

APRIL, 1994

VOLUME ONE - ISSUE ONE

Plans for Future of the German Society

On February 26th, a special meeting of twentyfive members was held at the Elks Lodge in Towson. Members came prepared to put forth ideas to influence the future course of the Society to the 21st century. The members analyzed the strengths and weaknesses of the Society and sought to define our "vision" and mission. Mary Branning, President of Results Unlimited, led the conference and provided the process by which the members presented their ideas. The participants searched for the long term "vision" of our organization, and inquired into its purpose, in order to find and verbalize our mission. The session lasted three hours and produced a laundry list of ideas to be acted upon during the next special meeting in early May. At this time, they will complete their task of defining the goals and specifying projects to achieve the goals. It is expected to result in tactical and strategic plans for the short and long term future of the Society.

The participants at the meeting were:

AWALT,	JANE
AWALT,	ROBERT
AYMOLD,	JOHN
BRICKNER,	WILLIAM
BROOKE,	DANDRIDGE
EHRHARDT,	CLEMENT
FESSENDEN,	BRIGITTE
GALWAY,	DOROTHY
GRUEL,	BETTY



Brainstorming Meeting on Feb. 26th proves to be a major success!

GRUEL,	HARRY
HINKEL,	CHARLES
KAMMERER,	DON
NICKEL,	KLAUS
NIEBERDING,	MICHAEL
NIEBERDING,	ARTHUR
OBITZ,	TY
OTTO,	Pastor SIEGFRIED
POTTHAST,	MARK
POTTHAST,	THEODORE
SHEPPARD,	BENJAMIN (BOB)
TILLMAN,	DONALD
WITTSTADT,	JUDGE GERARD
WIESAND,	WILLIAM
PRAMSCHUFER,	FRANCIS
SCHILDWACHTER	REV. AUSTIN

Several members who could not be present sent their ideas and comments. These were presented and discussed by the participants. Among those who submitted comments were: Bill and Rose Schoenemann; Ormond D. Higgins; Roland Brockmeyer; Ronald Antlitz; Dr. Volker K. Schmeissner and Albert Creamer. Brigitte Fessenden and Doug Heisler (both of whom attended) also submitted written proposals.

\$100 Prizes to German Language Students

The German Society of Maryland will present \$100 cash prizes to 13 Maryland students who scored in the 90th percentile or higher on the National German Language Aptitude Test.

The winners competed with high school students studying German throughout the United States. One student from each state will win a trip to Germany for summer-school program.

WUNDERKINDER!

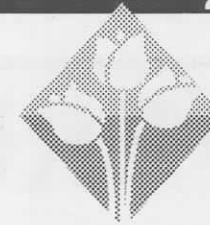
The Maryland students are:

Catherine Pawlowski	Rockville H.S.
Nadra Wass	North County High
Michael Feschetti	Georgetown Prep
Justin Rice	Georgetown Prep
Devin Swaney	Georgetown Prep
Erin Kelleher	John Carroll School
Catherine Heimerl	John Carroll School
Kathryn Lannon	John Carroll School
Dominic Co	Loyola High School
Carina Lundgren	Walter Johnson H.S.
Jessica Krick	Balto. City College
Katherine Tyson	McDonough School
Gillett Pionkowski	High Point H.S.

In addition to their monetary award, each student receives a free membership in the German Society.

A ceremony for the presentation of the awards will be held on May 20 prior to the concert of the Wittendorf Men's Choir in the Zion Church Adlersaal. All are invited to attend and meet the students, and stay for the concert and reception.

APRIL Calendar of Events



Maryland German Lecture on the 19th

Dr. Volker Schmeissner, a member of our Society, will present a paper at the annual meeting of The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland on April 19th at Martin's Eudowood.

The lecture will discuss the impact of German Americans in Maryland between 1945 and the present.

Tickets to the dinner are \$25. For more information, please call Gerard Wittstadt at 410-321-8608.

