



Vereinsnachrichten

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

Chapter 100, February 3, 1818

Inside this issue:

<i>President's Message</i>	1
<i>German Festival</i>	2
<i>Thanksgiving Poem/ New Members</i>	3
<i>German-American Day at McDaniel College/ GSM's 234th Banquet</i>	4
<i>Getting to Know You</i>	5
<i>Lincoln's German Newspaper</i>	6
<i>In Sympathy</i>	7
<i>Director of the Quarter- Dan Brooke</i>	9
<i>Recent Changes to Scholarship Guidelines</i>	10
<i>Letter from 2016 Meinzer Winner</i>	11

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

President's Message-Kurt D. Wittstadt

Liebe Mitglieder - Dear Members,

We are entering a very festive time of year for the German community, Herbst brings many fun festivals. For the first time, I am proud that we will be participating in two Oktoberfests. Our first will be the Aberdeen Proving Ground Oktoberfest, September 28-30, located at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. It is a very successful and large festival with unrivalled attractions for participants of every age, from fly overs and fireworks to fest halls for young and old. We are very honored to be invited to have a booth there this year and hope that many of our membership will be able come out and experience this great event! More information can be found at <https://www.apgmwr.com/2017-oktoberfest>.

Our second Oktoberfest is a personal favorite that my family and I have attended for many years, Oktoberfest at Schifferstadt in Frederick, MD, October 21-22. Admis-

sion to the grounds is free both days. The setting is fabulous, outside on the beautiful rolling hills surrounded by brilliant fall foliage, feasting on delicious food and drink while dancing the afternoon away, all on the grounds of Schifferstadt Architectural Museum which is one of the best examples of Colonial German architecture in the country. This is certainly not an event to be missed, and we are so pleased to be an official participant in the festivities this year – in addition to my unofficial Alphorn playing which will take place on Sunday this year. For more information about the museum and event, visit <http://www.frederickcountylamdmarksfoundation.org/fclfschiffgen.html>.

Please make it a point to attend these family fun events as both have their own special flair for all ages! If you would be interested in volunteering for these events and be an ambassador for the society, please send an email to germansociety@verizon.net or call 410-685-0450.



The German Society of Maryland's 234th Awards Banquet will be held on November 2, 2017, at 6pm at The Grand Lodge of Maryland. The societies pinnacle event will be honoring Gerhard Meinzer, a prominent leader and contributor to the German American community promoting the German language and culture. Gerhard is a prolific leader in the community being awarded the Bundesverdienstkreuz (Medal of Merit) of the Federal Republic of Germany and currently serves as the President of the Association of German American Societies of Greater DC. As a valued member of the German Society of Maryland's Board of Directors, he is the sponsor of the Gerhard Meinzer Summer Scholarship which provides for the winning student to study *Continued on page -10-*

Unser Kalender

September 23-24	Maryland Oktoberfest
September 28-30	Aberdeen Proving Grounds Oktoberfest
October 6	German American Day at Friendship Gardens—DC
October 12	SHGM Annual Lecture
October 17	'German Day' at McDaniel College
October 21-22	Oktoberfest at Schifferstadt
October 25-26	Sour Beef Event at Zion
November 2	GSM's 234th Awards Banquet
November 25-26	Christkindlmarkt-Zion Church

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



Proud Member of the German American Heritage Foundation

117th German Festival ...another successful event!

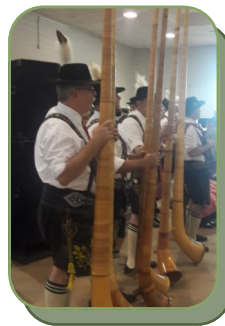
The Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland, Inc. held the 117th German Festival at Timonium Fairgrounds on July 22nd and 23rd. Attendees that



crowd entertained and engaged. Alex was not alone in the music department, sharing the stage with the more

numbered 2500+ were not disappointed. The event was opened with the singing both National Anthems led by the

traditional Alt Washington and The Continentals. Between sets attendees were delighted with the dancing and Alpine Horns and bell ringing of Auerhahn Schuhplattler Verein.



German clubs. One of our Facebook friends said it best, 'It was a great party'.

