

# THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

DIE DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT VON MARYLAND

## VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

JULY-AUG., 2005

ISSUE #51

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



At the recently held AATG (American Association of Teachers of German) Students' Awards ceremony held at the Zion Church "Adlersaal" in Baltimore, I had the pleasure of congratulating this year's awards winners, including Michael Sameth of St. Paul's School for Boys, who received our "Julius Hofmann Memorial Award for Excellence in German." It was a joy to talk to some of the students - to find out why these kids were taking German, what motivates them and how they envision German language skills being useful to them in the future. The students, along with their teachers and parents, are committed to the study and promotion of the German language, which is truly appreciated!

Brigitte V. Fessenden, President

### GERMAN FESTIVAL AUGUST 19, 20, 21; VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Baltimore German Festival has been held for over 100 years, one of the oldest such events in the country. This year it will be held at Carroll Park, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 19, 20 and 21. Our Society will sponsor a cultural booth at which we will display our magnificent exhibit which traces the history of the Society and features some of our prominent members. We need volunteers to host the booth, hand out literature about our Society, greet the visitors and discuss our history and purpose. There will be 2 persons at the booth, for stints of 2 hours each. We urge you to attend the festival, and while there, volunteer to help at our exhibit. We will need about 40 volunteers. Please call our office and leave word as to what time period(s) you will be available. We will return your call to verify your schedule and time slot.

The festival will feature German food and drink, live musical entertainment, German artifacts for sale, flags, costumes, and numerous cultural booths.

Plan to attend and bring your friends. Cross your fingers that we get good weather: no rain and not too hot!

### ECUMENICAL SERVICE OCTOBER 2

Our Society, along with Zion Church and The Society for the History of the Germans in MD initiated an ecumenical service in November, 1989, just after the fall of the Berlin Wall, in thanksgiving for the freedom of the German people. Recently the date has been changed. To retain its German flavor, it is held on or close to the feast of Saint Michael, Archangel, the patron and protector of Germany.

***"The purpose of the German Society of Maryland is to preserve and promote the German heritage, language 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."***



## KALENDER

August 19-20-21 - German Festival at Carroll Park

October 2 - Annual Ecumenical Service

6 - German-American Day

8-9 - Oktoberfest at 5th Regiment Armory

November 19 - Annual Awards Banquet

26-27 - Christkindlmarkt at Zion Adlersaal

Visit the German Society's website:

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

Articles from some past newsletters are posted on our website. Dr. Maureen Helinski maintains the site.

"Pioneers in Service", the history of our Society, can now be found on our web site.

For more local German-American happenings, check the web site of the Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland: [www.md-germans.org](http://www.md-germans.org)

**GUTE BESSERUNG** to our Lifetime Director **Dan Brooke**. After attending our high school student awards program on May 23, Dan went home and suffered a heart attack. He received a pacemaker and is now well on the road to recovery. His wife, **Isolde**, has been an excellent nurse.

## ZION GERMAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL

The Zion school was founded in 1929. It operates on Saturdays from September to April. Instruction is provided for children and adults, beginners and advanced students. Tuition is \$185 for the entire year, with discounts for additional family members. Registration is September 3 and first day of class is Sept. 10.

For information, call 410-727-3939. The website is: [www.zionbaltimore.org](http://www.zionbaltimore.org) Special programs include German for Travelers; Conversation I and II; Total Immersion for Children. Video rentals for children and adults available.

Baltimore Kickers offers free German language lessons at night, held at its clubhouse on Broadway. Check the Bürgerverein website for information.

## HUMOR: THE DOCTOR WANTS TO KNOW

Ein Mann geht zum Arzt und will wissen wie er es schaffen kann, hundert Jahre alt zu werden? Der Arzt fragt ihn: "Rauchen Sie?" - "Nein" "Gehen sie zu spät in Bett?"-"Nein" Haben sie Frauengeschichten"? - "Nein" Da schüttelt der Arzt den Kopf und sagte: "Dann möchte wissen warum sie überhaupt so alt werden wollen?"

