

THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

DIE DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT VON MARYLAND

VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

JULY 1999

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 23

DR. ESA HONORED BY EMBASSY AT GERMAN SOCIETY EVENT

At our Society's May 7th awards ceremony to honor high schoolers' achievements in German studies, the German Embassy presented Dr. Mohamed Esa with the "German-American Friendship Award." Dr. Esa wrote to the Society's president, John Aymold: "I was moved and surprised to receive this award. I owe this great honor to the generous support that the AATG-MD Chapter has received from the German Society of MD. You are an exceptional cultural organization with great vision and unlimited love for our German heritage. Please continue to be a leader in this area and an example to be followed by other organizations."

Dr. Esa is chair of Western MD College German dept.

MARYLAND GERMAN FESTIVAL WEEKEND OF AUGUST 20-21-22

Plan to attend the German Festival at Carroll Park. The Maryland event is one of the oldest German celebrations in the United States. Admission is only \$2. The festival features German music, food, beer, wine, sodas and cultural booths. Commercial booths will feature beer steins, flags, ethnic clothing and decorations. Many of the local German ethnic organizations will participate in the event which is sponsored by the Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland. Ample parking is available on the interior roads of the park. The park is located on Washington Blvd. and Monroe Street in southwest Baltimore, about a mile west of Oriole Park at Camdem Yards.

THE BEST BUY FOR \$30 - THE 1999 DEFENDERS' DAY CELEBRATION

On Saturday, September 11 the German Society joins with The Society of the War of 1812 in sponsoring the festivities honoring the brave men who defeated the British in the defense of Baltimore. Tickets for the event are \$30. Send your check payable to the German Society to our office. Money must be in by Friday, September 3. Your \$30 gives you all of this:

1. Seating on the luxurious cavalcade bus, equipped with wash room and amenities
2. Reserved parking place at Fort McHenry
3. Supper at a convenient restaurant
4. Tour of historic sites, including the Battle Monument, Westminster Cemetery, the renovated Francis Scott Key monument at Eutaw Place
5. V.I.P. reserved seating for a patriotic concert by the U.S. Army Field Band
6. Reserved waterfront seating for the fireworks display and the firing of cannons

Members will assemble at Fort McHenry at 1:45 pm. If you arrive by 1 pm, you can see the historic movie on the writing of "The Star Spangled Banner" by Francis Scott Key, the bombardment by the British, "the rockets' red glare, bombs bursting in air..."

Our Society regularly participates in the Defenders' Day activities to honor the 20 members of our Society who fought in the War of 1812 and their leader, General John Stricker, the "Hero of the Battle of North Point", one of our incorporators and our vice president. An officer of the Society will place a wreath on General Stricker's grave.

"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."

AATG ELECTS OFFICERS

The Maryland-DC Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German have elected Richard Jones of Abington, MD as its new president, succeeding Dr. Mohamed Esa, who served for five years in that role. Mr. Jimmie Brown was selected as co-president, Hans-Alfred Schneider, vice-president, Shirly Santora, treasurer, Dr. Mary Upman, Secretary and Dorothy Louks, Testing Chair. The German Society maintains a close relationship with the AATG and we congratulate the new officers and expect to work hand in hand with them in the upcoming school year.

AWARDS DINNER SET FOR FRIDAY NOVEMBER 12 AT ADLERSAAL

For the first time since 1943 the annual dinner of the Society will be held in the Adlersaal of the Zion Church. At that time, the event was attended by the governor of Maryland and the mayor of Baltimore, in support of the Marylanders of German ancestry who were demonstrating their loyalty to the United States during the war against Germany.

Tickets for the dinner are \$40 and are on sale now. Seating is limited to 160 people. Wine and German beer and set-ups will be provided and those wishing hard spirits may BYOL. In a departure from the past, standard dress for the event is business suits and cocktail dresses. Formal attire is always acceptable.

There will be music and space for dancing, but the affair is not billed as a dance. This year's event will be less lavish than in the past, primarily to keep down the ticket price and make it more affordable to our membership. Rising banquet prices have prevented some members from attending the event. The Society is experimenting with a plan to hold a simple event one year and a more lavish one the next. Guests from other ethnic organizations will be invited in alternate years. The other ethnic societies (Irish, English, Scot etc) hold stag events.