Of course our major role in the Festival is

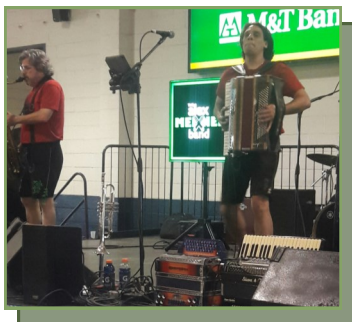
cultural. The German Society booth was manned for the two days by several directors. A special 'shout out' to all those that helped set up, man and tear down the booth. The time proved very beneficial for the Ger-

table is the ability to use the map and find ancestral homes. We provide information of research including handouts that



provide links to all of the sixteen major archives in Germany. We also promote the scholarship fund. The goal of course, is to

get the word out, let people know we are still here after 234 years and we are still going strong.



Arion Gesangverein.

One of the highlights again this year, was the music of Alex Meixner. Alex's style of accordion playing is not like your grandfather's. He kept the

Vendors were plentiful as was the food and drink. Can you imagine Zion's Sour Beef, Kickers Schnitzel and Wurst, Edelweiss pretzels, and Old World Deli's delectable pastries and more...all under one roof. All this and plenty of beer, supplied by several of



man Society as we signed up 12 new members, the most ever signed up at a festival. This was primarily due to the efforts of Membership Chair, Lynette Dean, who with her husband Craig, worked multiple shifts. One of the popular draws at our



Advertising Opportunity

The 234th Annual Awards Banquet will be held on November 2, 2017 at the Grand Lodge in Cockeysville. We are pleased to present the honor to Gerhard Meinzer, President AGAS.

Please take an ad, full page (8.5 x 11), half page (8.5 x 5.5) or quarter page (4.25 x 5.5), or a patron ad and help the society.

You may place a memorial for a loved one or send congratulatory remarks for an anniversary or a special birthday, or congratulate the honoree. The program will be posted on the German Society website following the event so that everyone may see your ad.

We hope that you and members of your company, organization or family will also join us for the dinner.

Again, thank you for your continued support of this important event. We look forward to receiving your image-ready ad (by mail* or e-mail to: bnsarnold7@gmail.com)

We also hope to see you at the banquet on November 2nd.

Sizes Available:

- ◆ Full Page Ad (8.5 x 11) \$150
- ◆ Half Page Ad (8.5 x 5.5) \$80
- ◆ Quarter Page (4.25 x 5.5) \$50
- ◆ Patron Ad (one line) \$25

*Entire agreement and additional information and mailing instructions at <http://www.germansociety-md.com/2017%20Ad%20letter.pdf>

Thanksgiving

©Ingeborg Carsten-Miller

There is so much
to be thankful for
that we forget
about it—

We should be thankful
for each day we are alive,
are able to open our eyes
to the world,

Can use our ears
to the sounds around us,
distinguish between
good and evil,

Know about
kindness and beauty,
appreciate all that
is done for us.

There is a day
set aside in all our years
to sit down together,
reflect and enjoy
Thanksgiving



SHGM to hold Annual Lecture

On October 12, the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland will hold its annual dinner /lecture at Zion Church from 6 to 9 PM. Our speaker will be genealogist Debra Hoffman, who will speak on "The philanthropic roles of the German Society and Zion Church for Baltimore's immigrants." German Society members may well be interested in this important part of their history. Tickets for \$45 will be available after July 17. Contact Nick Fessenden at [443.542.2263](tel:443.542.2263) or nicholasfessenden@comcast.net.

Welcome New Members



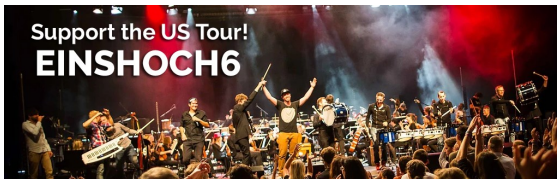
William Clayton Breakiron
Vernon & Julie Brown
Ed Donhauser
Kristi Ellinghaus-Boch

Karen Evelius
Lori & Bill Ginley
Dustin Guthmann
Kenneth & Christine Hess

Thomas & Kim Schisler
Daniel & Erin Single
David & Katie Wood



The 23rd annual German-American Day for middle and high school students will be held on October 17, 2017, at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland. Professor Mohamed Esa has organized this special day filled with speakers, workshops, hands-on activi-



German Band Einshoch6 to perform at German-American Day at McDaniel College on October 17

ties, live music, and German food for the past 22 years.