## HECHTS VISIT UNCLE IN RUSSIA

Bill and Frederike Hecht (who previously served on our Board of Directors) went to Moscow in June to visit Frederike's uncle, Hans von Ploetz, who is the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Russia. Von Ploetz was formerly the German secretary of state and formerly ambassador to Great Britain. Freddie and Bill stayed in the Ambassador's residence while in Moscow before traveling to St. Petersburg with her uncle. Frederike lived with her uncle and his family in Bonn for a year while on a high school exchange program. Her command of the German language was such that her fellow students at first assumed she was a native German.

Frederike's brother, Hans, also served as a director of our Society.

The role of the U.S. Secretary of State is divided into two roles in Germany: the foreign minister, and the secretary of state, who is in charge of the embassies throughout the world and oversees the diplomatic civil service.

## "SISTER CITY" URGED BETWEEN BALTIMORE COUNTY & OLDENBURG

Dr. Armin Mruck is seeking to create a partnership between Baltimore County, MD and the city of Oldenburg, Germany. The "sister city" program was established by President Dwight Eisenhower after World War II to try to create a closeness between Americans and Europeans. The program has been successful and has resulted in an exchange of citizens and students between the two continents. As an example, Rockville, MD has a 50-year relationship with the city of Pinneburg, Germany. Citizens from both towns visit one another, stay in each other's homes and develop close friendships. High school students often spend time in a special exchange program. One of our members, Joe Batz, is a director of the Rockville group. Baltimore County has had a long-standing sister-city program with a village in northern Italy.

Dr. Mruck pointed out that Oldenburg is an appropriate choice for Baltimore County because there already exists a long-standing program between Towson University and a university in Oldenburg, in which students from each place spend several weeks in the summer in the other's town. Several members of our Society will be hosting Oldenburg students in July. Dr. Mruck is the director of the Towson-Oldenburg academic program. He is a director of our Society. He has asked our directors to urge County Executive Jim Smith to support the proposed relationship.



## **MANY THANKS TO ...**

**Tim Reimann** for his help in the production of our newsletter. Tim has considerable experience in the printing industry and with publishing and distributing newsletters for other organizations.

## **ABOUT OUR MEMBERS:**

The memory of our deceased member, **Diane Geppi-Aikens**, is being preserved at Loyola College, where she was the women's lacrosse coach. Its athletic field has been renamed for her. The women's crew team has named its 60-foot racing shell after her. On September 23, the school will hold a 10K run for the benefit of Diane's young children. At Parkville High School, which she attended, a fund raiser of her 25th reunion class will sponsor a college scholarship named in her honor for a Parkville graduate. At the grand opening of the Maryland Sports Legends Museum on May 12, Diane's picture hung on the wall along with other Maryland hall-of-famers. including Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth. A recent Fox TV News program about Diane received an Emmy nomination for best sports documentary . The CSTV (College Sports TV) 2003 special entitled 'Season of Hope" about Diane is still being shown and it inspired the members of the Cornell U. lacrosse team to take up a collection and send \$150 to the fund set up to educate Diane's 4 young children. Diane died June 29, 2003 at age 40.

**Judge John F. Fader, II**, after resigning from the Circuit Court for Baltimore County, is on the faculty of the University of Maryland Law School. He directs the program in which law students are permitted to try court cases and learn trial procedures.

**John Potthast** supervises the audit of Canadian operations for the Public Accounting Oversight Board, a congressionally chartered agency, and has spent the past few months in Toronto, Calgary, Montreal, and Vancouver.

## **RADIO STATION SOUGHT**

The Edelweiss Club, which lost its radio program when the station broadcasting it was sold, is now seeking a new station to carry the program. So far, no luck. All of the radio stations in central Maryland are fully sold out and have no air time for new programs. Apparently the radio media is prospering while TV and newspapers are losing viewers and readers at a dramatic pace. Edelweiss, however is not giving up and continues its search for a station to carry its show.

## **WE NEED ADS FOR THE ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET PROGRAM**

The official record of our membership is published annually in the program for the annual awards banquet. The names of all our members for the current year are printed there and copies are permanently placed in our archives for posterity. To offset the printing costs and also to subsidize banquet tickets for the college students, we are soliciting ads. Some of our members take out ads to honor the memory of their family members and ancestors. Some members and friends use their business card as an ad. The program also contains space for patrons and sponsors. Please start thinking about your participation in the program. Costs and other details will be forthcoming. Remember: this is archival material and generations to come will refer to this program. It is a way to preserve the memory of you and your family.

