

THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

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VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

JUNE/JULY 2009 ISSUE #68

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GERMAN FESTIVAL AT TIMONIUM JULY 25-26

We need volunteers to staff our booth at the Baltimore German Festival, held the last weekend of July at the Timonium Fairgrounds. It is the oldest continuous German festival in the USA, now in its 109th year. The event promotes German-American culture and heritage via exhibits, music, hand-outs, costumes, music, food, drink and folk dancing. The booths are under the grandstands, protected against the weather. We need you to hand out literature and membership applications and to talk to the visitors. You'll have fun talking to the fair-goers. They bring plenty of knowledge and, while you spread information, you learn a lot from the visitors. It is a fun job.

We ask you to sign up to spend two hours at our booth on Saturday or Sunday.

Walt Mathers is in charge of scheduling. Contact Walt to volunteer: His phone: 410-768-3162. His e-mail address: whirlygigger@msn.com.

PRESIDENT SCHAUB WRITES FROM BERLIN

Dr. James Schaub represented the United States Dept. of Agriculture in Berlin, where he delivered a lecture to a group of economists from around the world on the subject of distribution of produce. He wrote to us by email from Berlin, expressing his excitement of being in the capital city of Germany, with its magnificent boulevards and historical edifices.

FESTS AT FORT MEADE AND SCHIFFERSTADT

Our Society will have booths at the Oktoberfests at Fort Meade on Sept. 26 and 27 and at Schifferstadt in Frederick, MD on Oct. 17 and 18. We will spread the word on our purpose and goals and our cultural and educational activities. We will need volunteers to tend the booths. More details will be forthcoming; but, mark these dates and plan to attend.

KLAUS ZURHEIDE HONORS TEACHER WALTER WIGGERMANN

Klaus Zurheide arrived in the US from Germany in 1962 with little money but well prepared for success because of a dedicated teacher. Mr. Zurheide recently contributed \$2,500 to our Education Fund for the German Language Study Program.

The contribution is "...in honor of my German teacher in my elementary school years in Germany during WW-2, Walter Wiggermann, who selflessly tutored me three years in a row for classes I had missed during the winters when I had come down with rheumatic fever and could not attend classes. He would usually stay several hours many weeks in the spring and summer, after school's closing to keep me up to date with the curriculum of my class so I could later advance with them to the next level. And he did this even though he had to walk home afterwards, which took him about an hour on such days, leaving him little time for personal or private activities."

In honoring his teacher, Mr. Zurheide enables the German Society to continue its support of teachers and students.

KALENDER

- July 25-26 German Festival at Timonium Fair
- Sept 23-27 Oktoberfest at Fort Meade
- Oct. 4 Ecumenical Service 5 PM Zion Church
- Oct. 17-18 Oktoberfest at Schifferstadt
- Nov. 14 Annual Awards Banquet

WE TURNED A SAXON INTO A PRUSSIAN - OUR APOLOGIES

Our last issue misspelled the name of our Director Robert Fritzsche. We spelled it the Prussian way: Fritzscke. Rob's forebears are Saxon, not Prussian.

NEW LIFETIME DIRECTORS

Three directors who have served on our board for 12 years were named Lifetime Directors at the Annual Meeting of the Society on April 17. They are: Robert K. Fritzsche, Betty Niemann and Christel van der Berg. Christel is our elected corporate secretary. Rob, who is also the President of the Arion Gesangverein, serves as the chair of our song-book committee. Betty is the current President of The Baltimore Kickers Club and is the past president of The Edelweiss Club. A Lifetime Director has the right to attend Board meetings and vote; but is not subject to the attendance requirements of the other Directors. Directors elected for the term 2009-2012 are: Dr. Armin Mruck, Pastor H. J. Siegfried Otto and Charles Wunder. There are three vacancies on the Board of Directors. The nominating committee is taking applications from members who would like to serve on the Board.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

our esteemed member, **WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER**. The Maryland Public Broadcasting System presented a one-hour special on the career of this former governor and comptroller of Maryland, president of the Baltimore city council and mayor of Baltimore. He is currently pursuing a career as elder statesman and philanthropist.

