

VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

JUNE 1996



OFFICE MOVES TO MOUNT VERNON PLACE

The German Society will move its offices this month to 15 Mt. Vernon Place, on the first floor of the building on the SW corner of Mt. Vernon Place and Cathedral Street. The Society will double its office space and will have a suitable board room for committee meetings and small social gatherings. The convenient mid-town location is just two doors from the Engineering Society's building and at the opposite end of the block from the Washington Monument. The grand opening will be held by summer's end. We are in the process of buying file cabinets to replace the 1940-era war surplus files, as well as updating the furniture.

ISSUE TEN

GERMAN SOCIETY PRESENCE AT JHU AND BAY BRIDGE FESTIVALS

During April and May the Society participated in the Johns Hopkins University Spring Festival and in the Queen Anne's County Rendezvous on the eastern shore side of the annual Chesapeake Bay Bridge Walk. Our members staffed booths at each event, distributing information and application forms for the Society as well as brochures and maps of Germany. Both events resulted in new members joining the Society. Ingrid Rieger, our office manager, was especially helpful in arranging the entertainment for the Hopkins Festival, which adopted an alpine theme (Yodel-Ay-He-Hu) for this year's festival.

MARYLANDER PAINTS GRIMM STORIES

All 242 fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm have been illustrated by a Maryland artist, Robert Wang, a doctor of art history, working seven hours a day, five days a week for eight years at his Howard County home in Columbia. The feat is believed to be without precedent. Wang's intense pictures are faithful to the stories brought together by Jakob and Wilhelm Grimm in Germany where, to this day, the Grimms sell second only to the bible. Mr. Wang grew up listening to stories and had visions of the magical creatures of the Brothers Grimm in his imagination. He hopes his paintings will be exhibited by a major museum, to generate new American interest in the subject.

MD GERMAN MONASTERY IN COURT

Saint Peter and Paul Church has sued the City of Cumberland, MD in Federal Court for denying a permit to raze a 146 year old monastery. The City's historic preservation agency opposes the demolition because of the monastery's close connection with Saint John Neumann, who ministered to the Catholic Germans of Western Maryland. On June 11 the court ruled for the City, declaring the 1993 Freedom of Religion Restoration Act unconstitutional and sent the case to the federal Circuit Court of Appeals.

"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."

Activities & Events

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ARTSCAPE '96

The Society will participate in Artscape in Baltimore City on July 20 from 12 to 4:30. Artscape is the largest of all the City's summer programs and has in the past attracted nearly a million visitors over the three day festival (July 19-21). This gives the Society a chance to speak to the public, distribute information about us and about German-American history and culture. Stop by our booth and tell your friends about it. Ed Wenck, Esq. is chairman of the Society's program.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR GERMAN FESTIVAL

The Society will sponsor a cultural booth and a soft-drink stand at the annual German Festival in Carroll Park in Baltimore, August 16-18. Volunteers are needed from Friday afternoon through Sunday night. John Aymold is in charge. Call him at 410-922-6400 (work) or at 410-549-5080 (H).

ANNUAL PICNIC SAT. SEPTEMBER 7

The annual German Society picnic will be held at the Cedar Lane Park in Howard County on Maryland route 108. The German standards, wurst and beer, will be featured, along with many of the typical German foods and music. Tickets are \$10 per person, children under 12 free. Since the park site is small, the number of tickets is limited to 100 and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Send your check, payable to German Society of MD to our office, P.O. BOX 22585 Baltimore, MD 21203-4585

JUNE 20	DINNER AT JOSEF'S
JULY 20	ARTSCAPE-BALTIMORE CITY
AUG. 16/18	GERMAN FESTIVAL - Carroll Park
SEPT. 7	GERMAN SOCIETY ANNUAL PICNIC
SEPT. 15	DEFENDERS' DAY CAVALCADE
SEPT. 21	BAVARIAN INN - DINNER/BUS TRIP
NOV. 1	ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Meetings of Directors and Executive Committee

Exec. Com.: June 6, July 11, August 8, Oct. 10, Nov. 14

Directors: June 13; September 12; December 12

Edelweiss Club events (German Society members are invited)

Oct. 20 - Oyster/Bull Roast; Dec. 7 - Christmas party

JUNE 20 SET FOR DINNER AT JOSEF'S

Members of the Society and their guests are invited to a German dinner at Josef's on June 20th at 6:30 PM in the private Queen Mary Room. The restaurant is located at 2410 Pleasaneville Road, Fallston, MD. Arrangements were made by Jack and Marcy Sturgill, co-chairs of the German Food Committee as part of the Society's program to support and keep alive the concept of German restaurants in our state. Many German restaurants in Maryland have gone out of business for lack of patronage.

