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*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-Anton Smoot

Liebe Mitglieder – Dear Members,

As always I hope this message finds all of our members well and safe. Vacations are over, Schools are back in session and the nights are getting cooler. Yes, summer once again is coming to an end. Over the next several months The German Society has some exciting events coming up and I encourage all of you to come out in support. Please check the calendar and take some time to see what is happening.

Our annual Awards Banquet will be held this year on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018. The Zion Church of Baltimore will be once again our venue. Please join us for some outstanding food, entertainment and most importantly, we will be honoring a long time member and contributor to not only the German Society of Maryland but also the entire German Community. This years' honoree will be Mr. Tom Werner and more details of this great event will be sent out in the near future. I encourage all of you to attend and honor him for his service.

I would like to express my gratitude to everyone that not only attended the German Festival this past July but also those that gave their time at the society's cultural booth. This

event allows people from all walks of life experience a bit of what it is like to be German. I personally look forward to this event because it gives me an opportunity to see many of the people I usually don't get to see during the rest of the year. A special and warm welcome to all the new members that joined our organization during this event.

A complete listing of all the scheduled events for the German Society and all the German Organizations in Maryland can be found at [www.md-germans.org](http://www.md-germans.org). All these organizations are working very hard to provide not only traditional events but also encompass new ideas for the future. Visit the website and get out amongst with your fellow Germans!

I would like to reach out to all the German teachers that are also members of the German Society or would like to learn more about this organization. I welcome any opportunity to visit your school and students to not only learn about you but most importantly, provide information on the history and purpose of the German Society. Please email me and let me know how we can work together to get the next gener-



ation of German-Americans involved.

I encourage all of you to visit our website and check the calendar for all the important and exciting events that are coming up. We are a very strong organization and we not only welcome your input but encourage your participation. Besides our annual banquet, we already have laid the groundwork for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Armistice of World War 1 and the honoring SGT Henry Gunther, the last soldier killed in the war.

As always, best wishes and speedy recovery to any of our sick or shut-in members and I hope to see many of you at an event.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Anton G. Smoot

President

[agsmoot@verizon.net](mailto:agsmoot@verizon.net)

## Unser Kalender

October 6, 2018	Friendship Garden –The Mall in DC
October 16, 2018	German Day at McDaniel's College
October 16, 2018	Society for the History of Germans in Maryland– Annual Dinner
October 24 & 25, 2018	Sour Beef Event-Zion Church
October 24, 2018	German Society Board of Directors Meeting
November 3, 2018	German Society Banquet—Zion Church
November 24 & 25, 2018	Christkindlmarkt-Zion Church

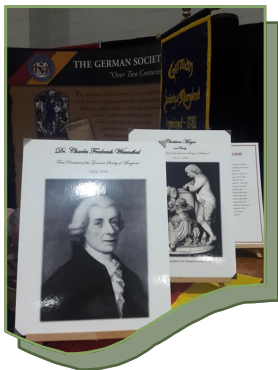
## 118th German Festival

The curtain closed on the 118<sup>th</sup> German Festival on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Admittedly, it appeared that the crowd was a little less than last year, however when speaking with vendors and guests, they confirmed we had another successful year.



Discussing the GSM history, providing genealogical tips and working our mission, to protect and perpetuate our culture, language and heritage. Also new this year, the Archives committee displayed some of the important documents and historical facts of our great Society.

We welcomed a few new vendors and I personally found the Happy German Chef to be a welcomed addition to our veteran vendors. As in the past, the Maryland German clubs were well represented. Patrons could feast on Schnitzel, Wursts, Pig Wings and more. The food was wonderful. All the clubs put their best foot forward and welcomed guests with great food and drink, all while promoting the German community in Maryland.



The German Society manned their booth with gusto, signing up over a dozen new members during the two day event. Many of our directors spent time with festival guests dis-

We had a great time and in speaking with others, it was time well spent with family and friends. The down-side is that it could have been and should have been better. The German community is still well represented in the area and more should attend this event, as well as the individual club events. This is one of the major events of the year for the combined clubs. If all the members of the clubs attended, we would have to close the doors due to the 'sold out' crowd. If our members do not begin to participate, we will lose. We will lose our ability to get together as a major ethnic group, thus further eroding our base. I urge everyone to support their clubs...this goes beyond just paying the dues each year....it means having fun, getting involved, joining the community, showing your pride, sharing your heritage and passing it on to the younger generation. The next event...don't be shy. If you aren't called to help, call someone in your club and tell them, I am ready!