PASTOR OTTO AT 50 YEARS

Our Society congratulates our Director, Pastor H. J. Siegfried Otto upon the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the ministry. He was honored recently at a banquet at St. John's Lutheran Church, Sweet Air, MD where he now serves.

DAVID EUGENE ROEDER, 70

David Roeder, a longtime member of our Society, died March 30. He regularly attended our annual meetings and various events. He retired as Director of Information Systems of Bell Atlantic. He was born in Baltimore, attended high school at Mt. St. Joseph and obtained an Executive MBA degree from Loyola College. He was also a member of The Society for the History of Germans in MD and cherished his German heritage. His sister and brother in law, Ruth and Bernard Semon, are also members of our Society. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, the former Patricia Blasco; daughter Kimberly Ann Leger and son, Lt. Col. D. Bruce Roeder and 17 grandchildren. His other siblings are Dr. Lois Roeder, Robert Roeder, Sister Mary Gabriel Roeder, SSND, Carolyn Roeder and Joseph Roeder. Our Society extends our condolences to his family. His memory will be preserved in our Archives.

LOTHAR BOCZEK - GROWING UP IN GERMANY DURING WORLD WAR II

Lothar Boczek is a prominent German American Marylander, active in community affairs, especially those of The Edelweiss Club. He conducted the Edelweiss radio hour during the many years it was on the air. He has written his memories of growing up as a child in Germany: fleeing the Russians, arriving in Donauwoerth, Bavaria, enduring bombing raids and the destruction of everything around him. It is an exciting story of the travails of his parents, his sister and himself as a young boy. It is being published in the Edelweiss newsletter, one thrilling episode at a time. We hope it will eventually be printed in a form for distribution to the entire community. Its history lessons are valuable for young and old alike.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

- Bren, Stephan Albert
- Galloro Dominic
- Galloro Lynne
- Grafwallner Rolf
- Hopf Edward
- Cramer-Pait Carol E.
- Pait Michael D.



109TH ANNUAL

WWW.MD-GERMANS.ORG

German Festival

MARYLAND STATE FAIR GROUNDS - TIMONIUM

Admission...

ADULTS...	\$6 ⁰⁰
SENIORS	\$5 ⁰⁰

CHILDREN UNDER 12	FREE
WITH PAYING ADULT	

JULY
 SATURDAY - SUNDAY
25TH - 26TH
 11:30 to 10 11:30 to 7

\$8,000 GRANTED TO GERMAN LANGUAGE STUDENTS IN MD

Our Society's purpose is to foster German heritage, culture and language and we have done so through the program to reward students who work hard and excel in their language studies. At a ceremony May 17 at the Adlersaal of Zion Church across from the City Hall in Baltimore, students from around the state assembled to receive their prizes. \$3,000 was distributed to four college students. \$5,000 was given to 72 high school students. 53 of those students scored above the 90th percentile and 19 above the 85th percentile in the national German language examination.

The event was sponsored by our Society and by the MD-DC-VA chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German. Dorothy Louks, testing chairperson, Deborah McGee Mifflin, AATG President and Dr. James Schaub, German Society President, presented the prizes, certificates and awards to the students. The college students, each of whom received \$750, were: Sarah Brackbill, McDaniels College; Andrew Kern, Emily Wahl and Alisa Williams, all of University of Maryland, College Park. Austin Cao, a student at St. Paul's School, was recognized as the most outstanding student and was presented with the Julius Hoffman medal.

Representatives of the German, Austrian and Swiss Embassies attended the event and addressed the students and their families. Craig Childers of the Goethe Institute addressed the assembly with an inspiring speech on the beneficial results of the study of German on his life.

Our Society's program for encouraging the study of German is in its 17th year. The program has received national recognition. (Many thanks to Dr. Mary Upman for her contribution to this article.)