The Speisecarte (menu) will consist of Kalte Wurst und Schinken Platte; Lebeknödel suppe mit Schnittlauch; Kopfsalat mit Rote Beete; Kessler, Würste mit Zwiebel, Rinderouladen, und Kalbsbraten; Spaetzle, Semmelknoedel, Rotkraut und Salzkartoffeln. Schwarzwald Kirsch Torte mit Himbeer Sosse; Kaffee.

The cost for members is \$37 in advance and \$40 at the door; guests \$45. Price includes tax and tip. As an inducement for the guests to join the Society, any guest who applies for membership by July 1st will receive a credit of \$7.50 against the first year's dues. Call Jack or Marcy Sturgill at 661-1771 for reservations (and for translations and directions).

STUDENT AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN GERMAN LANGUAGE

The German Society gave prizes totaling \$2,600 to 32 Maryland high school students for achievement in the National German Language Test at a banquet co-hosted with the Maryland Association of Teachers of German (MATG). The event was held at Western Maryland College in Westminster on April 27th. \$100 prizes went to students scoring in the 90th percentile and \$50 for the 85th percentile. Dr. Mohamed Esa, President of MATG was Master of Ceremonies. Dr. Esa is chairman of the German department at WMC and is a member of our Society. Dorothy Louks, a German teacher and Society member and Michael Nieberding, our President, served as co-hosts. The Immergrun Society (German dancers) entertained the participants, followed by a sumptuous banquet catered by the college staff.

Recipients of the awards came from throughout the State of Maryland. They were:

Goeffrey Williamson	Elena Kassi	Lorene Nucker	Jahmal McNair
Maria Paoletti	Hohn Minaert	John Lurz	Filip Zikes
R. Rey Delrosario	Anil Kapoor	Chad Hein	Dan Roitman
Matthew Zimmerman	Samuel Lynn	Douglas Shaw	Jeffrey Abshire
Patrick Jacobs	James Disney	Eric James	Elizabeth Smith
Stephane Nguyen	Sean Steeg	Domenic Lewis	Caitlin Moore
Kurt Mueller	Janeen Petius	Aude Hauert	Aaron Mitchell
Andrew Surmak	Ian Froeb	Rachel Santora	Patchen Mortimer

The event was well attended by members of the Society, friends and family of the award recipients and the following teachers: Dorothy Louks (Glenelg HS), Myrna Pigo (Wilde Lake HS), Hans-Alfred Schneider (Eleanor Roosevelt HS), Sinclair Rzasa (Dematha HS), John Innes (Loyola HS), Shirley Santora (Chesapeake HS) and William Lyon-Vaiden (McDonough School).

COLUMNISTS CHALLENGE ANTI-GERMAN HARVARD PROFESSOR

The latest anti-German propaganda is a 619-page book by Harvard professor Daniel Johan Goldhagen entitled "Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust." Its thesis is that Hitler merely fulfilled the logic of 150 years of German history -- that ordinary Germans were products of an entire culture of anti-Semitism. He claims that anti-Semitism was "a deep-rooted part of German culture"; that German anti-Semitism was unique and that the Holocaust was a crime only Germans could have committed. The book has caused an outcry within Germany. It is being protested on TV and newspapers throughout the country.

Syndicated columnist George Will asks: "If this is so, what explains the behavior of the significant number of Germans who abstained from or even resisted barbarism? And if German anti-Semitism was the cause of the barbarism, why did the barbarities engulf so many non-Jews, and why were there so many non-Germans among the barbarians?" Will says "the unspeakable cruelties of the Khmer Rouge against fellow Cambodians and by Chinese against other Chinese during the cultural revolution cannot be explained by the Goldhagen model - by centuries of conditioning."

