



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 112 January 2019

President's Message-Anton Smoot

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Society Honors Tom Werner	2
McDaniel's 'German Day'	3
GSM at Friendship Garden	4
Meet Director Mary Upman	5
Gunther 100th Anniversary Commemoration	6
Baltimore's Christmas Village	9
New Members	
Germany to Spend 5.5 Billion on Daycare	
Getting to Know You	10
Christmas Memories	11
Senior Members	

Liebe Mitglieder – Dear Members,

I hope this message finds all of our members well and safe. The cold weather seems to have arrived early and in a hurry but maybe we will get some of those warmer December days Maryland is famous for!

This past November we honored Mr. Thomas Werner for all of his wonderful work for not only The German Society of Maryland but for the greater good of all the German organizations. Many thanks to everyone that attended our annual banquet to be part of this truly amazing event. It is because of individuals like Tom that our society has been in existence now for 235 years and counting. I encourage all of our members to visit our website to view the pictures and also discover the wonderful events that are happening on a regular basis.

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. 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 amongst your fellow Germans!

Christmas Village at the Baltimore Harbor

This year we had a permanent table inside the main tent for the entire duration of this event. It provided us an opportunity to not only promote our society but all the German groups in the Baltimore area. Without the cooperation of many of the other clubs this would have never happened and I personally like to thank all of you for your help. This was the first year we were able to accomplish this feat and we are looking to expand on this in 2019.

Facebook

We have a dedicated staff that is continuously adding information and promoting our society thru this social media venue. I encourage all of you to go to our page and "Like" us.

Just enter The German Society of Maryland in the search area!

School Visits

This ongoing program is something we would like to expand and we are looking for additional schools to participate. If you are a teacher and would like to have myself or



another director of our society visit your class, please email me and we will be happy to make the time and come see you and your students.

agsmoot@verizon.net

These are just a few ideas on how we are looking to the future to promote our great society and I am always looking for your input. I strongly encourage all of you to visit the websites mentioned to get updates on all the happenings in the German Community.

As the holidays approach, many of you will be traveling to visit family and friends. I wish you safe travels and many happy memories. Best wishes and a speedy recovery to all of our sick and shut in members.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,
Anton G. Smoot
President

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

Unser Kalender

January 23	GSM Board Meeting	7:30 PM
March 3	Newsletter Deadline	
April 12	Annual Membership Meeting	6:00 PM



Glückliche Winterzeit

The Society Honors Thomas A. Werner



On November 3, 2018 at the historic Zion Church Adlersaal, the German Society of Maryland, at their 235th Awards Banquet, honored Thomas ‘Tom’ Werner.

Guests were welcomed by President Anton Smoot. The evening’s Em-Cee, Bernard Penner kept the program running smoothly. After singing the national anthems of both the U.S. and Germany and prayers of thanks offered by Rev. H.J. Siegfried Otto, guests were treated to the marvelous culinary creations of Chef Raimund Hofmeister and the students from the Culinary Arts School. A taste of what was served included Hungarian Style Paprika Chicken, Braised Beef Rouladen a’la Esther Hazy. Oven Roasted Porkloin with Bier & Onion Sauce and Baked Flounder in Caper Sauce. This of course, does not include the fantastic side dishes and desserts. Trust me when I say no one left hungry.

Both the current and past President of the German Club at McDaniel College., Lyndsay Batson and Daniel Smith, spoke and congratulated Tom. The students were two tables strong.

The President of the Bürgerverein, Dottie Kirchner, the President of A.G.A.S. (Association of German American Societies of Greater Washington, D.C.), Gerhard Meinzer, and the President of the St. George’s Society, Harry Aycock were also in attendance. As was, of course, our President, Anton Smoot.

Dinner and the program was followed by music and dancing. The entertainment by the Greg Adams Trio was exceptional and especially to Tom’s liking, being an avid fan of Jazz music.

Our 2018 honoree, Tom, was chosen due to his many contributions to the German Maryland community, including his service as President of the German Society of Maryland, Club Fidelitas, the Maryland Oktoberfest, the Baltimore Kickers Board of Trustees and the Deutschamerikanischer Buergerverein von Maryland. Tom has and continues to be an active member in several of the German clubs. He is a lifetime director of the German Society and currently serves as their Investment Chairman. Tom is currently the Treasurer of the recently formed GAV (German American Verein).