### Publication Dates:

January-March: Deadline 12/15

April-June: Deadline 3/15

July-September: Deadline 6/15

October-December: Deadline 9/15

### Links:

#### German Society Website:

[www.germansociety-md.com](http://www.germansociety-md.com)

#### Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein:

[www.md-germans.org](http://www.md-germans.org)

#### German Marylanders:

[www.germanmarylanders.org](http://www.germanmarylanders.org)

#### German American Radio:

[germanamericanradio.com](http://germanamericanradio.com)

## German Word of the Issue: *Lebenskunst*

Is your life as beautiful as a painting in an art gallery? Then you have mastered *Lebenskunst*!

*Lebenskunst* means “the art of living well”. It comes from the words *leben* (“to live”) and *Kunst* (“art”). If your life is filled with fine wines, exotic travels, delicious food, strong friendships and many hobbies, you have probably mastered the art of living; in other words, your life itself is beautiful – like art.

You don't have to be wealthy to be a *Lebenskünstler* (“artist of life”). You simply need to understand how to make the journey through life as joyful as possible. Every individual has a different idea of how to create an artful, magical life that gets you excited to wake up every morning. Some people may be struck by the magic of a beautiful sunrise, and need nothing more to experience joy. For others, drinking a \$300 bottle of wine would be an example of *Lebenskunst*.

A tip to accomplish *Lebenskunst*: if you see the beauty in every detail of life and use this beauty to create your own happiness, you'll be on your way to becoming a *Lebenskünstler*. In very little time, examples of *Lebenskunst* will surround you.

## Join us for German Day

*McDaniel College will host the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual German-American Day to celebrate German language and culture on Tuesday, October 16, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.*



McDaniel College will host the 24<sup>th</sup> annual German-American Day on October 16.

The theme this year is "German-American Heritage." In previous years, the German Society of Maryland generously has supported this event and many of its members attended GAD or offered workshops. This year, all German-American associations and clubs are invited to attend the event. GAD has been traditionally offered since 1995 and each year some 1,000 middle and high school students participate in workshops and hands-on activities on German music, German fairytales, History of German Cinema, German Marylanders, German ancestry, German-American Military Relations, German

Folk Dancing, the Holocaust, German Resistance to Hitler, the Art of Cheese Making, German Face Painting, Study Abroad in Germany, among others. The organizers hope to be able to host Eddi Hüneke, a wonderful German musician from Cologne, who was a member of the Wise Guys, a

legendary and internationally acclaimed a-cappella band.

For more information about last year's GAD please see:  
<http://www2.mcdaniel.edu/german/gad/>

For more information about this year's GAD, please contact Dr. Mohamed Esa by e-mail at [mesa@mcdaniel.edu](mailto:mesa@mcdaniel.edu) or by phone at (410)857-2462.



Please join us for the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland's annual dinner/lecture on October 16, 6 to 8:30 PM at the Hopkins Faculty Club on the Johns Hopkins Homewood campus. Our speaker will be Jackson Gilman-Forlini, "Baltimore's Historic German-American Music District, 1850-1914." For additional information and tickets (\$50), contact Nick Fessenden, President, SGHM, 443-542-2263 or [nicholasfessenden@comcast.net](mailto:nicholasfessenden@comcast.net).

## A Thank You from the Meinzer Summer Study Recipient



I wanted to thank you and the entire German Society of Maryland for granting me this past trip to Germany. I had such a blast there. I made many awesome friends and truly enjoyed life during those three weeks. I am so happy to keep such great memories of so many wonderful experiences. The cities of Leipzig, Berlin, Weimar, and Dresden were all so beautiful and rich in history. It was honestly a beautiful experience and blessing in my life. I do hope I have

the opportunity to go back there in the future. I am forever grateful to you and the German Society of Maryland for making it all possible!