Alpine Dance Festival on April 24th

Austrian, German and Swiss Folk dancing will be presented on Sunday, April 24th from 2 - 6 PM at the New Carrollton Municipal Center, 6016 Princess Garden Parkway, New Carrollton, MD (Wash. Beltway Exit 20A).
ADMISSION IS FREE.



There will also be cultural displays and maps, a Bauernmalerei art display, performances by Alpine Dancers, free dance lessons for children, families and adult beginners (intermediate and advanced). Refreshments available.

CELEBRATION AT THE GERMAN EMBASSY ON THE 30TH!



A Gala Evening is planned at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany on Saturday, April 30th. A buffet dinner will be served from 7:00

- 8:30pm with dancing and entertainment following until 1:00 am.

The party is under the patronage of the Germany Embassy, The Edelweiss Band (celebrating its 25th anniversary) and First Counselor Gudrun Lucke-Hogaust.



Lucke-Hogaust.

The German Society has reserved 40 tickets for this affair and is arranging a bus to leave from the Catonsville area to take us to the Embassy. The total cost of this excursion is \$35.00.

Please call immediately if you are interested in this event - tickets are on a first come - first served basis. Please contact Society's President, Ted Potthast at:

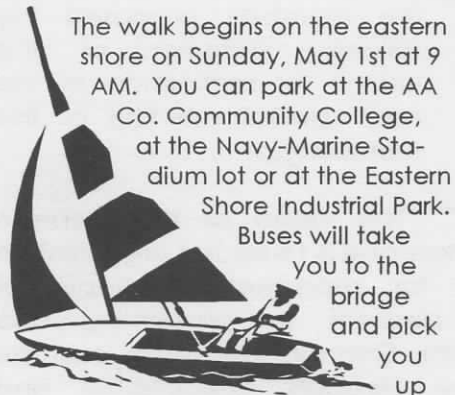
(day) 410-832-2900
(eve) 410-828-8137

MAY Calendar of Events



Walk Across the Bay Bridge on the 1st

Walking and hiking are sports dear to the hearts of German people everywhere. Some members of our Society have made the Bay Bridge walk every year and invite our membership to join with them.



The walk begins on the eastern shore on Sunday, May 1st at 9 AM. You can park at the AA Co. Community College, at the Navy-Marine Stadium lot or at the Eastern Shore Industrial Park.

Buses will take you to the bridge and pick you up

later.

Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce puts on the Rendezvous '94 Eastern Shore Extravaganza, with food, beverages, arts and crafts exhibits, music, dance and entertainment,

Several large tents will be in place next to the hot air balloon. Food is available before and after your walk. We suggest parking on the eastern shore side.

Call Don or Irma Tillman at 944-3459 to sign up for the German Society's contingent for the walk.



Marine Band on May 8th at the Meyerhoff

The Marine Band will perform at the Meyerhoff on Sunday, May 8th. The concert is free, but you need a ticket in order to attend. Tickets may be obtained in advance from the box office directly at (410) 783-8000.

The German community has traditionally enjoyed and supported the music of the military bands.



Black Forest Men's Choir Sings on the 20th

The Wittendorf Men's Choir will present a concert at 7:30 PM on May 20th in the Adlersaal at Zion Church. The event is sponsored by the Bürgerverein. The German Society will take advantage of the event to present prizes to the high school students who excelled in the National German Language Aptitude Test.

The concert is free and all are invited. Refreshments will be served at the reception following the concert.

Known as the Männergesangverein "Frohsinn" Wittendorf, the choir comes from Wittendorf, near Freudensstadt in the Black Forest. The choir has 30 singers and is celebrating its 75th anniversary. The repertoire contains both Heimatlieder (folk songs) and Geistliche Lieder (sacred songs).

We urge all members to attend and bring your friends.
Call our office for a flier on the event.