This year, the German Band **Einshoch6** (<https://www.einshoch6.de/>) will be the highlight of German-American Day. Various AATG chapters are working on securing funds to have the band tour the USA in October and November. They would start their tour at

McDaniel College on October 17 and will end it at ACTFL on November 18 in Nashville.

If you wish to assist in our endeavor to bring Einshoch6 here, please contact Dr. Mohamed Esa at mesa@mcdaniel.edu or by telephone at 410-857-242.

To learn more about German-American Day: website: <http://www2.mcdaniel.edu/german/gad>

German-American Day Celebration at the Friendship Garden in Washington DC

**Friday, October 6, 2017
Constitution Ave., NW
10:00 am**

The Bürgerverein and German Society of Maryland are providing the bus. If interested you **MUST** reserve a seat. Bus pickups: Timonium Park and Ride (Deerco Rd) Park and Ride at 95 and 195. Lunch will be together but on your own for payment.

Email Dottie at buergerverein@verizon.net or Call 410-916-2768 for a reservation.

German Society's 234th Awards Banquet

Please join the German Society of Maryland at the 234th Awards Banquet at the Grand Lodge of Maryland on November 2, 2017, at 6:00 pm, honoring Gerhard Meinzer. The location is fitting for our honoree as he is actively involved as a Freemason in the German speaking Arminius Lodge and a member of the International Relations Committee of the Grand Lodge of Washington DC. He has been awarded the Certificate for Exceptional Craftsmanship by the Washington Building Congress and has participated in construction of the Smithsonian Institution. One of the most influential members of our society, Gerhard sponsors the Gerhard Meinzer Summer Scholarship which allows for a German language student to study abroad.

He currently is president of the Association of German-American Societies and is integral with preserving and promoting the German-American Friendship Garden. For his ongoing contributions to German-American relations and heritage, Gerhard has been awarded the Bundesverdienstkreuz (Medal of Merit) of the Federal Republic of Germany. Our premiere black tie event will be filled with a culinary array of delectable hors d'oeuvres, wild game and delicious desserts. Plan to share in Gemütlichkeit and dance the night away to live music! Save the date as we look forward to seeing everyone there. Be on the lookout as invitations will be arriving shortly.

A Luther Exhibit



“Uncertain Times: Martin Luther’s Remedies for the Soul”

A small one room exhibit with approximately two dozen artifacts.

When: Through October 29

Where: Walter Art Museum
600 N. Charles Street

FREE admission

Getting to Know You!

‘Getting to know you, getting to know all about you’... what a great song with a great purpose. The German Society would like to ‘get to know you’ our members. Our new page will spotlight our members.

Just provide us with: Name, Where you live, What you do, Your ‘German connection, how long a member of the GSM and your hobbies. We would also love to have a photo so when we pass at a festival or event, we will be able to stop and chat!

Send it and your photo to Shelley at bnsarnold7@gmail.com. If you have any other membership news...new babies, marriages, etc., share them with us as well.

Let’s get to know one another!

Stefan Gunther



My name is Stefan Gunther, and I've lived in the US since 1987. Currently, my wife Lisa, daughter Andi, and I reside in

Silver Spring, MD, where we moved from DC in 2001. I grew up in Aschaffenburg, which is located in the federal state of Bavaria, even though linguistically and culturally that area is historically more closely aligned with Mainz--before being incorporated into the Kingdom of Bavaria in 1814, the area was part of the Archbishopric of Mainz. After Gymnasium there and two years of college in Würzburg I had the oppor-

tunity to spend a year each at the University of Kent and eventually at SUNY Oneonta, where I completed my Master's degree in English and American Literature in 1988. In 2000, I concluded doctoral studies in the same discipline at Brandeis University in Waltham, MA.

