

THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

Founded 1783 Incorporated by Act of the General Assembly of Maryland, Chapter 100 Feb 3, 1818

VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

SEPTEMBER 2007 ISSUE #59

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

OUR MISSION NEEDS INCOME: Until now, the Society has relied on the growth of our investments to fund our educational grants and to cover expenses. The recent market decline makes clear that we cannot count on an ever-rising stock market. Besides changing our investment policies, we also have to promote fund raising to maintain our programs. The increase in dues for 2008 will help, but will not fund our mission.

We are hoping to see more gifts to our educational fund and our newsletter fund, through the generosity of our members. A new fund-raiser which we hope will bring in several thousand dollars is the plan to solicit gifts in memory of the family and friends of our members and others, which will be acknowledged in the program for our annual awards banquet. More on page 3. We also need your ideas and help for other fundraising projects. Please volunteer your time, brain-power and energy to create interest in and raise money for our mission.

Brigitte V. Fessenden, President

KALENDAR

- Sept 18 Society for the History of the
Germans in Maryland Banquet
Sept. 30 Ecumenical Service at Zion
5:30 Sunday
Oct. 16 German-American Day at
McDaniel College
Nov. 3 Annual Awards Banquet

KRUG FAMILY IS OUR 2007 AWARD HONOREE

Theodore, Peter and Stephen Krug will be honored at our Society's awards banquet Nov. 3. Each year the executive committee selects one or more Marylander with German - speaking ancestry who are outstanding in their service to our state or nation. Dr. Mohamed Esa, chairman of the banquet committee nominated the Krug's for the honor.

The Krug family has preserved an ancient craft: the firm of G. Krug & Son is the oldest firm of blacksmiths in the United States. Gustav Krug came from Germany to Baltimore in 1848. He joined a blacksmith firm founded in 1810, became a partner in the firm and by 1871 was the sole owner; he changed its name to "G. Krug & Son.", the name still carried by his 5th generation descendants, Peter and Stephen, who learned the trade from their father, Theodore. Stephen's son David and Peter's daughter Alexandra are already skilled in the business.

The Krugs have been hammering out practical and ornamental ironwork for 159 years and their early work can still be found on the Otterbein Church, Baltimore's Washington Monument, Johns Hopkins Hospital, the Basilica of the Assumption, Zion Church and the Maryland Zoo.

A cut-out of a blacksmith's anvil hangs above the door and the sign of the Krug shops in Baltimore; it is on the register of historic landmarks.

ANNUAL BANQUET - NOV. 3

Our annual awards banquet will take place on Saturday, Nov. 3 at Zion's Adlersaal. Ticket price is \$45 per person; place: Zion's Adlersaal. We expect a sell-out crowd. First come, first served. To assure a reservation, send your checks early. You will receive a notice with a ticket order form in the mail before the end of September. We also urge that you support the Society by placing an ad or a memorial note in the banquet program. It is a fundraiser for our mission.

Visit the German Society's website:

www.germansociety-md.com

Articles from some past newsletters are posted on our website. Dr. Maureen Helinski maintains the site.

"Pioneers in Service", the history of our Society, can now be found on our web site.

For more local German-American happenings, check the web site of the Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland: www.md-germans.org

HISTORICAL SOCIETY LECTURE TO FEATURE GERMAN JEWISH ROOTS

At the annual meeting and banquet of our sister Society, The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland, Elizabeth R. Kahn of the staff of the Jewish Museum of Baltimore will lecture on the German founders of the Lloyd Street Synagogue, one of the oldest Jewish institutions in America. The lecture is the third in a series on contributions of religious faiths to the development of Maryland, the first describing the German Lutherans and last year, those of German Catholics.

The annual meeting and banquet of the historical society, which will be held in the Adlersaal of Zion Church, Baltimore on Tuesday, September 18. Cash bar. Free parking on the church lot. Tickets are \$35 per person and may be obtained by sending your check to the historical society at 8224 Carrbridge Circle, Towson, MD 21204. All members of the German Society are invited to attend. If you have questions, call Gerard Wm. Wittstadt at 410- 510-1349.

