have a German-Maryland Heritage Month.

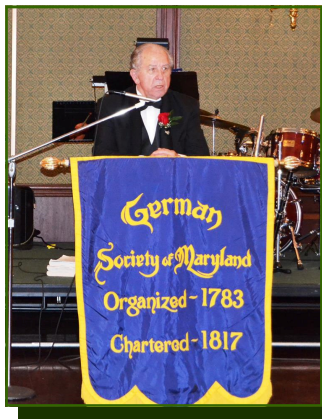
Proclamations from the Governor of Virginia (read by DC Saengerbund President, Hans Endrikat), the Governor of Maryland (read by Bürgerverein President Dottie Kirchner) and the President of the United States (read by German-American Heritage Foundation President, March



Wheat) were read. In President Trump's Proclamation he extolled the virtues and values of the German heritage and proclaimed his own ancestral pride when he stated, "As the proud grandson of German grandparents, I am keenly aware of how German Americans have helped drive our economy, enrich our culture, and protect and defend the land they embrace as their own."

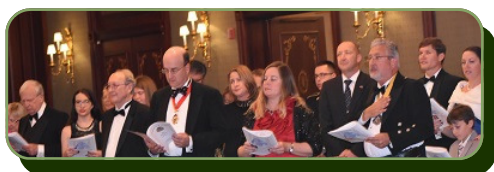
The wonderful event concluded with the groups meeting at Old Europe restaurant in Georgetown where everyone enjoyed a delightful buffet lunch.

Gerhard Meinzer Honored at 234th Annual Awards Dinner



It was a magical evening as members of the German Society and their guests gathered to celebrate the 234th Annual Awards Banquet. Mr. Gerhard Meinzer was the 2017 honoree .

The event was held on November 2nd at the beautiful Grand Lodge of Maryland, home of the Maryland Masons, in Hunt Valley Maryland. Guests were welcomed by President Kurt Wittstadt and led by Bärbel Otto in the singing of both National Anthems.



After an invocation by Rev. H.J. Siegfried Otto, guests were treated to a wonderful dinner choice of Elk osso buco, Seared Duck Breast or Grilled Eggplant Lasagna. This was after a great cocktail reception featuring beef, lamb, salmon and other culinary delights.

Dr. James Schaub, 1st Vice President of the German Society introduced our Guest of Honor and his long-time friend, Gerhard Meinzer. Gerhard was honored for his many years of dedicated service to the German American community. This service includes his total support and aid to students

of German through his scholarship program, his many years of assistance to the A.G.A.S. of DC (Association of German American Societies of DC), and his unselfish devotion to the German American Friendship Garden. Gerhard has also been awarded the Bundesverdienstkreuz (Order of Merit from the Federal Republic of Germany) and the Friendship Award of the Federal Republic of Germany, in recognition for his service to German American organizations. Gerhard is also a board member of our Society.

Special presentations by Maryland's Secretary of State, Mr. John Wobensmith, and the Honorable Rushern L. Baker, III, Prince George's County Executive demonstrated just how far reaching the accomplishments of Gerhard are. Citations were read from Baltimore County as well.



This year as in past years, several of our guests were students from McDaniel College. The student speaker this year was Hannah Krauss.

After dinner, many stayed and danced the night away to the

sweet sound of the 'Silverbacks', a local, very talented ensemble.

The dinner program may be found on our website at <http://www.germansociety-md.com/banq17-prog.pdf>.

We wish Gerhard many more years of success and look forward to his continued support of the Society.



Welcome New Members



Jeremy Bushyager

Charlotte von Claparede

Linda Edwards

Edmund Goode

Edward Lerp Jr.

Agnes Lerp

Richard O'Hara

Reiner Prochascht

Ernest Seiter

Roy Shiflet

John S. Thomas

P. Robert Wehr

Judy Wehr

Virginia I. Weimer

Randy Weimer



Save
the
Date

**Celebrate the Society's
200th Anniversary of our
Charter and Incorporation
(February 3, 1818)**

February 3, 2018

Where: Zion Church of the City of Baltimore

400 E. Lexington Street

Baltimore, MD. 21201

*Snow date February 10, 2018

Awalt Educational Gifts Sets New Society Record

By Ted Potthast, Esq.

