

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 115 October 2019

President's Message-Dr. James Schaub

Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| <i>President's Message</i> | 1 |
| <i>119th German Festival</i> | 2 |
| <i>GSM Picnic</i> | 3 |
| <i>Oktoberfest</i> | |
| <i>German Festival 1936</i> | 4 |
| <i>Healing the Family Heart</i> | 5 |
| <i>Political Impressions</i> | 6 |
| <i>German Christmas Traditions</i> | 7 |
| <i>Getting to Know You</i> | 8 |
| <i>Director Update</i> | 9 |
| <i>Our Sympathy</i> | 11 |

Greetings to members and friends of the German Society.

This message is inspired by one a questions we frequently heard at the German Society table at the German Festival in July and one many of you hear when you mention to someone that you are a member of the German Society of Maryland. The question: What does the German Society do? Answering this question is important when speaking to potential new members.

To answer the question we can start by pointing to our purpose statement that appears in each issue of this newsletter. Understanding our purpose that lists the types of programs used to pursue leads us to describing the specific activities we undertake. So what do we do? I will focus on preserving and promoting the German language which is strongly tied to preserving and promoting German heritage and traditions. We strive to preserve the German language primarily by supporting students and teachers. Support takes the form of scholarships for outstanding college students, and awards for excellent performance by high school students. Spoken praise and encouragement at our student awards program and when members like Anton Smoot visits German classrooms are also important. Members like Steve Harper taught his daughter German and teaches children at the

German school at Zion Church. Students are eligible for a free non-voting membership in the German Society.

There are German clubs that focus on dancing, singing, studying the history of Germans in Maryland, social activities and sports. They can more easily answer what they do. However, all these clubs in their own way contribute to the same objectives as the German Society's purpose of preserving and promoting heritage, language and traditions. What distinguishes the German Society is the breadth and primacy of purpose. People join our society because they want language, heritage, and traditions to endure.

Our Society also strives to develop unity and continuity of the German American community. We do this by our membership in the Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland, an "umbrella" organization to coordinate and foster communication among 11 member German-American clubs and that brings us the annual German Festival in July. We also unite with the German clubs under the Association of German American Societies of Greater Washington, DC and sponsor a bus to bring our members and other German club members to the annual ceremony at the German-American



Friendship Garden on the National Mall every October 6.

Returning to potential new members, some have become new members. These are listed in this newsletter. It was great to see new members at our German Society picnic on September 8. I am glad that our long-time members made these newcomers welcome. A picnic is a social program but it also is a great opportunity to build a team that is part of our preserve and promote purpose.

A last thought, the basic question should include the word "now". What we do now is much different than what we did before the government social programs emerged to assist people in need. From our founding 1783 to the mid-20th century, the German Society provided direct assistance to immigrants, widows, orphans, the unemployed and others in need.

So, please preserve and promote the German heritage, language, and traditions.

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



| | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|---------|-------------|
| October 6 | German-American Day | | DC |
| October 15 | German Day | 8:00 AM | McDaniel |
| October 19/20 | Schifferstadt Oktoberfest | | Frederick |
| October 23 | German Society Board Mtg | 7:30 PM | Edenwald |
| October 23/24 | Zion's Sour Beef Event | | Zion Church |
| November 2 | GSM Anniversary Dinner | 6:00 PM | Zion Church |
| November 21 | GSM Executive Committee | 6:30 PM | GAV |
| November 30 | Christkindmarkt | | Zion Church |
| December 1 | Christkindmarkt | | Zion Church |

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

Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein:

www.md-germans.org

German Marylanders:

www.germanmarylanders.org

German American Radio:

germanamerican-

The 119th German Festival-Huge Success!

Have you ever entered an event and felt the energy in the room? Those attending the 119th German Festival, held at Timonium Fairgrounds the weekend of July 13th were greeted with just that bolt!



