

THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

DIE DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT VON MARYLAND

VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

JUNE 1997

VOLUME ONE -ISSUE FOURTEEN

NIEMANN AND FRITZSCHE ELECTED DIRECTORS

Betty Niemann and Robert Karl Fritzsche were elected as new directors at the Society's annual meeting on March 14. Mrs. Niemann has been active in the German American community as President of the Edelweiss Club, which sponsors the Sunday Edelweiss Hour, numerous bus trips and social events. Mr. Fritzsche is the President of the Arion Gesangverein. He has led the singing of the national anthems at the Society's annual banquet for the past two years. He is an architect who received part of his university education in Germany.

Other board members who were reelected for a three year term are: Brigitte V. Fessenden, Gerard Wm, Wittstadt, Christel van der Berg and Michael J. Nieberding.



BÜRGERVEREIN 24-HOUR INFORMATION LINE

Want to know what's happening of interest to local German Americans? Call the 24-hour phone line of The Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland: 410-522-4144. You'll hear the voice of Bob Sheppard listing the cultural events, museum displays and the social activities and events of the member organizations of the Bürgerverein. Just for curiosity, call the line. You may be surprised to find an event you'll want to attend.

OFFICERS ELECTED AT ANNUAL MEETING

At the March meeting of the Board of Directors, held in our new office on Mount Vernon Place, Michael Nieberding was reelected President for the 1997-98 term. Ronald Antlitz, CPA, was reelected as treasurer, Christel Van der Berg as secretary, and Judge Gerard Wittstadt as counselor. Newly elected officers are Robert Gay, first vice-president and Hans Michael Hurdle, CPA, second vice president. Mr. Gay is the sales director of the Goetze Candy Company and Mr. Hurdle is an officer of the First National Bank.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FRAUENHILFSVEREIN

Margarete Kramer, president of The Women's Auxiliary of the German Society of Maryland, submitted the following report:

"The membership has grown since last year. Our meetings were well attended. Some of the members joined the German Society bus trip to the Bavarian Inn in Shepherstown, WV, the Schifferstadt Museum in Frederick, MD and the Hager House in Hagerstown, MD.

We enjoyed old folksongs and kept them alive by singing them at each meeting. With the beginning of the New Year, we expect to continue cultivating German customs, literature and so on.

With our small means, we practiced some financial charity."

The Women's Auxiliary meets monthly at the Zion Church in Baltimore and conducts its meeting in the German language. New members are welcome.

"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."

UPCOMING Events Calendar

EDELWEIS CLUB STARTS DINNER PROGRAM



The Edelweis Club has started a monthly program of visiting the German restaurants advertising on the Sunday morning radio program, The Edelweis Hour. Members of our Society are invited to participate. The first in the dinner series was to the Bavarian Inn in Hagerstown, MD on May 10th. The group travels by private autos and meets at the restaurants.

KUTZTOWN FESTIVAL - WORTH THE TRIP

The Kutztown Pennsylvania German Festival run from June 28 to July 6, 1977 and is an affair worth the 2+ hour trip. Kutztown is just north of Reading, PA. The festival takes place on the Kutztown State University campus.

Some members of the Society returned last year with raving reviews and said it is well worth an overnight stay.

The festival features taste-tempting German foods, pageantry, quilting, folklore seminars and demonstrations of authentic craftsmanship, exhibits of folk art and historical reenactments. Admire over 800 new and antique handcrafted quilts. You can buy a variety of fresh foods to take home, including country meats, fruits, preserves "seven sweets and seven sour" and home-made shoofly pies. Call 1-800-963-8824 or write: Kutztown Pa. German Festival, PO Box 308, Kutztown, PA 19530.

VEREINS KALENDAR

- June 28 -
 July 6 Kutztown PA German Festival
 July 27 Baltimore Kickers' Crab Feast
 August 15-17 Baltimore area German Festival at Carroll Park
 Sept. 21 German Society Annual Picnic
 Nov. 7 German Society Annual Awards Banquet
 Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service

FESTBANKETT DER DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT VON MARYLAND AM 7. NOVEMBER

Our Annual Awards Banquet will be held this year on November 7 at Martin's West. Our directors studied the wishes of our membership to learn what they want at the annual affair, and the single thread in all the responses was: make it German.

