

THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

DIE DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT VON MARYLAND

VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

MAY 1999

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 22

SOCIETY GRANTS \$5,000 TO AATG; HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS AT ZION ADLERSAALFRIDAY MAY 7TH



German language students from Maryland and D.C. will be honored at a presentation sponsored by the German Society at 7 PM on May 7th in the Adlersaal at Zion Church, City Hall Plaza. The members of the Society are invited to attend.

Refreshments will be served after the awards, free to all who attend.

The German Society has awarded \$5,000 to the Maryland Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German, part of which will be used as prizes to those students who have achieved the 90th percentile in the annual national German language examinations. Our Society goals include fostering the study of German language and customs, and we are aiming to reach the young people at the earliest ages to start them in this direction.

Please come and bring your family to help to encourage the high school students in their pursuits. Some of the students are themselves members of our Society,

THE BIG PICNIC !!

Two German bands. Non-stop music.
Great Bavarian location - Blob's Park !
Saturday June 12 1 - 6 PM
Don't miss it.

Make your reservations now!

See notices on inside pages

Bring all your relatives and friends

Plenty of parking

German food, beer and entertainment

Games for the children

LINDA BUTT AND ARTHUR NIEBERDING ELECTED

The members at the annual meeting elected Linda Butt and Arthur Nieberding to a three-year term on the Board of Directors. Mrs. Butt teaches modern language to the 7th and 8th grade students at Loyola Middle School in Towson. She was sought out for the directorate because of her special knowledge of the younger students whom the Society wishes to help in their selection of German as their foreign language of choice. Mrs. Butt lives with her husband and children in Rodgers Forge. Arthur Nieberding has been an enthusiastic member for several years, working on the annual picnic and assisting with the awards banquet. He is the uncle of past president Michael Nieberding and resides with his family in Harford County.

FIVE NAMED LIFETIME DIRECTORS AT ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

After serving the Society on the Board for many years, five members were elected lifetime directors. They are John K. Aymold, Jr., Clement D. Erhardt, Jr., Brigitte Fessenden, Harry Gruel, and Judge Gerard Wm. Wittstadt. Erhardt, Gruel and Wittstadt were members of the Board for 20 years, Fessenden for 15 and Aymold for 11. Board members are eligible to be Lifetime Members after serving with distinction for more than 10 years on the Board. The board members are the people mainly responsible for our success. Their efforts and ideas have helped make our Society one of the finest ethnic organizations in the nation.

"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."

VEREINSKALENDER

May 7	German Soc.-AATG awards- Adlersaal
May 16	Lunch at Bavaian Inn, Shephardstown W. Va - Edelweiss Club
May 21	Edelweiss bus trip to Pa. Dutch Country
June 12	German Society Annual Picnic
June 19	Edelweiss bus trip to Hershey, PA and tour of Harley Davis factory
June 26	Edelweiss German lunch at Candlelight Lodge, Catonsville
Aug.20-22	Baltimore German Festival
Sept. 11	Defender's Day Karavan
Sept. 29	Michaelmas - Feast of St. Michael, Schirmherr der Deutschen
Oct. 9-10	Oktoberfest - 5th Reg. Armory
Nov. 11	St. Martin's Day - Martinsgans
Nov. 12	German Society Awards Banquet
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service

Members of our Society are invited to join in activities of the Edelweiss Club. Call our office for information on participation in Edelweiss events.

For details of the activities of other German organizations in the metropolitan Baltimore area, visit the website of the Bürgerverein: www.md-germans.org.

The German Society encourages its members to support the social and other activities of all of the member groups of the Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von MD

**REMINDER: COME TO OUR PICNIC !!
IT'S GOING TO BE WUNDERBAR !**

GET YOUR SCHNITZELBANK CHARTS AT THE ANNUAL PICNIC

The large chart in black on a brilliant yellow-gold background. It will be available at the picnic for \$2. Regular price is \$3 for members, \$5 to the rest of the world. Take one home to use at your own family get-togethers, German parties and whenever your gang wants to sing and have fun. The chart made its premier showing at our annual meeting. It is sponsored by The German Society and The Edelweiss Club and is printed on heavy cardboard stock. Thank Dutch Niemann for the art work, Betty Niemann for supervision, Ted Potthast for organization and the world-famous Globe Poster Company for the superlative print job.

