

THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

DIE DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT VON MARYLAND

VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

JULY, 2007

ISSUE #58

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FESSENDEN VISITS BREMERHAVEN TO PROMOTE SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH BALTIMORE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Baltimore-Bremerhaven Sister Cities Committee and Mayor Sheila Dixon's Office of International Affairs, I visited various Bremerhaven officials, including its Mayor Jeorg Schulz, discussing and exploring the idea of a sister city relationship between the two cities. On behalf of Mayor Dixon I presented Mayor Schulz a crystal candy dish engraved with the Baltimore City seal, as well as a 15-star American flag commemorating the War of 1812. Both presents were highly appreciated by the recipient!

Cultural, educational and tourism industry exchanges would be established between our high schools, universities, research and science institutions, museums, churches and possibly our port administrations. Committees on both sides are now in the process of talking to various stakeholders, and to come up with a program that would be beneficial to everybody involved.

Mayor Jeorg Schulz has now been invited by our Mayor and our Sister Cities Committee to visit Baltimore, which he is planning to do in the near future. At that time

(hopefully in the spring of 2008) it is planned that a Sister City Agreement between the two cities will be signed by the two mayors.

HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS

112 Maryland high schoolers who are studying German took the National German proficiency exam and were ranked in percentiles from 85 to 99.. This sets a record and is an increase of 16 over last year's total. The German Society began a program of providing cash awards through the American Association of Teachers of German to encourage excellence in German studies at the high school level. The Society received national honors for its efforts in promoting the study of German among young people.

Our Society contributed the sum of \$5,000 to the AATG for the students awards. We also provided refreshments at the event.

COME TO THE 107TH GERMAN FESTIVAL

The 107th Maryland German Festival will be held at the Timonium Fairgrounds on Saturday and Sunday, July 28 and 29. Our Society will present our exhibit and maintain a booth at the festival. If you would like to volunteer to work the booth, please sign up by calling Brigitte Fessenden (410-532-7581) or Ted Potthast (410-828-8137). We still need a few workers to help pass our literature.

KALENDER

July 28-29 German Festival

Nov. 3 Annual Awards Banquet

March 28, 2008 Annual meeting: Friday after Easter

Visit the German Society's website:

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

LADIES' AUXILIARY CELEBRATES ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

The members of the Ladies' Auxiliary of The German Society of Maryland met in the parish hall of Zion Church on April 17 to celebrate the 90th anniversary of its founding. The Auxiliary supports the works of our Society. The President of the Auxiliary, is a member of our Board of Directors, ex officio. The current president is Eva Maus Kelleher, who is also the principal of the German Language School at Zion.

MEMBERS HOST GERMAN STUDENTS AT TOWSONO U.

High school students, both boys and girls from the vicinity of Bremerhaven, Germany are attending classes at Towson University this summer. Many of the students are spending a week in the homes of our members as part of a program to give the students a look at life in an American family.

DR. MRUCK FEATURED IN JEWISH TIMES: "UNCOMMON BOND"

Our vice-president, Dr. Armin Mruck, was featured in the May issue of the Jewish Times in an article entitled "Uncommon Bond". The topic was two native Germans, one from Osterode/East Prussia, the other from Mannheim, Palatinate. Armin Mruck served in the German Luftwaffe; Alfred Strauss, having fled Germany because of persecution for his Jewish faith, served in the British and U.S. Intelligence (which brought him back to Germany after the war as part of the Occupation Force. Both later found their way to

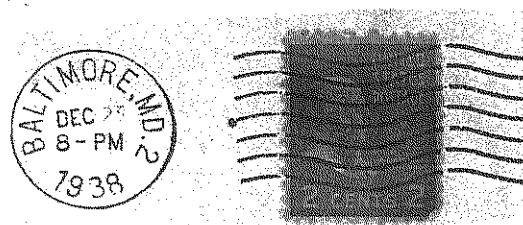
Baltimore County where, in the 1990's, they became friends. They engage in a weekly Kaffeeklatsch, usually in the Reisterstown home of Dr. Mruck.