Moisés Alvarez

**Help the German Society be more efficient and save paper. If you have an email address and would like to receive your 'Vereinsnachrichten' via email, send an email to Bärbel Otto at [germansociety@verizon.net](mailto:germansociety@verizon.net).**

**This action alone saves paper and postage costs.**

**You may then print the Vereinsnachrichten in full color.**

## Join Us for

### The 235th Annual German Society Banquet

**When:** Saturday, November 3, 2018  
**Where:** Zion Church of the City of Baltimore  
**Time:** 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM



**Join us as we honor 'Tom Werner' for his years of dedicated service to the German Community.**

For tickets of information contact: By telephone (410) 685-0450 or via email: [german@germansociety-md.com](mailto:german@germansociety-md.com)

To advertise in the Dinner Program: <http://germansociety-md.com/gsadletter18.pdf> or via email at [bnsarnold7@gmail.com](mailto:bnsarnold7@gmail.com)

## *Advertising Available*

**The 235th Annual Awards Banquet will be held on November 3, 2018 at Zion Church of the City of Baltimore. We are pleased to present the honor to Thomas Werner.**

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

You may place a memorial for a loved one or send congratulatory remarks for an anniversary or a special birthday, or congratulate the honoree, Tom Werner. 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](mailto:bnsarnold7@gmail.com))

\*Entire agreement and additional information and mailing instructions at <https://www.ermansociety-md.com/gsadletter18.pdf>

## *Vielen Dank für den Freundschaftsgarten!*

By Gary Carl Grassl

The German-American Friendship Garden was dedicated on November 15, 1988 by President Ronald Reagan and Chancellor Helmut Kohl as a symbol of the friendship between our two nations.

In 1999, President Clinton awarded Chancellor Kohl the Presidential Medal of Freedom. After the ceremony in the East Room everyone headed toward the President to shake his hand. Kohl stood almost alone at the window that looks down on our Friendship Garden. I thought that I should speak to him, but I was so overwhelmed by the great man that I almost forgot both my German and my English. I stammered a few words, and he looked puzzled. Then I managed to squeeze out, "Vielen Dank für den Freundschaftsgarten." His face lit up, and he shook my hands. It was a great moment for me.

Our Friendship Garden is located in about the best spot in Washington imaginable, on the National Mall at the foot of the Washington Monument and within sight of the White House. The National Mall is located between Constitution Avenue on the North and Independence Avenue on the South. There was no Constitution Avenue here during Colonial days, there being no Constitution. Instead a stream ran along here from Capitol Hill to the Potomac. It started near the farm of Mr. Pope, who called his farm appropriately, ROME and the stream he called the TIBER. Later Jacob Funk came along and in 1768 laid out a town along the Tiber. He modestly called it Hamburg. Its harbor was about where the Vietnam Memorial is today. The white building visible from the Friendship Garden on the west is the Pan American Union; this was near the SE corner of Hamburg. From there the border ran up to H Street and over to 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. Funk laid out the lots and the streets, and he gave them names. He set aside a lot for the German Presbyterian church and burial ground and one for a German Lutheran



*Vice President, James Schaub and the GSM banner-2017 German American Day*

church. Germans from Georgetown purchased these lots.

The decision by George Washington in 1790 to put part of the nation's capital on top of Hamburg was the undoing of Funk's town. Both Thomas Jefferson and George Washington drew up plans for the location of the government buildings. Jefferson drew an outline of Hamburg, and he put the capitol, the President's house and all the government buildings inside Hamburg. Washington had a bigger government in mind; he ordered the President's house to be built on the high ground east of Hamburg, and that's where it is today, about two blocks from old Hamburg. Interestingly, both Jefferson and Washington took their reference from Hamburg.

Funk's town was called Hamburg by the local people to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but today the area is called Foggy Bottom. The only reminder of Hamburg is a church called Deutsche Lutherische Evangelische Concordia Kirche at 20<sup>th</sup> and G Streets, NW. Church services are still held here in German. A plaque on the church tower announces that John Phillip Sousa was baptized here; his mother was from Germany. The Washington Sängerbund has been conducting annual Weihnachtskonzerte here since 1967.

While Hamburg did not survive, we have to admire Funk's real estate acumen. Inside old Hamburg are today the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, the Department of the Interior, George Washington University, the Federal Reserve Board and the National Academy of Science and Engineering with the statue of Einstein. Here also are the DAR Constitution Hall, the national headquarters of the Red Cross, the Organization of American States, the Renwick and the Corcoran Galleries of Art, and last but not least the Department of State.

To connect the eastern seaboard with the heartland of American, the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal was dug. Its 185 miles were excavated mostly by German and Irish immigrants using picks and shovels. Tiber creek served as part of the canal. A lock lifted a boat up or down by opening or closing the water gates in front and back. From here the C&O canal ran up to the Potomac, but it turned right just before the river. The canal ran past the future site of the Heurich Brewery, known as Heurich's Castle, where the Kennedy Center is today. There was another lock and another pair of water gates; they are commemorated today by the Watergate Apartments.

Hopefully, you will be joining the German Society of Maryland on their trip to the German-American friendship garden. The event will take place on October 6th and a bus has been made available for the trip to DC.