SUNDAY, MAY 2 - A.G.A.S 30TH GERMAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL

The Association of German American Societies of Greater Washington, DC will hold its 30th annual festival at Blob's Park on May 2 from noon to 5 PM, rain or shine. Donation of \$5.00 per person, children under 14 free. Door prize is a roundtrip for 2 to Germany, courtesy of Lufthansa. German Airlines. Many other door prizes plus two 50.50 drawings. Entertainment by The Edelweiss Band, A.u.G.T.V. Washingtonia, G.T.E.V. Alpenveilchen and The Alpine Dancers. Huge dance floor. Food and drink available at reasonable prices. Check out the information tables about local German educational, historical and genealogical groups. For further information call 301-577-6488. To reach Blob's Park from I-695, take the Baltimore-Washington Parkway south to MD 175, east for about 300 feet to the first traffic light and turn right on to Max Blob's Park Road. Follow the road 6/10 of a mile to the park.

AWARDS BANQUET NOVEMBER 12



The annual banquet will be held the second Friday of November (it's usually on the 1st Friday). The new location is the Adlersaal at Zion Church. The cost, not yet finalized, will be less than in prior years. This is to encourage the young people, who had difficulty with the higher prices, to attend. The capacity of the hall is quite limited and tickets will be issued on a first come, first served basis. It's not too early to put in your reservation by calling the office to be placed on the list. When the price is fixed, you will then be billed.

ECUMENICAL SERVICE TO BE HELD ON THANKSGIVING EVE

The German ecumenical service will remain on Thanksgiving Eve this year. Many members have been asking that the date be changed because of conflicting family, school and church activities at that time. The Directors decided to change the date to the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, patron saint of Germany, which will be the likely date in future years. The change will not be made this year, at the request of the Zion Church Council.

Message from the President**OUR SOCIETY BUCKS TREND,
INCREASES MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in service clubs is declining, but The German Society of MD is growing. The reason seems to be that we have focused on issues which are important to our German-American community. The historical efforts of our Society, from the 1780's through WWII, were immigrant-aid and protection. In the mid-20th century, the emphasis switched to general college education aid. Social agencies for the needy and financial aid packages for college students have taken over these functions. The Society enters the new millenium by setting its sights on preserving and promoting the German heritage, language and traditions, with emphasis in these areas directed to young people.

Kate Shatzkin, a Sun staffer, wrote that: "Across America, Moose, Elk and Lions are becoming endangered species. The Junior Chamber of Commerce is getting a bit senior and the Optimists' numbers look, well, less than optimistic." She suggested several reasons for the decline: Two career couples have less time to commit to organizations; people are moving more often; many members who worked for themselves or for small firms and had more freedom for service activities now work for large companies with their own service projects.

Some organizations are thriving by focusing on specific, limited goals and projects. Our Society has done so. We are not a social club; we do not require attendance at many meetings. We offer our members the chance to enjoy and promote the German heritage, and our few "social" functions are geared to the fostering of our declared goals.

John K. Aymold, Jr.

SOCIETY AIDS HARFORD PROGRAM

The German Society granted \$200 to Harford County's German language program. The funding was used to transport our own German-American exhibits and some Agart exhibits to Belair High School. The County holds an annual event to encourage students to pursue the study of Germany. Dennis Bixler of Annapolis, a member of our Society and president of the Agart Foundation, supervised the presentation.

CONGRATULATIONS

--to our members who recently have acquired new hips or knees and best wishes for their quick adaptation to these replacements: **Elizabeth Epping** and **Harry Gruel** with new hips and **Dutch Niemann** for a pair of knees. Dutch gets a citation for bravery for doing two knees at once and leaving the hospital for home in 3 days!

--to **Frank Hobbs** on his election as president of the Edelweiss Club. Frank succeeds retiring president **Betty Niemann**, a member of our Board of Directors.

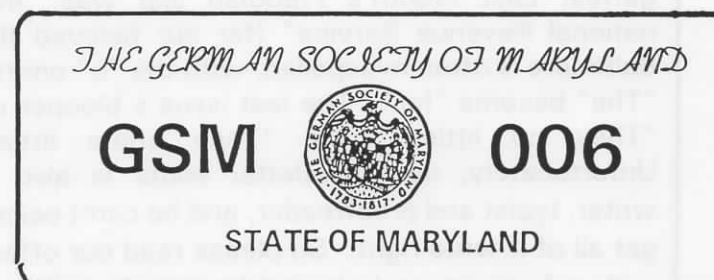
--to **Bob Gibson** on his election as president of the Baltimore Kickers.