MRUCK WILL PLAY ROLE IN FORGING GERMAN RELATIONSHIP

Dr. Mruck for the past 20 years has played a major role in a partnership between Towson University and the Carl von Ossietzky Universität of Oldenburg. A plan is underway to extend an academic relationship between Baltimore County and Oldenburg-North West Germany. A delegation led by State Minister of Science and Culture of the Federal State of Lower Saxony (Germany) Lutz Statman, Bildungs-minister of Lower Saxony is visiting Baltimore County, Washington, D.C., Annapolis and Baltimore City July 19-23. The delegation will include the mayor of the City of Oldenburg, Dr. Gerd Schwandner and representatives of the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg and additional members of the State Department of Science and Culture. The delegation will also study the Maryland university systems to review possible applications for the North West German system. The delegation hopes to meet with members of our Society. In October a group of 15 officials and faculty of the Carl von Ossietzky Universität will visit Towson to study the functioning of a typical public U. S. university. Dr. Mruck has served on the faculty of both Towson University and Carl von Ossietzky University.

Dr. Mruck and President Fessenden hosted a small reception for members of the delegation in the Society's office on Mt. Vernon Place on July 21.

DUES INCREASE SET FOR 2008



In 1938 the Society's dues were \$10 and it cost 2¢ to mail a newsletter. Postage is now 41¢, over 20 times the 1938 price. Don't worry: the new dues won't be \$200, only \$25 per year. We are also hoping for some donations to our newsletter fund so we can restore our publication to 6 issues per year.

SOCIETY MAKES AWARDS TO FOUR MARYLAND COLLEGE STUDENT

The Society selected four college students majoring in German language studies to receive cash awards of \$500 each and presented the awards to them at our annual membership meeting on April 13. The students each addressed our membership and thanked us for the grant. Two of the students will be using the funds for study in Germany this summer and the other two plan to use it to help pay for their tuition. The students receiving the grants were: Sophie Burton, Stephen Paul and Lucy Erikson from the University of Maryland, College Park, and Brittany Grasser from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. The awards were based upon high grades (3.4 or higher GPA) and other strict criteria. Dr. Armin Mruck, one of our directors, introduced the students and made the presentations.

BOARD & COMMITTEE SCHEDULES

The Society's Board of Directors meets every three months in the board room at Edenwald in Towson on the last Thursday of the quarter; except that the April meeting takes place on the second Thursday after the annual membership meeting. (The annual meeting of members is always the Friday after Easter.) The directors' meetings for the upcoming year are:

July 26, 2007
October 25, 2007
January 31, 2008
April 11, 2008

The Executive Committee meets between the board meetings on a monthly basis. ...

The Executive Committee conducts the operations of the Society during the time in between the meetings of the directors. The members of the Executive Committee are all past presidents of the Society, one member elected by the directors and one member appointed by the President. The president is, ex officio, a member of every committee of the Society.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REVIEWS INVESTMENTS, SEEKS CHANGES

The Society's investment tradition involved the finance committee making the selecting of our investment, supported by the advice of a broker. Two years ago the committee turned over the investment discretion to a group operating within the framework of the Merrill,

Lynch brokerage firm and, in essence, abandoned the committee's supervisory duties. Recently the committee reviewed that decision and decided to return to our previous investment policy by which the committee would re-assume its obligations for the investments of the Society's assets. The members of the finance committee consist of directors Merl Arp, Theodore Potthast and Charles Wunder. The Society's president is, ex officio, a committee member.

CONGRATULATIONS

...to the children of St. Augustine's Church in Elkridge, MD for their activities in celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the parish. It was founded by Father John Neumann, an immigrant from Bavaria who is now canonized as a Catholic saint.

...to our lifetime director, **JOHN AYMOLD** upon the May 30th arrival of his new grandson, Nathan Thomas Forney.

...to our former director, **MARK POTTHAST** who bid for the title of the German Society's champion fisherman by catching a 450 pound, 103 inch marlin on May 2.

APOLOGIES...Our lifetime directors were omitted from the list of officers and directors in the last issue of the newsletter, by mistake. Sorry. Please forgive us.

AWARDS BANQUET NOVEMBER 3

Nominations for our honoree being accepted by banquet committee chairman, Dr. Mohamed Esa. Each year we honor a marylander whose ancestors immigrated from a german speaking country, who has made a significant contribution to our community state or nation, or who has advanced and preserved the german heritage. Send your nomination to our office by mail or call the office and leave your message on our answering machine.

