

Vereinsnachrichten

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

Chapter 100, February 3, 1818

President's Message-Anton Smoot

Inside this issue:

<i>President's Message</i>	1
<i>Awards Sunday The Kalender</i>	2
<i>GSM Says Goodbye to Merl Arp</i>	3
<i>Immigration Museum Opens GMS's General Membership Meeting</i>	5
<i>Das Unterseeboot-the U-Deutschland</i>	6
<i>The German Festival 100 years ago</i>	10
<i>From the Editor</i>	11

The purpose of the German Society of Maryland is to preserve and promote the German heritage and traditions through educational, social and benevolent programs; and to develop the unity and continuity of the German American community in the State of Maryland

Liebe Mitglieder – Dear Members,

Warmer and nicer weather is finally upon us and many exciting events are on the horizon. I encourage all of our members to visit our website and plan on attending.

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 join your fellow Germans!

Last month I had the honor of being re-elected to another term as the President for the German Society of Maryland. I truly could not accomplish all that needs to be done without all of the German Society Directors, members and the support of our member organizations. I am grateful to be able to work with all of you and for your knowledge and input on a daily basis. While the German community might not be what it was 10, 20 or even 30 years

ago, I feel very positive about our future and your input is vital to our success. The German Society of Maryland continues to add new members and I would like to welcome those of you that have recently joined us. Our dedication to promote and preserve our culture, heritage and history remains as strong as ever.

This year marks an important change in the editor leadership for our newsletter. For the past several decades, Theodore J. Potthast Jr., Esq. has taken on the responsibility of getting the word out via this publication. I am ever so grateful for his long time service and I hope he enjoys his "retirement". He of course will continue to submit articles to keep us informed on what is going on in the German Community.

I would like to extend a warm welcome and a heartfelt thank you to Shelley Arnold for stepping up to the plate and taking over this extremely important duty. I am sure many of you know who Shelley is and her endless contributions to everything that is German. Shelley has set up a schedule when the



newsletter will be published and all articles need to be sent to her for review.

I once again encourage all of you to visit our website and check the calendar for all the important and exciting events that are coming up. We are a very strong organization and we not only welcome your input but encourage your participation.

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

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Anton G. Smoot
agsmoot@verizon.net
410-303-4406

Gemeinschaftskalender

July 9/10:	U-Deutschland 100th Anniversary Memorial - Nuclear Ship Savannah, Baltimore Harbor
July 23/24:	109th Annual Maryland German Festival --Timonium Fairgrounds
Sept 24/25:	Oktoberfest at Timonium Fairgrounds sponsored by Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland, of which our Society is a member
Sept. 29:	Opening of the U-Deutschland exhibit at the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore (a date set aside for our Society's members will be announced)
Oct 2:	Michelmas-Celebration of Faith and the 'Fall of the Berlin Wall'
Oct 6:	Celebration of German American Day at the G-A Friendship Garden, Washington Mall Bus trip sponsored by German Society
TBA:	Ceremonies at State House, Annapolis, honoring German born General Baron Johann deKalb, Revolutionary War Commander
Oct. 11:	Society of the History of Germans in Maryland-Annual Meeting
Oct. 26-27:	Sour Beef Event-Zion Church of the City of Baltimore
Nov. 6:	GSM Annual Awards Banquet

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

Der Wecker (G-A Forum):

<http://www.wecker.civilwarsignals.org/>

GSM Presents their Annual Scholarship Awards

By Prof. Dr. Maureen Helenski



The German Society of Maryland and the Maryland/DC Metro Chapter of the AATG joined together on Sunday, May 22, to honor outstanding Maryland students of German at an awards ceremony in Zion Church's historic Adlersaal. Parents, friends and teachers of about 75 students gathered to celebrate these achievements.