For the last 25+ years I have worked in the higher education administration sector where my passion is focused on assisting non-traditional and international students and making online education more intuitively accessible. I have contributed at institutions as varied as Graduate School, USDA; Johns Hopkins University; and University of Virginia. Currently, I serve as Dean of Faculty at Strayer University, where I work with 15 full-time faculty members and 100+ adjuncts.

When not working, I enjoy traveling, reading, running and keeping in touch with friends and family in Europe. I joined the German Society of Maryland in 2011 and while I've been mainly "lurking," I appreciate the important work the society does in disseminating information about German language and culture in Maryland.

Helga Penner



Helga Penner has been a resident of Perry Hall for about 30 years. She got her BA degree in English and

German from Western Maryland

College (now McDaniel College), and her MA in Contemporary Communication from Notre Dame of Maryland University. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Since 1984, Helga has worked in the Claim department for Allstate Insurance Company where she is currently a CPL Claim Service Leader.

Helga’s parents were both German immigrants who came to the United States after World War II. They met at the popular Blob’s Park and married here in the U.S. Her parents embraced their new country and became citizens in the early 60s; however, they also observed German cultural traditions in the home. While she was growing up, the family actively participated in German-American events and were faithful members of Zion Church along with the extended Hein Family. Helga and her siblings, Irene Duerr and Raymond Hein, remain involved in life at Zion. She and her husband, director Bernard Penner were married at Zion in 2002.

Helga has been a member of the Society for about fifteen years, and views it as a way of maintaining ties to her German heritage. Her hobbies include cooking, reading, traveling and going to the theatre.



Bach In Baltimore

Bach in Baltimore is Back

Sunday Concert Series begins October 1 at Christ Lutheran.

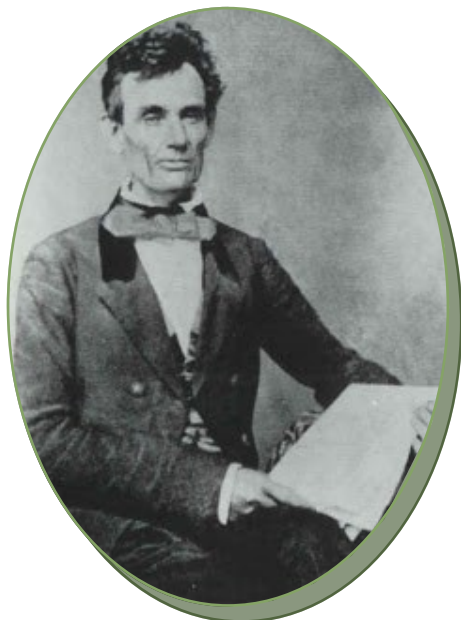
For information see BachInBaltimore.org or call 410-941-9262

Was President Lincoln German?

He did own a German Newspaper!

This article and the one that will be published in the next newsletter is the result of a note from Director Ted Potthast, after he had watched a TV documentary about Lincoln owning a German newspaper. It peaked my interest. Two questions: Did Abraham Lincoln own a German newspaper? Was Abraham Lincoln German? The first will be answered this issue.

First things first, the newspaper story is real. Abraham Lincoln owned the 'Illnois Staatsanzeiger' (State Gazette). He purchased the newspaper on May 30, 1859 rather by accident. It happened when a German immigrant, Dr. Theodore Canisius was approached by Lincoln and requested his support to publish a German paper supporting Republicans. Due to several overdue bills, the good Doctor's printing press and German type had been confiscated and couldn't be returned without payment of the \$500 debt. Lincoln paid the \$500 and in turn became the owner of the press and paper. He made a promise, at the time, to return all to Dr. Canisius if he in turn would support the Republican candidates, which Dr. Canisius honored. The paper was sold back to Dr. Canisius on December 6, 1860.



Keep in mind the 'new' Republican Party was formed in 1856 and they challenged the idea that immigration was the biggest threat to the democracy. The party was founded on the basis that slavery was incompatible with the American political system. The

party was also well aware of the importance of the German vote, as was Abraham Lincoln. 'Honest Abe' was more than a self-taught country bumpkin. President Lincoln was a politician and a true 'master manipulator'.

