

# THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

DIE DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT VON MARYLAND

## VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

MARCH, 1997

VOLUME ONE -ISSUE THIRTEEN

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year and welcome to the 214th year of The German Society of Maryland! The officers and directors of The Society are hard at work planning the events for 1997. It promises to be another year filled with festivals and gatherings celebrating our German-American heritage, but one key element will make these events a success: the direct involvement and participation of our members. I would like to encourage all members and friends of The Society to seize the opportunity to contribute your time, energy and spirit to the planning and successful execution of our activities in 1997. I firmly believe that a commitment from the membership is essential to maintaining and sustaining the vitality of The German Society of Maryland.

I am extending an invitation to all of our members to share your ideas and areas of interest with me and the officers and directors of The society. We welcome your suggestions and we strongly encourage your participation. The *Annual Meeting* will be an excellent opportunity to meet other members and participate in an exchange of ideas. We may be reached by telephone or by writing to the Society's office. I look forward to hearing from you very soon!

Michael J. Nieberding  
President, German Society of Maryland

***"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."***

### ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR MARCH 14TH

The annual meeting of our Society will be held in the dining room of the Zion Church, City Hall Plaza, Baltimore, on Friday, March 14. A dinner will be served beginning at 6:30 PM. The meeting will commence at 8 PM and will adjourn at 9 PM.

The menu will compare to last year's servings, which received overwhelming approval from the more than 100 members who attended. It will include German meats and breads, wurst, herring, other German specialties plus Lenten egg salad, tuna salad. Dessert donations from members will be welcomed.

After a lively discussion, the Board of Directors voted to make no charge for the dinner. All members are urged to attend and to bring potential members as guests. A 50/50 raffle will be held at the event. The membership will elect six Directors. Committees will report on their activities.

### WOMEN'S AUXILIARY TO CELEBRATE 80TH ANNIVERSARY



The Women's Auxiliary of the German Society of Maryland will celebrate its 80th anniversary at a luncheon on Tuesday, April 15, 1997 at the Overlea Hall on Belair Road. Members and friends of the German Society are cordially invited to attend. Tickets for the event are \$20 and are available by calling the President, Gretel Kramer at 410-254-8227, or the Vice President, Eva Kelleher at 410-377-9508. Entertainment will be provided by a jazz and dance group from Essex Community College, together with a sing-along by the assembly.

The Women's Auxiliary conducts monthly meetings at Zion Church in the German language (although German is not required to attend the April 15 luncheon celebration). Besides its own programs, it also assists the Society's activities. The Auxiliary provides support for many good works of the Society.

# SPRING Events Calendar

## ABENDBROT PLANNED BY UMBC GERMAN CLUB



Treat yourself and a friend to an evening of German dining pleasures, Gemütlichkeit and musical variety, sponsored by the German Club of the University of MD, Baltimore County, at the Metropole Cafe and Art Gallery, located next to the Charles Theater on Charles Street, one block north of Penn Station in Baltimore. Cost: \$27 per person, gratuities included. Friday March 21 at 6:30 PM.

The event is the Club's 2nd Annual German Abendbrot. It's now famous menu includes smoked fish and fowl, Wurst und Käse, Goatcheesepie, breads, desserts and German wine and beer. For reservations, send your check by March 15, 1997 to Renate M. Smith/German Club, 5524 Barrington Ct., Columbia, MD 21043. Ms. Smith can be reached at 410-465-8090.



## Prof. Tolzmann to Lecture on April 27th

Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann, a most distinguished German-American scholar, lecturer and writer, will address the annual dinner meeting of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland at Martin's West on April 27th. Dr. Tolzmann is chairman of the Department of German-American studies at the University of Cincinnati and is the President of The Society for German American Studies. He will present a paper entitled "Cincinnati's German American Heritage" in which he will describe the contribution made by Maryland Germans who emigrated from here to there.