**IMPORTANT MEMBERS' MEETING ON SATURDAY, MAY 7th!
PLEASE SEE PAGE FOUR FOR MORE INFORMATION. ALL
MEMBERS ARE URGED TO ATTEND !!!**

Special Meeting on Saturday, May 7th

A special meeting of the membership will be held at the Towson Elks Lodge on May 7, to follow up on the ideas submitted at the February 26th retreat.

The members made a thorough study of the strengths and weaknesses of our organization during the retreat, considered our history, past purposes and functions. This is an effort to steer the future course of the Society as we advance into the second decade of the third century of the Society's existence.

The special meeting will follow up on the groundwork of the retreat which found agreement on the "VISION" of the Society. The vision must now be translated into the purpose and mission of the Society, with details of the type of programs to be adopted to carry out our mission.

What the members agree upon at this meeting will be a mandate to the Board of Directors to prepare a "business plan" for the future of the Society. This will include strategies and tactics for achieving our goals and our mission.

The meeting will begin and 9:00 AM and go until noontime. It will be followed by lunch.



Important member meeting to decide The German Society's philosophy and long range future projects

Vision Statement for German Society

Mary Branning, the facilitator at the February 26th special meeting, explained the concept of an organization's vision as a clear, one sentence picture of the organization. She said that continually focusing on the vision induces action. Mary pointed out that a vision generates direction and order. It is crucial that members feel the emotion, the victory of the vision and be totally committed to it. It is inspirational. Ms. Branning noted that "Where there is no vision, people perish." At the conclusion of the meeting, the members proposed the following statement of "the vision" for ratification at the next special meeting of the membership:

"The vision of the German Society of Maryland is to be the organization recognized for representing people of Germanic descent in preserving and promoting the German language, customs and culture through educational and benevolent programs."

The German Society extends special thanks to Mary Branning, who as facilitator, helped produce substantial ideas in the course of a single morning meeting. Mary Branning is the president of Results Unlimited, Inc.



Frank Plogman Fund

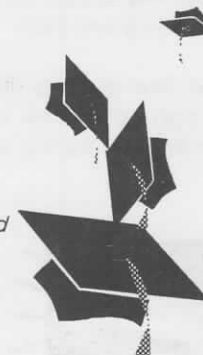
A scholarship honoring the memory of former member Frank Plogman was established at the University of Maryland Baltimore County by the Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein.

The intent is to raise at least \$2,000 per year to assist a German language student at UMBC in a summer program in Germany. The program has been in effect since 1992 and the fund has met its goal both years.

Frank was a dedicated worker for the Society and for other Bürgerverein projects. He was an artist who helped design and build the 15-foot tall fruit display which welcomed visitors to the 5th Regiment Armory at the Oktoberfest.

Contributions to the fund can be sent to our office for forwarding to the fund.

The German Society has donated \$200 each year to the scholarship fund.



Elections Held for Officers of Society

At the annual meeting of the Members, held in the meeting hall at Zion Church, City Hall Plaza on February 4th, elections were held for three year terms to the Board of Directors, for the years 1994-1996. Six directors were elected:

Brigitte V. Fessenden, Gerard Wm. Wittstadt, Theodore J. Potthast, Jr., Dorothy Galway, Michael J. Nieberding and John Ensor

The Board of Directors met at Edenwald on March 16th and elected officers for the year 1994-1995:

President: Theodore J. Potthast, Jr.
 1st VP: Donald E. Tillman
 2nd VP: Judge Gerard Wm. Wittstadt
 Treasurer: Ronald Antlitz, CPA
 Secretary: Dorothy Galway

Bylaws Amended to Add New Director

A unanimous vote at the annual meeting of the Society on March 4th was cast for the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That Article IV be amended to add a new section 7, to read as follows:

"The President of the Women's Auxiliary of the German Society of Maryland shall, ex officio, be a member of the Board of Directors. When attending a meeting of the Board of Directors, she shall be included in calculating a quorum for such meeting. In the event she is unable to attend a meeting of the Board of Directors, she may designate any other officer of the Auxiliary to attend in her stead, to vote upon such matters as may come before the meeting, and to be included in calculating a quorum for such meeting."