Anton Smoot, the president of the German Society, welcomed all to the ceremony. Andreas Gebert from the German Embassy, congratulated the students. This year the

German Society presented awards of \$1,000.00 each to three outstanding college students, who are majoring in German. These students are Austin Bourgerie, Thomas Harris, and Andrew Nix-

on. All three were students at UMCP. The German Society also gave awards of \$400.00 to two students who are minoring in German. These students are Jennifer Kahn from Towson University and Caleb Metcalf from UMBC. Caleb was unable to attend the ceremony.

This is the fifth year in a row that the German Society is giving an outstanding high

school student the opportunity to study in Germany during the summer with the AATG Summer Program. The winner of this year's Gerhard Meinzer Summer Scholarship is Sarah Ross, a student at Fallston High School. Sarah is an honor student as well as a member of the International Thespian Society and the Fallston Dance Company. She has chosen to study in Bonn this summer. She will live

with a German family and study at a German high school.

Next on the program was a presentation by Eleanor Young, the winner of the 2015 Gerhard Meinzer Summer Scholarship. Eleanor is a student at North County High School. She showed slides of

her stay at a school outside of Leipzig, Germany. She



showed pictures of her host family, school friends, and the many places they visited. She loved Berlin but was especially fond of Dresden.

For entertainment during the ceremony a member of the Maryland Lyric Opera, Matthew Woorman, sang several opera selections. Then Lauren Beckjord, the winner of last year's





Students gather for a Group Shot on the Adlersaal Stage

AATG Summer Trip gave her presentation. Lauren agreed with Eleanor that the culture shock was more than just the language difference, but it was still a great experience.

Part of the mission of the German Society is to support and encourage the study of German in Maryland. For

this reason the German Society has been donating \$5000.00 each year for over 20 years now, to Maryland high school students who score the highest on the National AATG German test. Marian Graham, the AATG Chapter Testing Chair, called out the names of this year's high school student

winners. The students who had scored in the 90th Percentile and above on the German Test received a certificate, medal, and a check for \$100.00. The students who scored in the 85th-89th Percentile received a certificate, medal, and a check for \$50.00. The ceremony ended with congratulations and refreshments for all.



The Society says goodbye to lifetime director, Merl Arp

Long-time German Society member and director, Merl Arp (84), passed away on March 23, 2016. Merl was a well-known and respected member of the German American community. He was asked to serve our Society in 2001 and did so willingly, becoming a lifetime director in 2011. Merl acted as the Society's representative to DANK, the German American National Congress. He served as their National Vice President. He also served as an officer of the Associated German American Societies of Greater Washington and as the editor for the newsletter for the Ameri-

can Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society. He was a certified tour guide and led tours from Schleswig-Holstein to Iowa and Iowa to Schleswig-Holstein. He was a member of the Baltimore Kickers, Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland and the Edelweiss Club.

Merl was an avid genealogist and authored a number of publications on German-American genealogy.

Merl was a native of Sheridan, Iowa, son of Elmer and Nora Arp, born on September 3, 1931. He served in the United States Air Force in the early 50s and after his discharge attended the University of Iowa (A.B., M.A.) He also attended the National Defense University. He entered the Foreign Service of the U.S. State Department and served them proudly for 28 years. As a foreign service officer for 28 years, Merl and the family experienced

notable historical milestones-lived in Kenya during the tenure of Kenya's first president, Jomo Kenyatta. In Nigeria, the family experienced the coup, counter coup and bombings related to the Biafran War. Sweden during the Vietnam War, accepted US military deserters and Merl was responsible for interacting and assisting these individuals when in crisis. The family lived in the Phillipines before and after President Marcos declared Martial law. Merl also was on the team responsible for flying into Vietnam, picking up civilian POWs, interviewing and escorting them back to the US. While living in West Germany, Merl was involved with one of the spy exchanges at Glienicke Bridge. He served in embassies and consulates in Canada, Africa, East Asia and Europe.

Merl was married to Jean (Williams) in 1957. Together they had five daughters. Merl resided in Mont-

gomery County.