## **OUR SOCIETY: WE'RE "COOL"**

Frommers, the international travel guide, has just listed Baltimore as one of the top ten tourist destinations in the world! And Mount Vernon Place is listed as one of Baltimore's top attractions. The German Society's office is located on the first floor of #15 Mt. Vernon Place, just a stone's throw from such venerable institutions as the Walter's Museum, the Engineer's Club, the Peabody Institute, the Maryland Historical Society, and the Washington Monument. We're in the thick of things.

## **TRAXLER PICKED AS HONOREE**

Dr. Carol Traxler has been selected to be the Society's 2005 honoree at our annual banquet. Dr. Traxler has served for several years as president of the Washington Saengerbund and is the leader of the Alpine Dancers. Both she and her husband, Dr. Herbert Traxler, are members of our Society. They reside in Maryland's Washington suburbs.

## **GIFTS URGED FOR ELEVATOR**

Our Directors urge our members to contribute to the elevator fund for the Adlersaal at Zion Church. Our Society has used this hall for nearly 100 years. It has been committed as a central point for German cultural activities. The names of individuals giving \$500 or more will be included on a placque memorializing the donors who make the elevator possible. Make your checks payable to "Zion Church - Elevator Fund"



## **OUR MEMBERS' TRAVELS**

William and John Potthast came to Baltimore from Borgholz, Westphalia in 1892. Margaret and Anna Leib came to Baltimore from Eggolsheim, Bavaria in 1895. William married Anna and John married Margaret. A few of their descendants made the pilgrimage to Eggolsheim and Borgholz to visit the cousins who remained in the Fatherland. John and Margaret's grandson, Ted Potthast, his sons, Jack and Mark and grandsons Andrew and Benjamin, are the great-grandsons of William and Anna, William K. Potthast and C. Michael Potthast made the trip June 23-July 3. They visited their cousins Manfred and family in Bavaria, Josef and family in Westphalia and Bernhard and family in Rheinland-Pfalz. **Ted, Jack and Mark** are members of our Society.

## **SCANDAL OVER SANDALS**

The estranged wife of Christian Birkenstock has formed a company to manufacture sandals in competition with her husband's family's firm, founded by cobbler Johann Birkenstock in Germany in 1774. The spouses are in court fighting over the wife's right to compete by using the Birkenstock family name. The court ruled in favor of the wife. In the USA, Birkenstock ranks third in the \$11 Billion dollar casual shoe market.

## **THE COST OF NEWSLETTERS**

Non-profit organizations throughout the country are finding it difficult to publish their newsletters due to escalating postage, printing and distribution costs. One such group notified its 11,000 readers that it had to discontinue its free newsletter and charge \$15 per year for a subscription to it. Two religious groups with Maryland ties have asked their readers to make gifts to maintain its newsletter: The St. John Neumann Foundation and the Francis Seelos Foundation (both men were pastors of St. Alphonsus Church, Baltimore).

We estimate that our newsletter costs about \$6 per year per member. One of our members, Tim Reimann, who has professional experience as a newsletter publisher, has volunteered to help us improve the quality and reduce the cost of our newsletter.

Our newsletter is included in your dues. However, we are asking that you consider making a contribution to our newsletter fund to help preserve it.

## **GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY OCT. 6**

The national organizations which operate as the German American Joint Action Committee have not yet announced how the event will be celebrated this year. The German American Friendship Garden on the Mall in Washington, D.C, where the celebrations are usually held, is closed for repairs and won't be ready by October. Our Board of Directors is considering ways in which our Society can celebrate the event.