## Meet Lifetime Director— Dr. Armin Einhard Mruck



Each issue, I attempt to ‘spotlight’ one of GSM’s talented and dedicated Directors. This issue, being no different, I asked Armin Mruck if I

could write his story. Little did I know that this spotlight would be a little more than the norm. Dr. Mruck was gracious and said yes and I began taking notes. Taking notes, watching interviews and doing basic research led to a six page article, too much for our ‘director’ column. I am going to attempt to give you an overview of the accomplished, immensely talented, ever consummate and yet reserved Armin Mruck.

Armin Mruck was born June 6, 1925, son of Otto E. and Käthe Mruck (nee Burdanski). He was born in a small town, Osterode/East Prussia. Osterode is now Ostroda/Mazuria Poland. . Armin was raised in a solid middle class Prussian family, both his father and grandfather members of the teaching profession. Armin attended public schools, specifically the Kaiser Wilhelm Gymnasium (est.1907), graduating in 1943.

Armin had a good childhood. The family attempted to make a normal life for him and his brother Dieter. The peace within the family did not last.

World War II took its toll on the Mruck family. Armin’s older brother, Dieter, an expert sailor, joined the German Navy. Armin’s father Otto, a veteran of World War I, was also drafted in August of 1939. Dieter served aboard a minesweeper/torpedo boat and later was loaned from the Navy to the Air Force where he became a Reconnaissance Pilot. His father remained on the Polish front for his entire service time. It was at this time Armin’s home life became more somber. Dieter was shot down over Jutland, a peninsula in

Denmark. Thankfully, Dieter was saved by a fisherman. He was sent to Garmisch-Partenkirchen to recuperate and it was here Armin saw his brother for the last time. After his recovery, Dieter was sent to northern Norway. In 1943 Dieter died when his plane crashed into the sea. His body was never recovered. There is a monument in Kiel to Dieter and those that served in WWI and WWII.

Armin was drafted into the Air Force in 1943. He was initially drafted into the labor service, where he served 3 months working on a Polish farm. He spent the next months, in Armin’s words, doing and learning nothing. It wasn’t until sent to France where he finally received basic training. Armin was transferred to the Artillery, received a brief training and was sent to the front line in Russia. It was here on October 24, 1944 that he came face to face with an Uzbekistan soldier, who was slightly faster at the trigger shooting Armin in the left rear end at very close range. He was sent to a German hospital. Armin was again shot while with an ‘Alert Unit’ and during his trek to find family and friends, this time in the thigh.

Armin began his recuperation for this injury, at a hospital in Copenhagen for the first month and was then transported to Lübeck for further treatment. His wound became infected and due to the lack of antibiotics, it was customary, and in an attempt to increase survival rates, to amputate the diseased limb. It was here, in the intensive care unit, that Armin was cared for by a very special nurse. This nurse took such good care, amputation was avoided. Years later he and that special nurse, Hannelore Grimm, collaborated and wrote, ‘Two German Lives’ (Deutsch Lebenswege zwischen Diktatur und Demokratie (2007).

Armin began searching for his parents using the ‘search’ lists available at

the time. The lists were similar to those we saw following 9-11. He found his parents in Hessen, which was under American occupation. He was in Lübeck, which was under British occupation. Armin had to be creative to make his way to Hessen. He accomplished this using a coal car, two good feet and hitch hiking. He found his father chopping wood. Unaware that Armin was still alive, the family was ecstatic to see him. His parents were in good health and were living on the estate of a well-to-do industrialist that employed over 1000 persons in Cassel (a major city in Hessen). It was at this time, his cousin Ilsa, who had owned a large farm (over 4000 acres) in East Prussia, escaped the Russians with her three children in tow. Ilsa’s husband remained behind to make certain the farm continued operations. Tragically, the Russians wanted the farm and executed Ilsa’s husband. She was an exceptional cook which landed her a job working as a cook for American officers. This helped her provide for her family. Armin fondly remembered Ilsa calling her one of his ‘heroes’.

Learning English in Gymnasium paid off as Armin began teaching English in his home. He applied and was accepted as a preferred student due to his wounded veteran status, to Philips University in Marburg (founded in 1527).

During his early days in university, Armin studied English, Geography, History and Philosophy. This changed in later years as he developed a passion for history. It was with the assistance of Professor Wilhelm Treue that Armin changed his major to History. His dissertation, in 1951, ‘The Significance of Railroads in the history of war up to and including the American Civil War’, was well received. German custom also required students to study at

more than one university. Armin chose Göttingen, a University in Lower Saxony, founded by King George II of Brit-



ain, in 1734.

