

# The German Society of Maryland

## Vereinsnachrichten

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

*Chapter 100, February 3, 1818*

**Issue 118 July 2020**

### *President's Message-Shelley Arnold*

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#### Greetings

I hope everyone is healthy and in good spirits during these challenging times. As a Society, we are moving forward. In May, your Board of Directors met and elected new officers. Your new officers bring a variety of talents and strengths to help lead the Society over the next year. I am honored to be part of that group and thank them and you for trusting me with the task of leading the Society forward.

The other officers elected were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Kraig Dean
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Zachary Butt
- Treasurer: Anton Smoot
- Secretary: Shirley Santora

Four directors were elected to serve a three year term. They were Kraig Dean, Lynette Dean, Zachary Butt and Brig. Gen. M. Hall Worthington. They will serve until 2023. If you are interested in service on our Board of Directors, please let us know. It would entail a three year commitment and 4 meetings per year. This is a great opportunity to get involved.

Things are vastly different than in the past. COVID 19 has changed how we live, work and play. Many of our functions have been cancelled and have not been rescheduled. This means that many of our meet-

ings and functions will need to be redesigned with an emphasis on safety. The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors are already meeting via Zoom. This becomes more difficult the larger the group. Our Annual meeting in April was cancelled and you will be receiving a 'State of the Society' update from us in the near future. Sadly some of our favorite parts of this season will not be. Besides our Annual meeting and the AATG Awards day, cancelled are the events Zion's Brats & Beer, Maifest, German school and the Sour Beef dinner; Kickers Shrimp Feast, German classes and monthly dinners; Edelweiss trips, monthly dinners, picnic and bi-weekly luncheons. It is also with sadness that we report both the German Festival as well as the Christkindlmarkt have also been cancelled. Many with plans to visit Germany have had to cancel plans, especially if visiting the Oktoberfest, which was also cancelled. We need to stay strong at this time and keep in mind that we 'are in this together'. It is mind-boggling to think in terms of an international crisis. All around the world, we are in this together.



At this time, we are still planning on our German American Day at the Ballpark. The event was rescheduled to August 23<sup>rd</sup>. This should be a wonderful Sunday afternoon and who isn't ready to get out and enjoy America's favorite pastime.

The ballgame was the idea of one of our members and ideas are exactly what we need from you. Tell us, keeping in mind the restrictions and perimeters with COVID 19, what should we as a Society do? How should we gather? How can we communicate better? What events can we begin to review and possibly plan? Let us know how everything is going in your life. Stay in touch. You may email the Society at [german@germansociety-md.com](mailto:german@germansociety-md.com).

I look forward to hearing from you. We are in this together, so let's move forward together!

*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*

## Unser Kalender

June 25	Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM Zoom
June 26	Bürgerverein Board Meeting	7:00 PM Zoom
July 22	Board Meeting	7:30 Details TBD
August 23	German-American Day at the Ballpark	Harry Groves Stadium 12:00 noon
August 27	Executive Committee Meeting	Zoom Details TBD
September 24	Executive Committee Meeting	Zoom Details TBD
October 6	German-American Friendship Garden	TBD
October 28	Board Meeting	TBD
November 7	Annual Banquet	Zion Church Details to Follow
November 19	Executive Committee	TBD

**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](http://www.germansociety-md.com)  
**Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein:**  
[www.md-germans.org](http://www.md-germans.org)  
**German Marylanders:**  
[www.germanmarylanders.org](http://www.germanmarylanders.org)  
**German American Radio:**  
[germanamericanradio.com](http://germanamericanradio.com)

### Celebrating 10 Years

## The German American Heritage Museum

German-Americans have a long and proud history in the United States dating all the way back to 1607 and the settlement of Jamestown, Virginia. Approximately 120 years ago, they were the predominant group



Americans, famous or not, have left a mark, and even today, Americans of German descent still number some 45 million people, and we want to ensure that their stories are not forgotten.

in the country with 'Little Germanies' everywhere and New York City being the world's third largest German-speaking city -- after Berlin and Vienna. Entire communities, spreading from Pennsylvania to the Midwest and all the way to rural Texas, consisted almost exclusively of German immigrants and their children. Names like famous piano maker Steinway, whose first products were made by Heinrich Steinweg, Boeing, company founder Bill Boeing was the son of a German immigrant, Henry John Heinz, who built a fortune inventing ketchup, and many others represent some well-known German-Americans whose creative spirit, dedication to hard work, and entrepreneurship helped build the United States. All German-

