



Vereinsnachrichten

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

Chapter 100, February 3, 1818

April 2021, Issue 121

President's Message-Shelley Arnold



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COVID restrictions are being eased. We are leaving our cocoons and again becoming more mobile and more social. As we mourn the more than 500,000 Americans that lost their lives to this devastating virus, we must welcome and embrace spring. The numbers are decreasing and the vaccinated are increasing. We are ready for new beginnings with old friends and family. We are ready to meet as a community. We hope that the days of no hugs, asking everyone to repeat themselves, and cold six foot distancing are behind us. We look forward to picnics, vacations, attending church, regular club meetings and slowly returning to normal. It will be a slow process, but it is headed in the right direction.

As I look back on this past year, I feel the pain of virtual meetings, of not being able to speak with many of you face to face. I missed not having our Annual Membership meeting, our Anniversary Banquet, our First German Day at the Ballpark, our German American Heritage Day in DC and the events of the other clubs within our community. Most of all I missed seeing and talking with you, our membership.

The positive side of the lockdown, other than bringing many families closer with ample family time, was providing us with the time to take care of business. What did we, as a Society, accomplish this year? You won't believe it. Even though we couldn't have our Annual Banquet, we met as a Board at a local restaurant and celebrated our anniversary. This was so well received about 20 people have been meeting bi-monthly at local German restaurants. As restrictions are lifted, we hope to open this, our Stammtisch, to membership as well. Probably the biggest news is that we are only weeks away from the installation of our 'Stricker Monument'. The groundbreaking at Zion church should happen between the week of April 9 and 17. Then placement of the beautiful sculpture by Francesca Schuler (granddaughter of Hans Schuler) will be placed. Look for information about an unveiling celebration in the near future. We also have a new, redesigned website, thanks to Maureen Helinski, who worked tirelessly on the project. The site now allows an individual to join and pay online...seamlessly, no paperwork. It is all transmitted, along with member payment

electronically. We also did one of our first membership surveys in an effort to determine our short term goals and direction for the Society. The Society has a new and improved database allowing for easier manipulation for marketing and membership purposes. Great efforts have been taken to clean up the membership roster. We have also been blessed by a patient treasurer, Anton Smoot, who has worked for months installing a new and more effective accounting system. There are many more accomplishments. Check out the 'State of the Society' letter, which should be mailed by mid-April.

Not new, but one of the primary functions of the Society, our scholarships to High School and College Students, will continue. Unfortunately, the Meinzer Summer Study Scholarship, is on hold for

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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

April 9	Annual Meeting –Zion	Cancelled
April 28	Board of Directors Meeting	Zoom
May 27	Executive Committee	TBD
June 24	Executive Committee	TBD
July 28	Board Meeting	TBD

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



Student Board Rep Makes Some ‘Big Changes’

By James Eberwein

In October of 2020 I transferred from Towson university to the Westfälische Wilhelms Universität (WWU) in Münster, Germany. The city of Münster is a wonderful university town located in the Bundesland Nordrhein-Westfalen. I began studying German in 2015 at the St. Paul’s School for Boys in Brooklandville, Maryland.



While the German program at St. Paul’s is small compared to other schools in Maryland it offers a wonderful exchange program with the Pascal Gymnasium in Münster. Ever since I was fortunate enough to take part in this wonderful exchange program and see the beautiful city of Münster in 2017, studying at WWU has been a dream of mine. Without the friendships that I had made and maintained with the exchange students in Münster beginning my studies here in the middle of the pandemic would have been nearly impossible.

After receiving my letter of admission to study business administration (Betriebswirtschaftslehre) I then had to find a dorm or a Wohnungsgemeinschaft here in Münster. A close friend informed me of a Catholic student dorm that is near his home in the Gievenbeck district of Münster. I applied and was fortunate enough to be accepted into my wonderful dorm. Another challenge that I faced given the current pandemic was travel.