Tom’s acceptance of each of these leadership roles has given him opportunities

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
Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein:
www.md-germans.org
German Marylanders:
www.germanmarylanders.org
German American Radio:
germanamericanradio.com



to help with the planning and implementation of many different projects.

Tom shared the evening with his family and his long time partner and member, Kay Schneck.

For his success in all of these areas of achievement, the German Society of Maryland is pleased to honor Thomas Alfred Werner with our 2018 Distinguished Service Award.

The GSM would like to thank the Banquet committee, Shelley Arnold, Dr. Mohamed Esa, Brigitte Fessenden, Dr. Maureen Helinski, Barbel Otto, Dr. James Schaub, Anton Smoot and Dr. Mary Upman.



German Students Attend German Day at McDaniel College



Swarms of students converged on McDaniel College campus on October 16th. They were there to take part in McDaniel's German Day. A great event and perfectly timed, October being the official German-Maryland Heritage month. Welcoming remarks from Professor Mohamed Esa, German Society President, Anton Smoot and Minister Holger Mahnicke of the German Embassy, energized the group for the day to come. We were also treated to 'Sanctus' by Franz Schubert, arranged by David L. Weck and sung by the Northern Middle School Chamber Choir. They were excellent.

In fact, there were over 800 middle and high school students present at

the 2018 event. Nineteen schools participated. They were treated to a wonderful day consisting of seminars and presentations on everything from German Music, Genealogy, German Cinema, German American Military Relations to the always well attended, 'How I survived the Holocaust'. Together they enjoyed a luncheon of German treats such as Bratwursts, potato pancakes, Schnitzel and more. The day concluded with entertainment by the Spotsylvania Alpentänzer from Courtland High School, Spotsylvania, Virginia and with traditional Bavarian music by the Edelweiss Band.

Several members of the German Society presented various pro-



grams including Marc Fisher and Christmas in Germany, Shelley Arnold and German Marylanders and their contributions to our culture, Debra Hofmann and 'The Quest to Find Your Ancestry' and Mary Upman and the Art of Cheese Making.

Congratulations to Professor Mohamed Esa, also a German Society of Maryland Board member on another successful year. Mark your calendar now for next year's event. 2019 will mark the 25th Anniversary of the event and I am certain Professor Esa will make it spectacular.

Maryland's Oldest Dies at 111-Agnes F. Reisenweber

Ms. Reisenweber passed away in April of this year.

Agnes was the daughter of Robert Richardson and Sadie Hubschmann. Her mother was a German immigrant. She was born October 29, 1906 and grew up in the Roland Park area of Baltimore city. Agnes married Captain William Ernest, a bay

pilot. Together they had two children. Agnes remarried years after the Captain's death. She married Henry Reisenweber, a commercial artist. She too was an artist and worked primarily in water colors and oils.

She came from a long-lived family, her mother living until her late 90s and a sister until the age of 101. Agnes herself died unexpectedly from

a fall.

She remained sharp and engaged until her death. She loved to read.

The name Reisenweber, from the German 'reisen' to travel and 'Weber' German for weaver, implies that there was a heritage of traveling weavers.

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.

You may then print the Vereinsnachrichten in full color.

A.G.A.S. Hosts German-American Day



On a slightly overcast day, October 6, members from several of the German Societies and clubs met

in Washington to celebrate German-American Day at the Friendship Garden on the Mall. The date is significant and is recognized nationally as German-American Day, declared by President Ronald Reagan in 1987. The beautiful garden with the Washington Monument as the backdrop made for perfect photos.



Gerhard Meinzer, President of the Association of German-American Societies of Greater Washington, DC (A.G.A.S.) and our host for the day welcomed the guests. Greetings were also extended by our Society, by 1st VP

Jim Schaub. Several directors were also in attendance.

The National Anthems of both countries performed by the Washington Saengerbund were followed by an opening prayer, led by Pastor Katja Albrecht of the United Church.