The hours are 7 pm to 11 pm. Free parking in the church lot. Tickets are on a first come, first served basis. We expect an early sell-out, so to be assured a ticket, buy it now. Send checks to the Society's office.

We are seeking patrons and advertisers for our printed program. Please sign up as a patron at \$5 per line. Ads: page \$150; ½ \$90; ¼ \$45 and 1/8 page \$25

APOLOGIES TO LOYOLA HIGH

Our May newsletter failed to list those students from Loyola High School who scored above the 90th percentile in the national German language exam. Those students were: Alexander Olszewski (97), Christopher Case (98) and Goodwin Chen (96). Their teacher is German Society member John Innes. Loyola is one of the few schools offering German at the 7th and 8th grade levels. Linda Butt, a director of our Society, teaches the younger students at Loyola.

FRITZ KARL STEFFEN 1937-1999

Prominent German-Marylander Fritz Karl Steffen, soccer coach of the Baltimore Kickers Klub, died June 26 of a massive heart attack suffered on his beloved soccer field. He is survived by his widow, Anna Harter Steffen, his sons David and Robert and their families, his brother Hans and sister Ilse.

Mr. Steffen came to America from Germany in 1958 and immediately began his soccer activities, which he brought with him from a career in his homeland. He married Anna in 1960. Anna has been a longtime officer of the Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland. Mr. Steffen began his career with the Kickers as a player and in 1973 became its manager-coach, a position which he held until his death. He was also associated with the soccer program of the U.S. Naval Academy.

PLOGMAN ENDOWMENT FORMED

Francis J. Plogman was a member of our Society who played an active role in promoting the German language and heritage at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County campus. He died around 1990. In his memory the Bürgerverein established a Plogman Fund at the University, for use in promoting German language and music studies. Our Society has contributed \$200 each year to the fund, which has now reached the sum of \$10,000, qualifying it as an "endowment." At a luncheon at UMBC on May 10, the "fund" was formally converted to The Francis J. Plogman Endowment. Our president was invited to attend by our member, Professor Renate Fischetti, the school's German Area Scholarship Coordinator.

===== **NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS** =====

PASTOR H. J. SIEGFRIED OTTO celebrated the 40th jubilee for his ordination to the ministry on May 16 at a reception in the Adlersaal at Zion Church. Bishop Paul Mocko preached at a bi-lingual ceremony preceding the reception attended by several hundred well-wishers. Pastor Otto will retire from his pastorate at Zion Church in September. On June 6 the Board of Directors of our Society honored him for his many years of service to our Society and to the German-American community at a reception which began in our Mt. Vernon offices and adjourned for a delightful Sunday brunch at a private dining room in the nearby Engineering Society. Mrs. Bärbel Otto, wife of the pastor and their son Paul also attended. Congratulations are also due **PAUL OTTO** upon his graduation from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. The final services which Pastor Otto will conduct at Zion will be on Sunday, August 29. German service at 9:15 and English service at 10:30.

A new book by **PROFESSOR DOCTOR LIESELOTTE E. KURTH-VOIGT** has just been published by Camden House, entitled "Continued Existence, Reincarnation, and the power of Sympathy in Classical Weimar." 199 being the "Weimarjahr", the book will have a special interest to our members. The book traces the development of these concepts in ancient literature, Judaism, and early Christianity; it outlines their discussion during the Enlightenment and indicates the importance of Orientalism for Western views on Reincarnation. The major part of the book treats the reception of these ideas of the Weimar classicists. Prof. Kurth-Voigt obtained her Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University in 1963 and taught there until her retirement in 1987. She served as Chairman of the German Department from 1980 to 1987. She has been a member of our Society for many years.

ANN VON FORTHUBER, president of Auction and Estate Representatives of Towson, and one of fewer than 50 female auctioneers in the United States, was awarded the Certified Auctioneers Institute designation. It is the highest professional credential offered in the auction industry. Ann also has her own radio talk program at AM 680 every Sunday at 1 PM.

The Society for German American Studies, at its annual meeting held this year in New Ulm, Minnesota, granted its 1999 Outstanding Achievement Award jointly to **BRAD MILLER AND GARY GRASSL**, both of whom are active members of our Society. They are also the past and current presidents of The German-

American Heritage Society of Greater Washington, DC. The award was given for their work in German-American history in general, but especially for establishing a historical marker documenting the presence of Germans at the founding of Jamestown, VA., out of which the American nation began. Miller, a retired State Dept. official used his diplomatic skills negotiating with local, state and national officials claiming jurisdiction over Jamestown, and Grassl presented his research to historical and archeological institutions.