The evening will commence at 6:30. Tickets @ \$30 will include hot hors d'oeuvres and a dinner choice of prime rib or chicken. Send check payable to The Society for the History of The Germans in MD to 8224 Carrbridge Circle, Towson, MD 21204. For information call Judge Wittstadt at 410-828-0496 between 7 and 9 PM.

## VEREINS KALENDAR

March 9	Balto. Kickers' Schlachfest
March 14	<b>ANNUAL MEETING GERMAN SOCIETY</b>
March 15	Immergrün Anniversary party
April 19	Kickers' beer tasting
April 20	Edelweiss Mystery bus trip
Sept. 21	Annual Picnic of German Soc.
Nov. 7	Annual Awards Banquet of German Society

## GOETHE EXHIBIT AT PEABODY



An exhibit "Goethe: Renaissance Man" is on view at the Peabody Library, 17 E, Mt. Vernon Place, Baltimore, until April 4, 1997 and displaying rare books from the Johns Hopkins University

Eisenhower Library's German collections.

The Goethe Society of Maryland and the German Dept. of Johns Hopkins University hosted a reception at the Peabody Library on Feb. 12th. The exhibition includes the first editions of *Werther*, *Goetz von Berlichingen* and *Faust*, reproductions of some of Goethe's drawings, and early editions of his works on botany and meteorology. Donations by Mrs. Inge Brauer of Bethesda, MD are part of this unusual exhibit.

Some of the books on display were contributed by Prof. Dr. William Kurrelmeyer, a deceased member of our Society, who served as President of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland from 1937 to 1951.

The President of the American Goethe Society, Maryland Chapter, is Brigitte Fessenden, a member of our Society's Board of Directors.

## MYSTERY FILM: GERMANS IN MARYLAND

A dozen or so years ago, a film on the German heritage in Maryland was in circulation. It has not been shown for a long time. Does anyone know where the film is or who

has a copy of it? The German Society would like to make it available at one of our meetings. If you know where it is, please call our office or drop us a line.



**PASTOR PANITZ  
ADDRESSES  
ECUMENICAL EVENT**

Pastor S. James Panitz, from the Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lutheran Church in Toronto, Canada presented the homily at the Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service sponsored by Zion Church, The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland and our own Society. The annual event was inaugurated in 1989, a few weeks after the fall of the Berlin Wall, to celebrate the freedom of Germany from the yoke of communism. This year's attendance of 300 was the largest so far.

Singing was provided by The Maryland State Boychoir, directed by Frank T. Cimino. They presented "Amen. Lob und Ehre und Weisheit un Dank" and "O Clap Your Hands."

The children's choir of Zion Church, directed by Mrs. Otto, presented "Lasst uns miteinander" and "Wir teilen". The Zion Church Choir, Mr. John Heizer, Director and Organist, sang several hymns and led the congregation.

Pastor H. J. Siegfried Otto was the chairman of the event and presided at the service. The German Society provided refreshments at a social gathering in the Adlersaal after the service. Irma Tillman chaired the refreshments committee.

**Vicinity of Society's Office  
Enhanced**

A neighborhood drive is under way to enhance Mount Vernon Square, the location of our Society's new office. The Baltimore Sun reports: "Mount Vernon Square is a European-flavored plaza surrounded by many of Baltimore's leading cultural and historical institutions." Those institutions recently donated \$40,000 to hire consultants to help devise ways to make that cultural district more appealing. The result is a document of recommended physical and design improvements, some of which could be visible as soon as the spring. Others will take longer. The goal is to assure that visitors can move easily among such nearby attractions as the Basilica of the Assumption, Center Stage, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Maryland Historical Society, Peabody Institute and Walters Art Gallery. Many of these institutions are expanding and want to make sure that they will be better linked to their neighbors and that the whole Mount Vernon district will have a unified look.

**CAROLINE FRIESS CENTER DEDICATED**

December 5th marked the dedication of The Caroline Center, an institute aiding inner city women to obtain the skills needed to become independent wage earners.

