

President's Message-Anton Smoot

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

Liebe Mitglieder – Dear Members,

I hope this message finds all of our members well and safe. Summer has finally arrived and we are busy with planning many events over the next several months.

A complete listing of all the scheduled events for the German Society and 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!

The German Festival is just around the corner and I would like for everyone to spread the word to make this event a success. Many people put in a lot of hard work to put this together and we need to get as many people as possible to attend. Event is being held this year on July 14th & 15th at the Timonium Fairgrounds.

The German Society of Maryland has now been in existence for 235 years. And even though our mission has changed since those first days, we are continuing our goal to preserve and promote the German heritage, language, traditions and history thru several programs. I am happy to report that our society is

financially sound and that our membership is strong and growing.

The German community in Maryland faces the same issues as many other organizations across the country. Clubs are closing shop, younger people lack the time to join and volunteers are harder to find. While there are no easy answers to these challenges, it is imperative that the existing German Organizations work together to come up with solutions.

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!

The German Society of Maryland is always looking for new members that are energetic and willing to put their talents to work. I encourage all of you to spread the word of this noble and honorable organization to anyone that would like to learn more about us. As always, please feel free to email me anytime you have a need.

I encourage all of you to visit our website and check the calendar for all the im-



portant 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 event.

Mit freundlichen Grüssen,

Anton G. Smoot
President



Unser Kalender

July 14-15, 2018	German Festival-Timonium Fairgrounds
July 26, 2018	German Society Board of Directors Meeting
October 6, 2018	Friendship Garden –The Mall in DC
October 25, 2018	German Society Board of Directors Meeting
Nov. 3, 2018	German Society Banquet—Zion Church
January 24, 2019	German Society Board of Directors Meeting
April 12, 2019	GSM Annual Membership Meeting-Zion Church

Annual Meeting

The annual membership meeting of the GSM was held on Friday, April 13, 2018, at Zion. The attendance was light, but the group lively. After a nice meal, the business meeting was held, directed by Second Vice President Stephen Harper. In addition to our regular business, a motion to present a resolution, unanimously carried. The resolution thanked President Kurt Wittstadt for his year at the helm and congratulated him on his accomplishments. President Wittstadt did not run for a second term.

Also, during the business meeting, the Seegers, Robert and Ann, presented the German Society with a silver chalice, which they found in their attic. Mr. Seeger's father and grandfather were members of the Baltimore Turnverein.

The Baltimore group was



established in 1849 as 'Die sozial-demokratische Turngemeinde'. Their beginning took place at the corner of Liberty and Saratoga Street and was founded by Carl Giller, Conrad Becker, Louis

Binderwald and Adam Geyer. In 1850, their membership was 278 members. The Baltimore Turnverein acted as a social, athletic and political center for German Marylanders.

The first 'Turnfest' or convention was held in Philadelphia on October 1, 1851 and Der sozialistische Turnerbund was established as was the Turnzeitung (Turner newspaper), which reported at that time, 1072 members within 22 societies.

A national gathering was held in Baltimore in 1852.

The smaller chalice presented by the Seegers was a present from the New York Turnverein to the Baltimore Turnverein and was presented

Publication Dates:

January-March: Deadline 12/15

April-June: Deadline 3/15

July-September: Deadline 6/15

September-December: Deadline 8/15

Links:

German Society Website:

www.germansociety-md.com

Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein:

www.md-germans.org

German Marylanders:

www.germanmarylanders.org

German American Radio:

germanamericanradio.com

on September 13, 1852.

The larger chalice/goblet was given to the Liedertafel (The Turners singing society) in Baltimore by the Schillerbund New York on July 11, 1869.



Again, our many thanks to the Seegers, who are life-time members of our Society, and Mr. Seeger is one of the last surviving members of the no longer existing Baltimore Turnverein.

To read more about the Turners, see <http://www.germanmarylanders.org/clubs-societies-groups/the-turners>.

AATG Holds 2018 Awards Ceremony

On May 20th the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) held their Annual Award Ceremony. This year's ceremony was held in the historic and beautiful sanctuary of Zion Church of the City of Baltimore.

The German Society plays a significant role providing scholarships to College students studying German as both a major and a minor. Maureen Helinski, a German Society Director presented the scholarships. German Majors Nicholas Brazones and Nicholas Gross, both of the University of Maryland at College Park and Jessica Clingerman of the Catholic University received scholarships. German Minors Tusanah Marie Krauss of



McDaniel College, Lauryn Hoppers of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and Annalise Humm and Elizabeth Horstkamp, both of Towson University, also received scholarships.

