

THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

DIE DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT VON MARYLAND

VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

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**Ein frohes gesegnetes
Weihnachtsfest wünschen
wir allen unseren Mitgliedern
und ein gutes neues
Jahrhundert**

***We wish all our members a happy
and blessed Christmas holiday and
good wishes for the new century.***

John K. Aymold, Jr., President

AMBASSADOR CHROBORG WRITES TO PRESIDENT JOHN AYMOLD

Jurgen Chroborg, the Federal Republic of Germany's Ambassador to the United States, responded to a letter sent by John Aymold on behalf of our Society. Mr. Aymold congratulated the Ambassador on the 50th anniversary of the Federal Republic. The Ambassador wrote of the long and close relationship between our Society and the Embassy. John Dornberg, writing of the Federal Republic in "German Life" stated: "It is the first real and most durable democracy Germany has ever had, and it has given Germans the longest period of peace, rule by law, not men, economic prosperity, social justice and international respect they have ever enjoyed."

DON TILLMAN, THE BERLIN WALL AND OUR ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Ten years ago, on Nov. 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall fell. Don Tillman, then president of our Society, called an emergency meeting of the Board of Directors and told them that we had to hold a major celebration to commemorate this wondrous event; that we should thank God that our brothers and sisters in the east are now free of the tyranny of communism and can share in our four freedoms, particularly the freedom to worship God. Don's idea was to hold an ecumenical service to bring together the local German-American community in prayer. He contacted Pastor Siegfried Otto who agreed, and our Society joined with Zion Church to host the event. In less than 2 weeks after the Wall fell, Marylanders were joining together in a Thanksgiving Eve ecumenical service. Judge Gerard Wittstadt, president of The Society for the History of the Germans in MD, brought in that group as a co-sponsor. 1999 marks the 10th consecutive German-American ecumenical service.

1999 ECUMENICAL SERVICE

This year's Thanksgiving-Eve Ecumenical Service at Zion Church, was well attended. The services were conducted by Rev. John Miller, Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church. Monsignor Arthur Bastress, pastor of St. Alphonsus Catholic Church gave the sermon. Music was provided by the Zion Church Choir, the Maryland State Boychoir and trumpeters Ted Jones and Langston Fitzgerald. Flowers were placed by Mrs. Irma Tilman in memory of her husband, Donald. The German Society provided the reception following the services.

"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."

VEREINSKALENDAR - 2000

February

- 26 Karneval Ball at the Adlersaal*
28 Radio Klub annual meeting & social
Zion German course for travelers (see article below, right)

March

- 24 Sprachfest at Towson University - MOGS
26 Radio Klub spring dance

April

- 7 German Society Annual Meeting (tentative)

August

- 18-20 Bürgerverein German Festival

October

- 7-8 Maryland Oktoberfest - Baltimore

*The Karneval Ball on Feb. 28 is sponsored by the Zion Forum for German Culture. Members of the German Society are welcome. 8 PM to midnight. Formal dress or costumes, dancing to music of the Edelweiss Band. Twinkling candles and sparkling champagne in an elegant tradition. Catered by the Old World Delicatessen. \$25. Call Zion Church for reservations. The Adlersaal is a fitting location for the event. It is an architectural jewel that reminds one of Germany of yesteryear with heraldic windows, stenciled walls and polished floors. The German Society held its annual awards banquet there in November.

Tune in to the Sunday German Radio hours
Edelweiss: Radio 730 AM
Radio Klub: Radio 730 AM
Check the web site of the members of the Bürgerverein von Maryland: www.md-germans.org

WEIHNACHTEN & SYLVESTER

Christmas in German is *Weihnachten*. On Christmas Eve, called Heiligabend (Holy Night), Christians leave work early and attend church for their spiritual preparations. Christmas Day is a holy day and a time for intimate family gatherings and of gift giving. December 26, also a legal holiday, is for relaxation, fun, food and games. New Year's Eve is called "*Sylvester*", and time for a "Gala-Sylvesterball", a New Year's Eve party. Fireworks are a major part of the New Year's celebrations, both in the big cities and in small villages. Hot mulled wine, *Glühwein*, warms the celebrants as they watch the fireworks. The day is named for St. Sylvester, whose feast day is Dec. 31.

AATG HONORS OUR SOCIETY

At a Dec. 4th dinner at Western Maryland College, the American Association of Teachers of German awarded The German Society of MD Certificate of Special Recognition for the role of the Society in encouraging the study of the German language by students in the State of Maryland. The beautiful framed document was presented by Dr. Mohamed Esa, the outgoing president of the MD Chapter of the AATG and was accepted on behalf of our Society by past president, Ted Potthast. The award will be displayed in a prominent place in the offices of our Society.