The U.S. Congress passed a law to fund young Germans, not in the Nazi party, to study in the U.S. Armin was interviewed in Bremen and to his astonishment was selected. They had no choice of school assignments, but Armin was content with his Lexington Kentucky pick. It was here Armin met Professor A.D. Kirwin, President and football coach at Kentucky University. Professor Kirwin was an authority on Southern History and became a good friend.

Armin's life changed again when he met Marlene, his future wife, during a trip to Miami in January 1952. She, a junior at Queens College in New York, was visiting Coral Gables for a short vacation. Marlene, a resident of Long Island, had German parents. Their relationship grew. Armin was scheduled to leave the U.S. and return to Germany that September. They began working on plans to return to Germany and introduce Marlene to his family. It was not commonplace for young, unmarried couples to travel on the same ship. Armin and Marlene found the simple answer....get married. The couple was married at a Lutheran church on Long Island in August 1952. Together, they returned to Germany on the ship, United States, traveling first to LeHarve, then Paris, then Solingen. Here, in Solingen, Marlene met her Stocker family, including her grandfather for the first time. From there, they traveled to Hannoversch Münden where Marlene met the Mrucks.

Armin began his teaching career at NYU. Here in February 1953, just days after his return, he worked 15 hours per week teaching German Language and Literature on a meager \$3000 per year salary. He remained at NYU for a few years. In 1955 he was approached by Morgan College in Baltimore. They made an offer much more impressive than that of NYU. Armin became Asst. Professor of European history, a tenured



track and on a salary of \$14,500. He began the Fall semester of 1955 and stayed until 1967 when he moved to Towson State College. Here he was offered full Professor with full tenure from the start. He remained at Towson until his retirement in 1994. He was named Professor Emeritus, since 1993.

It was at Towson that Armin began the Student Exchange programs to Oldenburg. Initially it was a faculty exchange beginning in the late 80s. The student ex-

changes began in 1990. The program is with the University of Oldenburg, which in the 70s became the University of Carl von Ossietzky. Armin visited the school in 1987 and actually taught at the school from 1992-1993. It was here he presented his audio lecture, 'Foreign Relations of the German Resistance with the United States'. German anti-Hitler Resistance, German-East European/Polish relations became his specialization.

The Mrucks became a household name when a local television station interviewed them and they were able to describe their experience at one of the greatest moments in history, the 'Fall of the Wall'. The Mrucks were there and are proud of the photo of Marlene holding her hammer.

Armin continues to have strong emotional ties to Germany and feels many things are still better in Germany (i.e. free education, less crime, etc.). He also feels that the German schools do a better job of teaching WWII and the Holocaust, which is often glazed over by the U.S. schools. 'Germany is becoming more and more aware that they are German and their history contains 11 negative years and more than 1000 positive years and they, as a people, have contributed immensely to our civilization.

He and Marlene have three children, Dieter (1953); Loren (1956; and Heidi (1957). They moved to Reisterstown and have stayed there.

Armin E. Mruck has received many honors and has contributed so much to our community. His awards, achieve-

ments and memberships include Recipient German-American Friendship award German Embassy, 1990; Distinguished Service Cross President, 1997; The German Society of Maryland's Service Award in 1995; American Historical Association, Society for the History of Germans in Maryland, Phil Alpha Theta - Honorary Member. Recipient of the Germany Bundesverdienstkreuz (1999); Honorary Citizen of Oldenburg/Germany; Distinguished Professor emeritus, Towson University (2013); and recipient of the Carl von Ossietzky Medal of the Carl von Ossietzky Universitaet Oldenburg/Germany. Armin Mruck served as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the German Society.