The bolt could have been charged by the exceptionally talented Alex Meixner and his group, who performed both German traditional and a little bit of

rock. The largest crowd in the past five years, were treated to music from great polkas to the chicken dance to Alex's own, many with comedic lyrics. Guests also heard from the Continentals of Washington DC and were entertained by several dance groups including the Schuhplattler Vereins, Auerhahn and Alpenrose and S.u.G.T.V. Washingtonian. There were no empty minutes when it came to entertainment. Even the children could take a chance at the rock-climbing wall, getting their face painted,

riding a pony, or enjoying the puppet show with the famous Professor Horn.

Hungry? If you were not hungry when you got there, you were when you were hit with the marvelous aromas of German food. Vendors had everything from sweet smelling pastries and baked breads, to roasted nuts. Platters of wurst, German potato salad and kraut were on the menu as was a good Schnitzel sandwich. The food was so good that some sold out early on Sunday, almost all selling out by late afternoon. Patrons could pair their meal with the best, cold German beer.



Many of the booths were manned by the German clubs in our area including the German Society of Maryland, the Baltimore Kickers, the Edelweiss Club, the Club Fidelitas, the

Arion Gesängverein, Immergruen, Deutsche Geselligkeit and the Zion Church of the City of Baltimore.

Keep in mind that this, ours, is one of the oldest German



Festivals in the United States with confirmed events from 1900. Prior to the 1900 event, ancestors had yearly festivals including

German Day, Cannstatter Volksfest and many others. The German community in the Baltimore area was one of the largest ethnic groups in the United States and there is still a large German community.

Changing buildings at the event may just have been what the event needed. We were in the 4 H Home Arts building which provided us the ability to add a 'beer garden' and also give the children an outside venue for the puppet show. Definitely on the upside, the air-conditioning worked. This year also included the new ability to purchase tickets online.

The crowd was the best in past years with a final count of 3783. We may

Continued on page -4-



German Society Picnic-Family Picnic Day

By Shirley Santora



Members of the German Society of Maryland along with their guests, including ten students from McDaniel College, celebrated the end of summer at our old fashioned family picnic on Sunday, September 8. The

Dogwood 2 Pavilion nestled in a private, wooded area at Gunpowder Falls was the perfect location for food, fun, and camaraderie.

Donna Marie Fekete and Hank Spolnicki of the Maryland Accordion Club provided two hours of

well received live entertainment. Small children enjoyed the playground located adjacent to the pavilion. Others enjoyed corn hole and badminton.

The German Society provided the Bratwurst, Bauernwurst, hamburgers, rolls, condiments, German beer, and soft drinks. The sixty-two picnickers supplied the potluck of side dishes and desserts. A word of grateful thanks to picnic committee members: Linda Butt, Zachary Butt, John

Butt, Shirley Santora, Vito Santora, Amy Unverzagt, Sherry Veith, Bärbel Otto and President Jim Schaub.



Glorious weather enhanced the lively mood. GSM member Ted Potthast commented, "It has never rained on a German Society picnic."

Food, conversation, music, laughter-- the German Society understands Gemütlichkeit. Hope to see you there next year.



Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest is the world's largest folk festival. Held in September, not Oktober, it is an annual celebration of the wedding of Crown Prince Ludwig (1786-1868), and Princess Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen on 12 October 1810. All of the citizens of Munich were invited to attend the festivities held in front of the city gates.

The event lasts for 16-18 days and hosts about 6 million people from around the world. The dates of Oktoberfest modified in 1994 to enable the event to end or include October 3rd, the day Germany unification is celebrated. The event takes place in Munich, specifically the Theresienwiese (Theresa's Meadow). Accord-



ing to Wiki, during the 2013 event, 1,700,000 gallons of beer was served.

There are so many events connected

to Oktoberfest, but listening to those who have attended, many find the pre-festival parade a winner. The parade premiered in 1887 and today is a colorful display of local breweries, their staff and the festival bands parade through Munich.