When Robert Francis Awalt died, his widow, Jane Kriete Awalt, established a fund in his memory to help educate students and the public about German American Heritage and studies of the German Language. In a recent letter following another major gift, Jane Awalt mentioned that her deceased husband, a very modest person, would shy away from publicity. Therefore, we will not publicize the amount of the Awalt fund, except to say that it vastly exceeds all other contributions over the past many years combined. Robert was an exceptional man. He attended Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and graduated from Johns Hopkins University at age 19. He joined the U. S. Navy and served aboard LSM-373, ferrying equipment and supplies to various war zones in

the South Pacific. Upon his return from the Navy, Robert served as an engineer for BGE for nearly 40 years.

Robert and Jane were deeply interested in genealogical research and they went to Germany to learn of Robert's German ancestry. Both Robert and Jane were also students of history and spent much time volunteering at the Baltimore County Historical Society, especially aiding people researching their ancestry.

Jane Awalt served on the board of directors for the German Society of Maryland, but when Robert contracted Parkinson's Disease, Jane stepped down to devote full time for caring for him. After his death, Jane published a book, describing life with a Parkinson's patient and

providing instructions on how to best help them with their needs. Her book received high praise from the medical staff of the Parkinson's Unit at Johns Hopkins Hospital, to which Jane donated all the profits from the sale of her book.

Robert met Jane at a Hopkins fraternity party, she was dancing with someone else and he cut in. "He had the largest deep blue eyes you have ever seen on anybody, and I almost melted," Jane said. "My knees almost collapsed." The couple was married 60 years.

Future student grants from the income of the Awalt fund will be publicized and acknowledged.

Christmas In Germany



Close your eyes and imagine the smell of gingerbread, roasted chestnuts, sugar apples and bratwurst combined with the sight of the sparkling lights in the trees, and all the treasures displayed in endless rows of decorated stalls. It is a memory no one can forget. It is a visit to a German Christmas "Christkindlmarkt".

In late November, the Christmas Markets open up in small villages and cities all over Germany and Austria. At any market, you will find Christmas Ornaments handcrafted from glass or wood, hand-carved toys, home-baked gingerbread and Christmas cookies, hand-made bees wax candles and many other interesting, unique items. In the center, erected by the community, typically stands a tall "Weihnachtsbaum" (Christmas tree) decorated with countless strings of electric lights or maybe a wooden pyramid that depicts Christmas scenes. Children wander throughout this enchanting wonderland oblivious to the night's chilly temperatures. It is truly a treat to explore all of the wonderful wares on display while nibbling on Lebkuchen or sipping a hot Glühwein, a warmed German wine traditionally served with a shot of Ameretta or Rum.

Christmas is a 'magical' time in Germany. Many customs have been passed down from family to family. Many of the customs are our 'traditions' as well.

The beginning of December is the time of year when a child will make their final decisions as to what their Christmas wish to "Christkind" (The Christ Child) might be. In Germany it is customary that the Christkind brings every child a present, and not Santa as in the US. These Christmas wishes are written down on a slip of paper and placed on a windowsill for the Christkind to collect. With much anticipation it is awaited to see if the slips are gone by next morning, which means that it is a good chance that the wishes will be fulfilled.

From the time that the lists are gathered at the beginning of December until the 24th, when Christkind will hopefully fulfill the Christmas wishes, it is an almost unbearable wait for an eager child. Fortunately the days seem to go a little faster with the help of the "Adventkalender" (Advent Calendar). Beginning on December 1st children are allowed to open one little door on the calendar every morning, with the last (and biggest!) door left closed until Dec 24th. Behind every door is a picture that has something to do with the Christmas season. In earlier times, the pictures were very simple: a Christmas star, a candle, or perhaps a sheep from the manger of the Christ Child. Today, there is typically a small piece of chocolate that goes along with the picture. It is the anticipation of what is behind these little doors that makes looking forward to the next morning very exciting for the children. After all of the

doors have been opened one-by-one, it is then the traditional time for the big Christmas Celebration on the evening of Dec 24th. Families gather around the lovingly decorated Christmas tree, the long awaited gifts from the Christkind are eagerly opened, and the most wonderful Christmas carol is sung together: "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht" (Silent Night, Holy Night). In many other countries this carol is played during the weeks before Christmas, but the tradition in Austria is that "Stille Nacht" is sung only on Christmas Eve, since it holds a very special place in the heart of all Germans and Austrians.