Travel between the U.S and Germany was banned at the time of my entry into Germany except for certain extraordinary circumstances. One of these extraordinary circumstances was travel for the completion of one’s studies. This meant that I was allowed to fly to Germany. This however did not end the challenges that I faced surrounding my travel. During this time the German government had labeled the U.S as a “Corona Risikogebiet” or “Corona risk area”. All individuals traveling from these countries or areas labeled “risk areas” were mandated to quarantine for 14 days or until

a negative Covid-19 test could be provided. The next challenge that I faced was that I was not allowed to quarantine in my new dorm due to the communal nature of the dorm (i.e a shared kitchen and bathrooms.) Thankfully a very good friend offered to leave his one room apartment so that I could stay there until the local health office informed me that I could leave. Another close friend of mine drove four hours from Münster to Frankfurt to pick me up from the airport



James & Dorm Mate sitting on the frozen Aasee

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Lunch at the Rathskeller

There is a new restaurant in town, the Rathskeller, located at 5732 Main Street in Elkridge, Maryland. After the Board met in November to celebrate our Anniversary dinner, which had been a casualty of COVID, we decided to try to meet bi-monthly. This month's selection was the Rathskeller.

How did this restaurant come about? Seems like Will, the owner had been in the business for years, but found the long hours taking a toll on his marriage. He left the business to follow a passion becoming a wine distributor for a small boutique. He has a wine certification and knows his wine. The restaurant is stocked with top labels and hard to find German wines. During this time, he met a local Elkridge businessman that was attempting to resurrect and revitalize Main Street in Elkridge. The building that houses the Rathskeller (because it truly is in the basement)



was an 1880 judge's house, including the jailhouse that sits in the biergarten patio. It was this businessman, John O'Connor, that wanted to name it the Rathskeller after the German bier houses of the same name.

Will Low, who isn't German, jumped 'all in' and became a Germanophile, in order to open a German bar and serve German food.

The restaurant opened in October 2019 and COVID closed in March 2020. Their re-opening had to address that many of the menu items were not suitable for carry-out.

The solution, they focused on German street food. Their re-opening focused on Schnitzel and Wursts (supplied by Binkert's).

Everything in the restaurant is fresh and hand made, including the pretzels, made by an army vet that learned to make them while serving in Germany. Their wines are small production family owned wineries in Germany and Austria. The beer includes imported German beers and beers from local breweries that brew German style offerings.

Our group had a wonderful time. The food was wonderful and several left with special wine finds. If you are looking for a new place, give the Rathskeller a try. Their website, <https://www.rathskellermd.com/>. It is our hope that post pandemic we an open these meetings to membership providing us time to gather and get to know each other.

Welcome New Members

Paul Bauerschmidt

Paul Santa

Michael & Selma Schmidt

Donald & Jennifer Thomas



The Easter Tree



I love Easter, almost if not as much as Christmas. One of my favorite German Easter tradition is the *Osterstrauss*, a bouquet of budding fruit tree boughs clustered together in a big vase and hung with painted Easter eggs collected (or made) over the years. Each year I get grandchildren

to blow out eggs and color or paint. Such wonderful memories. Some also include little wooden ornaments shaped as birds, bunnies, etc. It is a bonus when your cuttings actually have blossoms. Do you have an Easter tree?

General John Stricker

By Nicholas Fessenden, Ph.D

John Stricker (1759-1825), largely of German Swiss background, was born and raised in Frederick, Maryland. During the Revolutionary War of 1776-82, he served in Washington's army and with General Sullivan in his campaign in the New York's Finger Lakes region. At the end of the war, he settled in Baltimore, becoming a prominent merchant. He also served in the militia and was promoted to the rank of brigadier general.

America and Britain went to war again in 1812. For the next two years, most of the action took place along the Canadian frontier with inconclusive results. The British, however, commanded the seas and dispatched a fleet to the undefended Chesapeake with 4500 troops in the summer of 1814. They marched on Washington and routed the untrained militia at Bladensburg on August 24 and burned the public buildings in the capital. Then they returned to their ships and prepared to attack Baltimore. The British called America's third largest city (50,000 inhabitants) a "nest of pirates," as it was the home port for numerous privateers which had captured the largest number of British merchant ships. Baltimoreans feared the worst if the British captured the city.

The British planned a two-pronged attack; the fleet was to bombard Fort McHenry into submission, while on September 12 the British army landed at North Point and advanced on Baltimore. General Samuel Smith, in charge of Baltimore's overall defenses, dispatched General Stricker in command of 3200 militia to engage the British. In the meantime, military units from all over the region built fortifications in Patterson-

Park to defend the city, with the help from numerous civilians, both blacks and whites.