GERMAN AMERICAN STAGE NAMES

Doris von Kappelhoff
Edward Albert Heimberger
John Freund
Ethel Zimmerman
Donna Belle Mullenger
Mary Kaumeyer
Henry John Deutschendorf
Frederick Austerlitz
Alexandria Zuck

Doris Day
Eddie Albert
John Forsythe
Ethel Merman
Donna Reed
Dorothy Lamour
John Denver
Fred Astaire
Sandra Dee

GERMAN NAMES IN MD. NEWS

Many of our younger members did not grow up in a society in which people were aware of the ethnic backgrounds of their friends and neighbors. To help familiarize the young folks with Germanic names, we have taken items from the newspapers which feature the doings of German Americans:

Sadie and Blanche **ADLER**, Claribel and Etta **COHN**, Mary **FRICK JACOBS** - three of the seven wings of the Baltimore Museum of Art are named after these female philanthropists who made major gifts to the museum.

Sister Mary Germana **STRASSBERGER** died June 24 at age 96. Born Helen Strassberger, she took the name Germana upon entering the convent after graduating from Seton High School in Baltimore. She taught in many grade schools in Maryland and retired from the job as librarian of Mercy High School..

Carl **VERSTANDIG**, CEO of Pikesville-based America's Realty, announced that the firm bought 60-year-old Edmondson Village, Baltimore's first suburban shopping center for \$14,000,000.

Need a horse? Call Carl **ZIMMERMAN**, a manager at the Assateague Island National Seashore park. The wild horse herd needs to be thinned. It is overeating the grasses and destroying habitat for other animals.

Columnist Fred **RASMUSSEN** recently wrote in the Baltimore Sun that Joseph **MEYERHOFF**, Baltimore philanthropist, has more buildings and institutions named for him in Israel than he does in Baltimore.

The director of the Symphony Orchestra in Hagerstown, MD is in its 25th year of operations and has as its current director Elizabeth **SCHULZE**, the first female to lead the orchestra. She previously served as a director for regional orchestras in Iowa and Wisconsin.

Kilmer S. **BORTZ**, a WWII naval aviator, died at his home in Lutherville on June 27 at age 87. As a dive bomber pilot in the naval battle of Leyte off the Phillipines, he sunk the battleship Musachi and inflicted heavy damage on the aircraft carrier Chiyoda, later sunk by a US cruiser. He received numerous decorations for bravery in battle.

Barbara **REINKEN** gave 70 horses the run of her farm on Sharpsburg, MD but could not care for them, ran afoul of the law and had to give them up for adoption through a Washington County animal agency.

SCHAEFER, IF ELECTED, WOULD HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR FREE

Had our member, Don Schaefer, been reelected to the office of comptroller of MD, his salary would have been less than the pension to which he is now entitled. It was recently reported that his pensions for 50 years of public service (Baltimore City Council, council president, mayor, governor of MD and comptroller of MD) will pay him over \$180,000. substantially more than the salary as comptroller. It sometimes happens that judges will retire early, often because the judicial pension is nearly equal to a judge's salary. Since the pension of a retired judge goes up whenever the sitting judges get a raise, some retired judges are actually getting more from their pension than their salary while they were judging. An Austrian American serving as governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger, has waived his salary and is the only governor in the USA serving for free.

SIGN IN STORE WINDOW: "ENGLISH SPOKEN HERE"

You might expect to see this in a foreign tourist city, or even in Cuban dominated Miami or in Mexican East Los Angeles -- but not in Herman, Missouri. That town was so dominated by German immigrants in 1840 the the shopkeeper had to put the sign in the window to entice "Americans" to walk through the door, so reported world traveler and author Friedrich Gerstäcker (born Hamburg 1816, died Braunschwei 1872).

MENCKEN ON U.S. PRESIDENTS

Henry L. Mencken, our Society's most famous member, is one of the most well-known literary figures of his age and was known as "The Sage of Baltimore." He wrote 31 books, was editor of several magazines, was a newspaper reporter, editorial write and a columnist. In his columns he wrote scathingly of nearly all of the presidents of the United States. His was disgusted with Franklin Roosevelt's philosophy and wrote that Roosevelt thought "government was a milch cow with 125,000,000 teats." He thought that voters constantly elected a succession of dumber presidents. His widely quoted opinion was that "On some great and glorious day the plain folks of the land will reach their heart's desire at last, and the White House will be adorned by a downright moron." Today's politicians should be grateful that Mencken is no longer around.

German names in the news **LOCAL PASTOR HONORED**

Rev. Francis Xavier Seelos, who served as pastor of St. Alphonsus Church in Baltimore and at St. Mary's Church in Annapolis, was honored at the 19th annual Francis Seelos Day in New Orleans on April 29th. Seelos was born in Fussen, Bavaria, studied in Germany for the priesthood, joined the Redemptorist religious order and was ordained a priest in Baltimore. He spent more than 12 years as a priest in Maryland, but died in New Orleans of a plague after serving there for a year. A shrine is maintained at his burial place there, at the Seelos Center. The center is devoted to promoting his case for canonization by the Catholic church. Statues of Seelos stand in New Orleans and in Annapolis. He is also honored in ceremonies at St. Alphonsus church in Baltimore.