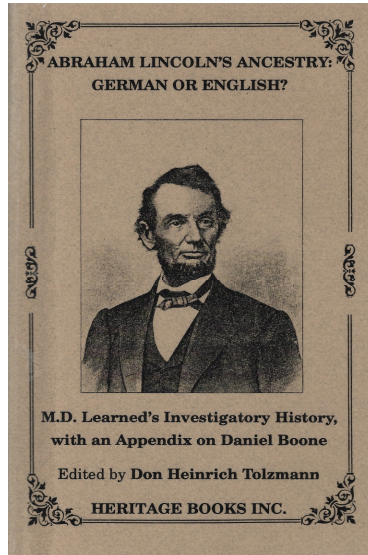
The musician and school-teacher Franz Gruber composed this more than 180 year-old carol and the young priest Franz Mohr wrote the words for the small St. Nicolas Church of Oberndorf, Austria on Christmas Eve 1818. It is unknown why the young priest wanted a new carol for the traditional Midnight Mass, but some speculate that a mouse had gotten into the church organ and made it unusable, necessitating the need for a simple carol that could be accompanied by the guitar. "The Song Heard Round the World" has been since translated into hundreds of languages and is now sung by millions every December, a fact all Austrians are very proud of. Whenever you hear or sing "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht" think about this humble, little chapel in the vicinity of Salzburg where the most famous Christmas Carol was born and how its powerful message of peace has since then conquered the hearts of people around the world.

Germany is a wonderful place. It is more than wonderful at Christmas. It is 'enchanted'.

Abraham Lincoln's Ancestry

By Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann

In her article "Was President Lincoln German? He owned a German Newspaper" Shelley Arnold raised a question that has often been asked about the 16th U.S. President's ancestry. It is for that reason that I edited a work for re-publication that had originally appeared in 1909: *Abraham Lincoln's Ancestry: German or English:*



M.D. Learned's Investigatory History, with an Appendix on Daniel Boone.

(1) This consists of Learned's monograph with an appendix with my research on Daniel Boone's ancestry, exploring the same question as to whether he was of German, or English descent.

M.D. Learned was a professor of German and editor of *German-American Annals*, a scholarly historical journal. During my research I came upon his monograph and decided to edit for publication, as he addressed the question of Lincoln's ancestry.

In the case of Lincoln, the real basis for the notion that he was of German descent was connected to his

grandfather: Abraham Linkhorn. If you go to his gravesite in the Long Run Cemetery near Louisville, Kentucky, you will find his name is spelled that way. This German-style spelling gave rise to the belief that his family was German. However, his ancestry was actually English. So, why was the name spelled as a German would spell it?

The Lincoln family resided for a time in Rockingham County, Virginia, which was heavily populated by Germans. The fact that Lincoln's grandfather spelled his name as Linkhorn reflects the pervasive German influence of the county where he resided before moving to Kentucky. The German spelling of his name is often overlooked in sources, but when commented on, it is usually viewed as a mistake. However, it is not a mistake, but rather an indication of German influence on Lincoln's grandfather.

In the appendix of my edition of Learned's monograph, *Abraham Lincoln's Ancestry...*, I explored the question of Boone's ancestry. The legends surrounding the assertion that

Boone was of German stock revolved around four factors: 1. Birthplace: Boone was born in a Pennsylvania German county (Berks County); 2. Name: There were Germans in Pennsylvania who spelled their name in the following forms: Bohne, Bohny, and Boone; 3. Bilingualism: Boone was bilingual, as he grew up in a German-speaking community; and, 4. Kentucky's German Heritage: German-Americans, especially from Pennsylvania, had a prominent role in the early history of Kentucky, and figured noticeably in the settlement of Boonesborough. (2)

As in the case of Lincoln, the Boone family was English, not German, but the German influences are clearly evident in the case of both families.

Notes

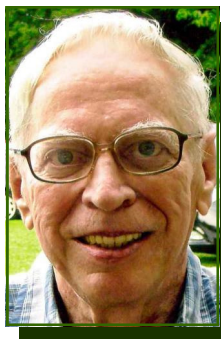
1. *M.D. Learned, Abraham Lincoln's Ancestry: German or English: M.D. Learned's Investigatory History, with an Appendix on Daniel Boone, edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann (Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, Inc., 1993).*
2. *H.A. Rattermann, Kentucky's German Pioneers: H.A. Rattermann's History, edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann (Westminster, Maryland: Heritage Books, Inc., 2001).*

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.

This action alone saves paper and postage costs.



In Sympathy also rang the church bells calling friends and neighbors to worship.