WESTERN HIGH DROPS GERMAN

Baltimore prestigious public girls high school, Western, which has the highest graduation and college admission rate of all city schools, has dropped its German course for lack of funding. Although it still maintains German III and German IV, it has dropped German I and II (prerequisite for III and IV), so that when the present junior and senior classes graduate, no German course will be available. The school will continue to offer French, Spanish, Japanese and Chinese. A Western student was quoted as saying: "There's something shady behind this. It just doesn't add up."

**WANT A GERMAN SOCIETY OF MD
SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE ?**

The Department of Motor Vehicles will issue a German Society license plate if 25 members sign up. Some members said they would like to have one. If you want one, call the office and leave your name and phone number on our answering machine. If we hear from at least 25 members, we'll get the paperwork and send it to you. The cost is \$25 when your plate is renewed every two years.



GERMAN SCHOOL SISTERS MARK 60 YEARS IN AMERICA

In 1939 seventeen young German nuns volunteered to come to the United States to serve as School Sisters of Notre Dame. They left Germany only 18 days after having professed their vows in Munich. They were told to pack a bag with the barest necessities and say goodbye to their families forever. Among them was **Sister Benedicta Viebeck**, a long-time member of the German Society of Maryland. She and five others of the original 17 now live at Villa Assumpta in Baltimore County. The others are Sisters Benigna Brandl, Eleanor Marie Ringlstetter, Maria Wittman, Agnessa Geisselhardt and Ewalda Daimer.

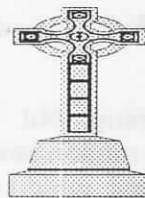
Sister Benedicta related that when she volunteered, her superior told her to go home and ask her mother's permission. Sister Benedicta had already been educated as a teacher. Her government-issued teaching certificate is marked with the official Nazi seal. Sister's mother said: "You have prepared. In God's name, go."

In America, some of the sisters worked in orphanages with the children of German immigrants. Others taught school, housekeeping and sewing skills. Sister Benedicta studied further in the USA and received a master's degree. Although she taught high school for many years at the Institute of Notre Dame and Notre Dame Preparatory School in Maryland, she began her teaching here in grade school. All her English was learned from British teachers and she had difficulty picking up the American variation. "I didn't understand American English at first," she admitted. "I began teaching in second grade. I thought if I made a mistake, it wouldn't be so drastic as in first grade." After seven years of teaching, she was moved to first grade. "It was the proudest day of my life."

PLEASE EXCUSE THE ERRATA

This newsletter usually contains a few typos and gaffes. Last month's Freudian slip was "International Revenue Service" (for our beloved IRS). Baltimore is often misspelled, with the "o" omitted. "The" become "he". The last issue's blooper was "They no little..." for "They know little..." Unfortunately, our newsletter editor is also the writer, typist and proofreader, and he can't seem to get all of it write right. So please read our offering with a forgiving and charitable attitude and try to overlook our typos, bloopers and slips.

PASTOR OTTO TO RETIRE SEPTEMBER. 1ST



H. S. Siefried Otto will retire as Pastor of Zion Church. A central figure in the German-American community and a leader in ecumenical circles, he was national president of the council of German-speaking Lutheran churches in the USA and Canada. A native of Germany he became "one of us" and was our Society's 1992 honoree as Maryland's "German-American of the Year" for his significant contributions to our state and nation.



PICNIC AT BLOB'S PARK JUNE 12 - GET RESERVATIONS NOW

Plan to come to the picnic on Saturday, June 12 from 1 to 6 PM. The Nieberding family will cater the affair. Music by **Die Alte Kameraden** of Alexandria, Virginia and also by **Das Meister Duet** of Mike & Mike. Music, food, beer and sodas will be continuous. We'll sing German folk songs and everybody will join in when Bob Fritschke leads us in the **Schnitzelbank**. Games and entertainment for the children. Ample parking and plenty of room for everyone. This will be a grand event, so bring your family and friends. Make it a family reunion. This is going to be a picnic your children and grandchildren will tell their grandchildren about 60 years from now. Tickets: Children under 14 free; students \$5; all others \$10. Send in your check today, payable to "German Society" and mail to Ted Potthast, 606 Baltimore Ave., #207, Towson, MD 21204. Specify children's ages to help us plan the games.