Also presented at this event is the Gerhard Meinzer Summer Study Award. Gerhard Meinzer, a Director of the German Society of Maryland provides for one high school student to study in Ger-

many each year. The recipient of this year's 'Summer Study' was Moises Alvarez of DeMatha Catholic High School.

Further awards included recognition of those students achieving 85% or higher in the National German Exam. Thirteen schools and 85 representatives and their teachers received awards.

It was a very pleasant day and everyone had a wonderful time. Congratulations to the German scholars.



Scheffer, Engel, Kraemer Families

A few months ago, the German Society was contacted by Ms. Lisa Zimmerli, a descendant of German ancestors from the Baltimore area. She provided pieces of her family history in the form of baptismal, confirmation and marriage certificates, all beautifully done, many in German. She donated the colorful plates to the German Society.

The board discussed the donation, primarily because of our lack of space to store these wonderful archive materials. Our director, Linda Butt, accepted the certificates with the qualification that we would determine what we could do with them. She and her son, director Zack Butt, scanned and secured the documents. They opened up a family history file on Ancestry.com and began loading the information into a genealogy

chart so it could be viewed by other researchers. This project has resulted in 113 records being added, with the earliest being 1732. The records include births, marriages, deaths, confirmations, Bible records and photographs.

Further research led Linda to the Evangelical Lutheran Church. She is now following those leads.



Word of the Issue

Schwalbekönig

During the 2018 World Cup, one of my favorite words. The word is Schwalbekönig or 'dive king'. It actually refers to the act of a soccer player deliberately taking a 'dive' with the objective to draw a penalty kick. Such soccer players are said to mimic the dive of the swallow (known as a "Schwalbe" in German), which drops quickly in flight.



Are you committed to the German Society of Maryland? Do you feel that belonging to the German Society of Maryland is something you will enjoy throughout your life? Many of our members do. They have committed themselves to membership for their lifetime. You can do it as well. All it takes is a \$250 lifetime payment. You will then be paid in full for the balance of your natural life. Just complete the application of page 8 and send it to the office with your \$250 payment.

We wish to acknowledge those that have made this commitment to the GSM.

Jane K. Awalt
 Nicholas Bertolini
 Karen Bertolini
 Arthur E. Blenkle
 Ralph Boecker
 Karen Boecker
 Jeanne Brasefield
 Ron Brasefield
 Dandridge Brooke
 Nany Bushover
 Amos Bushover
 Joseph A. Chovan
 Claire R. Chovan
 William Deemer Class, III

A Lifetime Commitment

Angela Class
 Lynette Brooke Dean
 Kraig Dean
 Shawn Dippel
 Herbert O. Eberhart
 Timothy Endres
 Germaine DeWolfe Endres
 Claudia W. Friend
 Elizabeth Anne Goethe
 Dale D. Green
 Michelle Green
 Steven R. Harper
 Barbara K. Harper
 Dr. Maureen M. Helinski
 Bernard E. Helinski
 Branch R. Jones, Sr.
 Buck Lyon-Vaiden
 John L. Meinhardt
 Dione J. Meinhardt
 Gerhard Meinzer
 Bradford Miller
 Ingeborg Carsten Miller
 L. Robin Newcomb
 David H. Pardoe
 Elaine M. Pardoe
 Annemarie C. Pickett
 John A. Potthast

Ann A. Potthast
 Mark Potthast
 Andrew Joseph Potthast
 W. Brad Schlegel
 Col. Austin B.C. Schmidt
 Dr. Kim E.H. Schmidt
 Thomas Schneider
 Astrid Schneider
 George Schrenker
 Donna M. Whetzel
 Robert L. Seeger
 E. Anne Seeger
 George Shriver, IV
 Christine Shriver
 Kenneth A. Tabler
 Amy Unverzagt
 Sara Marie Walsh
 Katherine Elizabeth Walsh
 Robert Willasch
 Kenneth Witkin
 Kurt Dedrick Wittstadt
 Elizabeth Creamer Wittstadt
 Lynne Wittstadt

The German Society thanks you for your continued support and commitment to our Society.