There are so many other interesting facts and stories of Oktoberfest...like did you know that the position of a bow on a Fräulein's Dirndl indicates whether she is single or taken? Want to

know more, see the official website of the Oktoberfest at <https://www.oktoberfest.de/en>. If you would like to learn a little more of the history, see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oktoberfest>.

German-Maryland Heritage Month

A Lasting Friendship

Visit www.GermanMarylanders.org for a list of German-American Events

The German Festival-1936

Just as a comparison, I thought it would be nice to look back. What was German Day/German Festival like years ago? According to a Sunpaper Article, printed September 7, 1936 (page 16),



Home, the Wiessner Orphan Asylum and the folks from Augsburg Home.

The Chairman and committee, in the event that you are family, were Andrew Bayer, Heinz Heymann, Charles Reinhart, Arno Haberkorn, Theo-

dore Miller, Robert Fritsche, Anton Wuerdinger, Matthias Beutgen.

the crowds gathered at Gwynn Oak Park numbered 20,000+. The event opened at 11am with the official opening at 2pm.

The event was sponsored by the Independent Citizens Union (today's Bürgerverein) and opening remarks were provided by its president, William Engelborth. Other speakers included Governor Nice, Mayor Jackson and several church pastors.

The early hours 11am to 2pm, prior to the official opening, were spent drinking beer, eating hot dogs and listening to a twenty-five piece band led by Erich Wilcke.

So if we compare, today our numbers have diminished greatly, but have they? Many people have moved from Baltimore, but those of German heritage have not diminished, if anything, our numbers have grown as more are born with German roots. We are just spread out a little more. The clubs have shrunk substantially, but those still in existence are active and have seen some growth in the past few years. The singing societies which at one time numbered

The evening hours, especially after the official kitchen opened were spent savoring great German cooking, especially the Sauerbraten and dumplings. The kitchen under the direction of Ms. Henry Goetz was busy all day and evening, as were all of the beer vendors.

The crowds were entertained by concerts provided by eight singing societies, while many other singing societies competed for the crowd's attention. Dozens of bands blasted German Folk music and those inclined, which were many, danced. There were also gymnastic demonstrations by the Vorwaerts and Germania Turnvereins, wrestling matches and even a soccer tournament with the First German Sports Club of Baltimore playing the Lancaster Sports Club out of Pennsylvania.

All sixty five (65) German Societies that made up the Union participated.

The guests for the day were the children from the German Orphans

Continued from page -2-
German Festival

be able to attribute that to the emphasis on advertising, especially through the social media sites, but I would also like to attribute it to the fact that maybe some of our young are acknowledging their German heritage and becoming more involved. I know that our German Society booth, fielded tons of questions about the Society, but also about German heritage, language and history. The stand, as well as the other cultural stands, were constantly greeting and speaking with attendees. Many of those questions were genealogical showing that the interest is there.

Whatever the reason, it was a very positive event and hopefully we will be able to build on the strength and energy of this year's crowd.

###

| Topic | 1936 | 2019 |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Visitors to Festival | 20000+ | 4000+ |
| Baltimore Population | 859,100 (1940 numbers)- 7 th in Nation | 611,648 (2017 numbers)- 30 th in Nation |
| Number of German Clubs | 65 | 11 |

about 100 have disappeared. Thanks to the Arion Gesangerverein for hanging in there and congrats on celebrating their 169th Anniversary this year.

So for comparison purposes consider:

The chart above shows that less people mean less clubs and less membership in those clubs, all having a great impact on numbers, but we can change that.

Keep in mind that in 1940 9,744 Germans comprised 16% of the foreign born white population in Baltimore and 23,889 or 17.1% comprised the total German population in Baltimore. In 2013 (latest available) there were 45,217 German Americans residing in Baltimore representing 7.3% of the total population.

Look at the population numbers: 1940 combined 33,633 and in 2014 that number was 45,217. The numbers are there. We need to increase involvement.

I urge you to consider joining one of the German clubs in Maryland, you should. We thank you for your membership in the German Society of Maryland and hope you are taking advantage of the German events in Maryland.