## **DR. GERD PETRICH AND DR. HELEN PETRICH VOLUNTEER IN HAITI**

Our members, Drs. Gerd Petrich and Helen Petrich spent three weeks recently working as volunteers at a dental clinic in Haiti. Helen wrote to us and described their activities. Gerd worked with two local dentists, treating the poor Haitians and updating the dental staff of the latest techniques. Helen writes that Haiti is the poorest country in the world. The people whom they served were friendly and personally clean even though many lived in squalor. She commented that Haiti has a natural fluoride in the water which greatly helps the dental hygiene of the people. Living conditions were primitive. Some nights it was impossible to sleep due to heavy rains beating down upon the tin roof of their guest quarters of the mission in the interior where they worked. The people seldom see any white people, and there were only three at the mission: Gerd, Helen and another. Helen commented on the primitive roads. It took nearly 2 hours to drive 12 miles over roads crowded with people, pigs and goats. The language at the clinic is French. Helen acted as interpreter and also helped teaching English at the local school where the students were alert and always came to class in clean, smart uniforms.

## **DONALDSON AT SYMPOSIUM**

Our member, Prof. Randy Donaldson, lectured at the Symposium of German American Studies at Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 6. His topic: German Reformed Churches: The problem of providing churches with appropriately trained clergy in 19th century German America.

**EINSTEIN REMEMBERED:** Albert Einstein, possibly the most famous German-American, announced his theory of relativity 100 years ago this year. 2005 is the 50th anniversary of his death.





Mohamed Esa, Ralf Mildebrath (German Embassy), Brigitte Fessenden, James Schaub, Deborah McGee Mifflin (AATG Maryland/DC Metro Chapter President), Frank Wagner (Goethe-Institut Washington), Dorothy Louks (AATG Maryland/DC Metro Chapter Testing Chair), and Dandridge Brooke.

## STUDENT AWARDS PLAYS TO FULL HOUSE ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON

For the first time, the enthusiastic, happy, standing-room-only crowd of over 400 students, teachers, parents, guests and German Society members filled the Adlersaal to overflowing, on Sunday, May 22. We may have to issue tickets or find a bigger place if this year's pace continues, and we hope it will.

Both the German and Swiss embassies and the Goethe Institut of Washington sent representatives who addressed the group. The president of AATG, Dr. Deborah McGee-Mifflin of The Johns Hopkins University, along with Dorothy Louks, chairperson of the event, Brigitte Fessenden and Michael Nieberding presented the awards.

The students who won the awards, by high achievement in the national German language test, were from the following schools: Baltimore City College; Banneker Academy Sr. High School; Calvert Hall College High School; Century High School; Chesapeake High School; Dematha Catholic High School; German Language School, Washington, D.C.; German Language School of Zion; Gonzaga College High School; Harford Christian School; John Carroll School; Loyola High School; McDonogh School; Mt. Hebron High School; National Cathedral School; St. Paul's School; Wilde Lake High School; and Woodrow

Wilson High School

We are especially happy to see that the German Language School at Zion Church, a Saturday morning language school, participated in the national test for the first time this year and produced three winners. The principal of the school, Eva Maus Kelleher, is president of the Women's Auxiliary of The German Society of Maryland.

The entertainment program of poetry and song was presented by the students of all four levels of the German classes at Harford Christian School under the direction of Ms. Peggy Nickson.

The student awards event was initiated 15 years ago when our Society contacted the AATG with a proposal that we would give monetary awards to German language students who excelled in the national test of the American Society of Teachers of German. Initially 35 students qualified for awards. This year 127 students received cash prizes.

Our student awards program has received national attention. It is credited with assisting in the spread of German Language studies in schools in Maryland and metro D.C. While membership in language organizations for teachers has declined nationally, the local chapter of the AATG has shown a healthy increase.

Many thanks to Pastor Roggelin and the congregation of Zion Church for the use of the beautiful Adlersaal for the event.



## **HISTORICAL SOCIETY PLANS TO PUBLISH ITS REPORTS ON INTERNET**

Prof. Dr. Randall P. Donaldson, a member of our Society and the editor of the publications of The Society of the History of the Germans in Maryland, indicated that all of that Society's periodicals will soon be available to its members on the internet. This will include all past issues of its publication, *The Report*, from 1876 through 2005, consisting of 45 books. For anyone interested in German American history, this is a strong inducement to become a member of the historical society. If you wish to join, send your check for \$25 annual dues to: Hon. Gerard W. Wittstadt 8224 Carrbridge Circle, Towson, MD 21204.