Congratulations to **HARRY and BETTY GRUEL**, on the celebration of the 50th anniversary of their marriage on June 19, 1999. Harry and Betty have been tireless workers. Harry serves as the Society's comptroller.

Congratulations to **CLEMENT D. ERHARDT, JR** who enters his 30th year as the Director and Chairman of Baltimore City's Defenders' Day celebration, which now includes the participation of the U. S. Park Service at Fort McHenry.

Samantha Marie Potthast, daughter of members **JACK AND ANN POTTHAST**, was baptized in Towson by member Monsignor Schwalenberg. Jack and Ann traveled to Donetsk, Ukraine in January to adopt her.

MONSIGNOR MARTIN SCHWALENBERG was recently honored by his alma mater, Calvert Hall College, by the establishment of a \$2,500 ongoing Schwalenberg Scholarship to the school's outstanding junior student.

HANS C. SCHULER, SCULPTOR

Noted sculptor and founder of a school that bears his name died March 20 at age 86. He was born at 7 E. Lafayette St. in Baltimore. His school, now run by his daughter Francesca Schuler Guerin, is located at 5 E. Lafayette St. Some note-worthy works include the statue of the minute man at the Reserve Officers Building in DC, the reliefs on the facade of Haussner's German Restaurant in Baltimore, medals for Johns Hopkins University and other institutions. His father was the nationally known sculptor Hans Schuler who was the director of the Maryland Institute College of Art. His statues of Martin Luther, Johns Hopkins, Sidney Lacier and Gen. Casimir Pulaski are Baltimore landmarks. Mr. Schuler graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 1935 and attended the Rinehart School of Sculpture in Baltimore. He served as an infantry captain in the army in World War II.

SOCIETY MEMBER REBUTS CHARGE H.L. MENCKEN AN ANTI-SEMITE

The Baltimore Sun published a letter accusing German-American author H. L. Mencken of being a "raging anti-semitite". Mencken, known as the "Sage of Baltimore", was proud of his German heritage and was a member of The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland. Mencken has been named one of the 100 greatest Marylanders of the 20th century. The Sun published this rebuttal Saturday, June 10:

"Editor, The Sun

The accusation by Gary Sheridan that H. L. Mencken was a "raging anti-semitite" is false and a disservice to a great Marylander. Mencken was not an anti-semitite. The claim that he was has been clearly rebutted by numerous literary scholars, most recently by Jack Sanders in his book "Do You Remember?", published last year by the Maryland Historical Society. Sanders described some of Mencken's efforts to help the Jews during their pre-war persecution by the Nazis. Sanders cited one of Mencken's articles in the Sun:

"One of Mencken's best-known newspaper articles, entitled 'Help for the Jews,' appeared in November, 1938. In it, Mencken suggested that the Roosevelt administration should relax immigration quotas for the Jews trapped in Europe. 'Why shouldn't the United States take in a couple of hundred thousand...or even all of them?' he asked. His appeal was to no avail because the Roosevelt administration felt that admitting Jews would be unpopular.

Privately though, Mencken was more successful. He wrote letters for, and personally sponsored, at least a dozen relatives of Jewish friends, Jews who were fleeing Europe in 1938 and 1939."

Theodore J. Potthast, Jr."

Mr. Potthast received letters of thanks from Arthur J. Gutman, President of The Mencken Society who wrote: "Dear Mr. Potthast: Good for you, you slew the Dragon as effectibvely as HLM would have"

AMBASSADOR CHROBOG URGES SUPPORT OF GERMAN LANGUAGE SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES

Juergen Chroboog, German Ambassador to the United States, wrote to the German consulates directing them to support the activities of the language schools here and urging the continued support of such schools by local and regional German organizations. He praised the volunteer teachers for their unselfish work in bringing the German language especially to areas where American schools no longer offer German and such classes are the only opportunity to learn and preserve the knowledge of the German language and heritage.

He noted that there are about 80 such "schools" in the USA, and they are trying constantly to raise money, secure educational materials and publicize the classes. Many learn of these activities only by word of mouth. A national umbrella association for assisting the "Saturday" schools is in the process of being formed. Some regional associations already exist, such as the German Language Conference, the D.A.N.K. Association of the Middle West and two associations in California. The Ambassador believes that the future of such German language schools will be secure in the US if the schools work together and within a network.