The historical society was founded in 1886 and from its inception has been considered a sister society to The German Society of MD. Many members of our Society are also members and officers of the historical society and we encourage our members to support it.

ANNUAL ECUMENICAL SERVICE SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 30 AT ZION

Less than three weeks after the fall of the Berlin wall, in November, 1989, the German Society, along with Zion Church and The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland, called for an ecumenical service of thanksgiving: our fellow countrymen in eastern Germany became free from communist domination and could practice their faith openly. Each year since 1989 the Society has been a sponsor of an ecumenical worship service, which this year will occur on Sunday, September 30. The date was selected as the closest Sunday to the feast day of St. Michael, Archangel, the patron of Germany. All of our members are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served after the service in Zion's historic Adlersaal. The new elevator to the Adlersaal will be operating for those who prefer not to climb the long stairs.

GERMAN AMERICAN DAY AT McDANIEL COLLEGE: OCTOBER 16

High school students studying the German language in schools throughout the region will celebrate a German American Day on the campus of McDaniel College in Westminster. Members of our Society are invited to attend. The event will feature more than 20 topics on German history and culture and those attending can select those which most interest them. The schedule and topics will be published on the website established for the event: <http://www2.mcdaniel.edu/german/gad> Hosting the event is Prof. Dr. Mohamed Esa of the college faculty, who is also a director of our Society.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Eric Hans Bauman	Janice Bauman
Chelsey Craig	
Karen A. Gastel	Francis W. Gastel
Michael J. Glenn, Jr.	Margaret L. Glenn
Christy Guenther	
John F. Hartnett	
Lieselotte B. Haskell	Trueman L. Haskell, Jr.
Frank J. Kammel	
David A. Monath	
Mark A. Sanders, Jr.	
Judith A. Schnauffer	William Schnauffer, IV
Diane Schulte	
Robin Upperman	

"HONOR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER"; AN OPPORTUNITY

The program for our annual banquet has always solicited commercial ads to help defray costs. Recently a number of people have taken space in the program to honor the memory of their ancestors, family and friends. The major difference between an ad and a memorial is that in requesting a memorial, you will be making a gift to our Society in memory of another; the gift is a tax exempt contribution. The Society will acknowledge your memorial gift by a notice in the program.

As a fundraiser for the Society, the Society will print your memorial. The size of the acknowledgment will relate to the gift. A schedule is being planned comparable to the cost of commercial ads, although less expensive.

This gives us the opportunity to call to mind the memory of our ancestors and our dear ones; and since the programs are maintained permanently in the archives of the German Society, the memorials will forever be preserved in the annals of history. Your descendants and others, many generations into the future, researching family achievements and history will find the memorial you have left behind.

The Society asks that you begin thinking about a memorial gift in memory of someone important and dear to you. Draft the words you wish to see in the memorial. If space permits,, you may insert a photograph to accompany the language.

We rarely have fundraisers. This memorial program is a way to make a gift for the works of the Society; and is an opportunity to preserve the memory of your parents, grandparents and friends.

Just as a public relations man would prepare an ad, you can draft the language for a memorial to commemorate the acts and works of your ancestors and friends. A full page memorial will contain sufficient space for a photograph of the person so honored.

For information on how to make a memorial gift, call our office and leave your name and address. We will mail you a form for your use (or e-mail it to you, if you prefer).

MANY THANKS..

...to Klaus and Tina Unglaub, John and Katherine Geppi and Connie Potthast for hours spent folding, labeling, taping and stamping the last issue of the newsletter. Klaus and Tina are visitors from Germany. It was their first trip to America. They brought their children Tobias (13) and Katja (10).

MD OKTOBERFEST KAPUT! ALTERNATIVES ABOUND

The Maryland Oktoberfest, which has been held for many years at Baltimore's 5th Regiment Armory, will not be held any more. The for-profit corporation which operated it will be dissolved. The event lost money the past two years.