## **HERZLICHE GRÜSSE PROGRAM PRAISED BY MARYLAND TEACHER**

Frau Shawn Rogers, a member of our Society and a German teacher at Great Mills High School in St. Mary's County, writes that she took her class to visit the language program *Herzliche Grüße* prepared by the Goethe Institute and presented at Zion's Adlersaal for three weeks in April and May. The students loved going around to the individual hands-on exhibits and experiencing the German language and culture. All 40 of her students had nothing but praise for the experience. It is a traveling exhibit which the German government sponsors and sends around the world.

## **PROPOSAL TO CREATE A HISTORY OF OUR MEMBERS & FAMILIES**

We get requests, mostly from outside Maryland, from people wanting records of their German ancestors who lived here. We don't have any such records. However, it raises the question: what can we do to preserve the memory of our members and their ancestors? We have lists of members going back to the early 1800's, but nothing to say who they were or what they did. With today's technology, it would be easy for us to create an electronic source which could be readily available on a disk or on the internet. If every one of our members would write a history of himself or herself, their family history, what part of Europe their ancestors came from and when, and their family's history in America, we could create a treasure-trove for researchers and genealogists. It would also motivate the members' own families to join in the process and to appreciate their ancestry. Such a record would be available to future generations for hundreds of years to come. Would you be willing to join such a project and write up your family history for us?

## **THANK-YOU NOTES RECEIVED FROM ZION, PRIDE OF BALTIMORE**

Excerpts from Pastor Holger Roggelin's letter:

"It is with great joy that I received the good news of the German Society's gift to support the elevator with such a generous donation of \$15,000 (\$5,000 from the Banka estate fund and \$10,000 from the Society's general fund). The elevator, in a building dedicated to offering a family home to the German American community in Baltimore, is going to be a very appropriate way of preserving the memory of Ed Banka and his unique story...And we are, of course, honored to be the recipient of the single largest gift the Society has ever made. We take it as a token of our long and valued relationship."

Linda Christenson, Esq., executive director of the *Pride of Baltimore*, wrote as follows:

"On behalf of the Board of Directors, Captains, crew and staff of the *Pride of Baltimore*, I want to thank you for your donation of \$1,000 to support *Pride of Baltimore, II* on her mission as Maryland's goodwill ambassador. Your donation enables *Pride II's* participation in the opening of the German Emigration House in Bremerhaven. This is a unique opportunity to celebrate the deep ties between Maryland and Germany...I encourage you to visit our website at [www.marylandpride.org](http://www.marylandpride.org) to stay abreast of the ship's activities and travels to Europe in 2005."

## **SISTER MARY EDWINA DAIMER, SSND, 90, DIES IN BALTIMORE**

Edwina Daimer was born in Germany, became a School Sister of Notre Dame and came to America in 1938. She died March 23 at the motherhouse in Baltimore County. After teaching in Pennsylvania and South Carolina, she came to Maryland in 1964 where she remained until her death. She taught elementary school in Hagerstown, Westminster and Elkridge.

She retired in 1995 and moved to the motherhouse where she lived with a number of other nuns from Germany, including one of our long-time loyal members, Sister Benedicta Viebeck, SSND.

## **CONDOLENCES**

The directors and members of our Society extend our deepest sympathy to our treasurer and past president, Michael J. Nieberding, on the death of his father in June. His father, Michael W. Nieberding, was a long-time member of our society and his obituary will appear in the next issue of our newsletter.



## **GERMAN AMERICAN LEADERS LAMBAST NEWS MEDIA; CHARGE SLANDER OF NEW GERMAN POPE**

The presidents of four national German American organizations signed a letter charging the news media with slander against Pope Benedict XVI and the Catholic Church. The groups were The Steuben Society (New York), German American Citizens League (Cincinnati), United German American Committee (Philadelphia) and German American National Congress (Chicago). Our society is a member of the last two groups. The letter stated:

"...we strongly condemn the anti-German and anti-Catholic remarks that have been made in the media. The defamation of the Pope because of his German heritage and Catholic faith reflect nothing short of ethnic and religious bias, as well as an ignorance of history. The expression of such views can only be viewed as hate speech, pure and simple, and are worthy of nothing less than condemnation".