Two such schools exist in Baltimore, one sponsored by Zion Church and the other by the Baltimore Kickers Club. The great potential for German classes in the suburbs is untapped. Linda Butt, a German teacher and a member of our board, has encouraged the Society to consider ways in which youngsters can be introduced to the German language so that they will want to take the subject in the upper schools. She pointed out that children are eager to take up the challenge but are often discouraged by parents who think German is too hard and encourage the children to study easier languages in the hope of getting better grades for college admission.

REGISTER FOR GERMAN LANGUAGE COURSES The German Language School at Zion Church in Baltimore will offer its Saturday program of children and adult classes, with registration ofn September 4 and first class on September 11. The school, founded in 1929, begins its 70th year. It conducts 4 classes for children: Ages 4-6, 7-9, 10-12 and 12 upward. It holds 5 classes for adults: Beginners, Advanced Beginners, Intermediate, Advanced and Literature. Private lessons are also arranged. Tuition for the entire year is \$120 for the first family member and \$100 each additional member. Contact the principal, Mrs. Eva Kelleher (410-377-9508) or the church office (410-727-3939). The school enables children and adults to get acquainted with the German language at all levels of instruction. A 5-week summer program for travelers commenced July 6. Tuesday evenings for those with little or no knowledge of German and Wednesday evenings for those with some background in German.

DIRECTORS TO VOTE ON FUTURE OF COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Board of Directors will cast written ballots on whether to continue the college scholarship program which was instituted in 1959. The issue is whether the scholarship program continues to accomplish the purpose of the Society. The purpose appears at the bottom of page 1 of each issue of the newsletter. A college student is eligible to apply for a scholarship by proving German ancestry, Maryland residency, financial need, academic achievement, has completed at least one year in college and attends a 4-year college in Maryland. Preference is given to those studying German language, history or culture.

NIEBERDINGS HOST FABULOUS ANNUAL GERMAN SOC. PICNIC

For the fourth year in a row, the Nieberding family fed our members and guests at the biggest and best annual picnic in the annals of the Society. 300 attended the event at Blob's Park, including 50 young children, mostly handsome blue-eyed blonds whose ancestors surely came from the Heimat. The weather was perfect. The **Alte Kameraden band** played from 1 to 3, setting the mood with many German favorites. **Das Meister Duo** took over and got the crowd on the dance floor, and with the youngsters in a wide circle for a performance of the chicken dance. The band led the picnickers in a sing-a-long of German folk songs. Our new Schnitzelbank chart was christened by Dr. Joseph Mueller-Sanchez leading the assembly through the chorus of "dicke Frau, fette Sau, grosser Durst, gute Wurst" etc. Several people solved the puzzle question: "No sausage? At a German picnic there's--" nothing wurst, a received a \$1 discount on a Schnitzelbank chart.

The Nieberdings cooked an abundance of bratwurst, bauernwurst, weisswurst, frankfurters and hamburgers, which was washed down with an unending supply of beer and soda.

A few kinks developed when people who had not made reservations appeared at the door, causing some of the food selections to run out pre-maturely and depleting the desserts. The games for the children did not materialize as expected. There were a few transportation glitches. Plans are already in the making to avoid these problems at next year's picnic.

MORMONS OPEN GENEALOGY WEB SITE: WWW.FAMILY-SEARCH.ORG

You can now search for your ancestors through 400 million names of people who lived as long ago as 1500 AD, many with pedigree charts. The free-of-charge site was "hit" at the rate of 30 million per day on the date of its opening in late May. Since many church and city records in Germany and other European countries were destroyed during World War II, and since the Mormons were copying such documents long before the war, the Mormon records are now the only place where some birth and baptismal records are preserved.

GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND FOUNDED TO ABOLISH SLAVERY

The archives of the Society show one of the purposes of our founding was "to mitigate and finally abolish a pernicious system of contract labor of free white persons which in reality became a system of slavery limited in years." This referred to the system of indentured servitude by which many Germans came to America. Without funds to pay for passage to America, they signed a contract stating that the captain could sell them as temporary slaves to masters who would pay for their passage upon arrival in America.