- ◆ Proclamations presented included: The Governor of Maryland, read by Jim Schaub, 1st Vice President of the German Society of Maryland
- ◆ The Governor of Virginia, read by Hans Endrikat, President of the Washington Saengerbund.

- ◆ The Mayor of the District of Columbia, read by Charles Volkman, President of the Washington Schuplattler und Gebirgstrachten Verein, 'Washingtonia'.
- ◆ The President of the United States, read by Hardy von Auenmueller, President of the German-American Heritage Foundation.

The Presidential proclamation read that 'German Americans have helped build our Republic, shape our heritage, and enrich our culture since the arrival of the first German settlers in the New World on October 6, 1683. They brought with them and instilled in their descendants a desire for liberty and

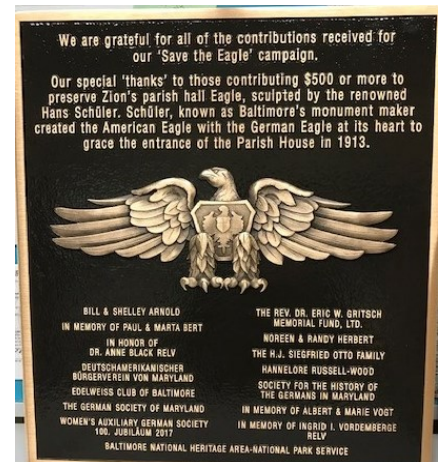


dreams of a better life'. It continues, 'On German-American Day, we proudly celebrate the invaluable contributions that Americans of German descent-the largest ancestry group in the United States-have made to every facet of our society. The Presidential proclamation may be read in its entirety on the Society website at <https://www.germansociety-md.com/presproc18.txt>.

Guests this year were treated to a most special treat! The Limburg Cathedral Boys Choir from Lim-

burg, Germany provided an exceptional performance. Their repertoire included O Täler weit, o Höhen, Tanzen und Springen, Das Echolied, Sur le pont d'Avignon, Kein schöner Land, Ein Jäger aus Kurpfalz and Das Wandern ist des Müllers Lust. The choir founded in 1967, has performed at concerts both nationally and internationally and made several recordings, including television and radio productions. In 1969 the Episcopal Theological Seminary was converted into a training center known as the Boarding School of Fine Arts for the Limburg Cathedral Boys Choir. There are currently 60 boys attending the school. Their time include rigorous training schedules and ultra-high standards for a thorough musical training, similar to the model used by other renowned boys choirs. For more information about the choir, see their website at <http://limburgerdomsingknaben.de/en/choir/>.

German Society Contributes to Zion's 'Save the Eagle Campaign'



Meet our Lifetime Director, Mary Upman



“One can make an exception only for an exceptional colleague who has contribut-

ed tremendously to this college, to foreign languages, to the small but vibrant German section at McDaniel College, and to German-American culture in Maryland.” This is what Dr. Mohamed Esa said in a tribute to Dr. Mary Upman at a faculty meeting on December 6, 2005, on the occasion of her retirement after teaching at McDaniel College for 8 years.

Mary Upman is a native of a suburb of Boston, Massachusetts, the town of Weymouth. She is the daughter of Gilchrist and Helen Hurst. Early in her life she became interested in playing the violin. She took music lessons and played in the Weymouth Middle and High School orchestras. At the University of New Hampshire Summer Music Conference held in 1955, she was selected to lead the second violin section. This was an honor that pleased her a great deal.

After she had completed her senior year at Weymouth High School, Mary enrolled at Radcliffe College (now a part of Harvard University). She



studied hard and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. She also studied German each year and gained proficiency in that language. Mary capitalized on her acquired language skills by applying for and receiving a Rotary Foundation Fellowship for International Understanding. This scholarship enabled her to study in Zurich, Switzerland, for one academic year.

During this year she gave speeches about her experiences as a Rotary Fellow to the members of various Rotary Clubs in Switzerland.