Stricker's militia battled the British and then withdrew in good order. Americans had 213 overall casualties, compared with 341 for the British, who lost their commander General Ross. As we all know, the British failed to take Fort McHenry and then pulled their ground forces back to their fleet and sailed away.

General Stricker was one of the heroes of the defense of Baltimore and also served the public in many ways. He served as Vice-President of the German Society of Maryland from 1817 until his death in 1825 and also as President of the Bank of Baltimore. He was offered a seat in the Maryland Senate and was asked to be a mayoral candidate for Baltimore, both of which he declined. John Stricker played a key role in the defense of Baltimore and exemplifies the ideal of the citizen-general and public servant.

About the Author:

Nick Fessenden taught history at Friends School from 1972-2010, as well as at the Maryland Institute of Art on an adjunct basis during 1981-2000. Since 2011, he has served as



president of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland. He also has become involved in immigration history, helping to found the Baltimore Immigration Museum in 2016 and teaching immigration history courses at the Osher Institute and various community colleges. See immigration-baltimore.org.

For more information, see my article on Stricker in the *Report #47* (2017) published by the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland.

Our Stricker monument is ready to be placed at Zion Church in front of the planned German-American Cultural Center. Stay tuned for information about the unveiling and celebration to honor General Stricker in the very near future.

WE HAVE A NEW ADDRESS

The German Society of Maryland

2300 York Road, Suite 209

Timonium, Maryland 21093



Please make note of our new address...we do not want to miss anything you send us!

Deutsches Haus

Recently we were contacted by a young lady that informed us she had a very large painting, approximately 8-9' tall and about 12' wide. She believed it may have hung in the Deutsches Haus. The painting is of the Rhine River with its many castles. Knowing some of our members and their familiarity with the Deutsches Haus, I thought I would write a little about the history of the once 'famous' Deutsches Haus. If anyone recalls the painting, please contact us at bnsarnold7@gmail.com.



The Deutsches Haus was located at 1212 Cathedral Street (corner of Cathedral and Preston) in Baltimore, officially opening on April 4, 1938. It was built in 1890 and was a four story structure costing approximately \$400,000. It was built initially to serve the Bryn Mawr School. At that time, the school was the only one with an indoor swimming pool. The building was often compared to the castles that line the Rhine River.

After the purchase of the building by a conglomeration of German clubs, the opening celebration was a huge production beginning with a procession on Howard Street at Lehmann Hall, where choirs and representatives of the German clubs were gathered. The opening was attended by then Gov-

ernor Nice and Baltimore's Mayor Jackson. It was also not limited to age or socio-eco status, as the young and the professional, students and teachers joined in the dancing the music and the great outdoor Biergarten.

On all the German celebration days, the halls and garden were graced with patrons in traditional native dresses, while feasting on bratwurst, sauerkraut and of course, beer. The crowds were entertained by local artists and troops that danced traditional German dances, such as the Schuhplattler, the shoe slapping dance that Chevy Chase made famous in the 'European Vacation' movie. Keep in mind that this area was predominantly German and that much of the entertainment hailed from the Baltimore symphony, founded by Gustav Strube, and the Peabody Conservatory.

Many of the German clubs in the area (numbering at least 23) met and made the Deutsches Haus a gathering and central point for the German-American community.

Patronage began to decline, of course during the escalation of WWII, but other factors led to the demise of the Haus. In fact, numbers began to rise again after the war. However, factors such the murder in 1957 of the Haus President, Heinz Heymann (found at the restaurant within the building), the riots of 1968 and urban flight and the



perception that the area was no longer safe were putting the final nails in the Haus coffin.

The Deutsches Haus was spared from demolition in 1962 and 1970, as plans for expansion of the Jones Falls Expressway and plans for a new Boulevard, moved away from the Haus.

The Deutsches Haus closed after New Year's Eve celebrations, January 1, 1972. The building was sold to Joseph Meyerhoff, President of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Association in 1972 and today is the new Symphony Home.



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Board Student Representative

and then drove me four hours back to Münster so that I could avoid public transportation.