Louks, McGee-Mifflin, Schaub, and Childers



President Schaub and College Winners

BUS TRIP TO NEW YORK FOR STEUBEN PARADE & PARTY

The Buergerverein von Maryland will sponsor a bus to New York City on September 19 for the Steuben Parade and the Oktoberfest in Central Park. Tickets are \$35 round-trip and admission to the Oktoberfest is \$10. For details and reservations call Tom Werner, president of the Buergerverein at 410-825-7166

The parade honors Baron von Steuben, the German military genius whom George Washington engaged to train the colonial army at Valley Forge. Our Society is a member of the Deutsch-Amerikanischer Buergerverein von Maryland

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED FOR GERMAN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

International Experience USA is seeking families to host high school students from Germany who will be attending high school in Maryland. Generally, but not necessarily, the host families have children of the same age as the German students. The students are part of a program aimed to learn American culture and improve language skills. All of the students must be qualified in English as to attend an American school. They are here for a school year.

For further information contact Joanna Hagerty, Local Exchange Coordinator at 443-454-7294 or email at H7@umbc.edu.

OUR MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO TOUR THE NS SAVANNAH

The world's first nuclear powered vessel built for commercial use ordered to be built by President Dwight Eisenhower and christened N. S. Savannah by first lady Mamie Eisenhower. The ship will celebrate its 50th anniversary at a two-day event in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. Our member, Walt Mathers is the event coordinator. Washington's Saengerbund and Baltimore's Arion Sangerverein, two German choral groups, will perform at the event which will take place on July 18 and 19. Admission is free on these days. The last "Liberty Ship", the John Brown, will also be available for boarding. Details may be obtained from Walt Mathers at 410-768-3162. He urges all our members to attend.

NOTRE DAME SISTERS IN MARYLAND SINCE 1847

Davonna M. Hoover of Halethorpe suggested that an article about The School Sisters of Notre Dame would interest our newsletter readers and sent us materials.

In 1985 Sister Benedicta Viebeck, an SSND nun from Bavaria, presented a lecture to our Society about the German founding of the SSND congregation, and Ms. Hoover's material provides an update.

The SSND congregation, last November, celebrated its 175th year. Its foundress, Karolina Gerhardinger, who was born in Regensburg, Bavaria in 1797. She was certified as a "royal teacher" at age 15 and taught in a parish school. In 1833 she and two companions, also teachers, began living as The School Sisters of Notre Dame. She took the name "Theresa of Jesus". The order grew and in 1847 Mother Theresa and 5 companions came to Baltimore to teach children of German immigrants. She returned to Germany and left Sister Caroline Friess in charge of the American mission. Sister Caroline worked in the USA for 42 years, establishing elementary schools, high schools and colleges throughout the country. Dozens of parish schools, 2 girls' high schools and a college were established in Maryland.

Today the School Sisters of Notre Dame exist on five continents and in 32 countries, including such far-flung places as Nepal, Southern Sudan, Japan, Sierra Leone, Paraguay, Israel and Yap, and even in Baltimore's inner city.

Theresa Gerhardinger died in 1879 and in 1985 was declared "blessed" by Pope John Paul II, setting the stage for her possible future canonization.

Beside Sister Benedicta Viebeck who died at age 93 last year, several other members of the School Sisters are members of the German Society of MD.

MILLION DANEKER, SR., 94.

A partner in a Maryland clock firm which produced thousands of grandfather and grandmother clocks Million Elliot Daneker, Sr. died in his Fallston MD home at age 94. (The Daneker name is listed in "German American Names" by our member, Dr. George Jones. It means "a place in fir trees"). Million, along with his brother and father, began manufacturing clocks in the late 1940's at their factory in Benson, Harford County, MD along U.S. Rt.#1. By the 1960's their firm employed 100 craftsmen.

In his obituary on April 6, the Baltimore Sun quoted Million's son: "All of the clockworks came from Germany

and one of our biggest customers, Macy's of New York, had Jewish customers who did not want clocks with a German movement, so we would use an English movement, but they weren't as good as the German. In addition to the movements which came from Germany's Black Forest, another German supplier made the solid brass dials with a silver numerical disk, solid brass fittings and hinges." The firm closed in 1973 when the AFL-CIO unionized the work force.