Lincoln became the candidate the Germans endorsed after Lincoln responded to inquiries from Dr. Canisius. The response was printed in many of the German newspapers. The inquiries specifically related to a recent passed piece of legislation called the Massachusetts 'Two Year Amendment', which barred immigrants from voting for the first two years after they became citizens. Also in response to the 'Know Nothings' (a powerful group of Nativists or those opposed to immigration during the time preceding the Civil War), Mr. Lincoln with William Seward and many supporters united to endorse a German authored plank in the party

platform called the 'Dutch Plank'. It stated, "The Republican party is opposed to any change in our naturalization laws or any state legislation by which the rights of the citizens hitherto accorded to immigrants from foreign lands shall be abridged or impaired; and in favor of giving a full and efficient protection to the rights of all classes of citizens." This is credited to Wisconsin's Carl Schurz.

When Lincoln was approached to join the 'Know Nothings', he rejected noting, "I do not perceive how anyone professing to be sensitive to the wrongs of negroes, can join in a league to degrade a class of white men."

Again, the importance of the German vote was apparent as German orators were hired throughout Lincoln's campaign to stress the 'German' issues. Lincoln, in an attempt to speak with the Germans in their native tongue, took German classes. He was successful in building a vocabulary of German words, but unsuccessful in his attempt to speak German.

The real question, however, is could President Lincoln have German roots? Stay tuned! Don Tolzmann, published author and authority on 'all things German' will answer that question for us next issue.



In Sympathy

The German Society is saddened by the passing of our dear members. We extend our sincere sympathies to their families and friends.

William Basher



William Basher died on June 10th. Bill is survived by his wife of 67 years, Katie and daughter Suzanne Spurr and son William D Basher.

Bill served his country during WWII in naval aviation. After the war, he spent 30 years with the CIA. He has had many interests that kept him occupied including raising chinchillas. He and Katie have been very active in the German community in both Baltimore and Wash-

ington DC. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Benjamin "Bob" Sheppard, Jr.



Bob Sheppard died on June 17th. Bob was a major supporter and contributor to Maryland's German community for over 42 years. He worked tirelessly

to promote the German culture in Maryland. He was instrumental in keeping communications between the German Embassy in DC and the Maryland German community flowing. In 1984, Bob was honored with the Bundesverdienstkreuz 1.Klasse des Verdienstordens (German Medal of Honor) in recognition of his exceptional services to the German community.

Bob was involved in numerous Baltimore German clubs and served as an officer in several. He served as president for many years to the Deutscha-

merikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland, which is the umbrella organization of the German clubs in Maryland. Upon his retirement from that position he was named President Emeritus. Bob also served as president to the Maryland Oktoberfest, Inc., a group that sponsored the Maryland Oktoberfest each year at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore.

Bob heeded the call of then Mayor William Donald Schaefer to hold Ethnic festivals in and around Baltimore. Our German Festival was held each year at the Inner Harbor, then Carroll Park, before moving to its current location in Timonium. Bob paved the way for our festival and many involved today still see Bob as their mentor.

When Bob moved from his home, he contributed his collection of memorabilia to the Bürgerverein, a collection that will be shared with the German community for years to come.

Controversial monuments removed from Baltimore City and State House - the German connection.

Two monuments recently removed by the City and State Government were the works of German sculptors. A little bit about William Rinehart and J. Maxwell Miller.

William Henry Rinehart 9-13-1825 to 10-28-1874

Born on a Maryland farm near Union Bridge, William Rinehart became known for sculpture, especially marble and bronze portraits. He was the son of a German farmer in Carroll County. Rinehart was taken under the wing of William T. Walters and was a close fam-

ily friend.

As a young man, he became skilled at stone cutting, working as an apprentice to a stonecutter in Union Bridge, and in 1844, at age 19, he moved to Baltimore where he worked as foreman for Baughman and Bevan on the site of what is now the Peabody Institute of Baltimore. He studied sculpture at the Maryland Institute College of Art. Rinehart left his estate in trust for the education of sculpture at the Maryland Institute, where today the Maryland Institute College of Art Rinehart School of Sculpture is one of the most re-

nowned in the country. The Rinehart School of Sculpture was accomplished when a \$38,000 estate was left to William Walters. Walters invested the \$38,000 and when it grew to \$100,000, the school was built at the School for the Arts.