The resolution was introduced by Harry Gruel, chairman of the Bylaws Committee. Margareta Kramer, president of the Women's Auxiliary, was elected to the Board of Directors through the adoption of the resolution.



Youngest Member Attends Meeting of Directors

Jillian Frances Nieberding, born Nov. 11, 1993, attended the Society's Board of Directors meeting on March 16th at Edenwald.

Her father, Mike Nieberding, a director, asked to be excused from the meeting because he had to baby-sit. President Potthast refused to take baby-sitting as an excuse and told Mike to bring Jillian to the meeting. Jillian sat through the first hour, quietly batting her long eyelashes and flashing her beautiful smile at the Board. Mrs. Fessenden and Mrs. Awalt took turns holding Jillian while her father presented his reports.

Jillian has not yet developed the "iron seat" for which Germans are famous (the ability to sit tight through long meetings and sermons). By 9 PM she began make loud objections to the proceedings. Her father decided to take her home, but not before the election of officers.

Jillian was officially inducted into the Society as our youngest member, with dues being waived until she reached age 21.



New Magazine Published in MD

A new pictorial magazine, *German Life*, describing life in modern Germany will be published in Maryland, beginning in May. A year's subscription will cost \$12.50. Subscriptions are available

through the Bürgerverein. Details will be announced in our next newsletter.



Preserving The Society's Archives VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Brigitte V. Fessenden, chair of the Cultural Committee, has made a preliminary analysis of the Society's archives. She concluded that we must improve their maintenance and arrange for permanent preservation of our materials and artifacts.



The goal, Mrs. Fessenden said, must be to display these articles in an archival and/or museum setting, accessible to our members and to the public.

Mrs. Fessenden has asked for volunteers to help sort and select documents for microfilming and placement in the Maryland Hall of Records. Members who wish to serve on the Archives Project should call her at her home (532-7581) after 7:30 PM or during the day at 396-4866 (push "5" after entering voice-mail).

We have 10,000 documents which need to be reviewed for selection for microfilming. Mrs. Fessenden is negotiating with the State Archivist for preserving, copying and exhibiting our records. Our members will be kept abreast of this important project.



**Volunteers Needed
To Help !!**

When the Society heard talk of a German museum planned in Cumberland, our President contacted Rev. Vance Pastorius in Cumberland. He is Pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church there. Father Pastorius wrote to Mr. Potthast that the church archivists are gathering and cataloging materials for display in a future museum room. Ss. Peter and Paul Church was built for the German community in Cumberland.

The Germans in Cumberland were served by priests of the Redemptorist, Carmelite and Capuchin religious orders, who left a substantial treasure trove of historical documents about the German community in Western Maryland.

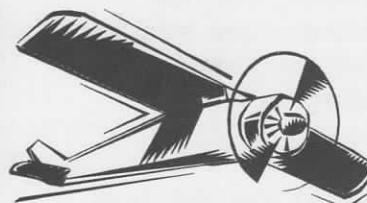
The Executive Committee had directed the President to see if the Society could assist with the proposed museum. Father Pastorius said that it is too early in the planning stage to hold conversations with the Society.

The Westphalian and Bavarian influences connected with the parish will be featured in the museum. It will be located in the front section of the old monastery of the Franciscan Friars. The assembling of the displays should be ready in 1998.

Father Pastorius, OFM Cap. is a descendent of the founder of the city of Germantown, Pennsylvania.