The letter called upon all Americans to publicly condemn the media. Although the letter did not name the specific media, it was published in The German American Journal with other letters on the same page referring to the TV networks, The New York Times and the Washington Post.

## **RE: PRIZEFIGHTER MAX BAER**

The German-American fighter, Max Baer, is presented in the movie *Cinderella Man* as a womanizing, hedonistic galoot, a vile and malicious brute. This portrayal is magnificently rebutted in a feature article in the May 19th issue of the Sunday Sun by movie critic Michael Sragow. He relates that Baer was a fun-loving, friendly family man whose son related that Max frequently cried later in life over the fact that one of his opponents died in the ring. He fought Max Schmeling in 1933, and although Schmeling was no Nazi, Hitler touted him as his representative of Nazi might. Baer, whose paternal grandfather was a Jew, wore the star of David on his trunks in the Schmeling fight. In the 10th round, Baer said to Schmeling: "That one's for Hitler" as he knocked him down and won the fight. Mr. Sragow attacked the writer and director of the *Cinderella Man*, which is now playing in the theaters and is expected to win awards, for re-writing history. Sragow recommends, as an excellent and balanced book *James J. Braddock, Max Baer, and the Greatest Upset in Boxing History*, by Jimmy Schnaap.

## **THE GERMANS HAVE IT RIGHT**

Can you imagine an American majority party calling for early elections because they feel they have lost the support of the American people? Well, that's what German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder has just done. His Socialist party, which had controlled 11 of the 17 German states, lost 5 of them in the May elections, including that of the Socialist stronghold, Westphalia. Mr. Schröder has called for national elections a year ahead of time because he says he needs a strong backing to push through the reforms he is proposing. Wouldn't it be nice if the American politicians would offer to step down if it appeared they lost touch with the people?

## **GERMANY HOT; MARYLAND COLD**

In 2005, May was one of the wettest and coldest on record in Maryland. In Germany the people suffered through a heat wave. Our secretary, Christel van der Berg reports that her sister in Düsseldorf called her for advice on how to survive the heat. Germans seldom have heat waves and are not prepared. There is virtually no air conditioning, no fans, no screens for the windows. They just suffer.

## **SUMMER GERMAN FESTIVALS**

The Milwaukee German Festival is probably the best in the world. July 29-30-31. Five band-stands with continuous entertainment. Over 3,000 volunteers from every local German organization. Dozens of food stands and a few restaurants. "Milwaukee Festival Beer" is specially brewed for the occasion by Miller. A giant genealogy tent with many computers and volunteers to help find your ancestors. Held in the Meyer Festival Park, a mile long and 5 blocks wide, it has a ski-lift to carry you from one end to the other if you don't want to walk it. Huge roasted ears of corn on the cob, soaked in butter with a choice of tasty seasonings. Life doesn't get much better for a German American on a sunny summer day. If you want to go, book your flight now and get hotel reservations. Otherwise you'll be lucky to find a motel room 30 miles out of town. If Milwaukee's too far for you, try Kutztown, PA, north of Reading. July 2-10, Spread across the campus of Kutztown University, it features Pennsylvania Dutch Folklife: crafts, entertainment, food and quilt sales. internet: [www.kutztownfestival.com](http://www.kutztownfestival.com) - or call toll free 888-674-6736 for a brochure.



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



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## The German Society of Maryland

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ISSUE #51

JULY-AUGUST, 2005

WELCOME TO NEW  
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AT THE GERMAN  
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ARTICLE PAGE 1.

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#### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Annual dues \$15. Spouse may be included at no extra cost. Make check payable to "The German Society of MD" P.O. Box 22585, Baltimore MD 21203-4585

This newsletter is published by The German Society of Maryland, an organization founded in 1783 and incorporated in 1817 by 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. The Society is a member of Der Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland, D.A.N.K. (German American National Congress) The United German-American Committee of the USA, Inc. and other civic groups which promote German-American culture and heritage. Please submit items of interest to Theodore J. Potthast, Jr., Editor, at 1819 Leadburn Road, Towson, MD 21204-1830 or fax 410-832-2903.