WILHELM CATERERS SELECTED

The Wilhelm family, who own restaurants in Carrol and Baltimore Counties, will cater the Society's awards banquet in November. The Wilhelms are noted for their German cuisine. The dinner will feature sauerbraten, a selection of wursts, red cabbage, weinkraut, old world cheeses and breads and many other items.

Profile of directors**CHARLES FRANCIS STEIN, III, ESQ.**

Charles Stein is a third generation member of the German Society. His grandfather, Judge Charles F. Stein, served on the Supreme Bench of Baltimore. Charles is an attorney, as was also his father, Charles F. Stein, Jr., who served as vice president for 6 years and as president 1967-70. Charles Jr. was also an historian, writer and president of The Society for the History of the Germans in MD. Charles III attended the Gilman School in Baltimore, received an A.B. degree from Princeton and a J.D. from the Univ. of Virginia School of Law.

His great-grandfather, Franz Leopold von Stein had a law degree from the University of Heidelberg when he arrived in America by boat in 1833, but did not practice law here. Charles himself made a pilgrimage back to the Fatherland, visiting the family seat in Heidelberg and toured other parts of Germany. The story of the Stein family appears in *Report No. 43*, a journal of the MD German historical society.

Charles has served as a director since 1984. He has been active in local German activities, As a director of and counsel for the German Aged Peoples' Home (*The Greisenheim*) he was instrumental in the creation of the life-care center, Edenwald.

Charles resides on Gibson Island with his wife, Ann Farinholt Stein. She holds a Masters degree in physical therapy and works with handicapped children. His daughter, Laura Stein Wrightson, holds a Master's degree in speech pathology and his son, Charles IV is a medical student.

BETTY NIEMANN

Betty began serving on the Board of the German Society in 1995, although she and her husband Bruno ("Dutch") were active members for more than a dozen years. Betty retired in March 1999 after serving 8 years as president of The Edelweiss Club. She is secretary of the Zion Church council where she and Dutch have been members since childhood, and where Betty has been a member of the choir for 52 years. Betty's contribution to the Society is primarily in the cultural field and in public and community relations.

Betty was born in Baltimore and attended Peabody Prep, Eastern H.S. and Baltimore Business College. She had a long career as a medical secretary. Betty is the mother of Mark and David Niemann and Leslie A. Trageser. Betty's father, Paul Buchwald, left Meissen in Germany as an infant in a steam-assisted sailing ship, embarking with his parents at Philadelphia in 1890. Her mother came to New York as a visitor in 1923 from Leipzig in Saxony. Her lineage in the German Society spans nearly 100 years, and includes her grandfather and father.

The Niemanns both grew up with German-speaking parents. Dutch served in the US army engineers, building bridges as the Americans crossed the German rivers in WWII. He was also an interpreter between the troops and the German people, who treated him with great kindness. Dutch and Betty have visited Germany often, including East Germany before 1989. This fall they will travel via boat from Amsterdam to Vienna and then to Leipzig.

MICHAEL JAMES NIEBERDING

Immediate past-president Mike Nieberding has been a director since 1990. He was born in Frankfurt am Main while his father served there as an officer in the US army. His grandfather, Josef Bernard Nieberding arrived as an immigrant in the port of Baltimore in 1883 and founded the American branch of the Nieberdings, nineteen of whom are now members of our Society.

Mike has lived in Butebach, Germany, and in Oklahoma Alabama and Maryland. After graduating from Centennial H.S., he attended Loyola College where he received a BBA and MBA degree from the Sellinger School of Business. He is a banker with Congress Financial Corp. Mike lives with his wife, Linda, son Conrad and daughter Jillian in Howard County.

During his term as president of the Society, he cemented relations with the American Association of Teachers of German and succeeded in bringing the Society's programs to the high schools and universities in Maryland. He serves on the executive committee, finance committee, festival and youth committees. He assists the Nieberding Clan in making the annual picnic the "funnest" event on the Society's social calendar.