Columnist William Pfaff pointed out that "the forces at work in Germany existed elsewhere, both in scale and quality - in Stalinist Russia, Mao's China, Cambodia." Further he stated: "It was not a prejudice peculiar to Germany. A good argument can be made that before 1932 Jews suffered less discrimination in Germany than in either Britain or the United States." Pfaff describes Nazism as the product of a unique mixture of intellectual currents of the early 20th century, none of which were specifically German. "These were Darwinism, 'race science', nationalism and eugenics." The former three held that societies and "races" were living organisms, which matured as dynamic, powerful nations conquering those which demonstrated their unfitness for survival.

'96 AWARDS BANQUET SET AT SNYDER'S

The annual dinner dance and awards banquet will be held on November 1 at Snyder's in Linthicum. Dandridge Brooke is chairman of the event and is now planning the menu. For the past 11 years the banquet was held at Martin's Eudowood. The Martin's facility closed in January, to be razed for a new Mall. Banquet tickets will be limited to 240, Snyder's capacity. Details will be published in the next newsletter. Mark your calendar and make your reservations early to assure getting a ticket.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

JUDGE JOHN F. FADER, II and **R. ROLAND BROCKMEYER, ESQ.** were both recently honored by the University of Baltimore Law School.

Mr. Brockmeyer and his wife, Lorraine established a scholarship for a student in the evening program. Lorraine, a school teacher, in the early 60's encouraged "Brock" to start a private law practice which he (and Lorraine who became his office manager) have built into a most successful and prestigious firm. In funding the student award Mr. Brockmeyer said: "You have to give something back. You just can't take." Roland is a member of the Society's Board of Directors and an immediate past Vice President.

Judge Fader sits in the Circuit

Court for Baltimore County and also teaches at both the University of Baltimore and Univ. of Maryland law schools and at the U of MD School of Pharmacy. He received its first Adjunct Professor of the Year award. Fader has been on the bench for 18 years and teaches domestic law. He explains to his students that all of their future clients will walk into the courtroom believing that God is on their side. But, he says, "I always tell my students that God's favorite color is grey."

PROFILE of NEW MEMBER

WOLFGANG OEHME. Mr. Oehme is the designer of the German-American Friendship Garden, on the Mall between the U.S. Capitol and the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. He was recently featured in a news article as a world leader in the field of landscape architecture and horticulture. He completed his degree in landscape architecture at the University of Berlin in 1954; worked at Hamburg's *Planten un Blumen*, in Frankfurt, Nürnberg, Sweden and England and came to Maryland in 1957. Mr. Oehme and his partner, James van Swedern were cited by Marc Cathey, former director of the National Arboretum as "truly the innovators of the new

American garden." Their work has been described as "the American garden revolution". He has authored several books, including "Bolf Romantic Gardens: The New World Landscapes of Oehme." His work in adapting native grasses and vegetation in landscapes has marked him as a leading environmentalist in the field.

PLOGMAN FUND

The Society made a \$250 contribution to the scholarship fund at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, honoring our deceased member, Frank Plogman. Frank was a promoter of the UMBC German language program. The *Bürgerverein* targets a goal of \$2,000 per year for the fund which is used to assist students studying German language and music.

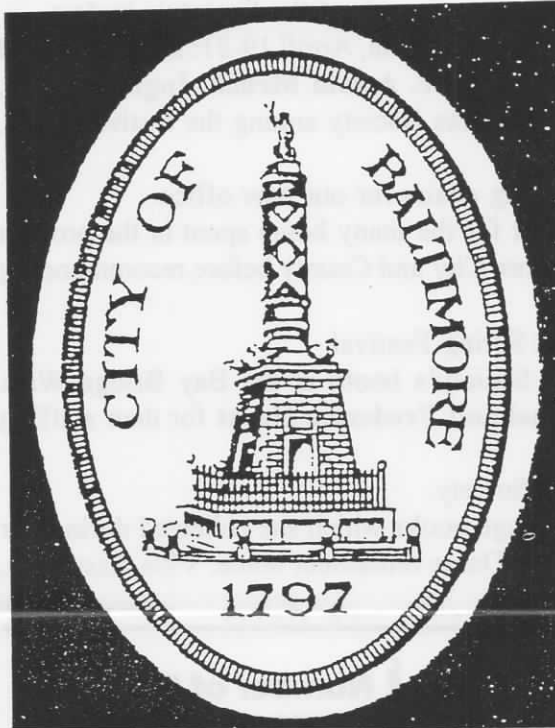
RETHINKING: WHAT ARE WE ????