The center is named after Caroline Friess, a German nun of the School Sisters of Notre Dame (die Kongregation der Armen Schulschwestern von Unsere Lieben Frau) who, at age 23, came to Baltimore from Bavaria with five companions to minister to German speaking immigrants. She traveled America by wagon, train, steamboat, stagecoach and on foot, establishing schools. At her death in 1892, her congregation numbered over 200 houses and over 2,000 sisters.

On a hot day in June, 1858, traveling down the Mississippi on the steamboat *Pennsylvania*, Mother Caroline almost drowned when an explosion sank the boat. She was rescued by a black man. A slave girl pressed some needed money into her hand. She never ceased her gratitude, and she took a special interest in establishing schools for black children.

The Caroline Center is located in the newly renovated building which previously served as the novitiate for the Notre Dame sisters on Somerset Street in east Baltimore. It opened to a class of 25 women. It is operated by the School Sisters of Notre Dame in cooperation with the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. Several School Sisters are members of the German Society.

***Baltimore City Bicentennial***

The Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein, the German community umbrella organization, made a gift of \$250 to the City of Baltimore for its use in the 200th anniversary celebration of the City, which was founded in 1797.

Earlier in this century Baltimore had such a large German population that the laws of the City Council were published in German as well as English. The German Society elected to keep its offices in the City, recalling its founding in Baltimore 214 years ago. In 1983 the Society asked the City for a public place for a bronze plaque recalling our 200th anniversary. The City denied our request, but the Zion Church volunteered a spot in its garden across from City Hall where it is now on view.

The German Society is considering participation in Baltimore's bicentennial program. Suggestions from the membership are invited.



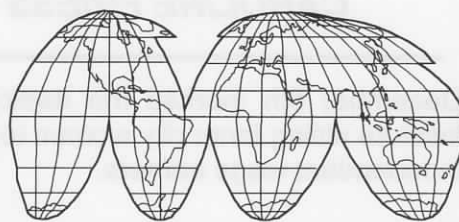
**MARYLAND WELCOMES  
LUTHERAN WORLD  
RELIEF**



Lutheran World Relief announced its plans to move from Manhattan to Baltimore. As its reasons for the move, it cited less expensive operating costs and Baltimore's "recognition of the importance of non-profit organizations in their community."

Lutheran World Relief is a joint operation of the 5.2 million member Evangelical Lutheran Church in American and the 2.6 million Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. It has a \$19.3 million budget and reaches 50 countries, from Armenia and Azerbaijan to Rwanda and Zaire. It joins Catholic Relief Services and International Youth Federation which have moved their world head-quarters to Baltimore in recent years.

Our Society is pleased that an organization with a strong German heritage has made the decision to come to Maryland. Lutheranism originated in Germany, founded by Martin Luther, the first person to translate the bible into the vernacular. Baltimore boasts a monumental statue of Martin Luther, standing at an entrance to Druid Hill Park. When our the Society was established in 1783, many of its founders were members of the Zion Lutheran Church.



**MD GERMAN  
MONASTERY RAZED**

The monastery founded by St. John Neumann in Cumberland, Maryland in 1850 has been razed, after litigation between the local church and the preservation commission. The monastery was built by the Redemptorist priests who served the Catholic German population of Western Maryland. A lawsuit in the federal courts delayed the razing until the court decided a constitutional issue based on freedom of religion. Father Vance Pastorius, OFM Cap., the pastor of Saints Peter and Paul church reported that the bricks from the monastery and its stained glass windows would be used in the construction of a church annex, and its wrought-iron cross would grace the roof of the new building. Father Pastorius is a descendant of the famous Pastorius, who led the first group of German immigrants to America aboard the ship "Concordia" and founded Germantown, PA.