A few weeks after being released from my quarantine I started as a freshman or “Erstie” at WWU. Unfortunately in late October the German federal government made the decision to once more enter into a strict lockdown. This means that this semester has been conducted completely online. Very quickly after having begun my studies I saw how very different German higher education is compared to what I had experienced at Towson. The average class size here is much larger with some lectures having over 500 attendees. Another clear difference has been

how students are graded. At Towson each professor or department had the choice on how students were to be evaluated. Most often the final grade that each student was given was a combination of homework, classwork, attendance and exams. Here in Germany there is only one grade and that is your final exam grade. This makes the exams incredibly important and makes the exam phase or “Klausurphase” the most stressful time of each semester. Despite the pandemic I have been able to meet many wonderful new people here in my dorm and have made wonderful experiences. I was able to experience the heaviest snowfall in Münster in



decades and was able to see the Aasee (a large famous lake here in Münster) freeze over enough for people to walk on for the first time in many years.

With the vaccine finally becoming available and testing being finally easily accessible here in Germany I am looking forward to the possibility of my next semester here at WWU being in person.

Editor’s Note: We were sorry that we did not have more time with Jim but wish him the best of luck in his studies. Check in when you get home!

Jane Awalt, our largest Benefactor

Our Society has been in existence for over 238 years. We have, over those years, been blessed with many friends. One of our dearest friends and benefactors is Jane Awalt. Jane is a former director of the Society and has been its greatest financial benefactor. Jane again, at the beginning of this year, 2021, presented the Society with another large donation.

Her interest is preserving the German American culture and heritage, including encouraging students in the study of the German language. Her donations allow the Society to continue their scholarship programs. The donations are made to the ‘Robert & Jane Awalt Memorial Education Fund’. Our sincere gratitude to Ms. Awalt for her dedication to the German heritage, culture and language and to the German Society of Maryland.

The World’s Narrowest Street

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the narrowest street is located in the town of Reutlingen, Germany.

The Spreuerhofstraße is located between two closely linked buildings. This street is on average 40 centimeters (15.7 inches) wide, and just 31 centimeters (12.2 inches) wide at its narrowest point.

Although some may be inclined to call this an alleyway, the people of Reutlingen insist that it is in fact a street, since it is located on municipal land.

Let’s take a look at how this passageway became an official street: In 1727, the city was being reconstructed after a massive city-wide fire destroyed many parts of Reutlingen. In 1820, an administrator in the city’s town hall decided to elevate this gap between two houses



into a street. It is wide enough for the average person to walk through, which is one of the prerequisites for the classification of a street.

For a long time, Spreuerhofstraße did not receive much attention. But once the Guinness Book of World Records gave the street its title in 2007, tourists started flocking to Reutlingen to see it. That isn’t recommended unless you

are already in the area. Since the area is so small, it isn’t the best example of social distancing.

Only time will tell how long this street will remain; one of the 18th century houses is already leaning into it, making it even smaller. It may soon be too small to be considered a street at all!

Courtesy GermanyinUSA

Annual Essay Contest

It is that time of year again. The 2021 Annual Essay Contest sponsored by 'Germany in Class', German Missions in the United States.

This contest is open to all students in Grades 3-12. The deadline for your entry is April 30, 2021. The student must choose one of the three topics chosen for this year's contest. They are:

- Topic A: Our Environment
- Topic B: Sophie Scholl
- Topic C: Berlin Wall

There will be three grade groupings for the contest: Grades 3-5, Grades

6-8, and Grades 9-12. Winners will receive prizes and certificates; their essays will appear on the website (www.germanyinusa.com), as well as the German Embassy's newsletters and associated social media channels.

All of the topics are described in detail, as well as rules, prizes, etc., on their site at http://germanyinusa.com/essay-contest/?pk_campaign=newsletter_???label.doctype.AANLIssue???_2021_03_07&pk_kwd=teaser_Annual+Essay+Contest.

This is a great opportunity for teachers as well. There are prizes for those that hold the contest within their classroom. The teacher will choose and send the classroom winner to the German Embassy, along with the number of students that participated (you may also enter all the classroom entries in addition to the classroom winner). What a great project. Learning about the three topics and then writing about one could be fun!

I personally would love to see some of our student members enter this contest. Hope you decide to enter. We are wishing you luck.