Every organization needs to step back periodically and ask questions: What is our mission? Is it still the right mission? Is it still worth doing? If we were not already doing this, would we now go into it? Peter Drucker, the management expert says that this kind of questioning has been done often enough in all kinds of organization that we know it works. It identifies activities that are productive, that should be strengthened, promoted, and expanded.

In 1993 the German Society held two days of "retreats" for its members. It resulted in a new mission statement and in other substantial changes. Another session will be held in 1996. The date has not yet been set.

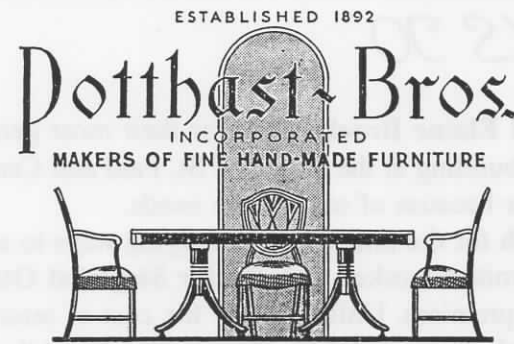
MEMBERS TAKE UP THE CAUSE OF BATTLE MONUMENT

Follow in footsteps of General John Stricker, founder



The Battle Monument at Calvert and Fayette Streets in Baltimore is weather-worn and in need of extensive repairs. It is the first war memorial in America. It was commissioned in 1815 to commemorate the victory of the Marylanders over the British invasion forces in September, 1814 which brought to an end the War of 1812. It was paid for by private donations of the citizens of Maryland. General John Stricker, the hero of the Battle of North Point and an incorporator of the German Society, was one of the first contributors to the fund to build the monument. It was the first monument built in Baltimore, which because of its numerous monuments throughout the city, is known as "The Monumental City". The Battle Monument is the emblem of Baltimore and is the centerpiece of the Great Seal of the City of Baltimore.

It is fitting that members of the German



POTTHAST BROTHERS HONORED BY UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

The University of Delaware presented a research thesis on Potthast Brothers, Inc., a furniture manufacturing firm in Maryland from 1892 to 1975. At a ceremony at the Winterthur Museum, in conjunction with the Univ. of Delaware, a lecture and slide show on the history of Potthast Brothers was given on May 24th by Catherine Rogers Arthur, a Senior Fellow of the Museum. The company reproduced English antique furniture with such perfection that their works are highly sought after today. The company was founded by William, Vincent, John and Theodore Potthast who came to Maryland from Borgholz in Westphalia and founded the firm. Many of its productions are held in museum and private collections and even today grace the homes of many Marylanders. The company closed its doors when Theodore J. Potthast, Sr. (a lifetime director of the German Society) retired in 1975.

D.A.N.K - WHAT DOES IT STAND FOR ???

The German Society is an associate member of D.A.N.K. Its full name is the German American National Congress. The abbreviation comes from the German spelling: Deutsch-Amerikanischer National-Kongress. Dank was founded in 1959 and has 60 chapters in the United States. It promotes the German language and culture. Language schools for children and adults are conducted by many chapters. Authentic festivals, dances, outings and Gemütlichkeit are promoted by all DANK chapters. It is not a political organization. However, it does endeavor to represent German-American interests. It publishes a periodic newspaper which has recently featured articles on the German Society of Maryland. DANK's national headquarters is in Chicago.

Society have taken the lead to raise \$250,000 to restore the monument. **Brigitte Fessenden**, currently a director of our Society, is the Project Director for its restoration. **D. William Brooke, Esq.**, a member and former officer of the Society, is the head of the Battle Monument Restoration Trust. A fund-raising kick-off ceremony was held in the atrium of City Hall on June 4 and was attended by GSOM directors **Dandridge Brooke and Theodore Potthast**.