Doctors Hort Return to Deutschland

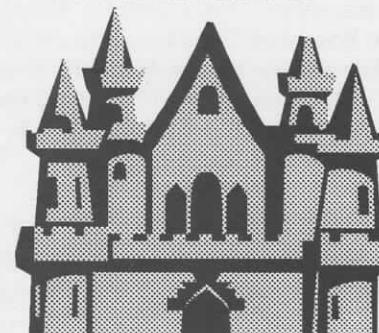
Dr. Mattias Hort and Dr. Angela Hort returned to Germany on March 30th after spending more than two years in post-graduate studies at the Johns Hopkins University.



Angela Hort, MD is a pediatrician and Mattias Hort, PhD is a volcanologist. Angela obtained a master's degree at the Hopkins School of Public Health. (The master's program in public health was just named as the best in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.) She will work in the field of health administration, dealing with children. Dr. Mattias has accepted the directorship of a scientific institute in the port city of Kiel on the Baltic Sea. Both of them are natives of Westphalia and received their doctoral degrees at the University of Münster.

Both have been loyal members of the Society and have participated and worked in our activities. Mattias utilized the skills learned as a bartender while a student in Germany to help operate our Society's beer stand at the German Festival in Carroll Park. Angela worked as his assistant. They were both completely drenched in the thunderstorm which struck our beer stand on opening night.

German Heritage Museum Planned in Cumberland



Ehrhardt Chairs Essay Contest

The Board of Directors has authorized an essay contest for students in the sixth to ninth grades. The subject will be the contribution made to America by a person of German heritage. The name of the individual will be announced later.

Students in all public, private and parochial schools may enter the event. The purpose of the contest is to make Marylanders more aware of the positive achievements of people of German ancestry.

All entrants must compose an essay of between 1500 and 2500 words on the assigned subject. Papers will be submitted in English and will be judged for content, research and originality. The Society will award three prizes of \$500, \$300 and \$200.

The Directors are most interested in furthering education of our youth. This contest is designed to motivate young people to think about and consider the constructive attributes of our predecessors.

The Society is seeking members with teaching experience, preferable on the junior high school level, to volunteer as judges. Anyone interest in helping this endeavor should contact Clement D. Ehrhardt, Jr., the chairman of the essay committee. Contact him through our office.

Specific details of the contest will be published in time for the opening of schools in September. The contest will be highly publicized in the hope of generating a large response. If successful this year, the program will be made an annual event.

Volunteers Needed As Judges



German Teachers Offered Free Society Membership

"RESOLVED: That all persons engaged in formal programs or courses for the teaching of the German language to students in the State of Maryland shall be offered free membership in the German Society of Maryland."

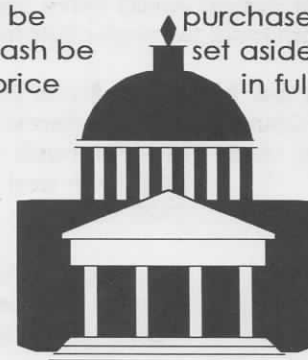
Members who know German teachers are asked to encourage them to apply for membership.

Fund Proposed for Future Headquarters

At the February 26th retreat, it was pointed out that the Society is in need of a permanent meeting place to serve as administrative offices of the Society, as a place for the preservation and exhibition of our archives and a place to which the members can assemble to carry out our mission. The directors discussed this matter at their March meeting. Mr. Potthast pointed out that it is extremely difficult to find a good location and to finance the purchase of a building for a nonprofit organization having limited resources and membership.

In 1986 the Society resolved to raise a fund of \$150,000 for scholarships, and that as of 1993, the scholarship fund had exceeded the goal and contained more than \$175,000. A suggestion was made to create a similar fund for the acquisition of a home for the Society, even though it may take many years to set aside the money to make such a purchase. The following resolution was therefore unanimously passed:

RESOLVED: "That a fund be established for the purpose of purchasing a home for the Society; and the initial monetary goal for this purpose shall be the sum of \$250,000. No home shall be purchased until sufficient cash be set aside to pay the purchase price in full."