GERMAN-SPEAKING JUDGES NEEDED FOR "SPRACHFEST"

The Maryland Organization of German Students (MOGS) will hold a language competition at Towson University on March 24 and needs 30 German speaking judges. MOGS has asked the German Society to supply some volunteers for this event. No academic background is required, only proficiency in the German language. If you can be available between 9 AM and 1 PM on March 24 and are willing to volunteer, please call our office (410-685-0450), leave your name and phone number on our answering machine and we will contact you with the details. Judges will have the chance to mingle with the students and observe the status of German language education in our State, and have fun in the process.

Maryland high school German language students will compete in 20 activities, including acting, prose reading, poetry, spelling, Nacherzählung, poster design, photo essay, video shows, Jeopardy, and other scholastic activities and games.

GERMAN LANGUAGE COURSE FOR TRAVELERS BEGINS IN FEB. AT ZION

Planning a spring or summer visit to Germany, Austria or Switzerland? Sign up for a six-week course in conversational German for travelers, held at the Zion Church, City Hall Plaza, beginning in February. For the dates, times, costs and other details, Call Eva Kelleher, the dean of the Zion Language School at 410-377-9508, or at the church, 410-727-3939. The traveler's course is in addition to the many other courses offered by the school for students of all ages

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

Dan Brooke sidelined. Lifetime director Dan Brooke has been laid up since mid-July, but is recuperating and expects to be up and about in December. Dan stepped in a hole in the ground, cracked his spine, spent weeks in the hospital, then a nursing home, back to the hospital for a back operation, but is now home. Dan, we hope to see you at the December directors' meeting.

Don Schafer is recovering from a knee replacement surgery. The former Governor of MD and Mayor of Baltimore, and current State Comptroller, recently donated \$350,000 to the University of MD School of Nursing to set up a scholarship program honoring Hilda Mae Snoops, a nursing graduate, and dear friend of his. She served as official State House Hostess during Don's term as governor of MD.

Will two of our members oppose one another in the next gubernatorial race? Baltimore County Executive **Dutch Ruppertsberger** is on the short list of Democratic contenders. **Bob Ehrlich**, 2nd district congressman, is being mentioned as the Republican nominee. By the way, **congratulations** to Bob and his wife **Kendal** on the birth of their first child, son Drew Ehrlich.

Congratulations also to **Brian Walsh** and **Mia Potthast Walsh** on the birth of their first child, Katherine Elizabeth on Nov.7. "Katie" was baptized by another member, Msgr. Martin Schwalenberg on Nov. 27 at the Cathedral of Mary, Our Queen. Katie was lucky to get a new first cousin and future best friend, Emma Kathleen, born to her uncle and aunt **Mark** and **Lisa Potthast**, born just a few weeks later on December 13. Mark is a director of our Society.

Congratulations to **Dr. Mohamed Esa** who has retired as president of the MD. Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German, to be succeeded in office by two other Society members as co-Presidents: **Rick Jones** and **Jim Brown**, both of whom are teachers of German in the Harford County schools.

Pastor H. S. Siegfried Otto and **Mrs. Bärbel Otto**, after the pastor's retirement from Zion Church, purchased a home in Baltimore County. Our Society is delighted that they made the decision to remain in our community. Both are natives of Germany. Our board of directors recently attended a brunch in their honor at The Engineering Society.

MANY THANKS

to **Mrs. Paul Schafer** for her substantial contribution to the Society. Lottie Schafer and her deceased husband, Paul (an honoree at a recent Society awards banquet) have been most generous in supporting the works of our Society over the years.

ORIOLES HONOR SCHWALENBERG

Monsignor Martin Schwalenberg was surprised by the Baltimore Orioles baseball organization at a banquet in his honor on Saturday, November 13. He has been chaplain for the team for over 30 years, welcoming new players to town and consoling players and their families in troubled times. The night before his own festive evening, he attended our Society's annual awards banquet in the Adlersaal at Zion, unaware that he would be tomorrow night's honoree. Toasts and roasts for the monsignor were presented by announcer Chuck Thompson, Orioles' coach Elrod Hendricks and Colts player Art Donovan, and letters from Mayor Schموke and Gov. Glendenning were read. "Father Marty", the retired pastor of St. Charles parish in Pikesville and a retired army Lt. Colonel, has been a faithful member of The German Society, has served as chaplain for the Maryland State Police, for the former Baltimore Colts and many other civic and religious organizations. Several months ago his alma mater, Calvert Hall College High School, established an annual scholarship in his name. He was a star pitcher there. He was featured last week in the *Catholic Review* with his portrait filling most of the first page.

DENIS SMITH ADDRESS NEW YORK CROWDS AT STEUBEN PARADE

Denis Smith addressed a large crowd from the reviewing platform in New York City following the Steuben Day parade in September. He spoke of the German American heritage, describing the accomplishments of German immigrants to the US. Denis, a long-time member of the German Society, is the official photographer for German-American events in Maryland and other eastern states. He was brought to New York by the Steuben Committee specifically to photograph the parade. Denis maintains an exhaustive photographic library of Maryland German events, which he, himself, has recorded over the past 30 years. He plans to turn it over to an appropriate historical group for the preservation of our German-American heritage.