Mary continued her studies as a graduate student and teaching assistant for German in the Department of Modern European Languages at Stanford University. She earned her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in German. She taught full-time at Westbury Senior High School in Houston, Texas, Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, and Gulf High School in New Port Richey, Florida. In her third year of teaching at Gulf High School, she and the French and Spanish teachers there were selected as one of the 50 best foreign language

programs at the high school level. This was an honor that was bestowed on these teachers after a thorough screening of all the applicants for the award. It pleased her and her colleagues in the foreign language department

very much. Mary continued to have a successful time teaching at Gulf High

School but she was assigned to teach English for many years while a native speaker of German received the German courses as her assignment. When Mary had reached the point where she felt free to move, she decided to hunt for a teaching position in Maryland that would allow her to introduce German into a high school that did not already

offer German. She sent her resume to the appropriate supervisors in Baltimore, Carroll and Howard Counties and she was pleased to be offered a teaching position in English at North Carroll High School with a promise to add Elementary German in the next academic year. Latin

had to be closed to facilitate the promise. However, there was no dispute about this. The Latin teacher was eager to close out Latin because he had the oversight of the annual yearbook as part of his teaching assignment and this kept him very busy.

In the fall of 1993, Mary began teaching English at North Carroll High School. When she added German to her teaching curriculum, her initial enrollment was 93 students, enough to open three sections of German I. This gave her a good start and, over the next few years, she was able to build up the program to include German II, III and IV. She joined the American Association of Teachers of German, Maryland-DC Metro Chapter.

Continued on page -8-



The Sergeant Henry Gunther 100th Anniversary Commemoration

The German Society of Maryland and guests gathered together at the Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery in Baltimore on November 11, 2018 to honor the 100th anniversary of the death of Sergeant Henry Gunther, who was killed one minute before the armistice to cease firing. He was the last soldier killed in World War I. The ceremony began at 10:30 in the morning and lasted until 11:45. Nearly 100 people sat inside a 20x30 ft. tent or stood outside.

After his opening remarks Director Robert Wisch introduced GSM Past President James Schaub who welcomed the attendees and gave a brief history of the German Society of Maryland. Father Bruce Lewandowski C.Ss.R., Pastor of The Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Highlandtown where Henry Gunther was a parishioner, gave the invocation.



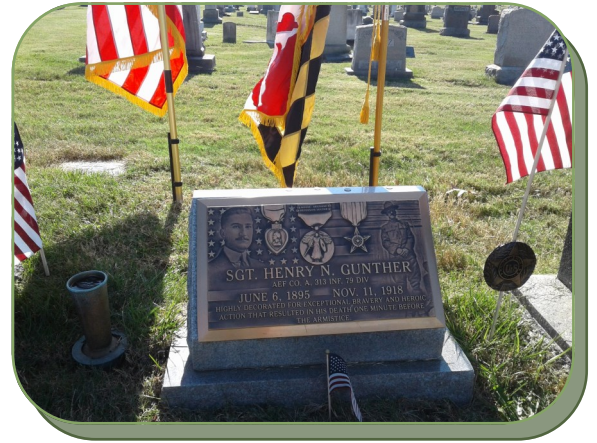
Following the opening ceremony The Charles Carroll of Carrollton Assembly's Color Corp, 4th Degree of the Knights of Columbus presented the Colors. Henry Gunther was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Santa Maria Council in Highlandtown. The Dan Meyer

Choir sang The Star Spangled Banner and Director, BG M. Hall Worthington, led everyone in reciting The Pledge of Allegiance.

Director Wisch introduced the following honored guests: Carol Ann "Gunther" Aikman, grand-niece of Henry Gunther; Ronald Holcombe, Vice Commander, American Legion, Dept. of MD; Jere Danaher, Faithful Navigator of the Charles Carroll of Carrollton Assembly, 4th Degree Knights of Columbus; Daniel Meyer, Director of the Dan Meyer Choir; retired NBC news correspondent, James Maceda and Walter Mathers, who initiated the memorial observation for Henry Gunther ten years ago.

After the introduction of guests, The Dan Meyer Choir sang "The Clock Ticks Down", a song composed for the event by Dan Meyer about the bravery of Henry Gunther. Rev. H.J. Siegfried Otto then asked everyone to join him in eleven seconds of silence for Sgt. Henry Gunther as a brass bell mounted on a white marble cross was rung eleven times.