Melvin E. Tansill

Melvin E. Tansill, died August 29. Mr. Tansill was a member of the German Society of Maryland since 1991.

Mr. Tansill was born on May 8, 1931, a day which gave him much pride. He shared the birthdate with President Harry Truman, who was his Commander-in-Chief during his tenure as a Second Class Petty Officer with the U.S. Navy during the Korean War.

Mr. Tansill grew up in South Baltimore and lived there his entire life. He graduated from Southern High School and went to Night school at the University of Baltimore. He graduated from Baltimore in 72 with a Degree in Accounting. He also attended and received a Diploma in Mechanical Drawing, from the Maryland Institute College of Art.

His professional career included 30 years working for the Baltimore Gas & Electric Company. He began his work there as a meter reader. Prior to his BG&E carrier, he worked in the printing industry for Young & Seldin and for Classic Printing. He retired from BG&E in 1986.

He was very active with his church, Saints Stephen and James Evangelical Lutheran, where he served as a Sunday School Superintendent and teacher as well as Church Treasurer. He and his wife bowled for many years on the church bowling league and he

Besides his church activities, and his membership in the German Society of Maryland, Mr. Tansill was a member of the American Legion Post #180 in Rosedale, a 56 year member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland, Warren Lodge #51, a coach and the treasurer for the South Baltimore Little League, and, a life member, instructor and member of the Finance committee as well as an Associate Bethel Guardian of Job's Daughters International.

Mr. Tansill's hobbies included rooting on the Baltimore birds, both Orioles and Ravens, reading, and listening to country music, especially the older country legends like Haggard, Jones & Williams.

Mr. Tansill was preceded in death by his wife Jacqueline (nee Byron). They were married for 52 years and met when they were just children in Sunday school.

He is survived by his son Mel Tansill; his daughter, Charlotte Tansill; and his daughter-in-law Paulette Tansill. He is also survived by his sister, Shirley Marshall.

Mr. Tansill was laid to rest on September 2, 2017 at Loudon Park Cemetery.

Rudolph Speckamp

The German Society mourns the death of long-time friend, Rudolph Speckamp. Many members will remember getting together and going to Rudy's 2900 German Restaurant. He was always happy to oblige us with German specialties.

Rudolph was born in Kaufbeuren Bavaria, the son of Helmut and Lisalotte. He began cooking at an early age and apprenticed at the Sanatorium Eichwald in Bad Woerishofen. He then came to

the US and enrolled at Cornell University. His time at Cornell was cut short when in March 1968, Rudy became a Marine. He served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1970, leaving the Corp as a sergeant.

He came to Baltimore in 74 and worked at the Samuel Owings 1767. It was here he met his future wife, Patricia Philbin. Other positions prior to Rudy's included the Capriccio in Little Italy and Captain Harvey's. He met his business partner, Rudy Paul, another German chef, while Mr. Paul was at Peerce's Downtown. They bought the Branding Iron Restaurant in Finksburg and re-named it Rudy's 2900 in 1983.

Mr. Speckamp was extremely dedicated to his craft, earning his Master Chef Certification from the American Culinary Federation in 1988. He served on several USA Culinary Olympic teams and was considered one of the 'Culinary iron men'.

His restaurant closed after 23 years, when both partners felt it time to retire. Post retirement, he joined the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY as an industry consultant.

Mr. Speckamp was buried following Marine Corps honors, at Arlington National Cemetery. He is survived by his wife, daughter, Tanya and four brothers: Ulf, Wolfgang, Claus and Helmut, all of Germany.

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

Open House at G. Krug & Son



Recently John Butt with GSM directors Linda Butt and Zachary Butt visited

G. Krug during an open house at their ironworks. The G. Krug & Son Company is not new to the area.

Gustav Krug (1830-1908) and his wife Fredericka Engel Krug came from Germany to Baltimore in 1848. He was a member of the blacksmith firm of Merker



& Krug, makers of ornamental iron, which was founded in **1810**. By 1871 he was the sole owner. His son Theodore Frederick Krug joined the firm and later became a partner. The name was changed to G. Krug & Sons. Theodore was born in Baltimore on December 24, 1854. When his father died he took over the business. Theodore Krug was also a director of the Maryland Institute.