*\*This article was based on a series of interviews of Professor Mruck by Professor Nicole Dombrowski. The interviews are on YouTube. The links are below.*

#### **For more:**

*The entire six page article is posted at [www.GermanMarylanders.org](http://www.GermanMarylanders.org). Go to Profiles and to Education*

#### **Interviews on YouTube:**

*Interview #1:*

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Xmmqx9vp2E&t=0s&list=PLPbTrIiypN1ESYB9pgV1dHqmw7Sr1MsXp&index=2>*

*Interview #2:*

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=peGKkTtSHe4&t=0s&list=PLPbTrIiypN1ESYB9pgV1dHqmw7Sr1MsXp&index=3>*

*Interview #3:*

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1Yk1FukWLo&t=0s&list=PLPbTrIiypN1ESYB9pgV1dHqmw7Sr1MsXp&index=4>*

## *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*

*\* Indicates NEW Lifetime Member*

Jeffrey and Maggie Arrington

David Auber

Thomas Burger\*

Richard and Dorothy Bush

Diana Kahler and Brian Golin

Dustin and Olivia Guthmann

Thomas Guthmann

Christine Hanson

Henry Hergenroeder

Rita Hubbard

Jeffrey Knorr

Michael Kohlman

Alan Leatherman

John Liao

Ingrid Loukota

Sarah Meyers

Carsten and Molly Bradford-Miller\*

Marc Nicklaus

William and Nancy Parks

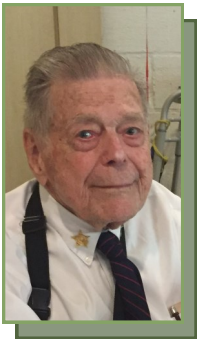
Milton Rebbert

Rosemary Thompson



## In Sympathy

### Brooke, Dandridge



The German Society is saddened by the recent loss of long-time member, lifetime director and friend, Dandridge 'Dan' Brooke.

Dan passed away on September 17th. He was our 'Spotlight' Director in the October 2017 issue. Dandridge Brooke was a Marylander born in

Dresden.

He was dedicated to service to the community and the country. He grew up and has resided his whole life in Baltimore and Rehobeth, DE. He attended West Nottingham Academy and served in the Navy during WWII.

His professional life was in the property and casualty insurance business serving 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.

He served many years with the Boy Scouts of Maryland and also was a member of and Past President of The Paint and Powder Club. He was a member of Ancient and Honorable Mechanical Society, the Society of the Cincinnati, and the St. George's Society of Baltimore. He was a member of the American Legion.

Dan was a member of our Society for over 68 years and has been a director for 51 years. For many years he served as our membership chairman and has recruited many members.

Dan was honored with our 'Distinguished Service Award' in 2004.

Dan was married to the late Isolde K. Brooke (nee Kluge). He is survived by daughter and GSM Director, I. Lynette Brooke-Dean, D. William Brooke, Brian W. Brooke and Randall W. Brooke. He is also survived by 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Dan was laid to rest at Dulaney Valley Cemetery. Donations in his memory may be made to the German Society of Maryland Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 22585, Baltimore, MD. 21203-4585.

### Gradl, Erich

Mr. Gradl was born in Helmbrechts, Germany to the late Georg and Anna. Erich grew up in Nürnberg, Germany and at the age of 16 was taken by



German soldiers and trained in combat. He served during the chaotic ending of WWII. When the war ended, as he attempted to get home, he was held at gunpoint by the SS and then captured by the Americans. He and others like him were placed in one of 'Eisenhower's Disarmed Enemy Forces (DEF) camp. After the war he finished his education at the Hans Sachs Gymnasium, was a champion handball player, loved nature and playing the violin.

He emigrated to the U.S. and was drafted into the US Army in 1953. He won the Good Conduct and the National Defense Service Medals. At one point he was sent to Austria, probably due to his language skills. He was honorably discharged as a sergeant in 1961. Mr. Gradl's daughter said that her father was very proud of his American military service. She said he and others like him saw a government gone horribly wrong in Germany, and were proud to embrace and defend American ideals.

He worked at Martin Marietta and later Westinghouse as a Defense Machinist. He was involved in the development of the AWACS radar system.

He was a member of the Masons, Warren Lodge #51 and the German Society of Maryland. He spent his later years at Carroll Lutheran Village.

He is survived by his sister Lore Wolfel of Nürnberg, daughter Terry Ann Gradl-Barrett and her husband Warren Arthur Barrett, II and his grandsons, Warren Arthur II and Alexander Hans-Erik. He is also survived by his longtime friend and companion Jeanne Cromwell Hoddinott and former wife Annemarie Schmidt.

Mr. Gradl was buried at the Baltimore National Cemetery.

### Wilke, Adeline

On May 24, 2018, Adeline Wilke passed away. Adeline was born in Lithuania and

immigrated from Germany to the US in 1956. She was predeceased by husbands Emil Wellert and Gerhard Wilke, granddaughter Lauren Edgerton and her eight siblings.