**REPORT 43 COPIES  
STILL AVAILABLE**



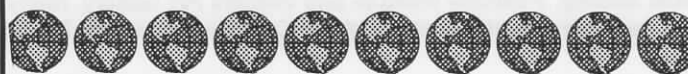
The Society still has about 50 copies of The Report available for free distribution to member of our Society. We made a \$1,000 contribution to The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland to assist in the publication of this journal, and in gratitude, that Society made 100 copies available to our members.

Report 43 contains 9 learned and informative articles of historical interest on German subject. Of special interest to Marylanders are articles on "German-American Enterprises of Baltimore"; "The Apprentice Years of Jacob Gross, Superintendent of the Stieff Piano Company"; "John Gottlieb Morris" (founder of Lutherville, MD); "German Colonial Architecture in Frederick County: The Mill Pond /House - Dearbought - The Hessian Barracks"; and "Hessian Participation in the Attack on Fort Washington, 1776 and the Occupation of Northern New Jersey". Other articles describe Types of German Surname Changes in America, the Germans as the First American Glassmakers in English America, and biographical sketches of Robert Reitzel, Lutheran Minister, Freethinker and Liberal Firebrand; and Carol von Marr; Poetic Realist.

Several of the articles were authored by members of the German Society of Maryland, including the late Prof. William H. McClain, Prof. Jürgen Eichhoff, Gary C. Grassl, Dr. Randall Donaldson and Brigitte Voelkel Fessenden.

Members wishing a copy of The Report 43 should call our office to request same and leave your name and address on our answering machine. First come, first served. The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland was founded in 1886 and is one of our sister societies. Our Society encourages its member to become members also of this historical society.

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## OVER 1000 GERMAN AMERICAN GROUPS

The German Society of MD is one of more than 1,000 German organizations in the USA (including Austrian and Swiss groups). Maryland has nearly twenty, thirteen of which are located in the Baltimore area and are members of the Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von MD.



### THANKS

**TO MR. AND MRS. PAUL SCHAFFER** for their most generous gift of \$1,000 for the charitable and educational works of the society.

**TO CHRISTEL VAN DER BERG** for her volunteerism in helping to set up the Society's new office, for her able assistance at the German Festival and at our annual picnic, and for providing translations from German to English for articles for our Newsletter

### SUBSCRIPTION

\$5.00 PER YEAR To subscribe, send check payable to "The German Society of MD" at PO Box 22582, Baltimore MD 21203-4585. (A subscription to the Newsletter is included in members' dues.)

## AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

(from the 1942 Annual Report of the German Society of MD)

*"If, after looking over this report, you are interested, we further invite you to become a member of the German Society, thereby identifying yourself with its past, present and future.*

*"The German Society is a new-world organization, not professing any part in old-world hatreds or political divisions. It was formed by men of every faith and from all the German-speaking countries of Europe; it is non-sectarian and has so consistently held from its beginning.*

*"It should be a matter of pride and enviable distinction to respond to this invitation, for in works of charity there can be no differences. A hearty welcome awaits you."*

EDITOR'S NOTE: The 1942 annual report of the Society was presented at its annual business meeting on January 26, 1943 at the Parish House of Zion Church, Baltimore. Present at the meeting and giving greetings to our members were His Excellency Herbert R. O'Connor, Jr., Governor of Maryland, His Honor Howard W. Jackson, Mayor of Baltimore and Captain Louis H. Schmidt, President of the German Society of Pennsylvania. The Deutscher Damenchor, directed by Dr. Johann H. Eltermann, sang "Auf Flügeln des Gesanges", "Das stille Tal" and "Stouthearted Men." The address for the evening was presented by one of our members, Theodore R. McKeldin. His speech was entitled "The cause of the German Society of Maryland". Mr. McKeldin went on to become mayor of Baltimore and governor of Maryland and received national recognition at the Republican National Convention for his nominating speech for another prominent leader of German ancestry, Dwight D. Eisenhower. Our country was then in the midst of an all-out war with Germany; yet these prominent leaders of our state did not hesitate to stand side-by-side with the members of our Society in support of our German-American heritage.