In retirement, Merl and Jean travelled extensively, visiting such places as South Africa, Syria, Egypt, Russia, Montenegro, Croatia, Ireland and Germany. They were seen at all the German events and shared their passion of the culture, language and music with everyone. Their spirit and passion for adventure was contagious.

A memorial service was held on April 16th at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church. Merl was a friend to all, as was evidenced by the many attending the service, including several GSM officers and members. Siegfried Otto, past president and board member commented how the service "made him realize that Merl was a humble man who never boasted about his achievements. He loved his family and his friends. He celebrated life and was dearly loved by many people.". Merl will be deeply missed.

**Mark Your Calendar-The German Society of Maryland's Annual Awards Dinner
November 6, 2016**

News from the Society of the History of the Germans in Maryland



The SHGM has had the classic work *The Maryland Germans* by Dieter Cunz reprinted with a forward by Dr. Randall Donaldson of Loyola University. We are offering it to the German-American community for a special price of \$40. For those interested, please contact Dr. Randall Donaldson, Modern Languages and Literature, Loyola

University in Maryland, 4501 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21210. The email address is rdonaldson@loyola.edu.

Shelley Arnold, who has been involved in the history of German Marylanders, will be giving the lecture at the annual dinner meeting for the SHGM on October 11 at Zion Church. The topic will

be the history of Germans in Western Maryland with pictures of numerous historic sites. Members of the GSOM are welcome, and more details will follow. Please contact Nick Fessenden, President of the SHGM, nicholasfessenden@comcast.net or call 443-542-2263 or 410-802-9201 if you have questions.

Focus on Sudetenland

Carol Traxler will give a 90-minute power point presentation on "European Genealogical Research: Example of Sudetenland" at the PG County Genealogical Society meeting on September 7, at 7 pm.

The presentation will

include suggestions for kinds of information that will interest family members, how to go about conducting research in other languages, tools that have been helpful in her European research, and effective uses of online sources and social media.

The meeting will be held at the New Carrollton Municipal Center, 6016 Princess Garden Parkway, New Carrollton, MD. A map is attached. The sponsoring society PGCGS has a web page where the lecture is

named and a map is shown: http://pgcgs.org/Event.php?s_EventPublish=1

Meetings of the PGCGS are free and open to the public. You will be invited to become a member, but there is no obligation.

Germany's newest 100 Euro Coin

Germany's newest 100-euro gold coin honors the UNESCO World Heritage sites in Eisleben and Wittenberg, both of which are key cities in the life of reformer Martin Luther.

The coin will be released in 2017 as Germany celebrates the final year of the Luther Decade and the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.



Trip to Germany



One of GSM's members, Buck Lyon-Vaiden is ready to lead a group in Germany.

Buck has done this before and his trips are well received. They are small (only 8 persons) and travel in a van with Buck as the personal tour guide. This year's

trip will be from September 29th to October 14th and will include the cities Freudenstadt, Freiburg, Meersburg, Lindau, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Munich, Nördlingen, Rothenburg, Würzburg and Heidelberg.

If you are interested, please contact Buck at blyonvaiden@mcdonogh.org.

He will provide you with the full itinerary, maps, hotel information and costs.

Brigitte Fessenden Presides over Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Baltimore Immigration Museum

By Dr. Mary Upman



Wearing a bright fuchsia-colored blazer and carrying a striped golf umbrella to fend off a threatening downpour, Brigitte Fessenden, President of the Baltimore Immigration Memorial, Inc., organization, gathered together several members of the Board of Directors of this new museum as well as several public officials and joyfully oversaw the cutting of the ribbon to mark its Grand Opening. Located at 1308 Beason Street in Locust Point, an area with historic row-houses that have been beautifully preserved, the Baltimore

Immigration Museum is well situated to receive visitors. All of the members of the Board of Directors will serve voluntarily in order to staff the museum. It will be open from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. every Saturday and Sunday. Group tours by appointment can be arranged by sending an e-mail to bim@immigrationbaltimore.org