Mike stays in touch with Nieberdings throughout the world. In 1996 he and Linda toured Germany, stopping in Köln, München, Heidelberg and culminating in a family reunion in Steinfeld (Niedersachsen) of 525 Nieberdings from seven countries. The family history, tracing the lineage from 1187 to 1996 was presented at the reunion and is being published in an 800 page volume. listing 525 living "natural born" Nieberdings.

COLLEGE PLANS TO REENACT THE TEARING DOWN OF BERLIN WALL

Western Maryland College in Westminster plans to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall by a symbolic reenactment on campus. Professor Dr. Mohamed Esa and the school's German Club hope to build a section of wall in advance of German Unity Day, October 3, and on that date hold a ceremonial tearing down of same. Other groups, including the German Society, may also participate.

ANTLITZ REPORTS SOCIETY'S FINANCES ARE SOLID

Our treasurer, Ronald Antlitz, CPA, reported at the April 9th annual meeting that the rise in the stock market has carried our finances over the \$700,000 mark. As of the end of March, the general fund held \$450,000 and the educational fund held \$250,000. The tax laws require that the Society expend each year at least 5% of the value of our assets.

INVESTMENT CONSULTANT SELECTED

The Society has hired a team of financial advisors, The Bruckner Bryant Group, to oversee our investments. Our finance and executive committees jointly interviewed 7 firms which showed an interest in the management of our assets and selected Troy T. Bryant for the role. Bruckner-Bryant is part of Prudential Securities Consultants. In turn, Bryant engaged 4 outside managers. We pay Bruckner-Bryant to assist our committees with asset allocation and monitoring the performance of the managers. Our finance committee has set the target for the managers of attaining a return on investment equal to the consumer price index (CPI) plus 5%. This goal will enable us to keep pace with inflation and still pay out at least the 5% required by the Internal Revenue laws relating to our 501(c)(3) tax exemption status. Mr. Bryant presented a brief explanation of his role to the members at the annual meeting.

BIXLER HELPS HARFORD COUNTY GERMAN LANGUAGE STUDENTS

The Society acted as intermediary with Dennis Bixler, President of the Agart Foundation and a member of our Society to send German-American exhibits to the Harford County German language fair. On April 10th the County schools sponsored a conference at Belair High School for families of students considering a German language elective. Mr. Bixler shipped 25 displays of German immigration to the USA and of contributions of German-Americans to the development of our country. Families came from throughout the county to learn about the German language program. The Harford Co. students were duly impressed with the knowledge imparted by the Agart exhibits. Harford County has strong German studies departments in its major high schools (Aberdeen H.S., Belair H.S., Fallston H.S. and C. Milton Wright H.S.)

STUDENTS SING IN GERMAN ON TV

To celebrate opening day of the baseball season (Monday, April 5) the Fallston German Club arose early to appear on a 6 AM local TV show with their teacher, Rick Jones, to sing "Manic Monday" in German. The TV host challenged them to sing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" in German. The students were not ready, but promised to translate the song and sing it for next year's opening day.

CHURCHES TO LOSE INCOME

Tax law changes in Germany are expected to result in the loss of billions in income to the churches under the new tax system of the ruling SDP-Green (called the red-green) coalition. In Germany, churches receive payment from their members through taxes. Members of churches indicate their denomination on their employment records and 9% is added to their tax bill and given to the church, which is dependent on the tax system for its income. It is reported that church services, such as marriage, funeral, baptism, etc. are not available to those who fail to register and designate their church in the income tax system.

MEMBER STRUCK BY BUS AT ANNUAL MEETING Linda Nieberding had to leave the annual meeting early to get home to her children. It was a rainy night and the streets were slick. Crossing the street in a cross-walk to get to her car, a transit bus suddenly turned the corner and struck her. The meeting was interrupted to call her husband, past president Mike Nieberding, to the scene. She was helped home and later taken to the Hospital, x-rayed and released. Linda suffered large bruises and abrasions and bumps on both sides of her head. We send her our best wishes for a speedy recovery and hope this will not keep her from our future meetings.

GERMANS (and other ethnics) CAN LEARN A LOT FROM BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Blacks make sure their children learn black history. Central Maryland elementary and middle schools compete for cash in a Black History Competition initiated by Univ. of MD geography professor Charles Christian. Prof. Christian, a black, is the author of a 565-page textbook "*Black Saga: The African American Experience.*" 100 students from Baltimore City and five central counties competed. A Howard County school captured the middle school competition and a Prince George school the elementary championship. 1st place team members each received \$300, 2nd place team members \$200 and the 3rd place team members \$100.