Director Wisch, who is also a member of the Governor's Maryland



World War I Centennial Commission, invited Past Present Jim Schaub to the podium and presented him with a proclamation from Governor Hogan in honor of the German Society of Maryland's continued observance to keep alive the memory of Sgt. Henry Gunther.

The guest speaker for the memorial service was Ranger Vince Vaise, a 26 year veteran of the U.S. Park Service who is currently Chief of Visitor Services at National Capital Parks East in Washington D.C. He wore an authentic World War I doughboy uniform complete with leggings and helmet. He enthralled the audience with his eloquence as he gave a dynamic presentation beginning with the life



of German-Americans in Baltimore prior to the United States' entry into World War I. He then told about Henry Gunther's life, his trials and tribulations during the Meuse-

Argonne Campaign and his final act of heroism for which he was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest award given for bravery. Ranger Vaise's speech was interrupted at eleven o'clock when nearby churches tolled peace bells, which were heard throughout the cemetery, in commemoration of the end of World War I.



Following the guest speaker, Director Wisch asked Henry Gunther's great-niece, Carol Ann "Gunther" Aikman to approach the podium. She spoke of her great-uncle and his other relatives who lived near Patterson Park.

Wreaths were placed at the grave of Sgt. Gunther from the Veteran Corps Fifth Regiment Infantry, American Legion Dept. of MD and Charles Carroll of Carrollton Assembly, 4th Degree Knights of Columbus. After the laying of the wreaths, retired Army Master Sergeant Mark Elrod played Taps and the Dan Meyer Choir led everyone in singing "God Bless America".

Rev. H.J. Siegfried Otto gave the closing benediction and the colors were retired.

The entire event was broadcast live by Robert Mathers, a member of our Society and station manager of the internet radio station ger-

manamericanradio.com. The observance to Henry Gunther was heard and viewed live by several hundred people. The German Society of Maryland's face book page had nearly 4,000 viewers over the next 48 hours. The entire event can still be watched by going to the website germanamericanradio.com and clicking on the event. It will remain on the website indefinitely.

James Maceda, a retired NBC war correspondent, and his wife traveled from their home in Boliqueime, Portugal to be with the German Society of Maryland for the 100th Anniversary Commemoration of Sgt. Henry Gunther's death in World War I. Mr. Maceda has written a play about Henry Gun-



ther and recently completed a movie script about Gunther. He said that a movie will be made about Sgt. Henry Gunther within the next four years.

Christina Tkacik, a reporter for the Baltimore Sun, contacted and inter-

viewed Director Wisch several weeks before the ceremony and told him The Sun would be doing an article about our tribute to Henry Gunther. She also interviewed Directors Ted Pottast and Rev. Siegfried Otto. The lengthy article appeared on page 1 of the November 10th edition of The Sun.

Kathleen Cairns of Fox 45 TV, produced a three minute coverage of the commemoration which was shown Sunday night during their 10:00 News broadcast. The telecast was posted on the Fox45 TV website to be seen by thousands of viewers.

F. Paul Galeone, Photographers had two photographers taking candid photographs throughout the entire event. Photos may be purchased by going to Galeonecandid.com and clicking on The German Society.

The Henry Gunther 100th Anniversary Commemoration provided possibly the most publicity in the history of our Society. It was held on a beautiful day. The sky was clear, the sun shown down warming everyone and members and guests were all in an expansive mood.

The Henry Gunther Commemoration Committee consisted of Directors Bob Wisch, Ted Potthast, Jim Schaub and BG Hall

Worthington.

A special thanks is extended to Deacon Bruce Hultquist, Director of Redemptorist Cemeteries, who made our commemoration possible.

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

Upman-Continued from page –5-
She wrote articles that related to the work of this excellent chapter. Then she was invited by Mohamed Esa, at that time chapter president, to serve as the chapter’s secretary and she held this position for many years. When Mary decided to leave the German program at North Carroll High School, she passed it to Amy Dreibelbis, a strong German teacher who had majored in German at Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College). However, she continued to be an active member of the Maryland-DC Metro Chapter of the AATG and to write articles about the special events held by this chapter.