The opening of this valuable addition to Baltimore is particularly interesting because it is housed in the building that served as the first stopping place for many immigrants who arrived at Baltimore Harbor in the early twentieth century. The immigrants were sheltered and fed in this safe haven and were assisted in planning the next steps of their entry into this country. In some cases they were helped with clothing, shoes and money by the German Society of Maryland which was founded



in 1783 with the stated purpose of assisting newly arrived Germans to get their lives started here. In 2005 Brigitte Fessenden and her husband, Dr. Nicholas Fessenden, were guests of honor at the grand opening of the Deutsches Auswandererhaus Bremerhaven. They made many valuable connections and received helpful encouragement for the Baltimore Immigration Museum. Both the Bremerhaven museum and the new Baltimore museum illustrate the emigration from Bremerhaven and the immigration into Baltimore of people from many different nations and ethnic groups. A series of attractive text panels in the first room of the Baltimore exhibit area provides information on the general immigration history. The second room provides infor-



mation and illustrations of the history of the German, Irish, Polish, Jewish, Lithuanian, Czech, Italian and Greek immigrants who came to Baltimore.

As U. S. Senator Barbara Mikulski wrote in her certificate honoring the occasion of the Ribbon Cutting Celebration, the displays "celebrate the joys, sacrifice and hardships of the immigrants who arrived in the Port of Baltimore." We hope that you will visit the museum some weekend in the near future.

GSM's General Membership Meeting



The GSM held their Annual General Membership meeting on April 8th at Zion Church. The

meeting was preceded by a dinner catered by Old World Deli that included German meats and salads.

President Smoot opened the meeting greeting the officers, directors and members and reporting that the Society is 600 members strong. Ninety-four members attended the meeting. Our goal remains to recruit more young persons into our ranks.

He also reported on the

now established, GAV, German American Verein consisting of the Society, the Bürgerverein and the Club Fidelitas. The GAV is an organization having their own bylaws and now their own office location in Timonium.

President Smoot provided an update on upcoming events. He then allowed the chairman of the multiple committees to present their reports.

Das Unterseeboot-Deutschland (U-200) Celebrating the 100th Anniversary



The German community is buzzing about the U-Deutschland and the planned special celebrations. What exactly was the U-Deutschland? It was a blockade-breaking German cargo submarine used during World War I. The submarine was developed by the North German Lloyd Line, using private funds. The cargo capacity on the ship was 750 tons. The ship itself was 213 feet long with a top speed of 15 surface knots (about 17 mph) and 7 (about 8 mph) submerged knots. This is pretty small and pretty slow.

The 'Deutschland' was used for high value trans-Atlantic commerce, sub-

merging to avoid the British patrols. The first trip by the Deutschland, to the US, brought with it dyes, medical products and precious gemstones with an



Captain Paul König

estimated value of \$1.5 million (today's value).

The Deutschland left Bremen on a secret mission to deliver cargo to the US. It arrived in Baltimore on July 9, 1916. It was welcomed by the then mayor of Baltimore and thousands of Baltimore citizens. There was even a parade. Captain

Paul König and his crew, which consisted of four officers and twenty five

men, were treated as special guests. This special treatment was criticized by many other papers as extreme cordiality. One New York

Times reporter wrote it is "a pity that Baltimore, or rather the Mayor of Baltimore and others in that city who, as thorough going pacifists, are necessarily pro-German in their sympathies, could not give to Captain König the appreciation he deserves for a bold, successful and dramatic piece of seamanship, and at the same time refrain from exaggerating both the importance and the quality of the captain's exploit until it becomes unrecognizable to anybody who looks at it in a sensible way." He continues, "the wining and

dining of the submarine's officers and crew-the treatment of them as heroes of a colossal feat-create a feeling of irritation in parts of the country where other achievements of German submarines (making reference to the Lusitania) have not yet been forgotten, as seemingly they have been by Mayor Preston and friends". The writer of the New York Times' article goes on to justify Baltimore's welcome and closes with admiration for the brave qualities of the German character. This in no way obliterates the epitaph of unchangeable condemnation and horror written over the tomb of the Lusitania.