Welcome New Members

Jeremy Bushyager
Clark Chandler
Christine Chandler
Linda Edwards
Jeff Faust

Marisa S. Garcia-Faust
Betsie Johnson
Ruth Jordan
Ernest Seiter



Quirks

Quirks About Americans Germans Still Can't Get Over

Thanks to the German Embassy and their Tumblr page for the following two articles. If you have traveled or lived abroad for any period of time, it isn't unusual to hit the 'cultural wall'. "It's not good. It's not bad. It's just different."

1. **The casual invite** -When a German asks you to do something, it's plan-making time. It is GOING to happen. But in American culture, saying "Let's hang out sometime!" or "We should grab coffee." doesn't always mean Americans want to set down plans.. It may just be a friendly way of saying bye.
2. **Being "invited" to something doesn't mean the same thing**-Speaking of invites, in Germany, if you are invited somewhere, it means the same as "I'm treating!" Obviously, this leads to some confusion when Germans are invited places by American friends and still end up splitting the bill.
3. **Dinner as the biggest meal**-Dinner in Germany is typically something smaller—oftentimes bread and spreads, i.e. "Abendbrot". Lunch is the heavy meal and Germans believe that gives the body enough time to digest.
4. **Individually wrapped items**-From apples to nuts, products in America are like Matryoshka dolls—every time you un-

wrap a layer of packaging there's just another one hiding under it.

5. **Drinking milk by the glass**-Milk is for mixing with cocoa and coffee.
6. **Tissues**-Tempo is God in Germany. Rivaling the American obsession with the ply-count of toilet paper, Germans use tissues that are like pillow cases for your nose and come in handy packs you keep on your person. Trying to blow your nose into anything not "durchschnupfsicher" is basically social suicide.
7. **Not using the metric system**-What is a foot even? Or a yard? From an outside perspective, this just seems like more work than converting to the metric system.
8. **Participation awards**-It seems like a bigger challenge not to get an award in the States. An award just for showing up seems like a kick in the shins to those who really tried.

Quirks About Germans Americans Still Can't Get Over

So what are those silly German quirks that we Americans seem to have the most difficulty overcoming?

1. **Wearing clothes more than once**-Generally speaking, Americans grow up somewhat fussy about germs and dirt. We carry around hand sanitizer. We carefully wash pro-

duce. We also throw into the laundry clothes we've worn for only one day. In Germany, unless you worked out in them or spilled something on them, there is no shame or stigma attached to wearing clothes again—even multiple days in a row.

2. **Greeting people with "Mahlzeit!"**-Can you imagine walking past someone at work in America and greeting them with, "Lunch!" But in Germany, this is a common way to greet coworkers during the mid-day hours.
3. **How they count on their fingers**-If you've seen the movie *Inglorious Bastards*, you are already on the up-and-up on German counting behaviors. Americans show numbers with their palm faced away from them and start with their pointer finger. Germans count with their palm faced towards them and start with their thumb.
4. **Tugging of the eye**-In America, sarcasm is best served subtly. In Germany, sarcasm is presented visually, by pulling at the bottom of an eyelid to indicate that everything you say after that is meant in jest.
5. **Fake names on social media**-Met a cool German and want to connect with them on social media? Well, GOOD LUCK. Germans tend to be more concerned about their privacy and often change their names on social media to something completely unrelated to their actual name.

Continued on page -9-



At the Maryland State Fairgrounds
 Timonium, MD.
 In the 'air conditioned' Exhibition Hall!

FREE PARKING

Featuring the
 'The Adlers Band'
 &
 'Mike Surratt & the Continentals'

Saturday, July 14
 11:30am to 10pm



Sunday, July 15
 11:30am to 6 pm

Adults: \$10.00, Seniors—\$7.00

Active Military with ID: \$7.00

ATM Available on Premises

Children under 12 FREE w/ paying adult

FREE When you come in **full tracht!**

Credit Card Surcharge Applied

More info: <http://www.md-germans.org/>

Looking for Custom Made German Society of Maryland apparel?

Look no further!