The Oktoberfest concept has been rapidly growing in the United States; cities and towns across the country are advertising such events in the national press. Oktoberfests can be found in other parts of Maryland as well as in surrounding states. For those of our members who are willing to drive an hour or two, here are some locations of "Oktober" festivals:

- Sept. 14,15,16 Mannheim, PA (Lancaster Liederkrantz)
- Sept 16 Shepherdstown, WV (Bavarian Inn)
- Sept 22 Philadelphia Steuben Day Parade; fest after at Oakford, PA 4666 Bristol Rd
- Sept. 29-30 Frederick, MD Fairgrounds**
- Oct. 4-7 Reading, PA
- Oct. 5,6,7 Ocean City, MD**
- Oct. 20-21 Schifferstadt, Frederick, MD**

SCHIFFERSTADT OKTOBERFEST

If you have never been to Schifferstadt, mark your calendar for October 20 or 21 and use its Oktoberfest as an excuse for making the trip. The house was built by Joseph Brunner in 1756 and named after his hometown in Germany. It is the finest example of German colonial architecture in the United States. The lowest floor has no windows but only slits for guns to defend against attacks by hostile indians.

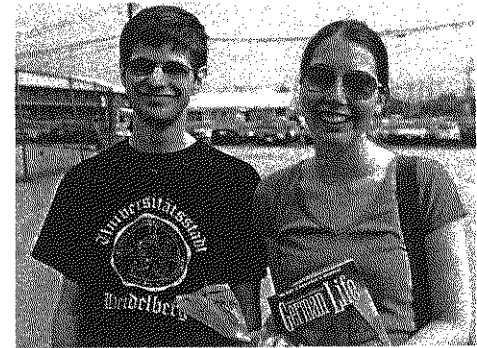
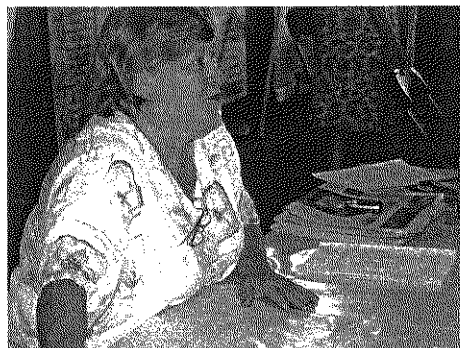
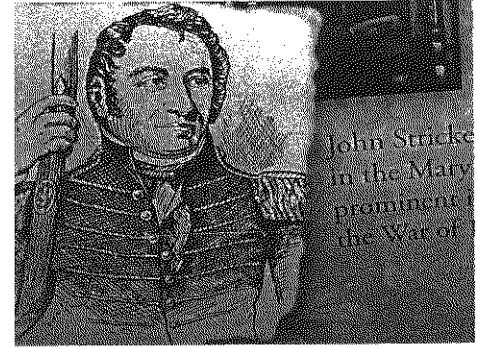
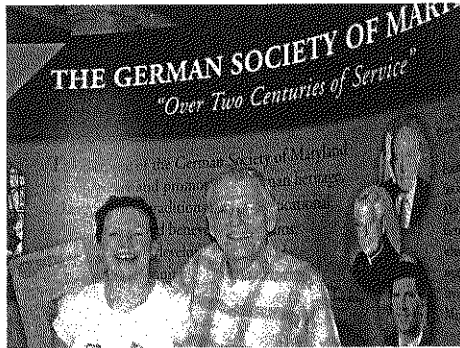
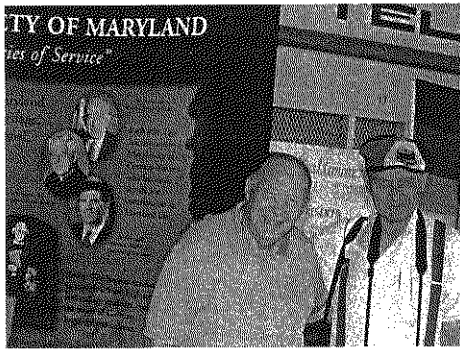
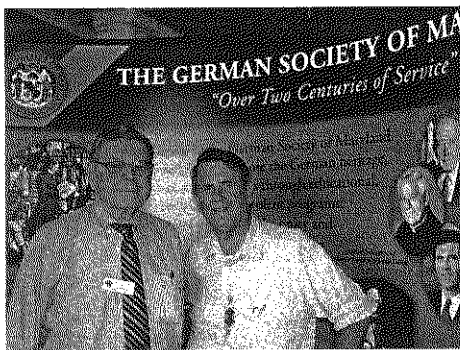
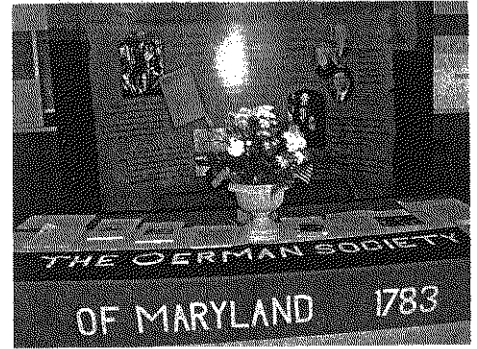
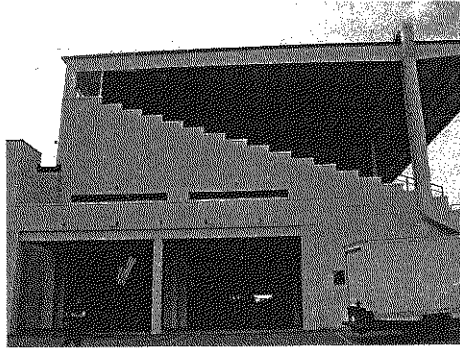
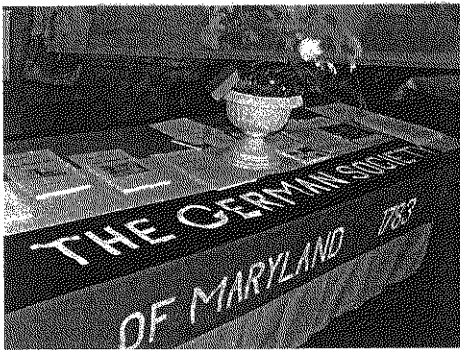
The Oktoberfest will have a beer tent, German food and music and will feature German colonial culture, crafts, colonial living history demonstrations and children's activities. If you can't make the Oktoberfest, mark Saturday, December 8 for your visit: "Museum by Candlelight" from 12 noon 7 pm. Colonial living demonstrations, wreath and swag making, children's crafts and traditional Pennsylvania Dutch belsnickler.