The cargo was unloaded and the Deutschland left Baltimore on August 1, 1916.

It was rumored that the ship left dock with large amounts of gold on board however an article in the Sun-paper on August 29, 1916 reported that the Deutschland manifest was made public at the

Custom House and on board was crude rubber, nickel and crude tin. It again avoided the British blockade. It returned to US in November 1916, docking at New London, Connecticut.

Regardless of whether you felt they were heroes or spies, everyone agreed that at no time in
(Continued on page -9-)

"My trip to Baltimore on the Deutschland is the third voyage I have made here and each trip has served to impress me more forcibly with the natural advantages which this city possesses which make it one of the leading world ports".

Captain Paul König



Food, Fun, And Live Entertainment!



116th
Annual



At The
Maryland State Fair Grounds,
Timonium, Md. In The
Air Conditioned Exhibition Hall

JULY

ADMISSION

Saturday, July 23
11:30am to 10pm
Sunday, July 24
11:30am to 6pm

Adults - \$8.00, Seniors - \$6.00
Active Military with ID - \$6.00
FREE ADMISSION:
Kids under 12 with a paying adult
When you come dressed in full tracht!

ATM available

Credit Card surcharge applies

FREE PARKING!

www.md-germans.org



Maryland Oktoberfest

Where: At the Maryland State Fair Grounds, Timonium, Maryland.

In the **air conditioned** 4H Building

When: Saturday, September 24, 2016 11:30 A.M. - 10 P.M.

Sunday, September 25, 2016 11:30 a.m. to 6 P.M.

Price: Adults \$8 Seniors and Active Military with ID \$6

*Free admission for Children under 12 with a paying adult.

*Free admission if you come dressed in full tracht

ATM available

Credit cards accepted

Surcharge applies

FREE Parking

For information visit, www.md-germans.org

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.

Mail to:

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

The Deutschland...continued from page -6-

Baltimore history did she receive such world-wide notoriety. The Deutschland’s movement through the sea was compared to a sporting event with the fox of the seas and the ocean hounds that wait to pick up her trail. Be-



cause of this and of the Deutschland’s success, Baltimore is the real mascot of commerce.

As for Captain König, he praised Baltimore. As he viewed the harbor from the roof of the Baltimore and Ohio building, he stated, “My trip to Baltimore on the Deutschland is the third voyage I have made here and each trip has served to impress me more forcibly with the natural advantages which this city possesses which make it one of the leading

world ports. On our way up the Chesapeake we sailed on top, being in friendly waters, but I had an excellent opportunity to observe the fine channel”. He continued, “Another thing which makes a lasting impression on me as I look over the city is the substantial recovery which Baltimore has made since the destructive fire in 1904. In the business district the old buildings have been replaced with modern structures. I was in New York with a vessel,” he said, “when the fire was rag-

ing here and I recall the awe which the conflagration caused in the shipping circles.”

As relations with Germany and the US deteriorated, in early 1917, the Deutschland was converted to a war vessel, U-155.

U-155 made three war cruises, sinking 43 ships. It was taken to England and placed on display as a war trophy. It was scrapped in 1921.

The German Festival-1916-100 years ago!

By Shelley Arnold

As we prepare for the 116th German Festival, we need not ask the question of whether there was a German Festival 100 years ago. What we need to ask is how has it changed? What was it like?

There was a German Festival. It was held on September 12, 1916, a mere seven months prior to the United States entering World War I on April 6, 1917. If the war had any impact on German Day, it was not apparent at that time. The event was held at River View Park, which was located at Point Breeze off of Broening Highway. The park opened in 1890 and closed in 1929. The park had a panorama that showed a 'Tour of the Alps', a swimming pool, a shooting gallery and many of the standard amusement park attractions.