Prof. Christian's book begins in Africa in 1492 and moves in bite-sized tidbits in chronological order to the present. It covers not only Martin Luther King, Jackie Robinson and George Washington Carver, but the Dred Scott Decision, abolitionist Frederick Douglas and milestones of modern African-Americans such as basketball star Julius Erving and Baltimore politicians as Mayor Kurt Schmoke and former congressman Kweisi Mfume.

We know of no similar publications on the accomplishments of German-Americans, much less a book which is readable by elementary school students. Perhaps this is an area where the national German organizations should be spending their money and devoting their energy. Or with youthful America locked into computers and websites, maybe the national groups should join forces to fund the research for a website on German-American achievements. Something that children as well as their parents and grandparents can jump into for information. An investment of a few hundred thousand dollars can reach the 120,000,000 American families who are now hooked up to the internet. Far more than could ever visit museums costing 100 times as much.

ARE YOUR ROOTS IN SAXONY?

If so, you should see the new quarterly magazine "Sachsenbummel" which arrived at our office this month. It is a beautiful and colorful journal of Saxony, which includes such historic cities as Dresden, Leipzig and Chemnitz and was part of former East Germany. It presents cultural highlights, landmarks, history, art, folk tradition, music, etc. The magazine is in German, but includes an annual English issue. Write to: Sachsenbummel, 01097 Dresden, Unterer Kreuzweg 6, Germany. You can view its outstanding website at www.saxacon.de/Sachsenbummel

A GERMAN MARYLANDER AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



The next time you visit Fort McHenry, recall the name of Felix Louis Massenbach. On January 20, 1776, nine months after the British troops had fired on the Massachusetts militia at Lexington, the Maryland Convention resolved that "the town of Baltimore be fortified." They then hired two amateur engineers who were students of European fortifications and warfare: Felix Massenbach and schoolmaster James Alcock. (Very little is known about Massenbach. The name translates from German to "very large brook.")

Two miles south of Baltimore town they laid out a fort at Whetstone Point on a parcel of land owned by a British firm dealing in iron. Maryland confiscated the property and built the fort. It must have been effective, since the British navy never ventured near Baltimore during the revolution. By 1778 the fortifications had 38 cannons, a barracks-hospital and a company of artillery commanded by a German, Captain George P. Keesport. In 1793 Maryland offered the land to the United States, which renamed it Fort McHenry. In 1814 the fort's flag inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Star Spangled Banner."

GERMANTOWNERS RESIST GERMAN NATIONAL SPORT: FUSSBALL



The residents of Germantown, MD are opposing a proposed soccer complex for a local park. Montgomery County, MD has an active soccer program for its children. The county recreation council, which as 22,000 youngsters enrolled in the sport, had to turn down 550 children this year for lack of playing fields.

The county is set to build a large complex of 21 outdoor fields with stands to seat 3,200 fans and an indoor arena with several fields. The cost is \$19.8 million. John Hendricks, owner of the Discovery cable TV channel, has pledged \$2,000,000 for the project. The state has pledged \$3,000,000, the county \$5,800,000 and the balance will be raised by a public-private consortium. Germantown, a city of 68,000, has the lowest concentration of soccer playing youngsters, preferring baseball and American football instead.

PROFILES OF DIRECTORS

CLEMENT D. ERHARDT, JR.

Mr. Erhardt first served as a director of the Society in 1968, having become a member several years earlier. He has served the Society in many ways for more than 30 years, currently as a member of the Scholarship Committee. Clem coordinates the Society's celebration of Defender's Day, a holiday celebrated by the State of Maryland to commemorate the citizen-army which defended Baltimore from the British invasion of 1814, thus ending the War of 1812.

Clem has been active as a volunteer and served on the boards of numerous non-profit organizations, having been President of the National Society of the War of 1812. In the German Society, he has served as counselor in matters of finance, rules of order, grant procedures and political affairs. He is a member of the Scholarship Committee.

He received a B. S. degree from Loyola College. He served in the U. S. Army and was discharged as a captain. Thereafter he established his own well-known photography business, which had been operating in Maryland for over 40 years.