Student Memberships

Is your child/grandchild a student? Do you know that the German Society has FREE student membership?

This is a good way to spark an interest about their heritage.

We have lost many of our student members through graduation, etc.

A recent survey sent to all students in our database only yielded two returns.

If your child is on our list and has changed schools or emails, please contact the Society office to update their contact information.

If they are not in our database and you would like them to receive the newsletter at no charge, you may sign them up. All we need is their name, their email address and the school they attend.

If your child takes German in a Maryland school, let them take the newsletter to school. Some of the contests, our scholarship program, etc., may be beneficial to all.

For information about our scholarship program, see <https://germansociety-md.com/german-scholarships/>

STUDENT UPDATE:

Thank you for sending out a checkup for the German Society. I just wanted to touch base, I am in my second year pursuing a degree in International Relations and dual major in German.

Hope all is well,-Michael Devlin
**

Bella Poffenberger, Meredith's daughter, is still taking German II in Boonsboro High School. She is struggling with it, as she is with most of her online classes, but she is muddling through. Hang in there Bella!

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 german@germansociety-md.com and stating that you wish to become a student member. This is FREE. **NO ANNUAL DUES WITH VALID EMAIL ADDRESS!**

KRIMSKRAM

Where have all the Paternosters Gone?

What is a paternoster? Besides the Lord's Prayer in the Roman Catholic Church, it is a lift, a passenger elevator which consists of a chain of open compartments that move slowly in a loop up and down inside a building without stopping. Passengers can step on or off at any floor they like, as long as it is done quickly.

Recently, while reading an article on Europe's paternosters, I was surprised to learn that one of the oldest was in

Stuttgart, specifically the Stuttgart Rathaus and it is open to the public.

The paternoster was patented by a British Engineer, Peter Hart, in 1877. Europe has prohibited new paternosters from being built, but have protected those already in existence, most of which are being retrofitted for safety. It appears that there are many in Europe, the articles specifically identifying one in Prague, Copenhagen and Hamburg. It would also appear that the 'safety conscious' Americans would never patent one in the United States.

To read this very interesting article see <https://www.fodors.com/news/trip-ideas/europes-most-famous-elevators-are-also-its-scariest>.

Freiburg: Germany's futuristic city set in a forest.

"900 years young" reads the bold slogan emblazoned on the side of the tram as it rattles through Freiburg im Breisgau's historical Old Town. Celebrating its 900th anniversary since originating as a merchant settlement in 1120, the medieval German city

nestled at the foot of the Black Forest near the border triangle of Switzerland, France and Germany is arguably quite old.

It does, however, have youth on its side. Around 10% of the city's 220,000 residents attend the prestigious Albert Ludwig University, making the population one of Germany's youngest. Mayor Martin Horn was just shy of 34 when he was inaugurated at Town Hall in 2018. And the colourful half-timbered houses and car-free cobblestone streets lining its Old Town

are, in fact, relatively young, as they were faithfully reconstructed after the World War Two bombings. These ingredients have all helped create a Freiburg that is one of Germany's, if not the world's, most liveable, progressive, sustainable and child-friendly cities. So, while the city reflects on its 900-year history, I'm here to find out what makes it a city of the future.

To read more of Kay Barber's article written for the BBC, see http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20200715-freiburg-germanys-futuristic-city-set-in-a-forest?fbclid=IwAR0wLcGS0cnqL8fX-onm87U69aLKu77wgTja6Zc_ThVN17p64WIFJ72ZVf4

Germany and our Sister Cities

The US and Germany maintain approximately 100 Sister City partnerships across 31 states and 244 partnerships total (including Friendship Cities) across 40 states. The Sister Cities, specifically, are municipal partnerships between German and American cities and communities.

The concept of "town twinning" gained popularity after World War II to foster friendship and understanding among different cultures and to encourage trade and tourism. In many cases, towns are paired due to similarities between

them - like the mountainous regions of Aspen, Colorado and Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

Although the US has sister cities in many different countries, Germany has the fourth-most U.S. sister cities in the world! Check out this interactive map to find one near you! (<http://germanyinusa.com/this-map-shows-every-us-german-sister-city-partnership/>)

Maryland's

Hagerstown-Wesel

Rockville- Pinneberg

Frederick-Mörzheim & Schifferstadt

1700 years of Jewish Life to be celebrated in Germany

Celebrations will occur throughout the year marking 1700 years of Jewish life.