MEMBERS' ACTIVATES **IRMA TILLMAN ON NATIONAL TV**

Lifetime director Irma Tillman was featured on the CBS morning show last month along with the business she founded, Canine Fitness Center, Inc. The center is the brainchild of Irma and her daughter, Lynn, who operate it with a dozen employees, caring for the health of dogs. It contains two canine swimming pools used for rehabilitation, exercise and weight loss, and features treadmills and other health equipment. Lynn had a talking role in the 5-minute film feature, while Irma's hands and legs appeared handling dogs in the TV segment. To see the center in action, check its website: caninefitnesscenter.com and click the link to ABC TV.

BOB & LOUISE GAY TO DELAWARE

Bob Gay, a former director and chairman of many of our Society's committees, has moved with his wife, Louise, to Bridgeville, Delaware. We sorely miss his leadership. Bob and Louise return to Baltimore once per month to perform duties at the Shrine of St. Jude on Paca Street. He is planning to attend the German Festival and hopes to see our members there.

OHME ON GARDENING

Wolfgang Ohme, a long-time member of our Society and an honoree at an awards banquet, was interviewed at the Towson Garden Day celebrations: the weather was wet and chilly. A Baltimore Sun reporter wrote:

"One person had no problem at all with the contusions. Wolfgang Oehme is the architect who designed the Towson Courthouse gardens. He's been known to tend the public gardens in the middle of the night and host weeding parties on his birthday. 'The weather is great' he said. 'It's good for plants. They need cooler weather to get established.'" Wolfgang is a world-renown authority on landscape architecture. He has recently had assignments designing parks in Germany.

GERMAN NAMES PROMINENT ON LACROSSE TEAM ROSTERS

The national college championship playoffs took place in Baltimore on Memorial Day, featuring Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University against the #1 ranked Duke University. Over 48,000 attended that cliffhanger which Hopkins won 12-11, as Hopkins goalie Jesse Schwartzman made a "save" in the last 7 seconds, thus clinching the game for the Maryland team. German names were prominent on both teams' rosters: Hopkins (8) - Koesterer, Schwartzman, Doneger, Kimmel, Zerlaud, Duer, Tedeschl and Heholt; Duke (7) - Clute; Goldberg; Krom; Loftus; Mayer; Schoeffel and Schroeder. Lacrosse, a sport invented by American Indians and until recently confined to East Coast Colleges, has now spread across the USA, with many western and mid-west schools participating in the national tournaments. It has even become popular in Australia, but to our knowledge, there are no lacrosse leagues in Germany. It competes with jousting as Maryland's official sport.

OUR SOCIETY'S FINANCES

The Society's investments fared well in the first half of 2007, producing a modest increase in market value; however, income remained insufficient to allow the expansion of the works of the Society, as hoped for by the Directors. We are still in need of contributions both for educational projects and operating expenses. The Society plans to publish a song book by the end of this year; the publication will be paid for out of our reserves, with the expectation that it will produce income to reimburse the treasury and possibly generate a modest gain. The Society's intent is to preserve its principal and use investment income, combined with dues and donations, for education and operations. The treasurer makes quarterly reports to the directors and an annual report to the members on the state of the finances of the Society.

107TH ANNUAL



WWW.MD-GERMANS.ORG

German Festival

MARYLAND STATE FAIR GROUNDS • TIMONIUM

Admission...

ADULTS...	\$5 ⁰⁰
SENIORS...	\$4 ⁰⁰
CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE WITH PAYING ADULT	

JULY
 SATURDAY - SUNDAY
28TH - 29TH
 11:30 to 10 11:30 to 8

SHELLEY ARNOLD, NEW DIRECTOR, BRINGS BUSINESS EXPERTISE

Shelley Arnold was elected a director at the annual meeting of the Society in April. She brings to the job a background in the insurance industry. Since 1990 she has served as the executive vice president of the Independent Insurance Agents of Maryland. Previously she served as the manager of several insurance firms.