The collection, recording, preservation, and exhibiting of this rich cultural legacy has been our mission, since we first opened our doors in March 2010, and we are proud to make this important aspect of American history available to audiences of all ages. We want to recognize and sincerely thank all of you who have helped us succeed and continue to do so, but especially former GAHF President Bernd Deichman, who was instrumental in the acquisition of Hockemeyer Hall (see <https://gahmusa.org/hockemeyer-hall/>), and **Walter Lehmann** who spearheaded donor recognition efforts for the historic building's purchase.

History doesn't end, and neither does our work. We have created a special 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 'Virtual Tour' at <https://gahmusa.org/10-years->

[gahm/?pk\\_campaign=newsletter\\_???label.doc-type.AANLIssue???\\_2020\\_05\\_28&pk\\_kw=teaser\\_Look+Back+on+10+Years+of+the+German-American+Heritage+Museum+in+DC.](https://gahmusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/40-year-anniversary-brochure_FINAL_compressed.pdf) The exhibits are sorted by date and include all of the exhibits displayed at our museum. We hope you enjoy this online journey back in time.

While 2020, is the 10th anniversary of our museum, our foundation, turned 40 in 2017. View the 40th Anniversary Booklet for the German-American Heritage Foundation by going to [https://gahmusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/40-year-anniversary-brochure\\_FINAL\\_compressed.pdf](https://gahmusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/40-year-anniversary-brochure_FINAL_compressed.pdf). This may be downloaded and read at your convenience.

*Source: Press Release: German American Heritage Museum*

## *GSM Awards Scholarships*

*By Maureen Helinski*

Although the GSM/AATG Award Ceremony for May 2020 had to be cancelled because of the Coronavirus, the GSM will still present cash awards to college students from Maryland who excel in their study of German as a major or minor.

This year cash awards of \$1000.00 will go to Anna Kuhn of McDaniel College and Agnieszka Bieganowska the University of Maryland: College Park, who are majoring in German. Anna Kuhn has a double major in German and Biology. Her German instructor Dr. Mohamed Esa, says she is "one of the best students he has ever had." Anna is sad to be one of the last students in the German program at McDaniel College.

Agnieszka has a double major of German and Russian. She grew

up in a Polish speaking household and realized early that languages opened doors for communication with others. She would like to become a translator and help people across the world reach understanding with one another. Julie Koser of the University of Maryland said, "Agnes "exemplifies all the qualities we look for and hope to instill in German majors at the university level."

Awards of \$500.00 each will go to two outstanding students who are minoring in German. One student is Caroline Pugh from the University of Maryland; College Park. Caroline wants to study medicine and has Biological Sciences as her major. Caroline loves German and has had the opportunity to study in Germany with The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program. Her German pro-

fessor Dr. Josh Alvizu says Caroline is "one of the most talented students he has ever had the opportunity to teach."

The other student receiving a \$500.00 check as a German minor is James Eberwein of Towson University. James has a major of Business Administration with an interest in International business. His instructor at Towson, Dr. Annette Budzinski-Luftig says he is: "one of the most passionate and dedicated students I have met at Towson University. He is not only passionate about German culture and very knowledgeable about German history, he is also one of the most critical thinkers I have taught".

## *Institute of Notre Dame Closing after 171 Years*



Early May brought us more bad news as we learned of the closing of the Institute of Notre Dame High School at the end of June 2020. The school located at Aisquith Street and Ashland Avenue, will close after 171 years.

According to school leaders, a 43% decline in enrollment over the past five years, along with years of financial hardship and the school's need for millions of dollars in repairs forced the decision to shut down.

The private all-girls school was established by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. They made their trip to

the United States at the request of King Ludwig I of Bavaria. On July 31, 1847, six set sail for the US. Mother Teresa of Jesus (Karoline Gerhardinger), the Reverend Mother and Sister Mary Caroline (Josephine Friess) arrived in the U.S. in New York and set out for St. Mary's in Pennsylvania. Not happy there and no suitable spot for a motherhouse, they left for Baltimore and founded a motherhouse near St. James Church. In a short time, the three sisters had assumed the charge of St. James, St. Alphonsus and St. Michael's schools, Redemptorist schools. IND was the first SSND School in the U.S. Their schools have spread all over the United States. The exact beginning of IND is not known for certain, but is

usually placed around 1849.