## NEW YEAR'S DAY VOLKSMARCH

500 people entered a traditional Volksmarch on January 1, on a trail in Columbia, MD winding past Lake Kittamaquidi. They came from Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania for the 10-kilometer hike, organized by the Freestate Happy Wanderers, a group based near Laurel. Begun in Germany, the "volksmarch" (the German word for "peoples' walk") is gaining popularity as a noncompetitive sport in the USA. The Maryland walk was a traditional volksmarch, with a set course but no referee at the finish line. Walkers go at their own pace and keep track of their mileage by getting a passportlike book stamped at events.



## MEMBER NEWS

### MEMBERS RUN BED 'N BOAT NEAR SAINT MICHAELS

German Society members Norm and Joan Dreisch operate a unique resort just outside historic Saint Michaels on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The Dreisch's "Harris Cove Bed 'N Boat" provides family accommodations in Williamsburg-style cottages on a scenic cove.

Guests enjoy crabbing, fishing, shopping, biking, golfing, and plain relaxing, away from the busyness of the big city. German Society members receive a 15% discount in April, May and October. Inquires to Norm Dreisch at 410 879-7672 or on the internet at [normd@online1.magnus1.com](mailto:normd@online1.magnus1.com)



### MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

#### PRESIDENT CLINTON PRAISES GOLDSTEIN

Appearing before the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis on Feb. 10, President William Clinton joked with our 1995 honoree, Louis L. Goldstein, saying that he was in first grade when Goldstein was first elected to office. Mr. Goldstein, the 8-term State Comptroller and former president of the Senate, has held public office longer than anyone in the history of Maryland. President Clinton called him the living argument against term limits. Mr. Goldstein was honored by our Society as a Maryland of German ancestry who has made significant contributions to our State.

**U.S. Magistrate Judge Daniel E. Klein, Jr.** has been named chief magistrate of the federal court, Maryland District.

### OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

The annual meeting of the members of The German Society of Maryland will be held on MARCH 14, 1997 (Friday) ZION CHURCH, CITY HALL PLAZA, DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM. A German style buffet dinner will be provided to the members and guests, beginning at 6:30 PM. The annual meeting will commence at 8 PM.

The membership will conduct the annual election of Directors and attend to such other business as may be properly brought before the membership. Members whose dues are current may cast votes. The Bylaws of the Society and revisions thereto shall be presented to the members for ratification. Copies will be distributed at the meeting and are available on request prior to the meeting by calling the office.

Six (6) members of the Board of Directors will be elected for a three year term. The nominating committee is now accepting recommendations for the Board. The nominating committee consists of:

Harry Gruel	410-922-5906
Hans Hurdle	410-453-9138
Donald Tillman	410-643-4875
Theodore Potthast	410-828-8137



## HISTORICAL NOTES

### Maryland German Society Imitates PA. Society



From the archives of the Society, our founders acknowledged that we were organized in imitation of our brethren in Philadelphia. The German Society of Pennsylvania was founded in 1764. Nineteen years later the German Society of Maryland was founded. The Society caused the following "thanks" to be published in the Maryland Journal of Tuesday, August 10, 1784:

" To Capt. Claus Julkens, of the Brig Lavater:

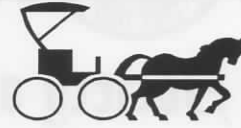
"Sir: The brutal advantage which has been taken by some Masters of Vessels, over their passengers, has induced a number of inhabitants of this place (in imitation of their brethren in Philadelphia) to form themselves into a Society, for the protection of some of their countrymen as may be induced to come to this State and guard them from the oppression and barbarity of unfeeling men.