She is survived by her daughters Ingrid W. Edgerton and Heidi Garman and her husband Robert, grandchildren Jeffrey and Christopher Edgeron and Daniel and Kathleen Garmen. She was also survived by many great-grandchildren and many extended family members in both the US and Canada. Her family are long-time members of Zion Church.

Ms. Wilke was buried on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Crest Lawn Memorial Park.

### Jeschke, Charlotte

Charlotte (nee Schwarz) died on July 16, 2018. She was born in Baltimore on July 2, 1921 to Charles and Gretchen



Schwarz. She attended Western High School, graduated from Towson State Teacher's College and became an elementary school teacher.

Charlotte married Curt Jeschke in May of 1943 and were married 62 years when Curt passed away in 2005. Together they raised six sons.

Charlotte was an active member of Zion, where she taught Sunday School and was instrumental in the reorganization of Zion's library. She was active in the Rolling Hills Women's Club and the Women's Auxiliary of the Engineering Society of Baltimore.

Charlotte remained active and in her later years moved to Charlestown in Catonsville. Here she attended lectures, enjoyed her bridge games and continued learning throughout her life.

She is survived by sons Carl, Curt, Chris, Craig, Clark and Colin, as well as her 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

# Getting to Know You!

This month we are welcoming two new members who replied to 'Getting to Know You'. Let's welcome the new members.

## Jeff & Marisa Faust

Marisa is the daughter of a Sudeten Deutsch mom (Gerlinde Pannoch Franke) and an American army sergeant (Jose Garcia) stationed in Schwabach, Germany. In her early childhood she lived in Germany and in Puerto Rico. She works as a Physician Assistant and lives in Maryland. Marisa is married to Jeff Faust and has 3 children. She travels often to Germany to see her family and is interested to know more about her Sudeten relatives especially the Salzborn's.



Jeff Faust is from Wisconsin and his dad's family comes from Bruhl, Germany. His mom (Meinholz) is also German, and they met in Wisconsin and had 7 children. Jeff works as a compliance director for Synagro and also travels to Germany when he can. We are planning to go to the Oktoberfest in Munich next year to enjoy the music and celebration.

Marisa requested that we share her email. To contact Marisa email [ms\\_garcia7@comcast.net](mailto:ms_garcia7@comcast.net)

## Frank Meeks



Born near Coburg, Germany in what is commonly referred to as Oberfranken in the small village of Neundorf near the "Thüringer Wald". My memories of growing up in Neundorf have always been fond. After all, it couldn't have been more than 500 residents where everyone knew everyone's business. It was true farm life. Linens were hung up to dry in the summer sun, Fruehschoppen and Oma's kloesse were tradition every Sunday while the boys played league Fussball in the afternoon. We always played Fussball after homework was done and occa-

sionally would find ourselves roaming around the Wildlife Refuge in "Schlosspark Tambach" where on occasion the wild boars would chase us. It wasn't uncommon that all the kids in the Summer evenings would camp out under the evening sky in the farmer's field only to hear a shrieking sound during the night only to find us running home. Near the end of every Summer, my uncle Arno would "schlacht a Sau". It was generally Saturdays and would start very early as it was an all-day event. Because it was a small town and many of the modern amenities weren't yet available in the early '70's, beer was still brewed in town, and the harvest like apples and potatoes would be stored in underground caves. Years later, the town built a community freezer house and each resident had their own freezer.

We moved to the "big city"; Nürnberg when I was probably 7 or 8. I went to Elementary School & High School in Fuerth. Nürnberg, if you've ever been, is simply a wonderful place cloaked in it's medieval charm, surrounded by the city wall. It is best known obviously for the Christkindlmarkt and Gluehwein but has so much more. I grew up and to this day avidly follow den 1. FC Nürnberg; aka "der Club". I often frequented the games on Saturday afternoons in my full garb rooting on my favorite team watching greats like Rudi Kargus and Dieter Lieberwirth.

College life began in Munich quickly becoming a favorite place of mine when I attended the University of Maryland on McGraw Kaserne. In 1993, I moved to Baltimore because a high school friend encouraged me where I completed my Graduate studies at the University of Baltimore. Shortly after arriving, I met my future wife Mary Beth. Of course it took some time before we lastly married but all good things should take their time. The wedding and reception were both at Zion and were fortunate to have Pastor Gritsch as our pastor in 2000.

We currently live in Historic Relay with Samantha & Shelby. We can't imagine being anywhere else right now. Like Neundorf it's home.