They outgrew the original school and on September 8, 1862, the foundation was laid for the new school. Later extensions to the school included a chapel, auditorium, more classrooms, as well as music and art studios.

The private all-girls school has a rich history in Baltimore. It will be missed by many including this editor's family. We watched two daughters grow at and graduate from the Institute of Notre Dame.

There are hopes that the school will have some type of closing ceremony, much of this contingent on the path of Corona. We will keep you informed.

## Let's Party at a Schützen Park

Well, the winter weather has finally moved on and we are experiencing the warm, often hot, summer season. Close your eyes and imagine being transported back to about 1850 and everyone meeting for an event at the Schützen Park. What is a Schützen Park?

Schützen Parks in Baltimore were established by the Germans in the mid 1850's. Most of the Germans were recently emigrated and most of the clubs were founded on the pooled resources of the new arrivals. They were established just outside the city limits as Schützenvereine...or shooting clubs. They became well established as more and more German immigrants arrived.

The parks would often host elaborate contests such as target shooting (both gun and archery), bowling competitions, etc. The grounds featured gardens, bowling alleys, dining halls, formal ballrooms, cottages, bars and of course, beer gardens.

One of the first parks was located out Gay Street and was called the Eastern Schützen Park. The Germans in Baltimore established this park as a Schützenverein or shooting club in the 1850s. Matches were held here between local and visiting teams and the records of the marksmen preserved. Here, in addition to the target range, the facilities included a bowling alley, dining hall, ballroom, billiard tables and summertime accommodations for family picnics.

The park was located on forty-five acres and included several gar-



dens. Festivals were held here on a regular basis and often drew crowds of 50,000+ on the weekends. There were multiple pavilions, tents and tables.

The park was located on Belair Road, now Gay Street in Baltimore City. This was just blocks away from the Weissner, Rost's, Jacob Seeger's and Bauernschmidt Breweries who were more than happy to provide refreshments and featured their own beer gardens and music pavilions. The architects of the park were Lupus & Roby and in 1871 there were 800 members. The public was often charged for entry. Even though the clubs were for Germans and those of German ancestry, the parks were often open to the public for special events. There were many special events often lasting many days. The special events provided entertainment and hands on fun for children, while providing concerts and classic balls for adults. Almost every evening ended with fireworks. .

Every year a Schützenfest was held here where a 'König' (King) and 'Königin' (Queen) were crowned for the year. The Königin did not shoot, but was chosen by the president of the Club. It was a great day of

festivities.

The Eastern Schützen sold most of their property in 1897. The mansion and banquet hall formerly owned by the Eastern Schützen Park Company was purchased by the Simpson-Doeller Company and was converted into a label printing establishment. The mansion was erected around 1800 and was the home of George Appold. (Baltimore Sunpaper, February 27,

1897)

Not to be outdone, the Germans on the Southwest side founded their Schützen Park. Many of you have visited this park, not as a Schützen, but where the German Festival celebrated for many years (up until 2008), namely Carroll Park. This was the South-Western Schützen Park. Carroll Park itself was Baltimore's third country landscape park (after Druid Hill and Patterson Parks). Located in southwest Baltimore, Carroll Park is 117 acres. Originally part of the Mount Clare estate of Charles Carroll, Barrister. The park includes one of the oldest Federal style mansions still standing in Baltimore City. In the 30 years prior to becoming a park, the area surrounding Mt. Clare was leased from the Carroll's and became Southwestern Schützen Park-a private recreation area used by German immigrants in Baltimore.

The Park was also called the Western Schützen and its' inaugural procession was held on August 1, 1871. It included a huge parade that wove its way through Baltimore from Mechanics Hall to the park, which was at that time was located in the Southwestern  
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## KRIMSKRAM

### Germany Embassy thanks the Heroes working with COVID

The German Embassy's 'Thanks Heroes' campaign was a way for the Embassy to give back to the medical professionals that are helping keep our communities safe. Deputy Chief of Mission, Ricklef Beutin stated that almost 2,000 lunches were delivered to George Washington University Hospital and the United Medical Center in DC. What a great way to thank those heroes that show they care every day.