The earliest records are those found in Cologne in 321AD, which was then the capital of the Lower Germanic province of the Roman Empire. It was here that Emperor Constantine signed an edict allowing all of the empire's city councils to appoint Jews to serve on their council. This was the first written evidence of Jewish life in Germany and that religions co-existed peacefully.

Cologne will also be the spot of a new museum to open in 2024 which is actually the spot of an archaeological find that includes the remains of an 11th century synagogue and the mikweh, the woman's ritual baths. It is located under the central Rathausplatz, covered in the 1950s, but unearthed again in 2007.

There is further evidence of Jewish life from the early Middle Ages in other German cities. In Augsburg, archaeologists discovered an oil lamp from the 4th or 5th century on which a menorah, a Jewish candelabrum, is depicted.

Jewish life also existed in
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Germany's May Celebrations

We are all familiar with May Day and the Maibaum, but what do you know about Walpurgisnacht and Tag der Arbeit? Here are a few notes about two very different May holidays!

Walpurgisnacht, Hexennacht- April 30th and May 1

Many people in Germany observe the night between April 30 and May 1 as Witches or Walpurgis Night (*Walpurgisnacht, Hexennacht*).

Because some people in some areas believed it

was too dangerous to be out on this night, they light bonfires and spend the evening and night outside. Custom has it that the fires and wild dancing kept the witches from coming too close to their homes. These traditions lead to today's customs.

The holiday is similar to Halloween, both are of pagan origin. In fact in Bavaria, it has taken on a Halloween atmosphere, complete with practical jokes. It is called 'Freinacht' in Bavaria.

Traditionally, people believed that witches held Walpurgis Night celebrations on the summit of the Blocksberg (1142 meter peak), a mountain in the state of Saxony-Anhalt, on the night between April 30 and May 1. The mountain, often draped by clouds and misty air, adds to its mysterious and sometimes evil persona. It is by legend, the home of witches and devils.

The holiday gets its name from Saint Walburga/Walpurga, a

women born in England in 710, traveled to Germany and became a nun at the convent of Heidenheim in Württemberg. She died in 778 and when canonized in 870, May 1 is her saint day. Her May 1 date is not celebrated any longer, but she is still celebrated on May eve. The only connection to St. Walburga and the Hexennacht is the date and the fact

that to Germans, Saint Walpurga was hailed by the Christians of Germany for battling "pest, rabies and whooping cough, as well as against witchcraft."

May 1st-German

Labor Day- (*Tag der Arbeit*)

May 1 is the date to celebrate workers' rights. May 1 is a public holiday in all German states. On this day, especially in Berlin, some people organize or attend marches or rallies to campaign for or celebrate workers' rights in Germany or abroad. This event, held in Berlin, attracts many workers' rights activist. The day was declared a national holiday, by the National Assembly in Weimar, in 1919. It was inspired by events occurring here in the United States (which by the way is one of the few countries that do not observe Labor Day in May). It started when a congress of world socialist parties meeting in Paris (1889) voted to show their support for Chicago strikers and the demands of the US labor movement's demand for an 8 hour day. They chose May 1, 1890 as a day of commemoration. Countries around the globe chose to use May 1 as an official 'Labor Day' holiday.

Why did the US choose the

first week of September as their labor day? One reason could have been the May date was selected and approved and is very important in socialist and communist countries. The US first



observed the September date in 1894. Canada also recognizes the September date. Unlike the US, the holiday in German is primarily a 'working class' holiday.

The May date holds other significance in Germany. It was in May 1929 that two parties, the Social Democratic (SPD) party and the Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands met head to head with the first banning the traditional workers' demonstrations and the later calling for their people to demonstrate. This led to what is called 'Bloody May' and resulted in 32 dead and 80 seriously injured. This also led to a huge split in the parties allowing another party to use it to their advantage, namely the National Socialists party. The party that named the holiday, 'Tag der Arbeit'.



"O, Sauerkraut, o, Sauerkraut, with you, I cannot live without."