The 1916 German Day was much like others in the past. Large crowds of Germans and German Americans prepared for months. This specific year, more than twenty-five thousand attended. Yes, you did read that correctly. They were expecting 30,000 but were content with the 25,000. Festivities began early in the day with bowling and shooting contests, and continued until midnight.

The special guest of honor was Governor Emerson Harrington, elected the 48th Governor of Mary-

land earlier that year. Other speakers at the event included Rev. S.G. von Bosse, pastor of Zion German Lutheran in Delaware, as well as Maryland's own Pastor Julius Hofmann, pastor of Zion Church of the City of Baltimore.

The Citizens Union sponsored a luncheon that afternoon at the Hotel Raleigh, which was attended by many dignitaries. The Union, at that time, represented 85 German Societies with total memberships of more than 10,000. They were responsible for 'German Day'. This year's festival was a major accomplishment as they celebrated not only the landing of Franz Daniel Pastorius at Germantown, PA in 1683, but also the anniversary of the defense of Fort McHenry and the repulse of the British at North Point. The luncheon was opened by Mr. Albert L. Fankhanel, president of the Union and School Commissioner. The tone of all of the speakers, including the Governor, was the loyalty of the German citizenry in Baltimore. Both Mr. Fankhanel and Pastor Hofmann's speeches were in the German language.

So what are the differences? There really is only one



CHILDREN WHO DANCED AT RIVER VIEW

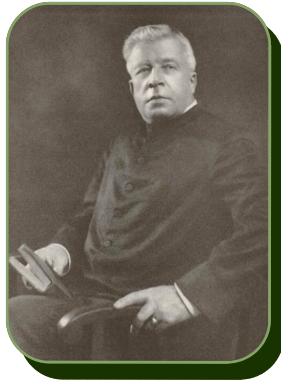
Front row, left to right—Cecilia Cassidy, Mae Smith, Edith Cox, Erma J. Zimmerman, Virginia Cox. Middle row—R. Bernadette Smith, Myrtle Lanterbach, Louise Deane, Mary McGraw, Mary Cunningham, Lillian Cain. Rear row—Loretta Pflaumora, Julia Leese, Leola Cox, Alice Pflaumora, Eva Healy, C. D. Schwab, instructor

major difference, the crowds.. we have shrunk. This could be attributed to many of our families not continuing the traditions or the language. Many German-Americans today are third, fourth, fifth generation or further removed from the immigrating ancestor. This may not have been by choice, but more by being forced into a type of 'cultural amnesia' as a result of both World Wars. Other than that...there are not too many differences. Can that be corrected? I doubt we will ever see the 25,000, but we certainly could do better than what we are. It is time to shed the shroud of amnesia and embrace the culture and language of our ancestors. Join us for our festivals. They are your festivals too. Come experience the pure delight of knowing and acknowledging your roots. You won't regret a minute!

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!

The Julius Hofmann Medal



Dr. Julius Hofmann was a prominent member of our Society, was the pastor of Zion Church and the head of its German language school. He was eminent in the educational community as a leader who strongly promoted the study of German. After he died in 1928 his friends and admirers created a fund to promote German studies in the schools of Baltimore.

The Hofmann Fund engaged the services of famous sculptor and artist, Hans Schuler, to strike a medal bearing Hofmann's image, which would be presented each year to the top German student in each city school. A very large

number of medals was purchased, so many that nearly 90 years after Hofmann's death, a few remain uncirculated.

CONTINUATION OF THE FUND

The Fund continued operating independently, with its own officers, until the late 1990's. At that time the Fund's president, Dr. Carrie May Zintl, foresaw that the survival of the Fund was in jeopardy and sought a way to preserve it. Dr. Zintl was a member of the board of Directors of our Society, the only female member. (Her father had served as head of the prestigious German department at Johns Hopkins University, and she herself was on the faculty of Hopkins and also of Mt. St. Agnes College.)