After canvassing most of the available banquet sites, the banquet committee settled on Martin's West, after a series of interviews and negotiations. Martin's has agreed to create a special meal unique but universally popular among German Americans. German wine will be on the tables and German beer served at the bars. The committee has arranged for a very large room which will allow plenty of space for dancing and comfortable movement, with the band situated in an area far enough from the tables that no one will be "blown away" (a complaint from the past). Subcommittees are now being formed to prepare a program of German activities for the affair. The printed program will contain ads for businesses plus patrons and sponsors, to help defray the expense of the affair.

MONUMENT TO FIRST GERMANS

A dedication ceremony for a historic marker to commemorate the arrival of the first Germans at Jamestown Virginia in the year 1608 was held at Christopher Newport College, Newport News, VA on May 31.

The site of the marker is on Virginia route 31, south of Williamsburg, next to the fort and museum of the Jamestown settlement.

The impetus for the historic marker was given by the German Heritage Society of Washington. Gary Grassl, President of that group, is an active member of the German Society of MD.

GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES AT FESTIVAL

At this year's German Festival (mid-August), the Baltimore area German clubs plan a childrens' program to introduce the Märchen (fairy tales) of the Brothers Grimm. Each club will help put the program together, some working on the facade of the ginger-bread house into which the children will enter to hear the stories being read in the setting of a German family around its kitchen table. The program will be present several times during each day of the festival and will introduce some German words and phrases to the children. The German Society will provide "actors" for the role of the German family.

WALTERS GALLERY EXHIBITS WORKS OF MAX BRÖDEL

Max Brödel, a Baltimorean born in Leipzig, Germany, was 23 years old in 1894 when he joined the newly established Johns Hopkins Medical School as its medical illustrator. He had worked in Leipzig under the renowned physiologist Carl Ludwig. His task was not merely to record the appearances of the subject, but to conceptualize them, emphasizing salient features and suppressing others.

As Brödel's reputation grew, Hopkins established for him a "Chair of Art in Medicine" with him as its director. He trained exceptional young artists to become medical illustrators. Henry Walters, founder of The Walters (art gallery), secretly funded the chair with gifts totaling \$160,000. Brödel's close friends included members of the "Saturday Night Club", a fraternity of newspaper writers, physicians, German-Americans, musicians and other kindred companions, who banded together to play music and drink. At a dinner in Philadelphia in 1938 to honor Brödel's contribution to medical science, the club's leader, Henry L. Mencken, reminisced instead about Brödel the pianist. Mencken recalled how they had hammered the bones together for 28 years.

Walters will exhibit in its Fourth Floor Drawings Gallery a selection of Max Brödel's medical illustrations and other examples of his work, including landscapes, portraits, and fungus drawings from April 9 through July 27.

BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN MORRIS

"John Gottlieb Morris: Man of God, Man of Science" by Dr. Michael J. Kurtz was just released. Rev. Morris's achievements are described in this biography: founder and first president (in 1886) of our sister society, The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland; founder of the MD town of Luther-ville and of the Lutherville Female Seminary; primary nurturer of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, PA and Gettysburg College; created the libraries of Peabody Institute and the Maryland Historical Society; helped develop of the natural history collection of the Smithsonian Institution; led the movement of the American Lutheran Church to bring English to the German language liturgy.

The biographer is assistant archivist of the National Archives and is a director of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland.

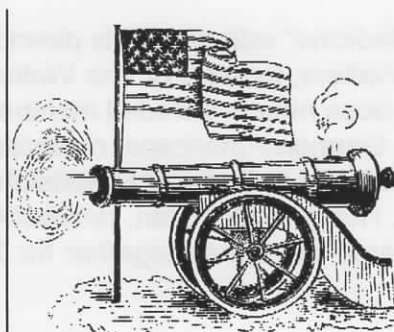
Published by the Maryland Historical Society. \$20. (MD. Hist. Society, 201 W. Monument St. Baltimore MD 21203)



**SOCIETY APPROVES GIFT
TO BALTIMORE TO
RENOVATE BATTLE
MONUMENT**

The Battle Monument, which is the symbol of the City of Baltimore and appears on its flag and its seal, has fallen victim to age and pollution and is in dire need of repairs. The German Society has donated \$1,000 to the city's restoration project. The monument, located on Calvert Street between the two courthouses, was dedicated in 1815 as the first monument celebrating the American victory over Britain in the War of 1812. The defeat of the British by Maryland troops in the Battle of North Point in Baltimore County was the decisive event causing the British forces to leave America and return to England. So many German-American Marylanders fought in that battle that the commands were issued in the German language. General John Stricker, the "hero of the Battle of North Point" and an incorporator and vice-president of the German Society of Maryland, was present at the dedication of the Battle Monument. The monument was raised with private funds, General Stricker having contributed the 1815 equivalent of \$25,000.