Apparel for both men and woman in a wide range of sizes, with a large selection of colors. All with the embroidered GSM Logo!

https://www.agdesignmd.com/German-Society-of-Maryland_c_117.html

Choose your size, color and quantity. It is as easy as 1-2-3 (Flat Shipping Charges will apply)

Meet Our Director – Pastor Hans Joachim Siegfried Otto



Born 1934 in Liegnitz, Silesia, I together with my mother, grandparents and baby brother was forced to flee in January

1945 afraid of the advancing Russian army. We were refugees in Bavaria. In 1951 I had the opportunity to spend a year in Skaneateles, N. Y. living on a farm with Mr. and Mrs. Harold Stanley, graduating from high school in 1952. From 1953-1958 I studied theology in Neuendettelsau at the Diaspora and Mission Seminary and the Augustana Hochschule, graduating in 1958. The same year I emigrated to Canada and concluded my studies at Luther Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. 1960 I returned to Germany and was married to Bärbel Heinrich, my wife of 58 years, my co-worker and an accomplished organist in her own right.

Our work took us from Biggar, Saskatoon to Leamington, Ontario, to

Toronto, Halifax and Montreal, Quebec. I served three parishes and was a chaplain to seamen for 14 years. In 1985 we came to Baltimore and served Zion Church of the City of Baltimore until retirement in 1999. In my retirement I worked for 18 years at St. John's Lutheran Church, Phoenix MD. We are blessed with four children: Ulrike, Paul-Gerhard, Susanne and Benjamin. Through them we enjoy six grandchildren.

I emigrated in order to serve immigrants who – as nearly two million – left war ravaged Germany to find a new home in Canada or the USA. The mission of the German Society corresponded with my professional goals:

1. to be bridge builders of cultures and languages,
2. To honor and celebrate the historic bonds, traditions and heritage that enable us to understand the past as a key to orientate our journey in the present.

The German influence in our country reached its highest point at the end of



the 19th century. Due to the World Wars when Germany was the enemy, our culture went underground with a present time re-emergence as Germany together with France are the central core of the European Union.

Most Americans I met are proud of their German heritage and the countless contributions our people have made for the growth and strength of our country. We participated in the greatness of America together with all the other immigrants from every corner of the earth. May this process never stop.

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.**

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

The German Society Picnic



Germans are ‘outdoorsy’, ‘hearty’, ‘love nature’that theory was recently tested when members gathered at Gunpowder Falls State Park in the Hammerman area on June 10th. Mother Nature wanted to see just how ‘hearty’ the German Society of Maryland’s members were. Could they still have a good time in spite of unseasonably cool, rather rainy and often windy weather? Boy, did we

show her. We enjoyed the day feasting on bratwurst, grilled by master grillers, John and Zack Butt, pot luck dishes including baked beans, macaroni and cheese, cucumber salads, potato salad and a great spread of desserts. The group enjoyed German beer and German music and Gemütlichkeit!

So take that, Mother Nature!!!





In Sympathy-Remembering Bruno 'Dutch' Niemann

Bruno George 'Dutch' Niemann

Zion Church was 'bursting' at the seams on April 28th as family and friends gathered to celebrate the life of 'Dutch' Niemann.

Dutch was born April 26, 1924 to German born parents, Bruno and Anna Niemann. He spent his early days attending local public schools where he began his studies and love for design.

Dutch took time to serve his country, serving in the U.S. Army. He arrived in Europe June 8, 1944 (DD DAY +2), serving with the Army Combat Engineers. While in Europe, his unit built Bailey bridges, repaired roads and made new directional road signs. He didn't speak much about the war, but told plenty of stories about the comradery and fellowship among the men. While in Europe he recalled driving through his mother's hometown of Marburg and wishing he had time to find his uncles, his mother's brothers. He surprised his family by coming home just before Christmas in 1945.

As a young man Dutch decided that the ministry may be a good fit and he attended the Gettysburg College. This lasted for two and half years. While at Gettysburg, Dutch was a member of their choir and became good friends with the director, Parker Wagnild. Parker, an ordained Lutheran Minister, was influential in Dutch's decision to go into the art field. He was doing well but decided, after discussion with family and professors that his direction may be in the arts. He remained strong in his faith, but began his career as a graphic artist.



He married Betty (Elisabeth Buchwald) on September 25, 1954. Betty, one of the Society's Lifetime Directors, in partnership with Dutch, raised three children, Leslie, Mark and David. The team of

Dutch and Betty were inseparable as together they worked just about every German-American function.