THANKS TO

** to **Roland and Elaine Brockmeyer** for their most generous offer of office space in their historic landmark building at the corner of St. Paul and Center Streets. The Society was forced to decline the offer because of our unique needs.

** to **Zion Church** for the time it spent studying ways to adapt the historic building on Gay Street for an office for the Society. Our Committee worked with **Pastor Siegfried Otto and Tom Morris** of the Zion real estate committee in an effort to lease the premises. Unfortunately the cost of renovation put that site out of reach of the Society's budget.

** the volunteers who represented the German Society at the Johns Hopkins Spring Festival, April 19-21: **Dr. Mohamed Esu, Ted Potthast, Betty Gruel, Harry Gruel, Robert Gay, Karen Martinez, Dr. Armin Mruck, Ingrid Rieger, Herbert Rieger and John Aymold**. This group generated significant interest in the Society among the festival-goers, especially among the students.

** to **Jack and Marcy Sturgill** for the gift of a conference table and matching chairs for our new office.

** to **Brigitte Fessenden, Don Tillman, Frederike Hecht and Ted Potthast** for the many hours spent in the process of selecting the new office. This committee inspected numerous sites in Baltimore City and County before recommending the Wiesand property on Mt. Vernon Place.

** to **Ingrid Rieger** for arranging the German entertainment at the Hopkins Spring Festival.

to **Don and Irma Tillman for arranging for and staffing the German Society's booth at the Bay Bridge Walk Rendezvous on Kent Island and to **Mike Nieberding, Harry and Betty Gruel and Frederike Hecht** for their staffing help.

to **Bill Brooke, Esq. for his generous donation to the general fund of the Society.

** to **Sister Benedicta Viebeck, SSND** for her contributions of German language books which she collected during her teaching career. Sister Benedicta is now living at the the School Sisters of Notre Dame retirement home, Villa Assumpta, 6401 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21212.



RABBI BEN-AMI ADDRESSES ANNUAL MEETING

Dr. David Z. Ben-Ami, Rabbi and National Chairman of the American Forum for Jewish-Christian Cooperation addressed the annual meeting of the membership of the German Society of Maryland.

As an introduction, President Ted Potthast reported that our Board of Directors has asked that the Society make a special effort to welcome Jews of German ancestry, stating that historically the Society has had a fair representation of Jewish members. During the 1800's and up to World War II, Jewish members served on the Board and as officers. After the holocaust, the local Jewish community abandoned the German organizations. Mr. Potthast said that the Directors want to encourage their return.

Rabbi Ben-Ami mentioned that there are now 60,000 Jews in Germany, only 10% of the pre-WWII Jewish population, but that the numbers are increasing. He favors the move to bring Jewish members into our organization and volunteered to join as a member. Dr. Ben-Ami invited the officers of the Society to attend a Seder Dinner at a Washington synogogue.

Number of Resettlers Dropped in 1996

The number of ethnic Germans from Eastern Europe emigrating to Germany under the country's citizenship law dropped significantly during the first three months of 1996 from last year's figures, Horst Waffenschmidt, the federal government's commissioner for resettlers, announced Monday (April 1) in Bonn. Waffenschmidt said a total of 40,944 resettlers came to Germany during the period, down 5,502 from the year before. The drop was most pronounced among resettlers from the former Soviet Union, Poland and Romania. It is likely that the overall figure for 1996 will be lower than last year, Waffenschmidt said, because there have been minor changes made in entry requirements. For example, resettlers are now expected to show more extensive proof of knowledge of the German language than has been the case in the past. The number of resettlers allowed to emigrate to Germany is capped at 220,000 and is normally utilized in full. ■

GERMANIC GENEALOGY AID

The Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society is dedicated to obtaining and providing information about our early German ancestors who, when they arrived in America, settled in the mid-Atlantic region. This includes New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia and the Carolinas.