By Rev. H. J. Siegfried Otto

On November 25, 2020 the BALTIMORE SUN published a story, written by John - John Williams IV, under the title: "Move over, collards; make room for sauerkraut. Black Marylanders have made the German specialty their own."

I am quoting from the article:

"Germans, who accounted for one in four Baltimoreans when Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday, employed freed Black domestics, in addition to owning slaves. Black cooks most likely learned to prepare meals in German kitchens, according to Miller." (Adrian Miller, food historian and James Beard Award - winning writer). Having read the article reminded me of my own sauerkraut story. It was in the fall of 1945 in the small Bavarian village of Grossgundertshausen.

My mother, my one year old brother and I, together with two other refugee families had to be taken in by a farmer's family into their house, providing us with food and shelter. In return, all the refugees helped with farm work.

My turn came when it was time to make sauerkraut. I had just

turned eleven in September when cabbage was harvested in October. I stood barefoot with short pants inside a huge barrel, stomping down the cabbage, going round and around in the barrel, like a mule or a donkey. New layers of chopped cabbage were added continually, with salt, pepper, juniper berries and maybe other spices added. A salty, ice cold brine had slowly formed, making me feel like walking in freezing wet ice water and snow. I must have bitterly complained. So periodically I could climb out of the barrel and stand on a towel. But then it was back into the barrel, stomping down the icy cabbage, the eternity of an afternoon.

So when I eat sauerkraut, I remember my own experience and imagine feeling the pain again of a boyhood experience in Bavaria.



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another year. Look for information and winners in our next issue, which will center on education and the state of German language studies.

Hopefully, we will have very little restrictions in October. Your Society has planned a series of seminars that will be presented during 'German-American Heritage Month'. We hope that we will see many of you as five separate seminars are presented, twice each week. Look for details in the next issue.

Finally, on a personal note, it has been my honor and my pleasure to serve as your president during the past year. Even though I didn't get to attend the dinners and many of the time-honored events that the GSM has been part of, I feel I worked and gave my best to the Society. I will continue to serve as your editor. I hope to see all of you very soon.....and hopefully can give you a hug.

Dues Payments were due on January 1.
Don't worry. If it has slipped your mind, no fear, pay here:
<https://germansociety-md.com/contact-us/>

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 Lynette Dean at german@germansociety-md.com
This action alone saves paper and postage costs.

Join the German Society of Maryland

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

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Spouse (Optional): _____

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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:

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Lifetime Membership: \$250.00

Mail to:

The German Society of Maryland
2300 York Road, Suite 209
Timonium Maryland 21093

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Trier, another former Roman town in the far west, as evidenced by an edict of Emperor Valentian I (364-375) that forbade soldiers from being accommodated in synagogues.

The 321-2021: 1,700 Years of Jewish Life in Germany association, hopes that 2021 will be "a year in which bridges can be built and walls can be torn down by putting a focus on our shared life."

To read more: Celebrating 1,700 years of Jewish life in Germany | German-Jewish Cultural Heritage | DW | 05.01.2021

Germans still largest ethnic group in the United States

Ted Potthast, GSM Lifetime Director, recently sent me an article talking about ‘Little Italy’, its history and its challenges today with respects to the pandemic.

It’s a great article, written by Ron Cassie and appearing in the January 2021 issue of Baltimore Magazine, and I am sure you would enjoy it. It was just a few lines within the article that really caught Ted’s attention and prompted him to send it for our newsletter. It stated, ‘Today, Americans of Italian ancestry are the nation’s sixth-largest ethnic group, behind German, Black, Irish, Mexican, and English Americans’. This is amazing. I wanted to confirm the numbers and used the World Atlas, which confirmed the ranking:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| 1. German | 14.70% |
| 2. Black/African American | 12.30% |
| 3. Mexican | 10.90% |
| 4. Irish | 10.60% |
| 5. English American | 7.80% |

- | | |
|------------|-------|
| 6. Italian | 5.50% |
| 7. Polish | 3.00% |

To read the entire article go to: <https://www.baltimoremagazine.com/section/covid19/can-baltimore-beloved-little-italy-be-saved-pandemic/>



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Lynette Dean

*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.*

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

The German Society of Maryland

2300 York Road, Suite 209
Timonium, MD. 21093
410-685-0450

Email: german@germanociety-md.com

Visit us on the web
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