- The statue: **Chief Justice Taney (front of State-House, Annapolis) Removed by Maryland Governor Larry Hogan on August 17, 2017**

J. Maxwell Miller (1877 to 1934)

J. Maxwell Miller studied sculpture under William Rinehart at the
Continued on page -8-

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

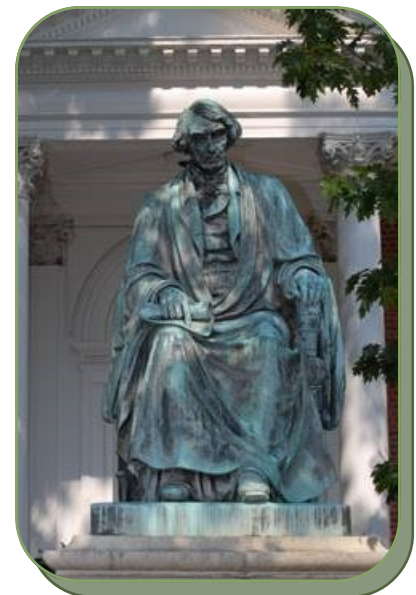
Statues continued

Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, and between 1900 and 1905, traveled to France to learn further from Raoul Verlet at the Julian Academy in Paris. Miller’s detailed work is best exemplified by his Star-Spangled Banner Memorial in Patterson Park. Dedicated in 1914, during the city’s massive centennial celebration of defensive victory in the War of 1812, the monument was placed directly in front of the park’s observatory.

Miller was director of Rinehart from 1923 to 1933. The 1930 Federal Census has Mr. Miller living at 1713 Bolton Street. It listed his as a sculptor with his own studio.

- The statue: *Confederate Women of Maryland Monument* -The memorial depicts two stoic women, one of whom is standing looking off into the distance, while the other kneels down clutching the body of a fallen soldier who has dropped his flag. The inscription reads, “In difficulty and danger, regardless of self, they fed the hungry, clothed the needy, nursed the wounded and comforted the dying.” *(The statue was removed by Mayor Catherine Pugh August 15, 2017).*

It should also be noted that Hans Schuler submitted an entry to sculpt the Lee/Jackson monument in Wyman Park. This statue was also removed.



Fifth Chief Justice of the United States, Roger B. Taney

Meet Our Director – Dandridge Brooke

Dandridge Brooke is a Marylander descended from an English Mother and a German-speaking immigrant Father from Germany- Ratibor, Germany. He himself was born in Dresden, Germany while his parents were traveling abroad.

He married Isolde Kluge, from good German stock. They were together for almost 59 years until her death in 2008. Together they raised four children (Lynette, Bill, Brian and Randy), who gave them five grandchildren (Jessica, Jonathan, Claire, Harrison and Sophie) and five great grandchildren (Dylan, Emilie, Naomi, Stella and Max).

He is a man whose life has been dedicated to service to the community and the country. He grew up and has resided his whole life in Baltimore and Rehobeth, DE. After attending the prestigious West Nottingham Academy, whose famous graduates include Benjamin Rush and Richard Stockton, signers of the Declaration of Independence. It wasn't long before he stepped up and served in World War II. In the



Navy he served as an Ensign (deck officer) in the North Atlantic and Mediterranean for three years.

Dan retired from the property and casualty insurance business after 38 years, during which he served as a director of American Consumers Finance Company of MD, Government Employees' Life Insurance Company of Washington, DC and

Conrad Security Company of College Park.

For many years he devoted himself to the Boy Scouts in Baltimore. He is proud that his three sons and two grandsons are Eagle Scouts.

Dan is a member of and Past President of The Paint and Powder Club, a theatrical group which raises funds for charity by its annual stage review and The Ancient and Honorable Mechanical Society. Of the Society of the War of 1812, which has dozens of chapters throughout the country, he served as the National President

General. Also he is a member of the Society of the Cincinnati, an organization of men who have at least one ancestor who was an officer in George Washington's army during the American Revolution. He also belongs to and regularly attends meetings of The Saint George's Society of Baltimore, and the American Legion.