The Society was founded on July 10, 1982 by a group of persons having a common interest in learning more about Germanic genealogy in the mid-Atlantic region. It holds two meetings annually, in the spring and the fall, open to members and the interested public, featuring speakers with relevant genealogical knowledge. It publishes a quarterly newsletter, called "Der Kurrier". It offers a wide range of other services, such as a lending library, query services, professional referral and advice, and a surname exchange. (The Society does not perform research for individuals.) It is a non-profit organization whose officers serve on a voluntary, pro bono basis.

Membership in the Society is \$10 per year, or \$12 for family membership. Queries are published in the newsletter (queries are free to members, \$1 per query to non-members.) An information leaflet and membership application may be obtained from Dorothy Jackson Reed, 14710 Sherwood Drive, Greencastle, PA 17225-8403

The spring meeting of this Society was held April 27, 1996 at Blob's Park, Jessup, MD. The fall meeting will be held on October 26, 1996 at the Holiday Inn in Cumberland, MD.

GERMAN MARYLANDER ENTERS BASEBALL HISTORY

On Sept. 6, 1995, Cal Ripken, Jr. of the Baltimore Orioles baseball team broke Lou Gehrig's record of playing in 2131 consecutive games.

Ripken's great grandparents on his father's side immigrated from Germany in the 19th century. They were Frederick Peter Ripken and Affena Lubina Wychgram. They settled in Harford County, Maryland and opened a general store in Stepney, a crossroads three miles south of Aberdeen. Cal also found German ancestry in his mother's family. She is the former Violet Gross, of German/Irish descent. The Gross family immigrated long before the American Revolutionary War.

STUDENT UPHOLDS 313 YEAR LANGUAGE TRADITION

Katherine Tyson won a \$100 award from the German Society in 1994 for exceeding the 90th percentile in the exam by the American Association of Teachers of German. Katie carries on a German language tradition passed on through her family in America since 1683. In that year, one of her ancestor was among the 13 families from Krefeld, Germany who help found Germantown, PA, under the leadership of Franz Daniel Pastorius.

WHAT ELSE HAPPENED IN 1783?

1783 is the year in which the German Society of Maryland was founded. That same year other things occurred which affected Maryland:

Washington College, on the Eastern Shore, (alma mater of our recent honoree, Louis L. Goldstein) graduated its first class of six students.

The Bank of Ireland, owner of The First National Bank of Maryland, was formed and received a royal charter from the King of England.

The Society of the Cincinnati, the first American veterans organization, was founded.

As you pursue your readings and learn of other Maryland beginnings from 1783, please drop us a note so we can put it in our newsletter.

FOUNDED 1783



The German Society of Maryland

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1996-1997

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Dandridge Brooke
1st Vice President
John Aymold
2nd Vice President
Christal van der Berg
Secretary
Ronald R. Antlitz, Sr. CPA
Treasurer

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Office Administrator

LOCAL GERMAN RADIO SHOWS

The German Radio Klub and The Edelweiss Club offer broadcasting of German music and news of local events of interest to the German American community, on radio 750 AM. The schedules are:

"German Radio Hour", Saturdays at 3 PM and Sundays at 2 PM.

"Edelweiss Hour" on Sundays at 10 AM. The German Society supports each of the radio programs, as part of our purpose, which is "to preserve and promote the German heritage, language and traditions..."

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR HONOREE

Each year the Society honors a Marylander of German ancestry who has made a significant contribution to our State or nation. Nominations are now being accepted.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ Zipcode: _____

Spouse (Optional): _____ Phone: _____

"I hereby apply to be a member of the German Society of Maryland"

Annual dues \$15. Spouse may be included at no extra cost. Make check payable to "The German Society of MD" P. O. Box 22585, Baltimore, MD 21203-4585

This newsletter is a publication of The German Society of Maryland—an organization founded in 1783 and incorporated in 1817. The German Society of Maryland is a member of the following national and local organizations: Deutsch-Amerikanischer Nationalkongress (DANK), United German American Committee of the USA (UGAC-USA); Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland; General German Aged Peoples' Home of Baltimore (Edenwald).

Editors and Desktop Publishing

Catherine A. Potthast
Mia Potthast Walsh

All members and friends are encouraged to submit items of interest to Theodore J. Potthast, Jr. at 1819 Leadburn Road, Towson, Maryland 21204-1830