Want to read more about the Maryland German Festival? See <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxQN4BSUbfFAdnhYOFVOMVJKcEk/view>

Healing the Family Heart Holes By Robin Gerry

Aren't we all searching to understand our German hearts? Our German ancestors? To understand what's floating around in our DNA?

Robin Gerry is the author of 'Healing the Family Heart Holes: A Genealogical Quest to Solve an Illegal Adoption Mystery Using DNA, Old Records and Irish Luck'. As her mother was illegally adopted and never had a birth certificate, the entire family lineage was a mystery. Turns out that her mother was half German



and half Irish.

The book details the process of using DNA and historical records to pull together a family history. All of our personal histories wind up being inextricably linked to world history. It be-

came the saga about the trauma of immigration and how the devastation of war, famine, and oppression lead people to the unthinkable conclusion; to feel that their only survival option was to leave their families, their homes...and their countries....and come to America. A

country that wasn't particularly welcoming to immigrants and many finding more prejudice and trauma facing them. For Ms. Gerry's family, "America was safer and offered more opportunities. I doubt anyone expected though, that it would provide an opportunity to inflict more trauma on yet more parentless kids. The family did quite well economically and seemed very bright. German ingenuity."

In the end, the journey became a testament to the power of families sticking together. The power of not surrendering to despair and to believe in the promise of hope. The theme of how understanding what happened within our own family history can have on healing our own heart holes runs through the entire book.

The book is written to give those who are interested in a similar journey tips and hints about how to begin to find their own German hearts.

The book can be ordered on Amazon, Kindle, Barnes and Noble and Walmart.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR and JOIN US!

for

**The 236th Annual Anniversary Dinner
The German Society of Maryland**



Date: November 2, 2019
Time: 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Place: Zion Church of the City of Baltimore
 400 E. Lexington Street
 Baltimore, MD. 21202 (FREE parking next to the church)
Price: \$70.00 Per person
Honoree: Dr. Randall Donaldson, Loyola University



The invitations are in the mail. Respond as soon as possible! Space is limited.

(Advertising Opportunities, page 9)

Political Impressions of Germany

By Ralph Murphy

As a new member to the German Society and having recently returned from an extended visit to Germany, the editor of the newsletter asked for my impressions.

The main one from my focus is the vast difference in backgrounds and orientation from the industrial strength versus political directives which overtaxed the populace, permits permissive border overruns and displays an awkward interest in a European Union leadership role which is simply bought and was still outsourced to Brussels linked players.

I write about politics to the region and traveled to most parts of the country during the six months last year that it was without a federal government in place. Bundestag seat results tended conservative, but the major parties could not form an ideological union nor rollover a grand coalition with the former governing leadership. Party politics are very confusing with the traditionally conservative CDU so compromised by the EU and internal mandates, predictably right wing such as border discretion, tax hikes or official loans took on Social Democrat largesse. Their only consistent feature was payment plans for education and refugee interests which didn't seem to exist. The domestic populace seemed to simply reach the point where Berlin edicts were disregarded in favor of regional ones. Regions are good at "fine print" disqualifications. It was more consistent with French politics but Brussels had intervened to wider apply it.

What struck me as surprising and alternately troubling was the level of eastern block and Russian nationals who had packed the former German Democratic Republic but shot west in recent years often replacing the locals through



extralegal: means. There were redress efforts but from the locals not Berlin which can mirror Brussels to that project. There were hardly any remaining Muslims

not already established despite the western press of their comfortable integration. I was there over three months and didn't meet a single American who identified themselves as such until the Bonn region. All the usual American businesses especially fast food and even car dealers were intact. They appeared administered by locals. The former Cold War British occupation zone had merged with Russian groups from further east. Neither which had a business presence.