His ancestors immigrated to the United States from Germany prior to 1850. Clem and his wife, Lila, have one son, Clement D. Erhardt, II, a former federal government official and a practicing attorney.

JOHN K. AYMOLD, JR.

John has been president for the past year, after serving on the Board since 1985. He has been a delegate to the Bürgerverein, has supervised the Society's booth at the annual summer German Festival, held the office of vice-president, served on the executive committee and assisted on the membership, scholarship and ecumenical committees.

John's education includes an AA degree from Catonsville Community College and from the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science. His profession is as a funeral director and he is the chief operating officer of the Pritts Funeral Home in Westminster, MD.

John has held offices in the Kiwanis Club of Westminster, the Maryland State Funeral Directors Association and is a member of Ravens Nest #15, which supports the Ravens NFL team, and the NRA.

John's ancestors immigrated to Baltimore in 1850 from Ornbau, a Bavarian town south of Nürnberg. He has made several trips to visit the ancestral town, most recently to attend a wedding of friends in Ornbau in 1998. John's parents are also members of the Society.

He and his wife Barbara are the parents of Kelly and Tim and are the proud grandparents of Allison, who was born just last month, on February 9.

MARK IGNATIUS POTTHAST

Mark's "German Society ancestry" goes back as far as his great-grandfather and his great-great uncle, William Potthast (who served as an officer in the 1920's and 30's) and includes his Grandfather, Theodore Potthast, Sr., a member from the 1940's and a lifetime director until his death in 1998, and his father, Theodore, Jr., who is also a lifetime director. Mark was educated at Loyola High in Towson, attended the Univ. of Valencia in Spain and Johns Hopkins Univ. in MD and received a B. S. degree in business from the Univ. of Colorado. He now works as a manager of Sprint communications. He is on the Society's finance committee, membership committee and summer festival committee. He is in his sixth year on the board of directors. Mark studied German at Johns Hopkins. He is friendly with his relatives throughout Germany and has visited several of them in the Fatherland.

Mark's great-grandfather, John Potthast, immigrated to Baltimore in 1892 from Borgholz in Westphalia. He joined his brothers William, Vincent and Theodore to form the Potthast Bros. furniture company (which was a corporate member of the Society until it closed in 1975). His great-grandmother, Margareta Leib, immigrated to Baltimore from Eggolsheim, Bavaria where she met John Potthast and married him in 1899.

Mark and wife Lisa live in Towson with their son, Benjamin, a toddler. His brother John and sisters Catherine and Marialena, are also members of the Society and occasionally assist in the publishing of our newsletter.

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**ANNUAL PICNIC OF
THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND
SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 1999
BLOB'S PARK, JESSUP, MD.**

Members and their guests are cordially invited and encouraged to attend.

Make this a family event...even a family reunion!!!

An abundant supply of German food. Soda's and beer provided.
Children 12 and under are free. Students (high school & college) \$5.
Everybody else \$10.

German music. Singing. Games.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED (so we'll know how much food to buy)

Space is limited, so reserve early.

For information, call Ted Potthast 410-832-2900

Blob's park is in the southeast quadrant of the intersection of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Md.Rt.#175 -- 8 miles S. of Baltimore Beltway (I-695) and 13 miles N. of D. C. Beltway (I-495).

Unscramble these four Jumbles,
one letter to each square, to form
four ordinary words.

GUNTS

O	U	N	T	S
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FRUTOH

F	R	U	T	O	H
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TUITOW

T	U	I	T	O	W
---	---	---	---	---	---

FRUTOH

F	R	U	T	O	H
---	---	---	---	---	---



Now arrange the circled letters to
form the surprise answer, as sug-
gested by the above cartoon.

Answer:

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AYMOLD SETS MEETING RECORD

President John Aymold conducted the annual meeting of the Society in record time: 50 minutes. In recent years a firm rule was set, that the annual meeting may not exceed one hour, resulting in reports and discussions cut off in mid-air and the time-keeper adjourning the meeting in the last seconds of the 60th minute. Aymold is the first in modern memory to end early.