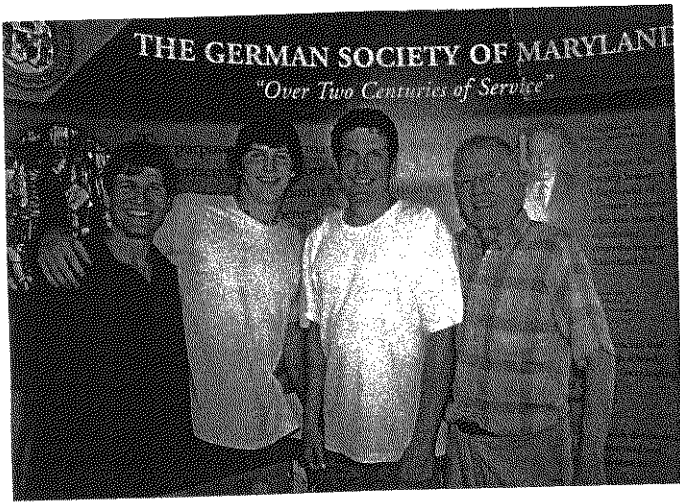
Schifferstadt is easy to find: take exit 14 off I-70 on the western end of Frederick and drive to Rosemont Avenue. It's at 1110 Rosemont. Phone 301-663-3885. Schifferstadt was honored at our Society's awards banquet in 2006 along with our director, Dr. David Denisch, a direct descendant of Joseph Brunner and a docent at the Schifferstadt museum.