One half year later Mary accepted a position to teach German on a part-time basis at McDaniel College. During her seven and a half years there she taught two levels of German language courses, an advanced course in German for Reading Knowledge, and a course in English entitled “German

Women Writers.” She also continued to write articles about events that honored outstanding leaders in the field of German and about teachers who are experts in specialized subjects that relate to teaching German. Many of these articles have been published in “Amerika Woche,” a German language newspaper published in the United States for a wide audience of German-speaking people. In response to some of her articles, people wrote letters to thank her and she was gratified by this. The letters that she received after writing about Elie Wiesel’s visit to McDaniel College were especially pleasing to her. |

Since retiring from McDaniel College, Mary has remained in touch with her colleagues in the World Languages Department and attended some of their extracurricular activities. German-American Day is a special event for her because she has participated in it every year for the twenty-four years of its existence and she is looking forward to attending German-American Day’s twenty-fifth anniversary. Mary and her late husband,

Techt Sgt. Phil Upman, volunteered their time, house and van for innumerable events sponsored by the German Club and House at McDaniel College. She is an active member of the German Society of Maryland and has served two terms as the Secretary of the Board of Directors. She continues to help the German Society with proofreading and updating the program script for the annual banquet in November. Mary also continues to attend cultural and musical events at McDaniel College. In her leisure time she plays the violin for enjoyment and participates in small concerts for her retirement community at Carroll Lutheran Village in Westminster.

We commend Mary for her loyal and tireless efforts to keep the German language strong and vital for students and others who want to learn more about German-American culture in Maryland.

The German Christmas Village

After a few years of attempting to set up something at the German Christmas Village at the Inner Harbor, we finally did it. We did it as a German Community, with many of the clubs joining together to staff the booth. It was an 'offer we couldn't refuse', when the market folks



came and offer us the spot.

The market is well attended, especially in the evenings and on weekends. It gave us and the other clubs some good exposure time. The German Society had newsletters, membership applications and our Genealogy flyers, which became a 'hot topic' for many of our visitors.

A special thanks to those within our Society that worked the booth: Bill & Eva Kelleher, Bill & Shelley Arnold, Anton Smoot, Shirley & Vito Santora, Linda, John and Zack Butt, Bernie Penner and Frank Meek.

We did learn from this year and will be more prepared next year. When you get the call or the email to help man the booth, please take a time slot.

German Parliament approves to spend 5.5 Billion Euros on Daycare by 2022

Germany's upper and lower houses of parliament on Friday December 14th approved a law that will see 5.5 billion euros (6.2 billion dollars) distributed to the country's 16 states by 2022 to improve daycare facilities for children.

The new law, drafted by Family Minister Fraziska Giffey, comes into effect at the start of 2019 and foresees some 500 million euros to be distributed to the states within the first year.

It is up to the states to determine how the money should be spent as long as the

overall goal is the improvement of pedagogic care for children, according to Giffey's ministry.

Problems such as underinvestment, underpaid educators and a lack of places have long dogged daycare facilities in Germany.

The new law is part of a drive to decrease the burden on working parents and improve educational standards that was agreed by the coalition government of Chancellor Angela Merkel.



Welcome New Members

- Christos Christou Jr.*
- Joseph Gross*
- Alex Horneman*
- Christina Krieger*

- James Laisure*
- Ivonne McGee*
- John McGee*
- Marc Meil*

- Pamela Meil*
- Carl Roemer*
- Dorothy Roemer*
- Roslyn Sarshar*

Send us your bio for a future issue. Send to bnsarnold7@gmail.com

Dotti & Richard Bush



My husband, Richard and I have been married for 52 years and have lived in Baltimore all our lives. We have one son, Drew.

Both of us are retired, Richard from the Baltimore City Fire Department and I from an Information Technology Company. Richard enjoys different art projects such as making decoys, decorative carving and working with wood in general. I enjoy my gardening and decorating the house during all the different seasons, especially Christmas.