A contingent from the German Society of MD will be present at the re-dedication of the Battle Monument, scheduled around Defenders' Day in September. (Defenders' Day is a legal holiday in Maryland, in memory of the defense of Fort McHenry and North Point by the Maryland militia.)



**GERMAN ON THE
INTERNET**

Ed Wenck, a German Society director, has provided our office with a 4-page listing of Internet addresses and web sites for obtaining information on topics of German interest. The list contains web sites in both German and English and includes homepages for many organizations such as the American Association of Teachers of German, the Goethe-Institut München, various German radio and TV stations and newspapers, the German Information Center and the German National Tourist Office. To receive a copy, call our office and leave your request on our answering machine.

**MORE INTERNET
GERMAN AMERICAN
HOMEPAGE**

The Indiana University /Purdue University - Indianapolis Library, in conjunction with the Society for German American Studies, has established a German American Homepage on the internet. The address is: <http://www-lib.iupui.edu/kade/>

We recommend to our members with computer access to the internet that they "browse" in this library at their earliest opportunity.

**GERMAN AMERICAN
PUBLICATION FUNDS**

The Society of The History of the Germans in Maryland has collected more than \$20,000.00 in its drive to establish a trust fund to ensure future publication of its 103-year-old "Report." The Society for German-American Studies, a national academic organization established in 1968 has collected \$60,000 toward its goal of a \$100,000 trust fund for its educational publications.

**STUDENT DUES
DISCOUNT**



In order to encourage young people to join the

Society, the Board of Directors voted to offer discounted dues to students attending high school and college. The dues for students will be \$5 per year. Students will be entitled to participate in all Society activities, except for elections. The discount applies only while retaining student status.

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.)



MEMBER NEWS

**JOHN ENSOR ELECTED
LIFETIME DIRECTOR**

John Ensor has served on our Board of Directors for more than ten years and for his meritorious service was elected to serve as a Lifetime Director of the Society. John is a farmer and a stockbroker. He is chairman of the investment committee and has so successfully guided the Society's investments that, from meagre beginnings, our treasury has grown to over a half million dollars. Until a recent illness, John has also farmed his acreage in northern Baltimore County. He has hosted several events at his farm, memorable among which was a party for the crew of a German naval vessel visiting Baltimore. John sent the crew on a rafting excursion down the Gunpowder River and feasted them afterwards, introducing them to Maryland corn on the cob. The crew so loved John's corn that he had to send a bushell back to the ship to tide them over until the ship's next call at the Maryland port. John is also a long-time director of Edenwald, the successor to the Greisenheim, the local German retirement home.

**LIVINGSTON MOVES
FROM THE HOPKINS
AICGS**

Robert Gerard Livingston, founding director of The Johns Hopkins University's American Institute for Contemporary German Studies has moved to become a senior visiting fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington. He will continue working with Hopkins as an editorial consultant while beginning work on a book on the German-American relationship since World War II. The AICGS is headquartered in Washington, D.C.

GARY GRASSL made a presentation at the 21st National Symposium of the Society for German-American Studies at its annual meeting held in April at St. Louis, Missouri. Mr. Grassl's topic: "The First Germans in Jamestown Colony, Virginia, 1608."

Our former director, **DOUGLAS HEISLER**, has moved to 3 National Drive, Windsor Locks, CT 06096-1018. Former President **FRED WEHRENBURG** has moved to 710 Waukegan Rd., Glenview, IL 60025. Members **BARNEY AND INGRID WARE** have moved to 35 Lake Somerset Circle, Bluffton, SC. **WILLIAM PATRICK GIBSON** has moved to 204 Harrison Ave. Williamsburg VA 23165-3505. Fred, Doug, Barney, Ingrid and William: How about coming back to MD for some of our events? We miss you.