I don't think Berlin is a viable capital, as it is too deeply committed east. The Cold War replacement of Bonn retains many of the former governing institutions and a diminished but active supervisory role. While novel to historic leads it would be preferred to consolidate power and move forward as an administrative hub. Finance interests as banking is decentralized but the Bundesbank was established at Frankfurt prior to the ECB and could retain a place.

Ethnicity is important to bonding there. German politics have had real issues straying from their production strength to awkward foreign ventures, financial and military, which really don't reflect their advantages to those fields. Trade as inter region and external that recognizes an exchange need of mutual benefit, Germans surely would remain a top world production group if history serves precedent. In considering travel it is better to have a tour type sponsor while they work out the internal concerns causing turmoil. It is not so much a safety issue -though it can be- but rather

the tourist linked areas are often subject to theft in that environment. Conventional discretion could otherwise make for a pleasant stay.

Mr. Murphy writes a regular column, 'Common Cents', for Emmitsburg.net, a regular digital Non-Profit Internet Source for News, Events, History, & Culture of Northern Frederick & Carroll County Md./Southern Adams County Pa. To see other articles from Mr. Murphy, <http://www.emmitsburg.net/>.

The impressions and opinions are not necessarily those of the editor, nor the German Society of Maryland.

Baltimore Kickers Adult Team Takes Home the WIN!

Champions! The Baltimore Kickers won the World Class Premier Cup Community Shield 2019 beating two first division teams and winning \$2000 in the process.

The adult team has played for the Baltimore Kickers for the past two seasons. They are managed by Fran McGrath and of course, the Baltimore Kickers.

The Premiere Elite Tournament was held at Banner Field in Locust Point in late August. The team played in memory of the Kicker's long time Soccer General Manager, Anna Steffen, who passed away on August 19, 2019.



German Christmas Traditions

St. Nicholas Day, or Eve, is celebrated on December 6. This is a favorite holiday of children - it's a gift-giving day. Many children put a boot called Nikolaus-Stiefel (Nikolaus boot) outside the front door on the night of 5 December. St. Nicholas fills the boot with small gifts and sweets. This is after he inquires about the behavior of the children. Children that have not been good do not get trinkets or sweets. St. Nicholas is a reverent gray-haired figure with flowing beard, wearing gorgeous bishop's garments, gold embroidered cape, mitre and pastoral staff, knocks on doors and inquires about the behavior of the children. The custom of examining the children, where they will cite a verse, sing, or otherwise show their skills, is still widespread in German-speaking countries. Each little one gets a gift for his performance. The naughty children would get a visit from Knecht Ruprecht. Ruprecht is a dark and sinister figure wearing a tattered robe with a big sack on his back in which, as legend says, he would put all



naughty children. Ruprecht was the servant of St. Nikolaus.

The story of St. Nicholas, the bishop of Myra in Minor Asia, who died on December 6th, 343, dates back to the 4th century.

Depending on the location in Germa-

ny, the names may change

Northern Germany-Sankt Nikolaus brings sweets and small gifts for the Nikolaus Stiefel, but if the child was bad, a rute (tree branch/switch) would be left.

In Austria, Bavaria and Tyrol, St. Nicholas is accompanied by Krampus. Krampus is scarier than Ruprecht. He is a beast like creature...almost demonic. It is said that he punishes children who have misbehaved during the year. The really bad are captured and carry away in his sack to his cave. In some areas December 5th is known as Krampusnacht (Krampus Night) in which the hairy devil appears on the streets. He is often in the company of Nicholas who delivers the gifts, while Krampus supplies coal and the *ruten* bundles.

Could Krampus be the beginning of the 'naughty list'?



Here is another tidbit many do not know. You know the rage today is 'Elf on the Shelf'. I was curious as to how St. Nikolaus and Krampus knew which children were bad or good. It appears that in Austria, families placed an elf in the children's room. The elf was known as 'black Peter'. So now there is another American custom borrowed from German culture.

Several years ago, I had the great joy of being part of a Krampus celebration in Weisensee. Many of the towns, villages and even the large cities have Krampus parades.