Being of German descent from both our mothers' and fathers' sides, we have been going to German festivals and local Oktoberfests for about 40 years. We loved the festivals because of the "Gemütlichkeit". When we first started going it would just be the two of us, but the setup of the long tables allowed us to make new friends, some for just a day and some for a lifetime. About 30 years ago, the festivals prompted a genealogical journey. Tracing our heritage back to Germany has left us with some great stories of our adventures as we traipsed through cemeteries and traveled to the National Archives. Here we touched the actual documents of Richard's great-great-grandfather who fought in the Civil War. Our ancestors came from all over Germany: Bavaria, Hesse, Wurttemberg and Prussia. The ancestry search still continues today as we branch out our tree.

We now belong to 3 local German clubs which have given us the opportunity to enhance our knowledge of the German culture, attend German language classes, meet new friends, learn their stories, and travel to many different parts of Germany where we can experience the different German regional cultures for ourselves.

Lori Ginley

I live in Harford County with my husband Bill and our two sons, AJ and Jeremy. We have been married 27 years and are both originally from Buffalo, New York. AJ is 20 years old and is in his second year at Harford Community College

and Jeremy is 16 years old and a junior at Bel Air High School. He is taking German 3/4 at the moment. I have been with Harford County Schools for 27 years. I taught German for 9 years at Joppatowne High before taking a few years off to be at home with my children. When Jeremy entered kindergarten I returned to work with a GED program for students. The past ten years I have worked in the Department of Special Education as a Parent liaison helping parents with the IEP process and connecting with community resources. AJ was diagnosed with autism at age 8 and my career path changed to that of Special Education.

My love for German and the German culture never waivered. When I was an undergraduate at the College of Wooster I participated in a study abroad program. In 1983 I spent 8 weeks in a beginning level of German at the Goethe-Institut in Bremen. I loved the experience so much that I returned my senior year and took 2 more advanced levels. I spent 8 weeks at the Goethe-Institut in Bremen followed by a 8 week class in Schwäbisch Hall. I flew home for graduation in May of 1984. I applied and received a Fulbright Scholarship to teach English at the Bundesgymnasium Linz-Urfahr in Austria for the following year.

I loved learning German and meeting the people. I have so many fond memories of them. Four years ago I asked myself "what did I enjoy the most before Special Education?" The answer was German. I googled German services and Zion's contact information given.

I went on a Sunday and found the warmth and kindness I experienced so many years ago during my time in Germany and Austria. Since then I have joined the German Society of Maryland, Baltimore Kickers Club, Edelweiss Club and the Women's Auxiliary. I had taught summer adult German classes at the German language school and loved it. My Jeremy volunteered last year in ten classes teaching the kindergarten class and had a wonderful time.

In my spare time I love traveling, going to concerts or anything German and participating with Bill. I have also enjoyed participating in the day trips and on the trip to Boston. I love attending the German classes taught by Eva Kelleher. I feel like I have found a second home and family and am looking forward to many years to come.

As for my German heritage, it dates back to my grandfather Kelm's parents. I am still searching for their birthplace. I believe they lived in a town outside Berlin.

I feel very blessed with the friendship and kindness showed to me and my family in the German community.

A Christmas Memory-Tell me Yours

Shelley Arnold, Editor

As Christmas was rapidly approaching I found myself surfing, not on my phone or my computer, but



surfing through my memories. Fugitive moments from my childhood and when my three children

were small came flooding to the forefront. Memories of a five year old that was in such awe of the Christmas tree so carefully decorated by her father, the pure joy watching my small children rushing down the stairs, rubbing their eyes, knowing their hopes, feeling their anticipation, wishing their happiness....and all that pretty much hinging on the big guy remembering our address.

These memories sparked thoughts of you...yep, my German community family. What were your happiest memories? How many of us, not first generation, grew up with German traditions. What were the traditions? After all, Germany is the Christmas capital...from the Christmas markets to the food to the special Christmas decorations, what did your family bring and keep as part of their Christmas celebration? We all have a tree, but my Dad made the tree

so special. On Christmas Eve, each decoration's placement was contemplated with the strategy and thought of a chess move. While he worked the tree, my Mom worked her magic in the kitchen, preparing a feast with all of my favorite foods.