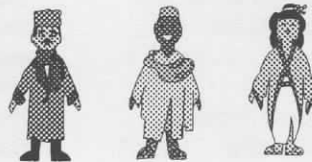


Cultural Heritage in Danger

Many of our German American clubs, reflective of attitudes in the community, are in a desperate state. They suffer from leadership weakened by a lack of focus on the club's objectives, a dwindling membership, the forming of social cliques and overall low morale.

As a consequence, too much of our cultural heritage is being lost because it is not being cultivated and passed on to younger generations. Motivated leadership in the German American community and a commitment of support by the German corporate community is needed to change this attitude.

*(Reprinted from "The Gemütliche Newsletter",
Spring, 1994, Newport News, VA.)*



Wastlers Assist in Genealogy Search

Leo and Phyllis Wastler attended the Society's annual meeting and made known their interest in German genealogy and travel. They are former Marylanders who now reside in Mechanicsburg, PA where they operate a travel agency.

Leo was born near Thurmont and lived there until recently. He was instrumental in setting up a "sister city" relationship between Thurmont, MD and his ancestral town of Stelzenberg, Germany.

Mr. Wastler led a group from Thurmont to Germany and extended the sister-city proposal to the burgermeister. It was promptly accepted and acted upon.

Twenty-five citizens came to Thurmont from Stelzenberg and were hosted for four days by fourteen Thurmont families. Dignitaries from both cities issued reciprocal proclamations. The city of Thurmont sponsored numerous activities, several dinners, a dance and a concert for the visitors.

Citizens of each town continue to visit back and forth and stay in regular communication. The sister-city program as a national concept was launched in 1956 by President Eisenhower who called for massive exchanges between Americans and the peoples of foreign lands.

Mr. and Mrs. Wastler have become skilled in tracing genealogy. Through their travel agency, they help Americans find their German roots and arrange trips to the hometown of their ancestors. Germanic Europe is their favorite spot and Germanic genealogy is their favorite activity.

Since many members of the Society did not recognize one another at our annual meeting, the Wastlers have offered to present name cards for the members to wear at future meetings.

Mr. Wastler is president of Wastler Escorted Travel, Inc., P.O. Box 775, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6368.

Awalts Research Historical German Churches & Cemeteries

Jane and Robert Awalt have indexed ledgers of marriages and burials from local German churches.

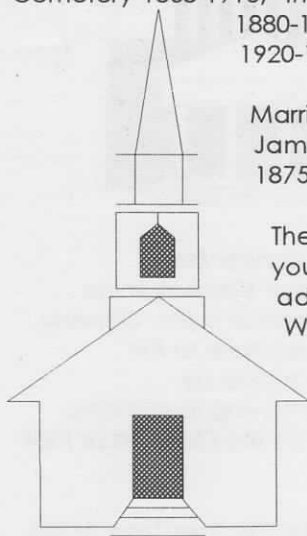
Included are three ledgers of interments from St. James Roman Catholic Church, entitled "Interments Mainly To Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery 1868-1913; Interments Mainly To St. Alphonsus Cemetery 1880-1909; and Interments to Various Cemeteries 1920-1928."

Marriage records indexed are "Marriages, St. James Roman Catholic Church (German) Jan. 1875-April 1908."

The Awalts will gladly search their indices for you at no charge if you send a stamped self-addressed envelope to them at 2207 Westridge Road, Timonium, MD 21093-3218.

Armed with an exact ledger and page number, you can then get a copy of the record from the Catholic Archives.

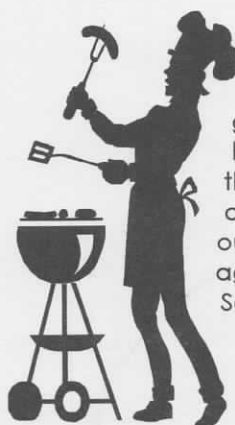
The ledgers from St. James Church have not yet been filmed, but the Maryland State Archives plan to do so when funds are available.