GERMAN FESTIVAL DREW CROWD: OUR BOOTH SPREAD THE WORD

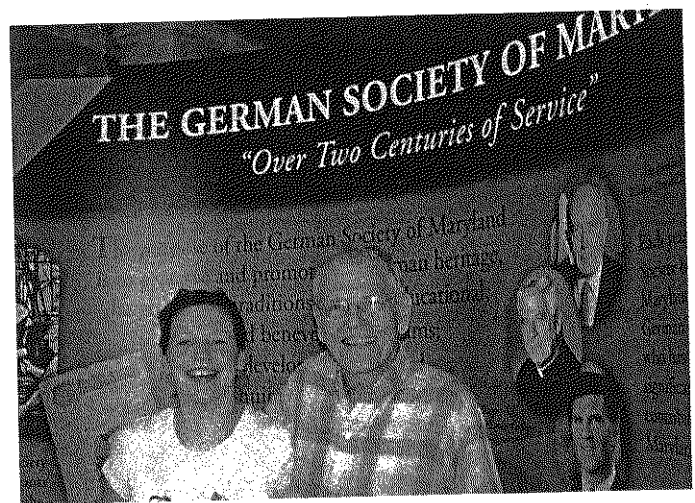
The 107th Maryland German Festival, held at the state fair grounds in Timonium, was a crowd pleaser. The booth of the German Society created much interest; our entire supply of membership applications was rapidly depleted, leaving us with the hope of a surge of new members. President Brigitte Fessenden thanks the

directors and members who worked at our booth: Pat Wenck, Esq., Rev. Edwin Wenck; Dr. Armin Mruck; Dr. Nicholas Fessenden; Pastor Siegfried Otto and Paul Otto; Dr. David Denisch; Robert Fritzsche, Ted and Connie Potthast, Dan Brooke, Dutch and Betty Niemann, Fred Riedel, Merl and Jean Arp, Dr. Maureen Helinski, Dr. James Schaub, Christel van der Berg, Linda Butt and Bernard Penner., Esq. The photos of workers, visitors and scenes from the festival shown here were taken by Ted Potthast on July 29.