After their marriage, Dutch continued his studies at McCoy College at Hopkins. He was also active with many German

clubs such as Edelweiss, Baltimore Kickers, Fidelitas, the Society for the History of Germans in Maryland and of course, the Germany Society of Maryland. He served in a Board capacity of both Fidelitas and Edelweiss. He was always available to help, whether it be set up, clean up, deliver, pick up, we could always count on Dutch. Dutch was a huge influence at Zion, where he attended from the age of five. Here he was confirmed, married Betty, sang in the church choir, served on the Church Council, worked on multiple committees and served as Property Committee chairman, a very time-consuming position considering the age of the property.

Dutch was a family man and spent any spare time with the family. He took classes in woodworking and stained glass classes, both paying off in the form of some cabinets and stained glass pieces for their home.

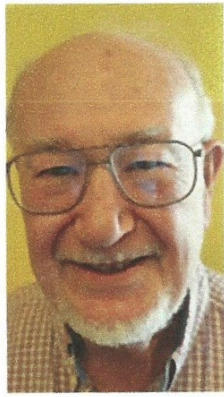
Even after retirement, Dutch enjoyed working with his hands, primarily in graphic arts. Take a look at the German Festival Flyer...the banner, a 'Dutch' original.

Quirks

Continued from page 5

7. **English is "german-o-fied"**- When Americans travel to Germany, they often expect to be fully immersed in the German language. This is not exactly the case. The German language is speckled with English words like googeln and tweeten and American music is played on the radio or at events. Dipping in and out of one's mother tongue can make it difficult to learn a new language.
 8. **Enthusiasm for carbonated beverages**-Bubbles! Bubbles everywhere and in everything! Oh, it doesn't have bubbles? Well let's mix that juice with some carbonated water.
 9. **Shoes just for the house**- House shoes, or slippers, are like normal shoes but softer and comfier. They're like something in between socks and shoes.
 10. **Frische Luft**-You finally escaped the whipping wind and cold outside. Then, across the room, someone complains about stale air and requests some frische Luft and OPENS THE WINDOW IN WINTER. Now the air is "fresh" but you are freezing.
 11. **What is going on with your beds?**-Arguably the most efficient set-up for bed-making: The pillow takes up like half of the bed and there is just one thick sheet that has its own case.
- All this said, quirks are just that—funny "shrug your shoulder" moments. We all have them. Tell us which cultural differences you find strange? Send them to me at binsarnold7@gmail.com and we will post in future issues.

Getting to Know You!



Name: David H. Pardoe

Where you live:

Ellicott City, MD
21042

What you do:

I am retired and living in a very busy retirement community. I also “do” genealogy and family history.

Your ‘German connection’

Three generations of Pardoe men married first generation German-American women. Going backward:

My father married Lydia Stephan. Her father, Robert Stephan, was born in 1868 in Wissek [now Wysoka], Wirnitz, Province of Posen, Prussia, which is now part of Poland. He along with his mother, and other relatives left Prussia and settled in Pittsburgh, PA. in 1881. His father had died in Prussia. He, the father, Daniel Stephan, was born in 1817 in Mlotkowo, Wirnitz, Posen, Prussia, and his wife, Wilhelmina Frederica Wraase, was born in 1822 in Wissek, Province of Posen, Prussia. She died in Pittsburgh. The families were in Posen, Prussia for generations.

My grandfather, Robert Pardoe, married Birdie Jennetta Sedicum, whose father, Benjamin T. Sedicum, was born in Quakenbrück, Hannover. He was baptized Bernhard Diedrich Johann Suedekum in 1929. He came to Maryland with his parents in 1832. The family name in Maryland evolved and ended up as Sedicum. At the time of his naturalization, Bernhard “adopted” the name Benjamin. I think of it as his “American name.” His father, George Christoph Ernst Suedekum, was born in Ramelsloh, Hannover, and his father, Christoph Heinrich August Suedekum, was a corporal of the Lüneburgisches Landregiment stationed at Ramelsloh, Hannover.

My great-grandfather, Joseph L. Pardoe, was born and raised in Calvert County, Maryland, but he and an older brother moved to Baltimore in the 1850’s. During the Civil War, he served in the Union Navy on the flag ship of Admiral David G. Farragut, and after the war he worked for the B&O Railroad and met his future wife near the Relay Station. His wife was Annie Louise Treuth, whose family lived in Avalon, which is now in the Patapsco River Valley State Park, although their home was up from the river on Gun Road and thereby escaped the flood of 1868. The house is still there.