She has served on the Board of Directors of the Insurance Women of Baltimore and on various legislative and professional committees for the industry. Currently she lectures and conducts seminars on many aspects of the insurance business and received the President's Award for Outstanding Educational Achievement and the Insurance Institute of America's Award for Academic Excellence. She was named not only the "Insurance Woman of the Year" but twice received the award for "Insurance Man of the Year." She was appointed to the National AICPCU/IIA National Registry of Outstanding Course Leaders.

Shelley lives in Baltimore with her husband of 35 years, Bill. They have three children, David, Carie and Rebekah and seven grandchildren: Brendan, Kaitlyn, Kyrsten, Brian, Kenny, Mason and Lukas. Her hobbies are genealogy, German language and culture and traveling.

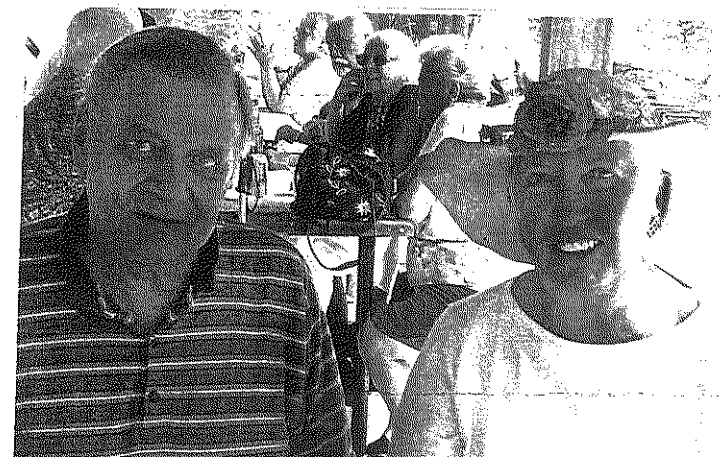
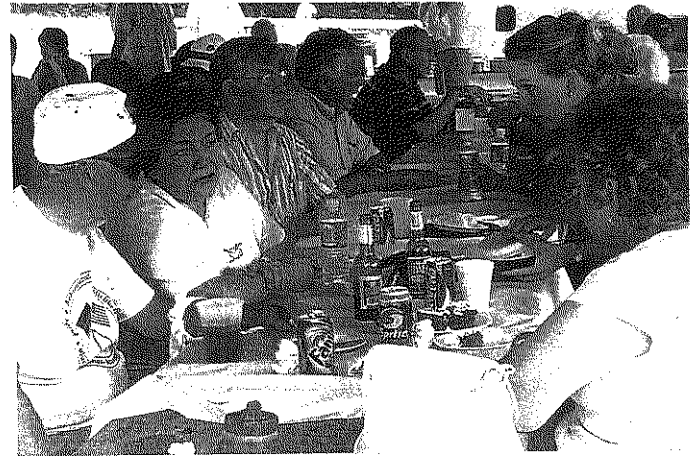
Shelley recently visited relatives in the town of Borgholz in Westphalia.

FIVE-SECOND RULE SUPPORTED

Molly Goettsch and a friend, both 2007 graduates in cellular and molecular biology at Connecticut College, conducted experiments to prove the validity of the "5-second rule" (i.e. it's safe to eat food that falls on the floor if you pick it up within 5 seconds.) They verified the rule in a project for their microbiology class. That's good enough for us!

ANNUAL PICNIC WAS FUN

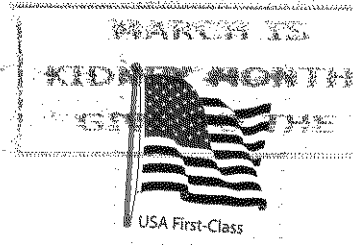
Our picnic on June 2 at Oregon Ridge Park drew a spirited group of our members, who left with smiley faces and full tummies and asking for a repeat next year. The weather favored the event; the German folk music was bright and lively. Catering by Old World Deli met their usual high standards. Special thanks and appreciation go to our director, Tom Werner, for organizing this event.



The German Society of Maryland
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BALTIMORE MD 212

24 JUL 2007 PM 2 L



Maureen M. Helinski
22 Glenmore Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21206

JULY, 2007

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**MISSION
STATEMENT**

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.

**GERMAN FESTIVAL JULY 28-29
SEE NOTICE PAGE 6**

GERMAN SONGBOOK

Music has always been a glue for holding traditions together. Our society is working to publish a songbook for children, oldsters and everyone in between. It will recall our roots. It will create happy memories for children.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We want new members to help preserve Maryland's German heritage and help promote the traditions of our ancestors.

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.