HON. LOUIS L. GOLDSTEIN, the Society's 1995 honoree, celebrated his 84th birthday on March 14, and 59 years from his first election in 1938 to office in Maryland. Louis served first in the House of Delegates, was elected to the State senate in 1946 and was elected in 1958 to the office of State Comptroller, where he has served ever since.

EDWIN WENCK has retired as a Supervising Assistant State's Attorney for Baltimore City and is now studying German language at Towson University. Ed is an ordained minister and an artist. His wife **PAT** continues to work as a prosecuting attorney in Baltimore.

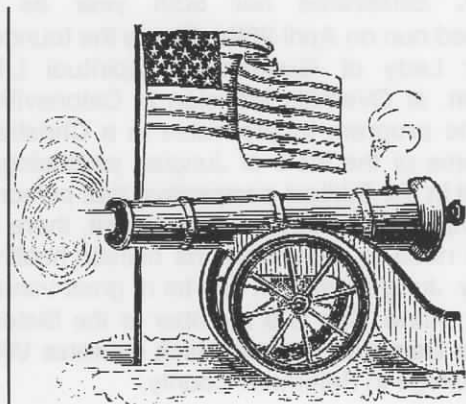
SISTER ANNE COLETTE POTTHAST, S.N.D. celebrated her 50th year as a professed nun on April 26th. She is the founder of Our Lady of Guadalupe Spiritual Life Program, at Overhills Mansion in Catonsville, MD. The program incorporates in a Christian light some of the tools of Jungian psychology. "Rooted in the Biblical perspective that persons are composed of body, soul and spirit, there is a great need to rediscover the holistic healing ministry. Jung's research can be of great value" said Sr. Anne. She is a member of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, which operates Villa Julie College in Baltimore County.

BETTY NIEMANN was reelected as president of the Edelweiss Club for 1997-1998.

HISTORICAL NOTES

ORDERS ISSUED TO AMERICAN TROOPS IN GERMAN

In a speech given at a Defenders' Day ceremony commemorating the defense of Baltimore in the War of 1813, Dandridge Brooke surprised the audience by revealing that the American troops in the Battle of North Point received their orders in German. General John Stricker, commanding general in that battle, and his subordinate officers gave the battle orders in the German language. General Stricker, a Swiss, was one of the incorporators of the German Society of Maryland. Mr. Brooke, the first vice-president of the Society, led a cavalcade of members and guests of the Society of the War of 1812 and of the German Society of Md. to the battlefield at North Point in Baltimore County to place a wreath on the monument commemorating the American victory over the British invaders. That battle was a delaying action against the British, whose leader General Ross was killed by Maryland sharpshooters. The subsequent defeat of the British in the Battle of Baltimore at Patterson Park, and the failed sea bombardment of Fort M'Henry sent the British home and ended the war. About 30 members of the German Society fought under General Stricker in the defense of the city.



ALL SLAVES WEREN'T FROM AFRICA - SOME WERE FROM GERMANY

The horrible German economy of the early 1700's encouraged destitute Germans to sign on with English and Dutch sea captains for emigration to America as "indentured servants" or "redemptioners". They agreed to work, usually for 4 years, to pay for their passage. But those who survived the voyage were required to serve the time of those who died enroute, thus adding many years to their servitude, often beyond their life expectancies. The British government recruited farmers in the Palatinate and Rhineland and in 1710 brought 3,000 of them to New York to serve as "farmers of the Crown." There were put in camps along the Hudson to produce tar and hemp for the British navy and were treated so intolerably that in 1721 many fled and were given refuge by the Indians of the Mohawk Valley, who filled with pity for the fugitives took them in and gave them land of their own for setting up real homesteads. The colonial governor sold the "farmers of the Crown" to work on the wealthy English manors.

An "Historical Sketch" published by The German Society of New York on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary in 1934 recites as follows: "As the result of the process employed by the British Government to bring destitute Germans to America, there to exploit their labors, numerous English and Dutch ship owners - who theretofore had practiced a lucrative trade in negro slaves - were encouraged to turn to traffic in white slaves. Success in stimulating the urge to emigrate engendered by the stress of endless wars would make it unnecessary to undertake perilous voyages to Africa and, at the risk of life, to seize or barter for slaves. These white slaves would not only voluntarily walk into the ship owners' traps but would bear the expense of sustenance and transportation to boot."