The Dutch, who in 1620 sent the first cargo of slaves to this country and amassed great wealth in pursuit of the Negro slave trade from distant Africa, discovered that it was easier and just as remunerative to engage in white slavery by shipping Germans to the colonies. Tricking the Germans was easier than capturing the Africans. The Germans volunteered, not realizing how poorly they would be treated. Brutal masters inflicted cruel punishments for slight offenses. A fellow black slave was often treated better, for he was a slave for life. Reports abounded of the barbarous treatment of the Germans, how they were worked to death, receiving insufficient food and poor lodging.

The Germans were crowded aboard the ships. In 1775 of 400 Germans on a ship arriving in Philadelphia, 350 died of hunger and privation before reaching America. The contracts usually required 5 to 7 years of indentured service, but the survivors were compelled to serve the additional time of the deceased passengers, extending their slavery for many years.

This ad appeared in a German paper in 1775: "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 a half. The mother is indentured for six years to come and her child until his coming of age."

MEET YOUR DIRECTORS

BRIGITTE VOELKEL FESSENDEN. Mrs.

Fessenden was born in Ehingen in the German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg. Before coming to Baltimore, she has lived in Esslingen, Berlin, Paris, New York and Heidelberg. She studied architecture at the University of Stuttgart. She met her husband in Paris; was married in Berlin and came to the US as the bride of a graduate student at Columbia University. She continued her studies and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at the Maryland Institute of Art and a masters degree in community planning and historic preservation at the University of Maryland. Brigitte is currently employed as a city planner by the City of Baltimore. Her husband, Dr. Nicholas Fessenden, is an educator at The Friends School.

Brigitte joined the German Society in 1982 and immediately volunteered to run the office while the Society searched for an office secretary. She was elected to the Board of Directors in 1984. She has served as chair of the archives committee, the cultural committee and is a member of the scholarship committee. She aided in the selection of our office location, and has taken on assignments for many social and educational activities.

She maintains a close relationship to her family and friends in Germany, visiting the homeland at least twice a year. Her aunt, uncle and many cousins frequently visit her in Maryland. In addition to her job as an historic preservation planner, she is a neighborhood activist, enjoys traveling and photography, architectural drawing and family activities. She and her husband Nicholas have two children, Helen and Jon William.

FRANCIS W. PRAMSCHUFER, JR. Francis has been a member of the Society for more than 50 years, longer than any member now living, having joined after returning from service in WWII. His father served as vice president from 1942 to 1959 and as president from 1959 to 1961. Francis himself served as vice president from 1981 to 1985 and has been a director from 1970 until the present.

Francis studied at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and received a B.S. degree from the McCoy College of Johns Hopkins University. His paternal grandfather immigrated to Maryland from Schlawie in Pomerania in 1867 and his maternal grandfather in 1886. Francis learned German at the feet of both his grandfathers.

He has served on our membership, nominating and festival committees. Francis has served the German-American community as president of several important organizations. He was the first president and a founder of the Maryland Oktoberfest, first president and a founder of Club Fidelitas and the last President of the Deutches Haus (2nd home to German immigrants).

Francis served in the US Navy in WWI repairing aircraft carriers. He was 25 years with Martin-Marrietta where he worked on the 1st 3 Gemini space missiles. His working career was capped by 12 years as a high school teacher in Baltimore. Francis is an active hunter. During the past season he bagged four deer, two by bow and arrow.

ROBERT FRITZSCHE. Robert Fritzsche was

born Baltimorean and speaks German like a native. He graduated from the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, obtained his Bachelor of Science in Architecture at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his masters degree in architecture at the Catholic University of America. He is engaged in the private practice of architecture and is a member of the American Institute of Architects, is a director of the Baltimore Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute. He is president of the MIT Educational Council's Maryland region.

Although he is a recent member of our Society (1994) he is well known in the Maryland German-American community as a long time member of and president of the Arion Gesangverein. Bob leads the singing of the anthems and folk songs at our awards banquet and other events. He is chairman of our Society's project to publish a songbook of German folk songs, which will be issued and distributed before the end of 1999.

Bob's father, born in Leipzig, immigrated to New York City in 1922 and learned of Baltimore while in the U. S. Maritime Service. Bob visited relatives in Leipzig several times while it was under communist control and also after the fall of the Berlin Wall. He has also traveled to Dresden, Dessau, Nürnberg, Wien, Worms, Würzburg, Berlin and to München where some relatives reside. He communicates with them via e-mail.