Annie’s parents were Johann Ernest Treuth, although the name in Hesse-Darmstadt was Treut. The “H” was added in Maryland. Johann Ernest was born in Eckartshausen, Hesse-Darmstadt in 1809 and his wife, Margaret Hopp, was born in Langendiebach, Hesse-Kassel in 1816. They came to Maryland with Margaret’s parents in 1840.

How long a member of the GSM:

I really do not know for sure, but my copy of Pioneers in Service has my note February 28, 1997, so that may be when I joined. I became a Life Member at some point.

Your Hobbies

I have been an avid “birder” for many years, but I am also retired from the National Wildlife Federation, and I served for almost 9 years on the Board of the National Audubon Society. I was also the first Chair of the Board of Audubon Maryland-D.C., the state office of National Audubon, 2000-2005. I am primarily a conservationist.

Birding, conservation, and genealogy-family history have occupied a lot of my life.

I have also very much enjoyed investigating the culinary wonders of Europe and other parts of the world, and cooking has given me---and others---a lot of enjoyment. I spent years attempting to re-create my grandmother’s potato dumpings, which I finally accomplished. German cuisine is very enjoyable.

The German View of Prohibition

Karl A. M. Scholtz was president of the German Society from 1924 until his death in 1941, His formal education ceased at age eleven when his father became an invalid and Karl had to go to work. He was an avid reader and in those days a person could "read the law", take the bar examination and become a lawyer, which Karl did in 1895. In 1932, during prohibition, he wrote his opinion of the law which deprived him of his beer, to his fellow directors of a building association, as follows:

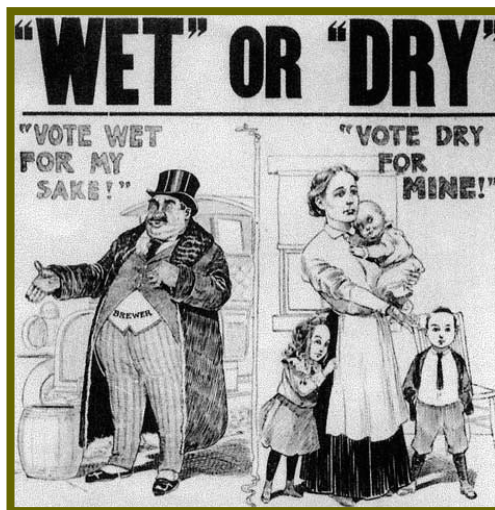
"One of the myths constantly dished up by the ardent advocates of forced morals is that the "saloon" of yesteryear was grossly vile, inherently wicked and something to be shunned by men and angels, for there the devil lurked to lure good men and true from home and mother. Maybe so, but the writer has spent many an agreeable hour with sage companions in philosophic discourse or in cheerful song over a seidel of beer, while others, equally low and de-

generate, were busily engaged in cards and slate in a reprehensible game of skat, pinochle or the like iniquity. For such was the diversion of the directors of our Bauverein after business was done... The good Frau at home knew exactly where her mate was and that she need not fear, but that he

would come home right side up. Those were the good old days before the Mucker had come into power with his claims of being the mouthpiece and agent of God Al-

mighty."

Source: Obituary from the 1942 Report of the Society for the History of Germans in Maryland. To see the entire obituary, see <http://loyolanotredamelib.org/php/report05/articles/pdfs/Report25Memoriamp34-40.pdf>.



Our Mission Statement

The present Mission Statement of the German Society was framed at a "Convention" held in February of 1994, on a Saturday at the Elks Hall in Towson, MD, attended by our Directors and many members. Many of those in attendance are still active in our Society: Jane Awalt, John Aymold, Brigitte Fessenden, Michael Nieberding, Siegfried Otto, Theodore Potthast, Jr., Mark Potthast, Judge Gerard Wittstadt. Theodore Potthast, Jr. was then President, shortly thereafter; he instituted the Newsletter, known as "The Vereinsnachrichten".

After nearly 25 years it is time to take another look at our Mission, we have not placed any emphasis on publicizing the 235 year history of the Society and making our goals known to the public. That should probably be added to our Mission.

FREE STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS

We encourage all students from first grade through university level to become student members of our Society. Email their name, grade or level, and name of the school to the Society at germansociety@verizon.net and stating that you wish to become a student member. This is FREE. **NO ANNUAL DUES WITH VALID EMAIL ADDRESS!**

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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.*

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pursuant to the provisions of §501c(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.*

*Please submit articles or items of interest to
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