Daneker clocks are now very valuable collectors items. Million's mother selected his name because of her love for the song "I Found a Million Dollar Baby in a Five and Ten Cent Store", which she always played on the piano.

TURNERS IN MARYLAND HISTORY

Turnverein - the name of an organization of people who came together to purposes of health and physical fitness. It had substantial following in Germany in the 1800's and German immigrants brought the concept with them when they came to America. Up until World War II, there existed a Turners' Hall in Baltimore near the Hollins Market where German was spoken and there are some people who still remember going to it as children. The rumor has it that the FBI forced it to close on the outbreak of WWII because of the pro-German sentiments found on the premises. (Since it was not far from the home of H. L. Mencken on Hollins Street, we can guess that he might have paid it a visit. Among our archives we discovered a pamphlet from "American Turners" advertising its schedule of Sunday dances for 1999 and 2000, its oyster and bull roasts, its crab feasts, its New Year's Eve party, and as an indication of a German flavor, its Oktoberfest and its Stein Club activities. We checked the phone book and found a listing for American Turners of Baltimore, Inc. at 9124 Lemmings Lane, Rossville. The pamphlet showed its zipcode as 21237. A phone call to the listed number on April 7 heard the recorded message: "It's Sunday, March first and today's party is still on."

The internet turned up the address and phone number and a map and directions to the clubhouse, but nothing about its operations. The internet search disclosed much about the history of the Turner movement and its activities in other cities, and even referred to an 1897 book published by a former Society member, Schneidereith & Co. about the Turners in Baltimore. Since we try to keep our members advised of all German American activities happening in the vicinity, we'll try to learn more about the Turners and keep our readers advised. (If you have any information, please send it to us at our office or call our office phone.)

BOWEN WEISHEIT, 90

Bowen P. Weisheit, Sr. was a member of our society for many years. He died May 3 at age 90 while fishing for shad on the Susquehanna River. Bowen practiced real estate law in Harford County and was known for his knowledge and good humor. He taught law at Harford Community College. He was a 1936 graduate of Baltimore City College and received a bachelor's degree from St. John's College in Annapolis where he studied celestial, aerial and marine navigation. He flew as a combat navigator in the Pacific in World War II, remained in the Marine Corps reserve afterwards and retired as a major. His navigation instructor also taught the famous aviator Charles Lindbergh. Bowen used his navigation expertise to write a book on Amelia Earhart's last flight; and another book about a classmate and fraternity brother, C. Markland Kelly, Jr., a bomber pilot who died in the Battle of Midway in 1942. He served on the Boards of St. Paul's School and the John Carroll School and had served as a vestryman at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Baltimore. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, the former Edith C. Burroughs, two sons, a daughter and seven grandchildren.