Last year, the TV show GRIMM had a very good depiction of Krampus on one of their episodes. I believe the portion of the particular show is also on YouTube.

See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rGMgaAL28E>.

So children, don't forget to put your shoes out tonight....and keep your eyes open for Krampus....

**The 25th Anniversary
of 'German Day'**

at

McDaniel College

October 15, 2019

*This is the last 'German Day'
at McDaniel*



Getting to Know You!

‘Getting to know you, getting to know more about you’ are not just great song lyrics...they are fun. It is nice to know fellow Society members and learn more of their journey. So send me a few paragraphs about yourself, your family, your profession, your goals, you history.....whatever. Let us ‘Get to Know You!

Ralph Murphy



My name is Ralph Murphy and I recently reapplied to the German Society of Maryland following a series of visits to that nation. I was born in Istanbul, Turkey as a “Navy brat” while my father was stationed there in the early 1960s.

I grew up in Bethesda and went to school here from elementary to high school graduating in 1979. I was heavily involved in sports as well as local community programs and seemed almost methodically channeled to foreign service pursuits.

I went to University of Maryland and graduated with a degree in economics. I was registered as a Foreign Service Officer by the State Department but variously worked as senior staff support for intelligence in the 1980s. I have strong military affiliation working many years at Andrews Air Force Base and Bolling Air Force Base as a defense contractor linked to the base Commissary. I now work for a civilian food concern near my home in Bethesda. I write a monthly syndicated column for Emmitsburg News Journal exploring political economy with a focus on trade advancements. I’ve been involved with them about 9 years now.

Despite my Irish surname my genealogy is mostly ethnic German. My parents were from Rochester, New York and the community there was characterized by hard working craft and tradesmen. My mother was fluent, speaking the language with her Immigrant grandparents in the home.

Hobbies include sports interests though direct involvement is limited. I don’t socialize much beyond professional groups as they’re linked to my writing but they are common here to my area. I used to enjoy travel in my youth but with airport and customs problems these days I really need a reason to leave home. The German Society

appealed given its lengthy charter and apparent bonding community role as well as general feel of grounding. I’m thankful to be a member and for its continued support of an attractive and productive community that otherwise might go unnoticed.

Clayton Breakiron

Clayton has been a member for a little over a year. He is currently the email systems administrator for the Maryland Department of Transportation. He has been in the computer industry for more than 19 years and has a strong background in computer and computer science.



His German connection goes back 100s of years, actually around 1400. His family was located along the Rhine River. The ancestry was researched and it appears that a couple from the original area along the Rhine, emigrated to the United States in the late 1700s. It was at that time that the family name of Breicheisn was changed to Breakiron. They had several children and all within his family can be traced back to that point in history.

Clayton’s hobbies include snowboarding, motorcycling, flipping cars, off-roading and working on his house. He is shown here with his twin daughters.

We want to hear from you...Just provide us with: Name, Where you live, What you do, Your ‘German connection, how long a member of the GSM and your hobbies. You can write it or send it to us the information and we will write it. 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 Arnold 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!



New Director Update

Last issue we provided members with a short biography and photo of our new directors. A few were missing, so this issue we would like to introduce William Kelleher. Bill was born and raised in the Boston area, graduated from Boston College High School and Boston College. He served in the U. S. Army and was sent to Gelnhausen, Germany. It was here that Bill met and married the wonderful Eva Maus. The couple returned to U.S. in 1963 when

transferred to Baltimore. They became involved in the German community thru Zion Church. Eva Kelleher became a teacher at the German Language School at Zion. She became and remains principal of the Zion school, which was founded in 1928. Our involvement here led us to our joining the German Society, where we have been members for more than 20 years. We are also members of the Edelweiss Club, the Society for the History of Germans in Maryland and the Baltimore Kickers. Bill

served as VP of the Edelweiss Club, but resigned when he became President of the Baltimore Kickers, where he continues to serve in that capacity. As President of the Kickers, Bill is intricately involved in both the German Festival and the Christkindlmarkt.