### Cancellations due to COVID

The following are several annual events that have had to be cancelled due to COVID. They will be missed.

- German Society Picnic
- German Festival
- Zion's Sour Beef Dinner
- Zion's/Kickers Christkindlmarkt

Moving forward, the following have not been cancelled as of this writing:

- German-American Day at Park
- German Day –Washington DC
- SHGM Annual Dinner
- GSM's Annual Banquet

*Schützen, cont'd from page 4-* suburbs. There were so many events including singing competitions joined by the many Baltimore choirs, amusements, etc. The first medals awarded to shooters that day include Charles Lemkuhl-Gold; Mr. Kramer of Baltimore and Mr. Beyer of Washington who vied the next morning for the other medal. The women Mrs. Mosaner, Mrs. Nolte, Mrs. Wm. Eckhardt, Mrs. Dietrach, Mrs. K. Eckhardt, Mrs. Vetter, Mrs. J. Eckhardt, Mrs. Kroh, Mrs. Horst, Mrs. Heisemann, Mrs. Carle, Mrs. Friede. (Sunpaper, August 1, 1871, Page 4).

The park offered a pastoral setting with carriageways, pedestrian walks and was planted with trees, shrubs, and flower beds. It also included a picturesque Victorian conservatory. What a great memory...if we could only.....

## *German as a Foreign Language—In Demand*

With 100 million native speakers, German is the most widely spoken language in Europe. Some 15.4 million people are learning German as a foreign language. A new survey has shed light on where people are learning German around the world.

Whether in Europe, Africa or Asia, ever more people are learning German as a foreign language with 15.4 million people in total. The largest number of German learners is to be found in Poland. With some two million people, the country has the most students of German. France and Russia also feature among the countries where more than one million people are learning the German language. And these numbers are rising. Since 2015, both countries have recorded

an increase of 16 and 18 percent respectively. In three of Germany's neighboring countries, there are also more people learning German as compared with 2015: in Denmark (+62 percent), the Netherlands (+30 percent) and Czechia (+4 percent).

This was the outcome of a survey by the Goethe-Institut, the German Academic Exchange Service and the Federal Office of Administration – Central Agency for Schools Abroad, which is conducted every five years to research how many people learn German as a foreign language worldwide.

Michelle Müntefering, Minister of State for International Cultural Policy, presented the results of the survey today at a virtual panel discussion together with the Go-

ethe-Institut, Deutsche Welle and German learners from all around the world.

Minister of State Müntefering issued the following statement in this regard: "Learning German enables people abroad to establish a long-term relationship with a cosmopolitan Germany. For us, this is not an end in itself as teaching the German language opens doors. It affords access not only to an excellent university system, but also to a labour market in need of qualified professionals with knowledge of the German language. Moreover, the German schools abroad and the PASCH schools are an investment in good relations between our societies. At the end of the day, these ties often last a lifetime!"

## COVID-19 Update

COVID-19 has changed our lives. Terms like 'new norm' are this decades new buzzwords, but some new words of necessity have been introduced into our vocabulary.

Your Board of Directors have been actively working on ways to maintain communications and keep our Society strong. Meetings via Zoom have been successful and effective. We now have a new committee that will be charged with maintaining the communications with our members. Facebook is one of our Social media measures and if you haven't logged in and 'Liked' the page, please do so. All events and special announcements will be posted here as well as our website at <https://www.germansociety-md.com/>. You will also see new Instagram and Twitter feeds from the GSM.

When the time comes that we can gather again, we will follow all CDC and local government guidelines and suggestions. Our goal is to keep our members healthy and safe, but keep them informed. We will all be very happy when we can gather and declare a big 'Prost'. Until that time, however, please feel free to contact us and make sure you follow us on the website and all of our social media channels.