The name is still carried by his 5th generation descendants. Peter & Stephen Krug learned the trade from their father and continue making ornamental ironwork as it was done generations ago. Some famous Baltimore sites contain their ironwork including Otterbein Church, Baltimore’s Washington Mon-

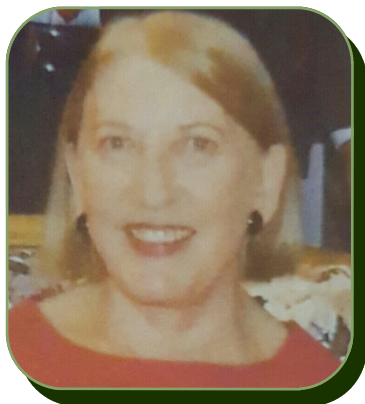
ument, John Hopkins Hospital, the Basilica of the Assumption, Zion Church, the Maryland Zoo and recently the University of Maryland Hospital. A cut-out of the blacksmith’s anvil still hangs above their door in Baltimore on Saratoga Street. It



is on the register of historic landmarks. G. Krug & Son is one of the few companies left in Baltimore that can claim their ancestors helped in building Baltimore.

G. Krug & Son were honored by the German Society for their many contributions to the German American community in 2007.

Meet Our Director – Brigitte Voelkel Fessenden



Brigitte lives with her husband Nicholas ("Nick") in Columbia, Maryland, moving there from Baltimore in 2010 where they had

lived for 35 years. She is currently the President of the *Baltimore Immigration Memorial and Museum, Inc.*, a museum dedicated to educate the public about Baltimore's immigration history, and its role as a major port of entry (www.immigrationbaltimore.org).

Brigitte is a first generation immigrant who came to the US by marrying an American exchange teacher who taught one year in a Berlin high school. At the same time she was a student at the *Berlin Hochschule fuer Wirtschaftskunde* (School of Economics). The two had met in Paris a few months earlier and were married in Berlin, shortly before Nick returned to New York where he was enrolled in graduate studies in history at Columbia University.

She is a mother of two children, Helen, an economics writer/analyst with the Federal Reserve Bank, and Jon William, a music therapist working with autistic children and with veterans suffering from post traumatic stress.



Moving to Baltimore in 1972 after her husband had accepted a teaching position in the Department of History at Baltimore's Friends School, Brigitte continued her undergraduate education at the Maryland Institute College of Art where she received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, and later a Master's degree in Community Planning and Historic Preservation from the University of Maryland, College Park. She worked for several years as a Planner for the State Department of Planning. Following her lifelong interest in Historic Preservation and Architecture, Brigitte accepted a position with Baltimore City's Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation in 1993, where she worked until her retirement from the City in 2010.

Brigitte joined the German Society of Maryland, (as well as The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland) in the early 1980s, serving on the Scholarship Committee and the Annual Banquet Committee for many years. From 2002 until 2004 she was elected Vice President and from 2005 until 2008 President (first female!) of the German Society. Following her interest in colonial architecture, she researched the German influence in Frederick County and published an article in the Society for the History of the Germans "Report 43": *German Colonial Architecture in Frederick County - The Mill Pond House, Dearbought, and the Hessian Barracks*' (1996), documenting three historic sites of which today only the Hessian Barracks still exist.

Other activities included chairing the Baltimore-Bremerhaven Sister City Commit-

tee from 2005 to 2012, establishing a high school exchange program between the *Geschwister Scholl Schule* in Bremerhaven / Germany, and several high schools in the Baltimore region, currently active with the *North County School* in Glen Burnie. Additionally, Brigitte organized annual exhibits in the City Hall Rotunda during the months of October, celebrating our German-Maryland heritage, and promoting the designation of October as German-American month.

She is a member of several professional and historic preservation organizations and president of the *Society to Preserve H.L. Mencken's Legacy*, an organization advocating for the restoration of the Mencken House in Baltimore's Union Square neighborhood.

She has served as president of *The American Goethe Society* until recently, both at the Baltimore/Maryland and the Washington, DC chapters - an organization that was established in 1933 in Baltimore to promote lectures on (classical) German literature, philosophy, music, and art.

Together with her husband she has received the German Society's "Distinguished Service Award" in 2014 and is currently the Chair of the German Society's Archives Committee.

Brigitte enjoys national as well as international travelling, especially to historic and heritage sites, reading, music and the theater, and making new friends everywhere.

German-American Day at McDaniel College

Students from nineteen Maryland high schools converged on the McDaniel College campus on October 17 to celebrate the 23rd Annual German-American Day. German Society member and the driving force behind this event, Dr. Mohamed Esa, welcomed



kraut, fried potatoes, bratwurst and potato latkes. Even the walk to the cafeteria was great because the weather was great...a nice crisp autumn day.