The German Society of Maryland

2019 Anniversary Banquet –Celebrating our 236th Annual Banquet

**TAKE AN AD IN OUR BANQUET PROGRAM TO HELP OUR SOCIETY ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS,
HONOR YOUR FAMILY WITH A MEMORIAL PAGE-SEND GREETINGS OR CONGRATULATIONS
CONGRATULATE THE HONOREE**

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| ___ Full Page Ad (8.5 x 11) | \$150 | ___ Quarter Page (4.25 x 5.5) | \$50 |
| ___ Half Page Ad (8.5 x 5.5) | \$80 | ___ Patron Ad (One Line) | \$25 |

- () A copy of the ad as you wish it to appear is attached
- () Business card or message attached
- () Digital submission (jpg, .pdf, .tif or .gif file) via e-mail to bonsarnold7@gmail.com
- () Patron ad to read: _____

Send payment and ad to the address below and include your name, address, phone & email

We appreciate your continued support!

*Please make your check payable to the German Society of Maryland and send this form along with your image-ready ad to:
Banquet Committee, 1413 W. Old Cold Spring Lane, Baltimore, Maryland 21209*

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 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 Members

Fritz Bode

Benjamin and Harmony Kleskovic

Ralph Murphy

Krystal and Christopher Pierce

Christopher T. Smithson

Michelle and Shelby Starks

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.

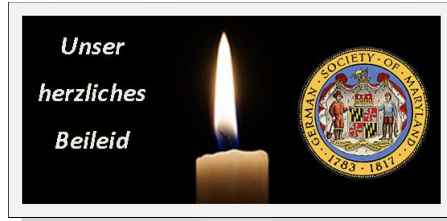
Constance 'Sugar' Potthast (May 22, 1932 – July 3, 2019)



Constance 'Connie' was born in Baltimore and as a child lived in her grandmother's house on Reisterstown Road. She was the daughter of Andrew J. and Sara FAVA. Her father was President of the G. Fava Fruit Company, located on Pratt Street in Baltimore. Her first job was at the age of twelve, when she began working as a switchboard operator in that family business.

She was dubbed 'Sugar' by her Aunt Mae, whom also labeled her brother, Frank, with the nickname 'Cookie.'

She came from a very close Italian family with four immigrant grandparents, all Sicilian, thirteen uncles and aunts, a brother and twenty nine first cousins. To say the family was close is an understatement. For most of her married life she lived around the corner from her brother so that their children would be close to the children of her brother and his wife Rose.



She was educated in the Catholic Schools in Baltimore, specifically St. Ambrose, St. Agnes Middle and St. Agnes High School. Connie was the first female in her family to attend college. While at Catholic University, she majored in drama. She was an accomplished pianist and singer. While in college she performed in many plays and after college joined a touring group known as the 'Players, Inc.'. Players took her to Europe and throughout the United States.

After her touring days, Connie returned to Baltimore and began teaching eighth grade for Baltimore County.

She married lifetime director, Theodore 'Ted' Potthast Jr. on June 28, 1958, the couple just celebrating their 61st wedding anniversary. Early in the marriage they moved to West Hyattsville in order for Ted to be close to his job on Capitol Hill. Here their daughter Catherine (Cappy) and son John Andrew (Jack) were born.

When Ted completed law school and passed the bar in 1962, they returned to Baltimore. Their son Mark was born in 1963 and Marialena (Mia) in 1966.

Connie found herself working for Ted when he established his first law practice. She became adept at tax law and tax preparation and worked for the family and the firm's clients as a tax accountant.

Connie had many interests. She was an exceptional cook, learning from her father and grandmother the art of fine Italian cuisine. She was very active with her children, the boys attended Loyola Blakefield and Johns Hopkins and the girls Notre Dame Prep. Connie belonged to the Mother's Clubs of the schools and was active in the school's athletic clubs. Many of the children's friends have fond memories of the Potthast house and Connie's welcoming and friendly smile.