"Of 400 passengers who had boarded a vessel headed for Philadelphia in the year 1775, only 50 survived to arrive at their destination. The survivors were held to assume the service obligations of their deceased fellow emigrants in addition to their own. Men were held to serve for deceased men, women for deceased women, parents for their children who died on the way and children for parents who did not survive the passage. It was the privilege of anyone who no longer required the service of the "indentured" person to sell them to another.

An ad which appeared in a Philadelphia newspaper in 1773 read: "To be Sold. The services of an indentured female and her child. The wench is twenty three years old and her child, a boy, about one year and one half. The mother is indentured for six years to come and her child until his coming of age." This ad appeared in a Philadelphia paper on August 8, 1776 read: "To be Sold. The service of a German indentured girl. She is a strong, lively and healthy wench. Can do all kinds of farm work. Five years of unredeemed service."

It happened that husbands and wives, parents and children were separated for years - at times, forever. The redemptioners could not venture more than 10 miles from their masters' homes. The penalty for attempted desertion was 10 days of additional servitude for each day of absence. Since the redemptioners had no copy of their indenture, they were completely at the mercy of their owners' option to extend their servitude.



**COMMITTEES
NEED
VOLUNTEERS**

Get involved with the works of the Society. Join a committee. Call the committee chairperson and tell him/her that you want to serve. Explain your interests and how much time you can devote.

MEMBERSHIP	DON TILLMAN	410-643-4875
YOUTH	FREDERIKE HECHT	410-536-9077
NEWSLETTER	TED POTTHAST	410-828-8137
FESTIVAL	HARRY GRUEL	410-922-5906
PICNIC	IRMA TILLMAN & CHRISTEL VAN DER BERG	410-643-4875 410-997-8559
CULTURE	BRIGITTE FESSENDEN & ED WENCK	410-532-7581 410-467-2826
FINANCE	RON ANTLITZ	410-788-0002
ARCHIVES	BRIGITTE FESSENDEN & BOB GAY	410-532-7581 410-560-1539
EDUCATION FUND	CLEMENT D EHRHARDT II	410-828-8811
AWARDS BANQUET	FREDERIKE HECHT, TED POTTHAST & GERALD WITTSTADT	410-536-9077 410-828-8137 410-825-0808
NOMINATION	DON TILLMAN	410-643-4875
KIRCHGANG	IRMA TILLMAN	410-643-4875
ECUMENICAL	BOB GAY	410-560-1539

**\$10,000,000 GOAL FOR D.C.
GERMAN CENTER**

UGAC/USA (United German American Committee of the USA, Inc.) is in the process of raising \$10,000,000 to build a National Cultural Center. Once built it will be the only central location in the country dedicated to German Americans. The center will serve as a meeting place for organizations, host international receptions and gala events, as well as be on reservation for parties and festive occasions by interested groups. It will also provide an educational showcase, presenting exhibitions about German-American issues and featuring German immigration to the United States. To meet the aggressive goal, UGAC is making a nationwide appeal. Contributions may be sent to UGAC-USE, c/o William E. O'Brien, 101 Federal St., Suite 1900, Boston, MA 02110.

**GERMAN AMERICANS IN
MARYLAND**

Of the 4,781,468 Marylanders counted in the 1990 CENSUS, 1,218,257 were of German ancestry. They constituted 25.5% of the citizens of Maryland. This is an increase from 24.9% in the 1980 census (1,048,085 Germans of the total 4,216,975).

The top 6 ranking nationalities in 1990 were: German - 1,218,257 (25.5%); African-American - 965,573 (20.2%); Irish - 769,312 (16.1%); English 670,915 (14.0%); Italian - 252,428 (5.3%) and Polish - 200,570 (4.2%).

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CIVICS LESSON

Definition given by a young student on an actual test: "Germinate: to become a naturalized German."



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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ARION GESANGVEREIN

The Arion Gesangverein of Baltimore joined several hundred in Lancaster, PA on June 7th in the 46th Triennial Sängerfest sponsored by the Nordöstlicher Sängerbund.

The president of the Arion Gesangverein is Robert Fritzsche, who was recently elected to our Society's Board of Directors.

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