Dr. Zintl approached our Society and asked if we would take over the administration of the Fund and help preserve the memory of Julius Hofmann. Our Board of Directors agreed to undertake that obligation. The treasury of the

Fund, totaling more than \$10,000, was turned over to our Society and it remains in our custody today, co-mingled with our Education and Heritage Fund.



MEDAL DONATED BY ESTATE OF LUCY GOEDICKE

One of the students who won the Hofmann medal in the early 1940's was Lucy McLaughlin of Seton High School, then located on North Charles Street, just below Johns Hopkins University. Lucy developed a love of German and pursued its study. She became a librarian at Hopkins where she met and married Prof. Hans Goedicke, who became the head of its Egyptology Department. Hans was Austrian by birth, as received his doctorate from the University of Vienna, found his way to America and Hopkins. He and Lucy lived in the Canterbury section of town, across University Blvd from Hopkins.

They conversed in German, traveled often to Austria and Egypt together.

Both Hans and Lucy died in 2015, Hans first followed 6 months later by Lucy. Lucy's niece, Mary Beth Shane, found the medal and felt it should be given to our Society, which might have a place for it in our archives. We thank her for the gift. Her gift was delivered to our treasurer, Ted Potthast, who had served as Dr. Goedicke's personal attorney before his own retirement.

The gift serves as a reminder to our Society of its obligation to preserve the memory of Julius Hofmann. Due to the scarcity of the medals, we have awarded it only to the person selected in Maryland schools as the top German language student.

It may soon be incumbent upon us to replicate the medal and purchase enough of them to last into the indefinite future. We still have the Hofmann Fund's \$10,000 available for such a purpose.

From the Editor

The German Society of Maryland's newsletter, our Vereinsnachrichten, was first printed in 1994, when then President, Ted Potthast, thought it would be a great way to keep our membership informed. After making his plea and hearing no takers, Ted began writing and publishing the newsletter himself. We owe a great deal of gratitude to Ted for his thirty-two



years as 'Editor in Chief' of the Vereinsnachrichten. During those years he has kept us up to date on current and upcoming events as well as reminded us of those special people and events that make our heritage so important.

When I was asked to relieve Ted I really had to ponder. Having edited a German club newsletter for more than 10 years, and as a current editor of an insurance magazine I know the challenges and the time constraints, however my primary concerns was 'whether I could continue doing the exceptional job done by Ted for more than a quarter century'. Well that will be up to you, our

membership. The proof is in the pudding. I will consistently and constantly ask for your help. Do you have a historical tidbit or a story to be told? Are you interested in a specific place, food, tradition? Send me your ideas, your stories, your photos...whatever. You may reach me via email at bnsarnold7@gmail.com.

OFFICERS

Anton G. Smoot-President
Dr. James D. Schaub-1st VP
Kurt Wittstadt-2nd VP
Dr. Mary Upman-Secretary
Theodore J. Potthast, Jr.-Treasurer
Hon. Gerard Wm. Wittstadt-Counselor

DIRECTORS

Kraig Dean
Dr. Michael J. Kurtz
Gerhard Meinzer
Paul-Gerhard Otto
Shirley Santora
Anton Smoot
Kurt Wittstadt
Gen. M. Hall Worthington
Gail Zik

EX OFFICIO

President- Women's Auxiliary
Eva Maus Kelleher

LIFETIME DIRECTORS

Shelley 'Dolch' Arnold
John K. Aymold, Jr.*
Dandridge Brooke
Linda Butt
Dr. David Denisch
Prof. Dr. Mohamed Esa
Brigitte V. Fessenden*
Prof. Dr. Maureen Helinski
Prof. Dr. Armin Mruck
Michael J. Nieberding*
Betty Niemann
Rev. H.J.Siegfried Otto *
Bernard Penner, Esq.
Theo. J. Potthast, Jr.,Esq.*
Dr. James Schaub*
Irma Tillman
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 1818 by Act of the General Assembly of Maryland.
It is a non-profit, tax exempt corporation pursuant to the provi-
sions of §501c(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.*

Please submit articles or items of interest to Shelley Arnold,

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