"Upon enquiry concerning the usage of the people on board of your brig, 'The Levater,' we find, with peculiar satisfaction that your attention to those principles which should animate a Christian heart, has rendered their situation as easy and comfortable as circumstances would permit. We cannot, Sir, restrain our strong desire we feel of expressing to you our warmest acknowledgments, and publicity to offer you our sincerest thanks, which we consider as the smallest Tribute due, for your generosity and tenderness.

"By order of the German Society.  
"John Conrad Zollkoffer, Sec.  
Baltimore, August 9th, 1784."

### WHAT ELSE HAPPENED IN 1783?

The year the German Society of MD was founded the Revolutionary War concluded. The British evacuated New York, their last military position in the colonies. (Our founders were still "colonists".)



### LOST GERMAN VILLAGE NOTED

In 1719 a group of immigrants from Nassau-Siegen, east of Köln, founded a village in Virginia about 35 miles from the Maryland border and called it German Town. The original town has now become forests and meadows and a man-made lake now exists where a church, school and mill used to be. An historical marker now marks the site. The German Heritage Society of Greater Washington met with Virginia's Fauquier County Historical Society to preserve the memory of the town. Bradford Miller and Gary Grassl, both members of our Society, are the president and vice president of the German Heritage Society of Greater Washington, and have taken a special interest in the project. German Town was located about 8 miles southeast of present-day Warrenton, VA. It was the earliest German settlement in northern Virginia. It was the birthplace of Chief Justice John Marshall, whose father bought his land from the German settler, Johann Fischbach. Some of the names of the original German settlers (occasionally anglicized) were Weaver (Weber), Coons (Kunz), Rector (Richter), Hitt (Heidt), Spillman (Spielmann), Fishback (Fischbach), Kemper, Martin and Hager.

### 1997 MARKS 150 YEARS IN USA FOR SSND

Five young nuns from Bavaria came to Baltimore in 1847 and set up shop taking in orphans and educating immigrant children. This small band grew until today there are 3,300 Schools Sisters of Notre Dame in the United States. In Maryland they operate Notre Dame of MD College, Notre Dame Preparatory School and the Institute of Notre Dame, and teach in numerous parochial schools including the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, St. Mary's in Govans, St. Marks in Catonsville, St. John's in Westminster and St. John's in Frederick. Besides teaching, the sisters are engaged in such other diverse projects as the Marian House in Baltimore, a residence for women released from prison, the Caroline Center for training needy women, running soup kitchens and Head Start programs. The Baltimore Province of SSND has missions in Africa and South America. Several of the sisters are members of the German Society of Md. Sister Benedicta Viebeck, now retired, gave the address at one of our Society's annual meetings in 1986.

### FROM OUR ARCHIVES

Telephone No. 909  
William L. Hodge  
Attorney at Law  
Glenn Building 12 St. Paul St.  
Baltimore, MD.  
(handwritten)

June 8, 1893  
Charles Weber, Jr.  
Treas. German Soc of MD.  
219 South Sharp St. City

My Dear Sir:

I enclose my check for \$6.41 being amount of ground rent due May 18-1893 on premises 908 Tyson St. I find the total rent on the whole lot to be \$51.25 per annum, so that the enclosed bill is seasonably correct. Will you please hereafter make out the bills on this house in the name of Edward J. Fater who is now the owner of the premises.

Yours vly truly,  
Wm. F. Hodge

Kindly mail the receipted bill.

(written on the reverse of this letter)

"Preserve this letter. Lawyer Hodge refused to let his client Fater (the owner of the leasehold) pay the rent on the ground that it amounted to only \$6.25 instead of \$6.41. After a careful examination he wrote this letter, which proves the right of the German Society to the rents as set for in its books."

**Editor's note: Our office secretaries over the years are most obedient in following instructions, since "this letter" has been preserved in our files for 104 years!**

FOUNDED 1783



# The German Society of Maryland

OFFICE OF THE SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 22585 BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21203-4585 Phone (410) 685-0450

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## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

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mail to:

### 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 National Kongress (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**

Theodore J. Potthast, Jr.  
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