### COVID-19 Vocabulary

ansteckend – contagious
das Ansteckungsrisiko – risk of contagion
die Epidemie – epidemic
die Pandemie – pandemic
der Ausbruch – outbreak
verbreiten - spread
die Übertragung – transmission
der Todesfall – fatality
die Abriegelung – cordoning off
die Selbstisolierung – self-isolation
der Impfstoff – vaccine
Toilettenpapierhamsterer-toilet paper hoarder
Antikörpertest-Antibody test
Systemrelevant-Relevant workers, essential employees
Kontaktnachverfolgung-Contact tracking
Herdenimmunität-herd immunity
Heimquarantäne-Home quarantine
Maskenpflicht-Mask requirement
Geisterspiel-Ghost game-no fans in the seats
Ambulanzfieber-Fever clinic
Behelfsmundschutz-Temporary protection, makeshift mouth guard
Spuckschutzscheibe-anti-spit screen
abgesagte Veranstaltungen – cancelled events
Kurzarbeit-an unemployment insurance benefit

### COVID-19 Numbers (as of June 12, 2020)

Location	Total Cases	Recovered	Deaths	Cases per 1M
Worldwide	7,273,958	2,571,797	413,372	935
United States	2,070,199	622,124	115,665	6,282
Germany	186,928	171,522	8,853	2,248
Austria	17,064	15,985	675	1,917
Switzerland	31,063	28,800	1,677	3,618

## COVID-19 FAQs and Advice

CDC Symptoms and How to Protect Yourself: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Tips for Going Out (Mayo Clinic) <https://newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org/discussion/covid-19-tips-for-going-out-again/>

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (Univeristy of Maryland) <https://www.umaryland.edu/coronavirus/faq/>

Guidelines for Opening Up American Again <https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/>

Maryland Department of Health COVID-19 Maryland Stats and Facts <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/>



**Reverend G. Richard Dimler, S.J.** -Father Dimler passed away on April 14, 2020, from COVID-19. He was the only Catholic priest to have served as a member of the Board of

Directors of the German Society of Maryland. He was the son of George and Gertrude (Kelly).

Rev. Dimler grew up on Edgewood Street in West Baltimore and attended St. Bernardine's Grammar School and later graduated from Loyola HS. He entered the Jesuit Order in 1950, studied philosophy and theology at Woodstock in Baltimore and in Innsbruck, Austria. He taught German at Loyola for three years as a seminarian. Rev. Dimler obtained his doctorate in Germanic Studies at UCLA and was a professor of German at Fordham University. He taught at Fordham for more than 30 years.

As a German scholar, he published articles in learned journals, the list of which fills 22 pages. During the summer vacations, he became an historian and an adventurer. He researched Jesuit emblems of the 1500's and 1600's, published three books on emblems and visited dozens of libraries and universities throughout Europe. He also served as a chaplain on cruise ships, traveling around the world.

He returned to Baltimore and lived at the Jesuit retirement home on Roland Avenue.

He was a life-long friend of director Theodore Potthast. The Dimlers lived across the alley from the Potthasts. Gertrude and Marie Potthast became close friends, putting their infant sons, Dick and Ted, in diapers on

the grass in the backyard to play together. They walked to St. Bernardine's grammar school together, took four trolleys and a bus together to get to Loyola High and even joined one another in the Jesuit seminary. As president of the German Society, Ted brought Dick aboard as a member and when he moved back to Baltimore, nominated him as a director.

He is survived by two brothers, David and Thomas and two sisters, Jane Marx and Barbara Frey. His sister, Clair Roth predeceased him.



**Cherie Loustaunau-**Cherie, wife of past board member Michael J. Kurtz, passed away on November 21, 2019 from complications of pancreatic cancer. She was a graduate of Georgetown University's

School of Foreign Service and their Graduate School in 1979 with a Masters' degree in Economics.

Ms. Loustaunau had a distinguished career in the International Trade Administration in the U.S Department of Commerce for over 44 years, retiring as Director of the Office of the Middle East.

Ms. Loustaunau was a certified Maryland Master Gardner and was devoted to promoting native plants, shrubs and trees to strengthen the natural environment. She will be remembered for her beautiful garden at her home. She loved classical music and was long-time subscriber to the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra. She was also a life-time member in the Anne Arundel Women's Giving Circle, and service as vice president and president of the International Club of Annapolis.

Ms. Loustaunau is survived by her husband Michael J.Kurtz, sister Renee, brother Jeff and several nieces and nephews.



**Edgar McLain:** Mr. McLain passed away on October 23, 2019 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born on January 28, 1942 in Baltimore, MD

and was the son of the late Charles and Edith McLain.

Mr. McLain graduated from Baltimore City College in 1960. He joined the 175<sup>th</sup> Maryland Air National Guard. He retired from the Guard in 2002 as Lieutenant Colonel.