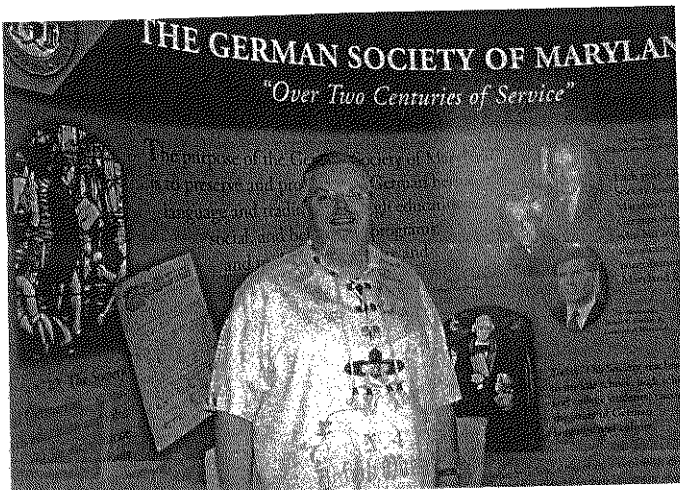




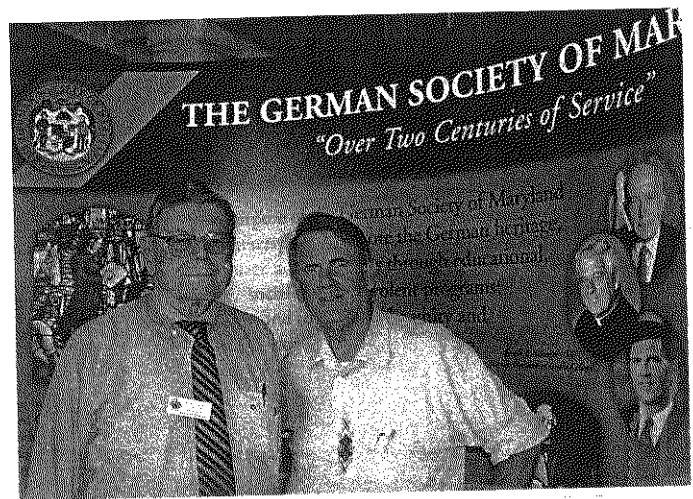
Three generations: Glenn Wittstadt two of his three sons and a grandson



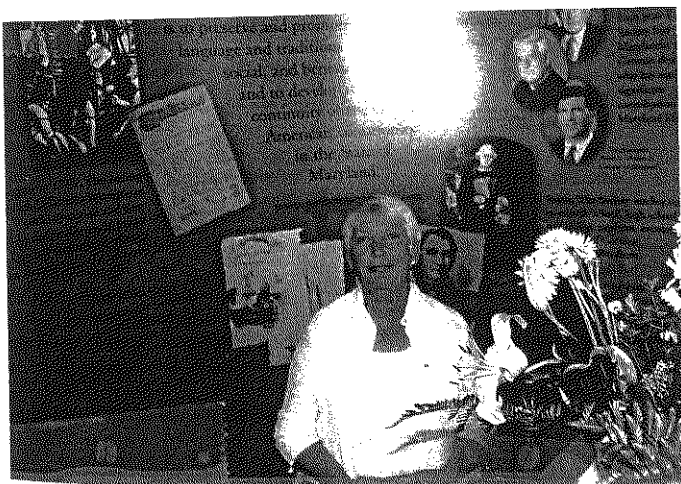
Glen wittstadt and granddaughter



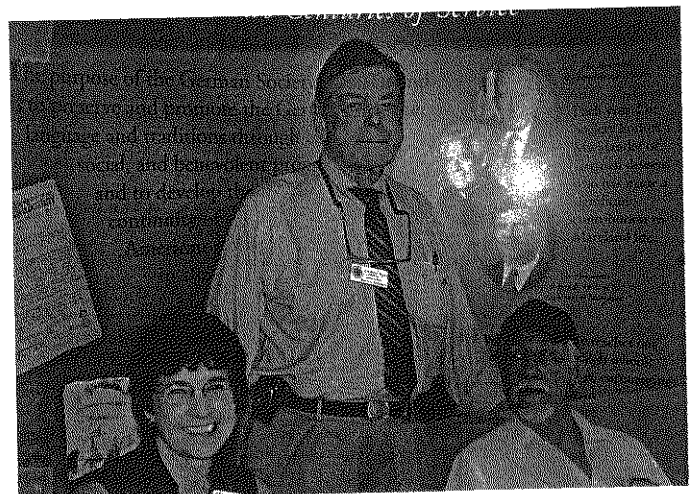
Zion's Pastor Roggelin visits our booth



Director Dan Brooke and member Bill Kommalan. Bill is president of the St. Andrew Society



President Brigitte Fessenden awaits visitors. She worked tirelessly to make our booth a success.



Dr. Maureen Helinski, Dan Brooke and Dutch Niemann staff our booth and welcome visitors

HOSTS NEEDED FOR STUDENT VISITORS FROM GERMANY

Our vice-president, Dr. Armin Mruck, who has been a faculty member at Towson University and at Carl von Ossietzky University in Germany and is still active in both schools, has asked that we publish this request:

From October 2 through Oct. 9, 27 visitors from Oldenburg/Lower Saxony, including 24 students and 3 faculty will come to Towson University to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Towson University/Carl von Ossietzky Universitaet partnership. On Friday, October 5 they will perform a revue at the Center for the Arts at Towson University. The title of the Revue is "Oh-It Is So Quiet" and it deals with the creative work that German emigrants have done in the USA and especially in Hollywood after having had to leave Germany during the dictatorship of Adolf Hitler. Towson University is looking for families who would host these Oldenburgers, i.e. providing them with bed and breakfast. The GSM's assistance would be much appreciated. Interested parties should contact Dr. Philip Collister of T. U.'s Music Department, e-mail pcollister@towson.edu