All these great memories, but my favorite, both as a child and as a mother was the Christmas service at Church. It is something about getting dressed up in your Sunday best (not done as often today) and going to church. As a child, we walked to the little church on the corner. Things did not change much over the years. As a child and as an adult with children it was the total joy of Christmas, hearing the story of the birth of Christ and singing the carols, always closing with

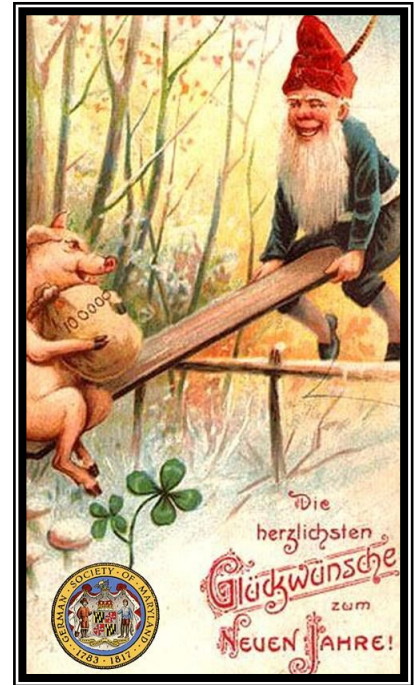


Silent Night, while feeling that warm and fulfilling feeling of belonging.

So my question to you is what is your favorite Christmas memory? What traditions do you or did your family keep? Did you put shoes out for St. Nicholas? Do your children know Krampus/Rupprecht? Did you make cookies with your Mom? What kind? Do you decorate with

schwibbogen's, pyramids, nutcrackers, smokers, etc. Tell me about it. Send me a few lines and I will publish a page next issue. It will only take a minute....and what fun you will have just thinking of the wonderful, warm and happy memories.

Send to Shelley at bnsarnold7@gmail.com



Senior Members

Dr. Armin Mruck holds the record at the GSM as our most senior member, having joined the Society in 1963, 55 short years ago. The all-time record is held by Theodore J. Potthast, Sr., who from 1940 until his death in 1998 was our most senior member. Ted, Sr., was elected to the GSM Board of Directors in 1942, the war years, and successfully served for 56 years as a director. Ted Potthast, Jr., joined in 1966 and is second among current members with respect to seniority. Ted is still an active member and has been for the past 52 years. Ted, Jr. has served as President of the Society, the GSM Treasurer and is a lifetime director.

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!**

OFFICERS

Anton Smoot-President
Dr. James D. Schaub-1st VP
Shelley Arnold-2nd VP
Maureen Helinski-Secretary
Theodore Potthast-Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Zachary Butt
Kraig Dean
Lynette Dean
Steven Harper
Gerhard Meinzer
Anton Smoot
Robert Wisch
Elizabeth K. Wittstadt
Gen. M. Hall Worthington

EX OFFICIO

President- Women's Auxiliary
Eva Maus Kelleher

LIFETIME DIRECTORS

Shelley 'Dolch' Arnold
John K. Aymold, Jr.*
Linda Butt
Dr. David Denisch
Prof. Dr. Mohamed Esa
Brigitte V. Fessenden*
Dr. Maureen Helinski
Prof. Dr. Armin Mruck
Michael J. Nieberding*
Betty Niemann
Rev. H.J.Siegfried Otto *
Paul Gerhard Otto
Bernard Penner, Esq.
Theo. J. Potthast, Jr.,Esq.*
Shirley Santora
Dr. James Schaub*
Dr. Mary Upman
Christel van der Berg
Thomas A. Werner*
Hon. Gerard W. Wittstadt
* = past president

OFFICE MANAGER

Bärbel Otto

*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.*

*This newsletter is published by The German Society of Maryland,
founded in 1783 and incorporated in 1818 by an Act of the General
Assembly of Maryland. It is a non-profit, tax exempt corporation
pursuant to the provisions of §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.*

*Please submit articles or items of interest to
Shelley Arnold, Editor at bnsarnold7@gmail.com*

The German Society of Maryland

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

Visit us on the web
www.germansociety-md.com
Dr. Maureen Helinski,
Webmaster



Find us on
Facebook