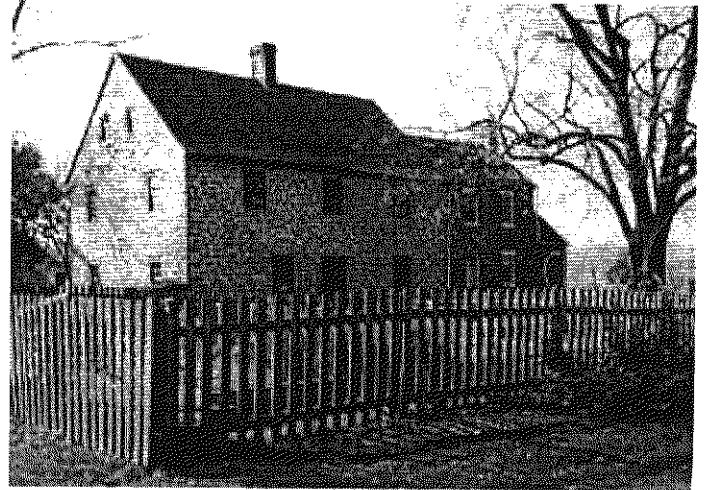
MYSTERY: BEER'S ATTRACTION

Why can Munich's Oktoberfest attract 6 1/2 million people in 3 weeks and Baltimore's Inner Harbor brings in only 2 million in an entire year? Good German beer has something to do with it. But Munich has more to offer than just beer. The Oktoberfest boasts more than 200 other attractions — more than most mid-western state fairs. It has a lot more to offer: the Deutsches Museum, Germany's answer to the Smithsonian; the Bavarian film studios, similar to the Universal Studios in Orlando; and not far away King Ludwig's fairy-tale castle at Neuschwanstein and several large lakes for recreation and magnificent views of the Alps. Munich is a world-class city with broad avenues, classic shopping areas, great city parks and classic neighborhoods. There's lots to see and do besides the rites of downing goblets of the frothy stuff.

HILARY HAHN PERFORMS AT THE MEYERHOFF, OTHER LOCAL SITES

Hilary Hahn, the honoree at our 2008 Awards Banquet, performed in early June with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. Her appearance rated a full page spread in the Baltimore Sun. While here she also performed in several other venues.

SCHIFFERSTADT, AN AFTERNOON TRIP FROM CENTRAL MARYLAND



If you'd like to see how a prosperous German immigrant farm family lived in 1756, drive up to Frederick on a quiet summer afternoon and traipse through a large house built in the German style. The chimney and fireplaces are in the center, rather than at each end of the mansion as in the English style. It is also a museum full of colonial German household items. Schifferstadt was built by Joseph Brunner and named for his hometown near Mannheim, Germany. Our Society honored the museum, along with one of its docents, Dr. David Denisch, a descendant of Joseph Brunner, at our 2006 awards banquet. Dr. Denisch is a board member of our Society.

MENCKEN'S COMMENTS ON LIVING IN HARD TIMES - GOOD TODAY

H. L. Mencken lived through the Great Depression and wrote about it. We wonder what he would say about today's Mc Mansions and corporate bonuses. He wrote: "The Depression taught millions that there is really no earthly reason that there should be two cars in every garage and a chicken in the pot every day. A few years back we were all leaping along after the pacemakers (trend setters), and making shining fools of ourselves. Life in America had become an almost unanimous effort to keep up with the Joneses, and what the Joneses had to offer by way of example was chiefly no more than puerile ostentation. So many luxuries became necessities that the line separating one from the other almost vanished. People forgot altogether how to live well, and devoted themselves frantically to living gaudily...Once (Americans) rediscover the massive fact that hard thrift and not gambler's luck is the only true basis of national wealth, they will discover simultaneously that a perfectly civilized and contented life is possible without the old fuss and display." From "What is going on in the world", American Mercury March 1932. (Thanks to the January 2009 bulletin of The Mencken Society.) Henry Louis Mencken was a dues-paying member of our Society. We often cite him in our newsletter to preserve his memory, as part of our German American heritage.

AN OUTSTANDING PRESIDENT: LOUIS PAUL HENNIGHAUSEN

The following article appeared in February, 1918 after the death of Louis Hennighausen, one of the most extraordinary presidents of our Society, and the author of the scholarly 1906 history of the Society. "No work dealing with the history of Baltimore and the people who have achieved for it its present great distinction, would be of worth were there omission of so useful and honored a citizen as Mr. Hennighausen (father of a subsequent Louis Paul Hennighausen who chartered the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland), accomplished lawyer, eloquent orator, literateur and philanthropist. He comes of a sturdy Saxon family which possesses records tracing back to the ancestral home at Hildesheim, in the sixteenth century. He was born December 18, 1840, in Fulda, Prussia, son of Heinrich Johann and Marie (Schulz) Hennighausen. The father, born January 5, 1784, died November 29, 1859, was an officer in the Prussian army.