MEMBERSHIP REACHES 941; ON TARGET FOR 1,000 IN 2000

In 1993 the Society had about 350 members and we set a goal of reaching 1,000 at the outset of the millennium. We've come a long way. The growth has come as a result of publicizing the Society's purposes and programs and by showing the German-American community how important it is to preserve and enhance our ethnic heritage. With the efforts of our members and a bit of luck, we should reach 1,000 members by 1-1-2001, eighteen months hence. That event will be an occasion of joy and celebration. Our Society will reach the age of 227 in 2000 A.D.

GERMANY IN A RELIGIOUS CRISIS

When the Berlin Wall fell and Germany united, the East, which had been for over 50 years under the domination of atheistic communism, dropped its communism but brought its atheism with it into the united Germany. Now, 10 years after the fall of the Wall, religious leaders lament that agnosticism and atheism are gaining more influence in the country. Thus the "political correctness" now rampant in America is also showing its face in Germany, shaping government policies. Noting that the name of God appeared in Germany's 50-year-old constitution, a leading churchman commented: "If in Germany today a new constitution had to be formulated, God might no longer appear in it."

Statement of purpose

This newsletter is intended to inform our members of current activities of the Society and the Maryland German-American community; of select national events of ethnic interest; of items of local and national history from a German ethnic perspective; and to encourage the preservation of the German American heritage, particularly as it has evolved in the State of Maryland.

MARYLAND STUDENTS EXCEL IN GERMAN LANGUAGE TEST; CALVERT HALL AND WOODROW WILSON LEAD THE WAY

Fifty high school students whose teachers are members of the Maryland Chapter of the AATG scored in the 90th percentile or above and seventeen scored between the 85th and 90th percentile on the national German language examination given by the American Association of Teachers of German. Three Calvert Hall College H.S. students (John Sawyer, Cyril Brennan and Philip Brazio) were in the 99th percentile. Brother Charles Filberg, CFX, a member of our Society, is the school's German teacher. Three students from Woodrow Wilson HS also placed in the 99th percentile: Lejia Alic, Adam Yaeger and Brent Yorey. Their teacher is Mrs. Sally Cranston. Six other MD students placed in the 99th percentile: Daniel Rutkowski of Aberdeen HS; Steven Saclean of German Language School, Potomac; and Markian Dobczansky and Ann Owells, Gonzaga College HS; Julia Nicolaysen of National Cathedral School; & Mariel Finucane of Wilde Lake HS,

The schools and the teachers producing students in the 90th percentile or above were:

Aberdeen H.S. (3)	Michelle Burkins
Calvert Hall (4)	Brother Charles Filberg, CFX
Chesapeake H.S.(2)	Shirley Santora
Dematha Catholic H.S.(1)	Sinclair Rzasa
Eleanor Roosevelt H.S.(4)	Hans-alfred Schneider
Fallston H.S. (1)	Ronald Checkal
German Language School (7)	Tania Burton
Glenelg H.S. (1)	Dorothy Louks
Gonzaga College H.S. (4)	Dr. Richard Rogan
John Carroll H.S. (3)	Judy Potter
McDonough School (1)	Wm. Lyon-Valden
National Cathedral School (6)	Audry Kirsop
North County H.S. (1)	Maureen Helinski
Wilde Lake H.S. (4)	Myrna Pigo
Woodrow Wilson H.S. (5)	Sally Cranston

Schools whose students attained the 85th percentile were: Aberdeen (1); Chesapeake (2); Eleanor Roosevelt (1), Georgetown Prep (1); German Language School (4); Gonzaga (2); Loyola (2); McDnough (1); National Cathedral (2); Woodrow Wilson (1)

The Maryland Chapter of AATG includes schools in Maryland and the District of Columbia. Part of the \$5,000 award from the German Society to the AATG is used for prizes to the successful students.

Founded 1783
Incorporated by Act of the General Assembly
of Maryland, Chapter 100, Feb. 3, 1818



The German Society of Maryland

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

Annual dues \$15. Spouse may be included at no extra cost.
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This newsletter is published by The German Society of Maryland, an organization founded in 1783 and incorporated in 1817 by Act of the General Assembly of Maryland. It is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation pursuant to the provisions of §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Society is a member of Der Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland, D.A.N.K. (German American National Congress) The United German-American Committee of the USA, Inc. and other civic groups which promote German-American culture and heritage. Please submit items of interest to Theodore J. Potthast, Jr., Editor, at 1819 Leadburn Road, Towson, MD 21204-1830 or fax 410-832-2903.