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"GERMANS IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR": A CLASSIC IS REPUBLISHED

The first English version of a book on the German participation in the American civil war will be published in October. The book by William Kaufmann was published in German in 1911 and is translated by Steven Rowan and edited by Prof. Don Heinrich Tolzman and others. It is a singular account of the accomplishments of 216,000 Germans who served in the Civil War, including field commanders, generals and other officers and men, with a listing and biographical dictionary of over 500 military and civilian German-Americans, U.S. and Confederate. It will be available in October for \$49.95 in hardcover and \$29.95 in paperback. 15% discount for 2 or more copies. Call the Society's office for a 4-page flier with table of contents and order form.

FLAGS BANNED IN COLUMBIA, MD

Columbia, which sits between Baltimore and Washington, is one of the world's most regulated towns. It regulates house painting, fencing and even dictates the color of the flowers in the front yards. Now no flags may be flown from your home. In the recent edict against flags, the reason for the ban: "Someone might put out a German flag!" Columbia has a large anti-German population, so rather than permit a German flag, it banned all flags. Such sentiments are found in various parts of Maryland, which often makes it difficult for German ethnic organizations to recruit members. At our annual picnic in a Columbia park two years ago, the German flag which marked the picnic location, was stolen.

MARYLAND'S ALEX BROWN NOW PART OF DEUTSCHE BANK

The venerable firm of Alex Brown, the oldest stock broker in America, established in Baltimore in 1803, was taken over by Bankers Trust Co. three years ago. Now Deutsche Bank has taken over Bankers Trust, thereby acquiring the Baltimore brokerage firm. The acquisition of BT translates into making Deutsche Bank the largest bank in the world, in terms of total assets.

LOCUST POINT, WHERE GERMAN IMMIGRANTS LANDED, TO BECOME AN UPSCALE ATTRACTION

South Baltimore's Locust Point will undergo a make-over into condos, tony shops, offices and fancy restaurants. Where immigrants once walked down the planks of North German Lloyd ships, their descendants will soon be shopping, eating and living. Until World War II, "The Point" was the largest port or entry for immigrants, second only to Ellis Island. In the 1860's the ships brought passengers from Germany to Maryland and returned with tobacco and lumber. The immigrants were processed and released just north of Fort McHenry. Many of them and their descendants found jobs around the docks in the Point industries such as Domino Sugar, Proctor & Gamble, Uniroyal and Goodyear, and nearby Bethlehem Steel.

BERGER COOKIES: A BALTIMORE TRADITION FOR 164 YEARS

Three Berger brothers immigrated from Germany to Baltimore, and in 1835 founded their bakery which specialized in the famous cookie from a recipe they brought with them from the homeland. The vanilla wafer liberally covered with a chocolate fudge-like frosting is as much a Baltimore tradition as crab cakes, or beer and Esskay hot-dogs on a hot summer day at an Oriole game at the ball park. Pronounced "bergercookies" by Baltimoreans, they are still made in the old fashion way, but at the rate of 20,000 per day at the new, spacious location on Waterview Avenue. The bakery was bought by the Russell family in 1918 and sold again to two DeBaufre bothers and their brother-in-law John Koehler in 1969. Current president Charles DeBaufre, Jr. reports that the cookies are "made with a lot of tender, loving care. The workers still swirl them in vats of chocolate. They're put in by hand and pulled out by hand."

Packages of Berger cookies were to be given out as prizes to children at the games at the recent German Society picnic at Blob's Park, but when the games were canceled, our members ate the cookies.

PHILADELPHIA'S PRETZEL MUSEUM Pretzels are a favorite food of Germans and Philadelphia, an old German-American stronghold, is famous for its soft pretzels dipped in mustard. So it's only natural that there's a museum devoted to this delicacy in Philly, at 211 N. 3rd Street. Watch pretzels being made, and get a personal lesson in twisting. Rumor is that pretzels were invented in the 7th century by German monks who gave them to children to attract them to church with gifts of the curlecued bread called "pretziola" (little rewards).

Founded 1783.

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



The German Society of Maryland

OFFICERS 1999-2000

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President
Robert Gay
1st Vice President
Hans Michael Hurdle
2nd Vice President
Christel van der Berg
Secretary
Ronald R. Antlitz, Sr.
Treasurer
Gerard W. Wittstadt
Counselor

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Linda Butt
Robert Karl Fritzsche
Robert Gay
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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES ?

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