Their son, Louis Paul Hennighausen, acquired what was equivalent to an excellent academical education in the schools at Hersfeld, Prussia, and also had the advantage of private tutors, who instructed him in English, French, drawing, and the commercial branches. In his fifteenth year he came to the United States and landed in the city of Baltimore, which was destined to be the scene of his life's labors and successes. Obtaining a clerkship, he gave his spare time to study and attended a night school.

He visited Washington and Richmond, and was in the latter named city at the outbreak of the Civil War. He was persistently urged to cast his fortunes with the South, but his sympathies were warmly with the Union, and he returned to Washington, where he took a clerkship in Willard's Hotel. On the approach of hostilities he joined a militia rifle company, which entered the service of the United States as Company A, Eighth Battalion, District of Columbia Volunteers, April, 1861, for a term of three months in guarding the Potomac River. In August of the same year he joined the Forty-sixth Regiment New York Volunteers for three years, as second lieutenant, and, in 1862, was promoted to first lieutenant.

He was engaged in the siege of Fort Pulaski, Georgia; the operations about Charleston, South Carolina, and the Peninsular campaign, and commanded his company in the battle of Secessionville, James Island, South Carolina. Contracting the swamp fever, he was obliged to resign, after a creditable service of two years, and when further promotion was opening up to him. After a brief sojourn in Baltimore, He went to Washington, where he accepted a position as teacher in a private school, giving his spare time to the study of law, under the office preceptorship of Judge Harrigan. He subsequently returned to Baltimore, and continued his legal studies under Patrick McLaughlin, then entering the Maryland Law School from

which he was graduated, and admitted to the bar in Baltimore, in March,

1868. He was associated with Mr. McLaughlin in the practice of law until 1874, then his partner, and later entered into partnership with Henry C. A. Smith, this terminating with the death of that gentleman in 1878. In 1890 he received as a partner his nephew, Percy C. Hennighausen, and later Charles F. Stein, and the firm name became as it has since stood - Hennighausen & Stein.

Mr. Hennighausen's professional career has been one of marked activity and importance. He has had a multitude of trusteeships in chancery, about one thousand court cases, and twenty thousand conveyances. Many of his cases are cited in the official reports, among them, in the Court of Appeals, Joseph Steinbarger, et al vs. The Independent Loan & Savings Association, 84 Md. 625, July 28, 1896; J. Henry Schroeder, admr., vs. John Loeber, October, 1891, which went to the United States Supreme Court, and reported in 75 Md, 195; Richard Leftwich & Co., vs. Meyer & Krose, 75 Md., 10; Veerath vs. Rothenburg, 87 Md., 624. In civil cases Mr. Hennighausen has been phenomenally successful. His well stored mind, strength in reasoning, vigor in argument, and logical deductions, being an equipment of far more than average weight. In politics he has always affiliated with the Republicans on national questions, and, at one time, by a unanimous vote in convention, was tendered a nomination for congress, but declined. He has always taken an independent course in local affairs, taking an active interest in municipal matters, and supporting those candidates who were best fitted to promote the welfare and up-building of the city. He is a man of most humane disposition, and has long been identified with various charitable organizations, among them the German Society of Maryland, organized in 1783, of which he has been president since 1887; the Orphans' association, of which he is a member and attorney; and the Aged People's Home. He is a member of the Maryland Historical Society, the German Mannerchor club, and of the grand Army of the republic. He was formerly a member of the civil service reform League, and at one time held membership in as many as twenty-four benevolent, educational, historical, literary and social societies. He was one of the organizers of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland, of which he has been president for a number of years. He compiled numerous articles that appeared in the annual reports of the above society. Mr Hennighausen compiled and published the book of the History of the German Society of Maryland, and is the writer of many other historical articles. He has journeyed extensively in Great Britain, all the principal European countries, and the West Indies, and his mind is richly stored with the results of his extended travels and broad reading. Mr. Hennighausen married, September 17, 1863, Louis M. Lange of Baltimore, who is yet living. Their eldest child, Julius S., died in November."

Thanks to Walt Mather for researching this article.