Jane Awalt is a Director of the German Society of Maryland.



Brockmeyer to Chair Summer Picnic Committee



Roland Brockmeyer suggested that the members of the Society ought to have opportunities to get together to know one another better and to talk about the good of the Society's in a relaxed atmosphere. He proposed a summer outing in the country. The directors agreed that a picnic, such as the Society held in past years, should be reintroduced as a social event for the membership.

The president appointed Mr. Brockmeyer as chairman of an ad hoc committee to arrange a summer outing/picnic. Mr. Brockmeyer was authorized to recruit and appoint members of the Society to serve on his committee.

German Festival Raises \$624

The Society earned \$507 for the time spent by our volunteers at the cultural booth at the 1993 German Festival. Bob Sheppard donated \$75 and Irma Tillman donated \$42 from their time spent in the Festival's administrative office.

The funds were distributed on March 25. The Bürgerverein distributed the profits after the City finally submitted its bills for the use of Carroll Park.

We thank all members who worked at the Festival. Special thanks to Bob and Irma for their donations.

German Embassy Hosts Club Presidents

The presidents of many German organizations in Maryland, Virginia, Washington, Delaware and Pennsylvania met at the Ambassador's residence in Washington for a dinner party on March 26th.

The event was hosted by the cultural attache, Helmut Bentz. Officers of the clubs were able to discuss topics of mutual interest.

Mr. Potthast represented our Society. Also present from the Baltimore area were Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Schulze from the German Radio Klub; Judge and Mrs. Gerard Wittstadt from the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland; and Mr. and Mrs. Klaus-Skowronek from the Verein Deutscher Trachten von Baltimore.



Muttertag und Vatertag

Mother's Day, the second Sunday of May, was introduced into the United States in 1914 and in Germany in 1923. It is the day when mothers are being cuddled and pampered by all family members. As for fathers, Ascension Day, the day of the traditional men's outing in Germany, has become "Fathers' Day". Thus men came to justify the liberties they would take for themselves on this day anyway.

Finally the advertisers began persuading people to give presents to father on this day, following the practice on Mother's Day. In this way, customs and celebrations influence and modify each other in the course of social history.

(Reprinted from Gemütliche Newsletter.)

Edelweiss Club Invites Members to Social Events

The German Society is limited in the number of social activities it can sponsor. Yet we want to make social events of a special German nature available. The Edelweiss Club has kindly invited our members to join with them in their social activities.

The Edelweiss Club is sponsoring six events during the year:

Dinner Theatre	April 17
Crab Feast	July 24
Bus Trip	September 11
Oyster/Bull Road	October 23
Christmas Party	December 3
Fasching	January 28, 1995

For information, call our office or listen to the Edelweiss Radio Hour on 750 AM every Sunday at 9 AM.



The German Society of Maryland - NEWSLETTER

The German Society of Maryland
P.O. Box #22585
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-4585
(410) 685-0450

TO:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1992-1994

Donald E. Tillman, Mark Potthast, Harry Gruel, Roland Brockmeyer, Ronald Antlitz, Ellwood D. Heisler

1993-1995

Jane Awalt, Albert J. Creamer, Sarah M. Daneker, John K. Aymold, Jr., Dandridge Brooke, Clement Ehrhardt

1994-1996

Brigitte V. Fessenden, Gerard Wm. Wittstadt, Theodore J. Potthast, Jr., Dorothy Galway, Michael J. Nieberding, John Ensor

Ex officio
President of Women's Auxiliary
Margareta Kramer

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Frederick H. Wehrenberg, Vernon H. Wiesand, Theodore J. Potthast, Sr., Francis Pramschufer, Jr., Charles F. Stein, III

This Newsletter is a publication of The German Society of Maryland - an organization founded in 1783 and incorporated in 1817.

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Jane Awalt
Clement Ehrhardt
Gerard Wittstadt

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