Besides the German Society of Maryland, Mr. McLain was a member of the Pythagoras Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of MD, and a Boumi Temple Shriner. He was a lifetime member of the Hampstead American Legion Post 200.

He is survived by his wife, Jackie, of 51 years and daughters Michelle Herget and Lisa, and son Scott. He is also survived by three grandchildren. He was predeceased by his sister Charlene and Scott and brother, Daniel.



**Helmut O. Guenschel:** Mr. Guenschel died on March 1, 2020. Born to Albrecht and Johanna and raised in Dresden, Germany,

he attended the public schools in his native city. He was a witness to the Dresden bombings that killed an estimated 25,000 people. When the war ended he entered the Schulen für Holz und Gestaltung (Schools for Wood and Design) in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. It was here he learned the trade and pathed his future.

Mr. Guenschel made a tour of the US in 1950, confirming his desire and dream to become an American citizen. He arrived in New York in the 50s with \$20 in his pocket. It was with this money, he purchased a Greyhound ticket to Baltimore. Initially he boarded at the YMCA and worked installing wood interiors in the captains quarters on steamships. During this time, he also perfected his English. It was then he took a job with Protzman Brothers, a wood-working firm, where he became a draftsman.

Mr. Guenschel earned his BS in civil engineering in 1962 from the  
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University of Maryland, College Park. After his graduation, he took a position with Ellicott Machine Corp. selling dredges in Africa.

It was in 1964 that he established the Helmut Guenschel, Inc., manufacturing firm. It was initially located on Highland Avenue, moving in the 70s to Middle River. The firm manufactured 'high quality' display cases, cabinets and modular exhibition systems. His wife, vice president of the firm, stated he was a master of detail.

The JHU Gazette article described Mr. Guenschel as a 'veritable Picasso of museum display cases, and his signature patented design: concealed door hinges that provide a compression seal, capable of holding 1000-pound glass panels.'

His work is seen in many fine museums, stadiums, universities and the like. Cases designed by Mr. Guenschel have been used to display the Gutenberg Bible, the gun that Wilkes used to shoot Lincoln and even the historic jerseys of the New York Yankees. His daughter said some of his favorite clients were the U.S. Capital Visitor Center, Army Corps of Engineers, the National Museum of the Marine Corps, and the National Archives and the Secret Service.

Besides his membership in the German Society of Maryland, he was a member and former board member of the Architectural Woodwork Institute. He was a ham radio buff, enjoyed photography and was a staunch IT guy.

He is survived by his wife Magdalena (Hugel), daughter Nessie Harvy

and daughter Andrea Guenschel. He is also survived by seven grandchildren.

**Rowland Edwin King:** Long-time member, Mr. King died on March 5, 2020. Mr. King, son of Robert and Viola (Weinberger) was born in Baltimore and lived in the Hamilton area. He attended St. Dominic School, Mount Saint Joseph High School and attended Johns Hopkins University. At JHU, Roland signed a baseball contract with his hometown Orioles. He played third base and was moved to pitcher when another third baseman named Brooks came along. He was a life-long Oriole fan. He returned to JHU and received his BS in civil and mechanical engineering. Long-time member, Mr. King died on March 5, 2020. Mr. King worked for the Baltimore Gas & Electric Company, retiring in 1997. He also worked from 1965 to 1973 for the National Brewing Company.

Mr. King was one of the owners of Sliders Bar & Grille at Camden Yards from 1997 to 2002. Besides his membership in the German Society of Maryland, he was a board member of the Transportation Association Partnership of Baltimore County and was board chair of the Babe Ruth Birthplace.

He is survived by his wife, Eleanor (Cronin), three sons, Kelly P., James R, and John F. and two daughters Mary Jeanne Frank and Mary

Kathryn Bell. He is also survived by 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Theodore Krug-**Theodore 'Ted'



Krug passed away on May 18, 2020. He was a resident of New Oxford, PA. Ted was born on October 24, 1926 in Baltimore. He was the son of the late Theodore A. and Elizabeth Ann (LaMotte) Krug.

He retired from one of Baltimore's oldest businesses, the G. Krug and Son Ironworks, in 1990. He was President of the firm at the time of his retirement. The firm established in 1810 as Merker & Krug and in 1871 renamed to G. Krug & Son. Baltimore is adorned with Krug ironwork including Otterbein Church, Zion Church, Baltimore's Washington Monument, Basilica of the Assumption, the Baltimore Zoo, Hopkins Hospital, University of Maryland Hospital and many more.