Connie worked many years and many long hours for the German Society of Maryland...whether it be ticket taker, food runner, decorator, proofer...she was there. She will be deeply missed by all.

'Snow White' gravestone on show in German Museum

Once upon a time a museum in a charming old German town was given a very important, long-lost gravestone.

It was that of Maria Sophia von Erthal, a baroness who is believed to have inspired the Brothers Grimm to write Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

Her restored gravestone has just gone on display at the Diocesan Museum in Bamberg, southern Germany. It was donated by a family who had rescued it.

The museum director says Sophia's life "became the nucleus of Snow White".

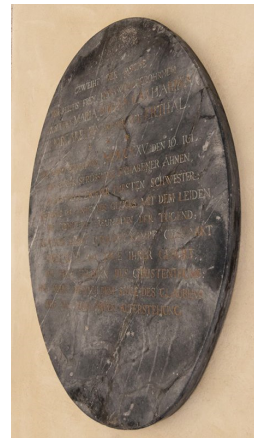
The baroness grew up in a castle in Lohr am Main, about 100km (60 miles) west of Bamberg, in north Bavaria, and died in 1796.

"The story of Sophia's life was well known at the start of the 19th Century," museum director Holger Kempkens told the BBC.

The Snow White fairy tale, by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, was published in 1812 and reached global audiences when Walt Disney created the animated film in 1937, but there have been many other adaptations.

"The Brothers Grimm made literature out of the stories they heard from local people," Mr Kempkens said.

"There are indications - though we cannot prove it for sure - that Sophia was the model for Snow White. Today when you make a film about a historic person there is also fiction in it. So in this case I think there is a historic basis, but there are also fictional elements."



OFFICERS

Dr. James Schaub-President
Shelley Arnold-1st VP
Prof. Dr. Mohamed Esa-2nd VP
Dr. Maureen Helinski-Secretary
Theodore Potthast, Jr.-Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Zachary Butt
John L. Cain
Kraig Dean
Lynette Dean
Steven Harper
Noreen Herbert
Raimund Hofmeister
Richard Jones
William Kelleher
William Kommalan
Amy Unverzagt
Sherry Veith
Robert Wisch
Gen. M. Hall Worthington
EX OFFICIO
President- Women's Auxiliary
Eva Maus Kelleher

LIFETIME DIRECTORS

Shelley 'Dolch' Arnold
John K. Aymold, Jr.*
Linda Butt
Dr. David Denisch
Prof. Dr. Mohamed Esa
Brigitte V. Fessenden*
Dr. Maureen Helinski
Gerhard Meinzer
Prof. Dr. Armin Mruck
Michael J. Nieberding*
Betty Niemann
Rev. H.J.Siegfried Otto *
Paul Gerhard Otto
Bernard Penner, Esq.
Theo. J. Potthast, Jr.,Esq.*
Shirley Santora
Dr. James Schaub*
Anton Smoot*
Dr. Mary Upman
Christel van der Berg
Thomas A. Werner*
Hon. Gerard W. Wittstadt
* = past president

OFFICE MANAGER

Bärbel Otto

*Past newsletters are posted on our website, www.germansociety-md.com,
as is our history, *Pioneers in Service*'.*

*For more German-American happenings check the website for the
Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland at
www.md-germans.org or www.GermanMarylanders.org.*

*This newsletter is published by The German Society of Maryland,
founded in 1783 and incorporated in 1818 by an Act of the General
Assembly of Maryland. It is a non-profit, tax exempt corporation
pursuant to the provisions of §501c(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.*

*Please submit articles or items of interest to
Shelley Arnold, Editor at bsarnold7@gmail.com*

The German Society of Maryland

P.O. Box 22585
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-4585
410-685-0450
Email: germansociety@verizon.net

Visit us on the web
www.germansociety-md.com
Dr. Maureen Helinski,
Webmaster



Find us on
Facebook