Thanks to the insistence of his German Father –in-law, Dan has been a member of our Society for over 67 years, has been a director for 50 years, in fact he has been a lifetime director also for quite a few years. Dan and Isolde would be seen working in virtually every event held by our Society. For many years he served as our membership chairman and has recruited many members.

We were happy to be able to honor him in 2004. You will still see him sitting at the door at our Annual meeting collecting signatures and donations.

For 92 he sure stays busy!

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.

We hope to hear from you!

The German Society supports German Language Education for Maryland Students

Awards to High School students of German

Through the German Language and Heritage Fund and the generous contributions of Gerhard Meinzer, the society will again be able to award a summer scholarship to a Maryland high school German student to study in Germany this summer! Application Deadline: February 17, 2018

See letter from last year's winner, Susannah Offenbacher, page 11. Any member of the German Society may nominate a high school student to compete to win this scholarship. All secondary school students from Maryland, between the ages of 15 and 17, who have had at least two years of German, with a recommendation of their German teacher, are eligible. The Education Committee of the German Society of Maryland will select the winner from the students nominated.

The winning student will participate in the German Summer Study Program sponsored by the AATG, in cooperation with the German governmental agency, the Pedagogical Exchange Service (PAD). The student will live with a Ger-

man family and attend classes at a German high school. Field trips will be organized to local points of interest. In addition to these group outings, the host families generally plan excursions to show their visiting "son" or "daughter" the area in which they are living. A qualified American high school teacher of German will be available to supervise field trips, act as a liaison with the German school authorities or just provide a sympathetic ear to the American students. All participants are covered by AATG's accident and health policy

Cash Awards to high school German students

To encourage the study of German in Maryland high schools, the Society has for many years been presenting cash awards to students who excel on the national German language proficiency examination. This activity is carried out in cooperation with the Maryland Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German. An awards ceremony for the students being honored and their families is held in May

at the Zion Church in Baltimore.

Cash Awards to Maryland and Washington DC college students who major or minor in German

The German Society agreed to change the Award Program for college and university students from Maryland. This program now provides up to 3 awards of \$1,000.00 each to outstanding Maryland students studying at colleges and universities **in Maryland and Washington DC**, who have declared a German major.

The German Society will also offer up to three awards of \$500.00 each to selected Maryland students who are minoring in German at a **Maryland or Washington DC college or university**.

See the website for more information:

www.germansociety-md.com/education

President' Message Continued

abroad in a German speaking country. I look forward to seeing everyone in attendance to honor one of our own and to celebrate the bicentennial of our charting.

Thank you to all the volunteers who made the Maryland German Festival at the Maryland State Fairgrounds a success. We had

many new members sign up due to their wonderful ambassadorship and efforts promoting our societies mission, and we look forward to broadening our membership base further with these new area festivals. I would like to also welcome our new members and look forward to meeting

you soon! To keep up to date on upcoming events, please visit our website at www.germansociety-md.com and like us on Facebook.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Kurt D. Wittstadt



To every member of the German Society of Maryland:

As I have recently returned from my trip to Germany on the Gerhard Meinzer Scholarship for Summer Study, I feel it is only appropriate (and a bit overdue) that I share a few remarks with you all. The main reasons which led me to apply for the scholarship were that I wanted to broaden my view of the world in its current state, and I wanted to improve my understanding and use of the German language. The trip in reality was an experience beyond explanation. No matter how much I try, I don't think I will ever be able to successfully quantify such an indescribable three weeks, or the extent of how those three weeks changed my outlook on life.

Through attending school, field trips, volunteer activities and home life, I think I found out what it was like to look at my life from halfway across the world. Daily life, as well as our project on refugees in Europe, showed me that despite differences in culture, class or appearance, the thing that really connects people around the world is our sense of humanity. That is a lesson that everyone needs to learn, be it through travel or any other impactful experience.

While I am still far from fluent, my ability to understand spoken German is incomparable to that of before I left and my new found confidence has widened my possibilities to progress in the language.

For such an amazing experience, I must thank you all. This would not have been possible if you had not had faith in my ability to represent Maryland and all who are committed to keeping German language and culture alive here, I will be forever grateful.

Thank you,

With Sincerest Gratitude

Susannah Offenbacher

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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