A cut-out of the blacksmith's anvil still hangs above their door at 415 W. Saratoga Street. It is on the register of historic landmarks.

G. Krug and Sons were awarded the German Society's Achievement Award, the highest honor, in 2007.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Barbara and four sons, Theodore J. Krug, Stephen N. Krug, Peter M.L. Krug and Paul M. Krug. He is also survived by 12 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and one sister, Ann Dentry.

## Gewohnheitstier!

Are you a creature of habit? Do you wake up at the same time every day, eat the same meal every morning, take the same route to work – and like it that way? If so, Germans would call you a *Ge-*

*wohnheitstier!*

The word *Gewohnheit* roughly translates to "habit" and *Tier* means "animal". A *Gewohnheitstier* is someone that's a so-called "habit animal" that lives the same

routine every day, by choice. This type of person hates change and strives to maintain a certain lifestyle.



## *Read the Early History of Our Society*

The German Society of Maryland was founded in 1783. In 1909 the President of The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland, Louis P. Hennighausen wrote "History of The German Society of Maryland". It is very interesting reading. It contains compilations of lists of our membership down through the ages as well as our Officers and Directors.

The book is available online, totally free. You can read it on your computer screen or you can download it and print yourself a hard copy. Simply go to Google.com and type "History of The German Society of Maryland by Louis P. Hennighausen", 204 pages. It will show as the very first search result and give you the chance to "read now" for free. You can also download the PDF.

In October 2019, Amazon.com republished the book and has made it available online. A hard backed copy is \$25, but you can get a paperback for only \$7, a bargain of a price.

Our history was updated through the 1950s by a booklet written by Klaus Wust and titled, "Pioneers in Service". It was last printed in 1983. You can go to The German Society of Maryland's website and read it on your screen or download it to print your own

copy.

Our Board of Directors has not updated the Society's history for the past 50 or more years. Hopefully, one of these days, our Directors will realize how important it is to issue a publication to bring our history up to date.

**Save the Date**  
**November 7, 2020**  
**GSM's 237th Annual Banquet**

*Stay tuned. If it becomes necessary to cancel, we will advise. Until that time, however, plan to attend...*



**When:**

August 23, 2020

**Time:**

Noon (Game begins at 1PM)

**Where:**

Harry Grove Stadium  
 Home of the Frederick Keys  
 21 Stadium Drive  
 Frederick, MD. 21703  
 (301)662-0013

**Cost:**

\$30 Adults & Children over 12  
 \$25 Children 3-12

**FREE** Children under 3

**Price Includes:** Tickets to the game and food during to include hot dogs, hamburgers, pulled pork, cole-slau, chips, watermelon, lemonade, iced tea and Pepsi products. Alcohol will be available for purchase.

Children will have access and unlimited play at playground and on the Merry-Go-Round and Moon Bounce.

**To Pay:**

*Send check made payable to German Society of Maryland, P.O. Box 22585, Baltimore, MD. 21209-4585*

*Or*

*Use Paypal:  
<https://www.germansociety-md.com/contact.html>*

**MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE!  
 DEADLINE: AUGUST 14, 2020**

## ***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](mailto:germansociety@verizon.net) and stating that you wish to become a student member. This is FREE. **NO ANNUAL DUES WITH VALID EMAIL ADDRESS!**