MENCKEN DAY CELEBRATIONS AT ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY

Henry Louis Mencken is the only person who has been a member of our Society whose memory, career and bequests are honored every year by a special "day". The Pratt Library in Baltimore holds a "Mencken Day", featuring exhibits and lectures. It is the only day of the year on which the Mencken Room at the library is open to the public. This year's date is Saturday, September 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Mencken Room is in the annex to the central library. The annual meeting of the Mencken Society will be held in the Wheeler Auditorium in the library and will feature speakers: Sharon Hamilton, "Mencken and Nathan's *Smart Set* and the Making of Modern New York"; and David Donovan, "H. L. Mencken, Musician and Music Critic." At 2:15 in the Wheeler Auditorium will be the annual Mencken Memorial Lecture "Beyond Scorn" delivered by Anthony Lewis.

WORLD PREMIERE OF MENCKEN'S ONLY OPERA: "THE ARTIST"

At 5 P.M. at the Maryland Historical Society, 201 W. Monument Street, the Peabody Opera Company will perform the world premiere of "The Artist", with music by Ludwig von Beethoven and Charles Cheslock.

Admission is free. Cf. www.prattlibrary.org

ROBERT F. AWALT, 82

Our member, Bob Awalt died Aug. 24 at Oakcrest. His wife, Jane, was a director of our Society but when Bob developed Parkinson's, she left the board to care for him. Bob graduated from Poly, Johns Hopkins Univ. and served as a naval officer in WWII in war zones. He worked as an engineer for Baltimore Gas & Electric Co for 40 years and taught engineering at Hopkins for 20 years. Jane, a genealogist, taught Bob the skills and he enjoyed helping others find their roots. Bob and Jane went to Germany to trace his own roots and found ancestors dating back to the 1600's. He worked with wood in his shop at home in Timonium. In memory of Bob's love of wood, Jane ordered his casket from Trappists monks who made it by hand. Bob is survived by a son, daughter, three brothers and grandchildren.

MENCKEN: MOST QUOTED AUTHOR

Our most famous member, Henry L. Mencken, is America's most quoted literary figure. Mark Twain comes in second. Dr. Vincent Fitzpatrick, curator of the Mencken Room at the Pratt Library, accumulates 1,000 pages annually in the scrapbook he maintains. (Mencken himself, at age 23, employed a newspaper clipping service for his own scrapbooks, which are also part of the Pratt library collection. The Pratt has 103 years' worth of clippings.) In his lifetime Mencken wrote 40 books, wrote 100,000 letters and produced 15,000,000 words. (Imagine what his production might have been if the computer, e-mail and the internet had existed during his career!) To preserve the memory of our former member, we will print some of his quotes from time to time.

"Bachelors know more about women than married men do. If the didn't, they'd be married, too."

"Every decent man is ashamed of the government he lives under."

(Credits to the Summer 2007 issue of *Menckeniana*, a quarterly review edited by S. L. Harrison and published by The Enoch Pratt Free Library.)

JIM SMITH TO GERMANY

An official delegation of Baltimore County under the leadership of James Smith, the County Executive, will visit Oldenburg to further develop personal, commercial, educational and cultural ties between Northwest Germany and the Baltimore Region, especially Baltimore County. (Dr. Mruck has, for a long time, been urging a "Sister City" relationship between Baltimore County and Oldenburg. Hagerstown and Rockville have long had "Sister Cities" in Germany.)

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

HURDLE FAMILY CELEBRATES

Dr. Edward Hurdle and Fredemaria Hurdle, long-time Society members, were honored by their children, Mark, Hans, Peter and Frederike at a birthday party for both of them, held at Frederike's farm in Baltimore County. Hans Hurdle and Frederike Hurdle Hecht have served as directors of our Society. Dr. Hurdle has a dental practice in Harford County. Fredemaria, a nurse, has served as Ed's office manager.