Students were provided an overview of the college hearing about the admission process and available financial aid and also from students, past and present, who told

'Why they came to McDaniel'.

The program closed with "Einshoch6" playing before a full house.

Einshoch6, a



The events of the day included 13 wonderful seminars such as 'How I Survived the Holocaust with Mr. Rubin Sztajer; Viennese Culture and Dialect with Mr. Andy Widmann; German Cinema with Mr. Tim Echelberger and so much more. The German Society of Maryland was well



represented with presenters Dr. Armin Mruck leading the discussion on 'Germans For and Against Hitler; Dr. Mary Upman facilitating 'The Art of Cheese Making'; and Christmas in

Germany with Mr. Marc Fisher, all members of the Society. Unfortunately there is only enough time to attend one seminar. All were very well attended.

Following the seminars the students were treated to a nice lunch of sauerbraten, sauer-

and thanked the teachers, the students and his staff and the students of McDaniel for making this such a great event. He thanked the sponsors, including the German Society. GSM President Kurt Wittstadt, offered remarks and reminded students of the Society's scholarship programs and the FREE student membership. The day celebrates the German culture and language.



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classical concert halls. Einshoch6 has been traveling around the world, playing in Asia, Africa, Europe and South America. Now they are touring the United States, sponsored by AATG (American Association of Teachers of German), and performing at 18 concerts. Einshoch6 continue to inspire young German language students.



APG Oktoberfest-Ist das nicht eine Schnitzel Bank?

Several of our members helped staff the German Society Booth at the Aberdeen Proving Ground or APG Oktoberfest. The festival was held from Thursday September 28 to Saturday September 30. The three days was packed full of great fun and entertainment. Great entertainment included the Edelweiss Band, the Bavarski Band, the Amish Outlaws and wrapping up with the Alex Meixner Band.

The entrance fee of \$5 per day included everything but your food and drink and of course there were ample food and drink tents. By everything, APG hosted a Festhalle with German Performers, Fireworks, Family Fun Attractions & Entertainment, the Centennial 10k Run, a Tactical Vehicle & Equipment Display, Bingo, a Car & Bike Show and of course, a Volksmarch. You could get a three day pass for \$12.

The event opened with the traditional 'keg tapping' just as done in Munich.

Thanks to all of the GSM volunteers that worked the event. Many new contacts and friends were made.



Photo: Ted Potthast with Zach Butt and the Schnitzelbank* poster.

Schnitzelbank...German or American?

First, the term Schnitzelbank means 'scrap or chip bench'; schnitzeln, to make scraps. It is a woodcarving tool that was used in Germany many years ago. The bench is still used today by some artisans.

Director Potthast asked those coming from Germany and attending the APG Oktoberfest if they had heard of the Schnitzelbank and all said no. So is it German? Well, the song Schnitzelbank is a funny song where each verse is repeated after sung by a leader. The song is found at specific celebrations such as Fastnacht and Hochzeit celebrations in Switzerland and sometimes in Southwestern Germany. The poster such as the one being held in the photo, is often posted so that persons can sing along.

It does appear that the song is more popular with German Americans than native Germans. Versions were found in the United States as early as 1900. Many parents use the verse and posters as training tools to teach their young ones German.

To hear the song, go to:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6YpIlaH_iY

Society for the History of Germans in Maryland Release Report #47

The Society for the History of Germans in Maryland recently released Report #47 of their 'Journal of German American History'. The first report was published in 1887. This, the newest report, contains historical reports and accounts of several of the Bal-

timore brewers, H.L. Mencken, Zion Church and Pastor Hofmann of Zion, Martin Luther, John Stricker, Adolf Dehn, as well as several writings on immigration and German-American relations. The report, written by some of the foremost German American scholars

will enlighten, entertain and provide you with hours of thought provoking questions. Didn't get a copy? For copies contact Dr. Nicholas Fessenden at nicholasfessenden@comcast.net or call 443 542 2263.

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 and stating that you wish to become a student member. This is FREE. **NO ANNUAL DUES WITH VALID EMAIL ADDRESS!**

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*Past newsletters are posted on our website, www.germansociety-md.com,
as is our history, *Pioneers in Service*'.*

*For more German-American happenings check the website for the
Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland at
www.md-germans.org or www.GermanMarylanders.org.*

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