# 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

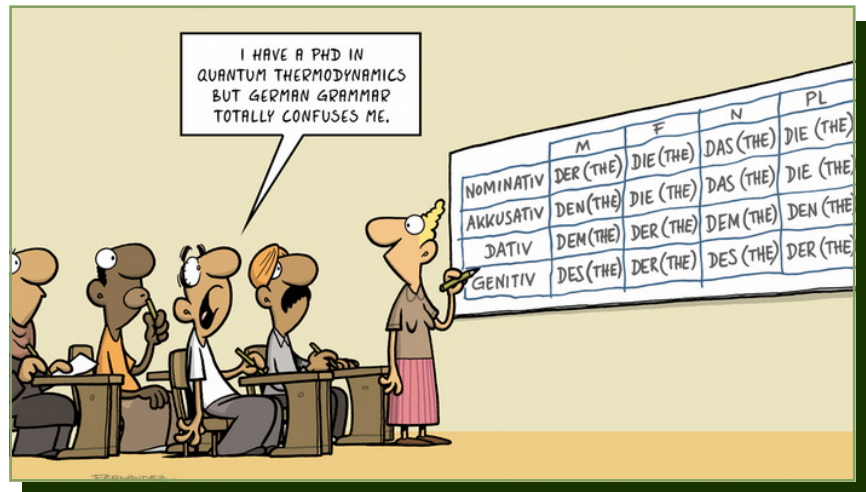
**Mail to:**

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



## Welcome New Member

*Adam Sampson*



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](mailto:germansociety@verizon.net).

This action alone saves paper and postage costs.

You may then print the Vereinsnachrichten in full color.



### Ken Witkin

Mr. Witkin was born in New York to German parents. His father, Otto von Willke, born in Berlin, was an official at the Third Reich Foreign Ministry in Berlin. His Jewish mother, Mona (nee: Schlesinger) was born in Berlin, but her family was from Vienna, Austria. His mother's family was completely exterminated by the Hitler Regime in WWII. The couple emigrated to Switzerland in 1937 and finally to the US in 1938. His parents divorced and his mother remarried Louis Witkin of New York City.

Mr. Witkin, being born to a German family, reads and writes German. He spent his adult life in service to the United States. In 1988 he retired from the Air Force with the rank of Command Chief Master Sergeant. He came out of retirement in 1991 to serve during Desert Storm. During his 34-year career (31 years active and 3 years in the New York National Guard), he was stationed abroad for about 15 years and has been in Keflavik, Iceland; RAF Mildenhall Airport, England; Rhein Main Airport, Frankfurt am, West Germany; Tempelhof Airport, West Berlin, Germany; Saigon, Southern Vietnam; Hickam Airport, Honolulu, Hawaii; Udorn Airport, Thailand and NATO Airport, Geilenkirchen, West Germany. He also served from 1960 to 1963 as an English-German on-board interpreter for the East German refugees who flew from West Berlin to Frankfurt on an almost daily basis. He was also on board the first Allied aircraft that flew over the Wall on August 13, 1961.

Mr. Witkin has returned to Germany many times and continues to maintain relationships throughout Germany.

Mr. Witkin has a website with some great photos of his military career. See <http://abccassociation.org/kengallery.html>. I would suggest you review this site to learn more about his service with NATO, Air Force 2, and much more. Mr. Witkin is also an amateur radio operator and is the webmaster of maintains a website der Sauerkrautrunde (auf Deutsch) for

those that share his hobby. That address is <http://www.abccassociation.org/diesauerkrautrunde.html>.

Mr. Witkin moved to Maryland in 1977 and currently resides in Fort Washington.

### Craig R. Piette



My name is Craig R. Piette and I have lived in the Baltimore area since 1963. I have taught high school social studies in public and non-public schools

for 30 years; everything from AP courses to Level-5 Special Needs kids. I currently teach at a Department of Juvenile Services lockdown for girls 13-18 who have made poor choices; it is our goal to give them academic tools and a vision for success. In addition, I have owned and operated a landscape service for 44 years, full and part-time. I enjoy both.

As far as my German connection, 3 of 4 Grandparents were first generation American and some of my most vivid childhood memories involved my "tyrannical" paternal Grandfather; he was strict, to say the least. Told me work was my plight in life and I'd better get used to it. Thankfully, I have. Other than membership, my only real German activity is eating brats with sauerkraut and spicy mustard with a side of warm German potato salad. Once in a blue moon, I'll find a restaurant with sour beef, dumplings, red cabbage and dark German rye...living like a King. Wash them all down with a good stout and I'm a happy fella.

I will retire soon I think, which will allow more time to spoil my Grandkids (I will not be a tyrant), lose golf balls and fish.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

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Bärbel Otto

*Past newsletters are posted on our website, [www.germansociety-md.com](http://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](http://www.md-germans.org) or [www.GermanMarylanders.org](http://www.GermanMarylanders.org).*

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*Please submit articles or items of interest to  
Shelley Arnold, Editor at [bsarnold7@gmail.com](mailto:bsarnold7@gmail.com)*

## The German Society of Maryland

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Dr. Maureen Helinski,  
Webmaster



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