Last year, I had the opportunity to take an extended sabbatical from many years of corporate life to enjoy what life has given. When asked what I do in my free time I say what free time? Because the house is nearly 100 years old it requires constant maintenance that keeps me busy and am quite comfortable in calling it my hobby but I do enjoy a good read and it never fails I get a book either on my birthday or father's day every year from the girls that grabs my attention.

## Maryland's Debt to her German Citizens

## 100th Anniversary of Henry Gunther's death. The last soldier to die in WWI.

Few organizations are to be found in this country with a record of more years of usefulness than the German Society of Baltimore. This venerable society was organized 125 years ago, and the anniversary of its formation will be celebrated by a banquet on January 8. Since its organization in 1783, the German Society, which is a beneficial as well as a patriotic and social society, has aided a vast number of immigrants who in that time have landed on the American coasts. It has accumulated a considerable fund, the income from which is devoted to the support of needy people of German blood. In many other ways does the German Society extend aid to those who have come from the Fatherland or whose parents are from the old-country.

Maryland owes a great debt to her citizens of German blood. In the days of the petty German states there was from time to time political oppression which forced many citizens of prominence in learning and social position from their old homes. Many of these settled in Baltimore and became leading merchants, who contributed largely to the upbuilding of this city and the extension of her commerce. They also formed an intelligent and refined society which freely associated with an intermarried in the best social circles of the city. In the war of the Revolution the German people of Maryland were intensely patriotic. The western part of the State was largely peopled by Germans. The first to settle in Frederick County, about 1732, came from Pennsylvania. Then many whose destination was that county landed at Philadelphia and made their way across the

country to the new and unsettled uplands of Maryland. Among these were Jonathan Hager, the founder of Hagerstown, and Thomas Schley, the schoolteacher who build the first house in Frederick City. From him were descended we believe, the great lawyer, William Schley, Admiral W.S. Schley and the distinguished men of that name in Savannah. Thousands of Germans landed at Annapolis and made their way overland to Frederick County. Many landed at Baltimore, some making this their home, and others pushing westward to the mountains. Among the latter was Dr. Christian Boerstler, who brought his family and was accompanied by a large party from the Duchy of Deux Ponts, Bavaria, from which they had been driven by the oppression of the local government. Dr. Boerstler was a man of learning and ability, possessing great influence among the Maryland people of German blood. This influence was exerted to secure the adoption of the Constitution of the United States by Maryland, and it may be that without that influence Maryland would not have accepted the constitution. He wrote many articles in the German newspapers which circulated in Maryland, over the signature "Volksfreund," and offered such arguments as won his people to the cause he was supporting. Until the German tide set into Maryland the settlement of the Province was very slow. A century after the first settlement the population of Maryland was probably less than 100,000 souls. At the end of the first century, the German settlers began to arrive, and in the next 40 years the population of the province had doubled.

*Baltimore Sunpaper, December 27, 1908,  
Page 4 (110 years ago)*

Henry Nicholas Gunther, the last soldier to be killed in WWI, was born on June 5, 1895 to German immigrants, George Gunther and Lena Gunther (Roth). He grew up in East Baltimore and attended the public schools there. He attended Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church.

Drafted, Henry served in 313th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed "Baltimore's Own;" it was part of the larger 157th Brigade of the 79th Infantry Division. His unit was advancing toward Meuse when it was announced that the Armistice would take effect at 11:00 a.m. on November 11. Despite this, an attack was ordered, and as his unit was advancing they ran into a German division near the village of Chaumont-devant-Damvillers. He charged with his bayonet and was shot within a few yards of the German position. General Pershing officially recognized him as the last American death in his Order of the Day for November 11 announcing the Armistice. Gunther was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and his body was returned home to Baltimore in 1923. His story is told in Joseph E. Persico's "Eleventh Month, Eleventh Day, Eleventh Hour." (bio by: Paul F. Wilson)

Since 2010, the German Society has honored Sgt. Gunther with a graveside memorial. This is the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Gunther's death. Look for details, check your email.

See also:

[www.baltimoresun.com/news/bs-md-cikelly-column-gunther-20170331-story.html](http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/bs-md-cikelly-column-gunther-20170331-story.html)

## FREE STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS

We encourage all students from first grade through university level to become student members of our Society. Email their name, grade or level, and name of the school to the Society at [germansociety@verizon.net](mailto:germansociety@verizon.net) and stating that you wish to become a student member. This is FREE. **NO ANNUAL DUES WITH VALID EMAIL ADDRESS!**

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as is our history, *Pioneers in Service*'.*

*For more German-American happenings check the website for the  
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