As a young girl, Fredemaria fled eastern Germany from the Russians, living for a while in West Germany before coming to Baltimore where she studied nursing at Johns Hopkins. While here she met and married Ed. They reared their 4 children in a bi-lingual household, the children and mother speaking only German and the children and father only English. Fredemaria's father lived with them for many years. The family often visited relatives in Germany; Frederike spent a high school year living in Bonn with her uncle; her German was good enough that her classmates at first did not know she was American.

Mark, the oldest, is a physician on the staff of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, heading the physical therapy department. He taught English in Japan for two years before entering medical school. Hans is in charge of a banking operation funding tax exempt bonds to non-profit entities. Peter is a certified public accountant. His wife Mary, who recently presented Peter with twins, is the daughter of one of our other members, Dr. John Mitcherling. Frederike married Bill Hecht, a high-school classmate of Hans, where both were on the football team. "Freddie" is a professional decorator who operates her own business in Maryland and California.

COMMENTS AND UPDATES

Howard County General Hospital acknowledged a \$100 gift made by our Society in memory of **Katherine Eggerl Peters** who died earlier this year. She was the niece and heiress of Max Blob who founded Blob's Park. Katherine continued operating it, perpetuating the German traditions established by her uncle.

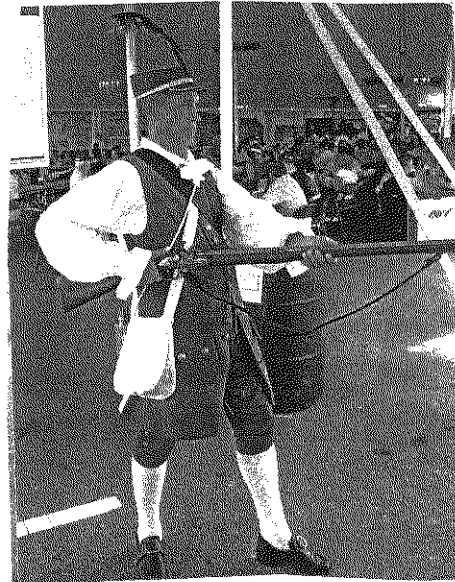
This was the first time the Society has made a cash gift in memory of a member. We did so because of Katherine's acts in preserving the German American culture and for her many favors to the Society.

Many thanks to **Scott Doellinger** for his generous gift to the German Society's newsletter fund.

The Society's plan for publishing a **Book of German Songs** is progressing according to schedule. The selection process is near completion. Chairman Bob Fritzsche has pushed the committee to make decisions. Publication is expected by Christmas.

HAGERSTOWN'S GERMAN FEST

Hagerstown celebrated its German heritage with an Oktoberfest in August (its **Augustoberfest**) Aug. 25 and 26th, under tents right downtown. Heidi's Heimat Echo Band kept the town jumping with lively German music. Young folks served the food, outstanding and reasonably priced. Well worth the trip from anywhere in MD. Plan to go next year, Aug. 23 and 24, **2008**.



Chas Rittenhaus in the uniform of a Hessian soldier, in the pose displayed on the fabled weather vane

HAGERSTOWN

Coat of Arms



"Little Heiskell," a Hessian soldier, is said to have been made in 1769 by a tinsmith named Heiskell, from two sheets of Welsh wrought iron, riveted together as shown. It was used as a weathervane on the original Market House, then was removed and taken to the second Market House upon its completion in 1824. The second Market House became City Hall. During the Civil War, a Confederate sharpshooter used "Little Heiskell" as a target and, as a result, a bullet hole can be seen above the arm and gun. An exact replica now occupies his place over the Clock Tower on the new City Hall in Hagerstown. Little Heiskell is now carefully preserved in the Hager House Museum as one of the oldest mementos of our city.

(copied from the Augustoberfest program)