THE 1999 AWARDS BANQUET: A PERFECT EVENING

There was some magic in the air at the Society's annual banquet this year. It was a pleasant, homey event, where everyone socialized with one another and all went well. Only 160 attended, the smallest group in many years. The sale of tickets was cut off at 160 due to the space limitations of the Adlersaal. The banquet hall had a tall, gothic ceiling, high stained glass windows bearing the names and arms of the German cities whence the Zion members came; the walls decorated in the classic style of old Germany, and painted with German symbols and owls. On the stage was a large depiction of Brandenburg Gate and a portion of the Berlin wall, put together by the students of Western Maryland College and transported and assembled for our banquet.

A WARM, FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

A harpist, Kristana Carlin, gave the hall a touch of class as she played from the stage before and during dinner. A uniquely German buffet was prepared by Wilhelm's Catering of Westminster. Because of limited seating, the usual "honored guests" from the many ethnic Societies of Maryland and Pennsylvania could not be invited this year, and perhaps this eliminated the pressure which often comes from the obligation to entertain and impress "outsiders".

Our honoree, Lisa Fitzpatrick, was charming and friendly. She arrived with some apprehension and nervousness, but quickly warmed to our members and instantly became "one of us." (Our honorees are, ex officio, inducted into the Society.)

FITZPATRICK GETS AMBASSADOR'S AWARD

Irmgard Maria Fellner of the German embassy's cultural department, brought greetings from the Ambassador and from the Federal Republic of Germany. She came early and stayed late, warming to our members, who in turn were infatuated by her pleasant personality and by the outgoing disposition of her husband, Dr. Hinrich Thölken. We hope to have a close relationship with Frau Fellner during her American stay. She surprised Lisa Fitzpatrick by bestowing upon her the German-American Friendship Award, issued to her by the Federal Republic of Germany.

A mix-up had left two seats short and the banquet chairman, Ted Potthast, was in a quandary - no place

to put the two guests. Congressman Bob Ehrlich and Monsignor Martin Schwalenberg both attended the pre-dinner cocktail party, but had to leave early...yielding two seats to save the chairman severe embarrassment.

THANKS TO THE MANY WHO MADE IT A SUCCESS

President John Aymold spent sleepless nights making arrangements for the affair. Ilse von Veltheim worked diligently to get the program set up and to the printer. Prof. Mohamed Esa organized the three tables of college students and members of the MD Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German. Frank Hobbs, President of the Edelweiss Club, filled three tables with its members. Zion Church had its own table. Door prizes were provided by Joseph's Country Inn of Fallston, MD; by Old World Deli; by Wilhelm's Caterers; and Goetze's Candy Co. sent 30 pounds of its signature caramels for the banquet. A good time was had by all !!

"PROUD OF AND GRATEFUL TO" LISA FITZPATRICK, 1999 HONOREE

At the Society's Nov. 12 Awards Banquet, Lisa Fitzpatrick was presented with our traditional silver bowl with the inscription:

"THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND
honors
LISA A. FITZPATRICK
a Marylander of German ancestry
for her service
to the German-American community
of our State and Nation"

Ted Potthast said at the banquet that our Society was both proud of Lisa, who five years ago at age 26 founded German Life, a magazine of the German-American and German culture, history and travel; and that we are grateful to her because her efforts have brought and continue to bring us much knowledge about our German culture and history that we otherwise would never know. "We are proud that our fellow Marylander thought through the concept of such a venture and had the fortitude to bring it to fruition."

Present at the banquet were Lisa's mother Ruth Fitzpatrick, her sister, Karen Brewer and the editor of the magazine, Heidi Whitesell. Lisa pointed out that the project could not have happened without the strong support of these three and many others on the staff of the magazine.

1869 TIME CAPSULE FROM LOCAL GERMAN SCHOOL BUILDING FOUND

While razing an old convent and school building at St. Joseph's Church, Fullerton, MD in early August, construction workers found a tin box inside the 1869 pink-granite cornerstone. The contents included a blob of disintegrated newspapers written in German -- the language of many of the settlers in the Fullerton area.

The astounding find was on the inside cover of the tin box, a marking in 3-inch letters: "L. Thaler." It turned out that the box was made by Lorenz Thaler, the great-great grandfather of John Thaler, husband of the present school's principal Joyce Thaler. The Thaler family were members of St. Joseph's Church and operated a metal shop at 317 North Gay Street in Baltimore City.

BIOGRAPHY OF DON SCHAEFER PUBLISHED BY HOPKINS PRESS

"*William Donald Schaefer: A Political Biography*" by C. Fraser Smith, a Sun newspaper writer, was released in October by the Johns Hopkins University Press, 385 pages, \$29.95. It is not often that the biography of a living member of our Society is published by a university press; and so many of our members anxiously awaited its release.

Fraser Smith, the author, is considered the dean of Maryland political writers. A recent review of the book stated: "Schaefer - legendary mayor of Baltimore, governor of Maryland and now state comptroller - is the closest mortal approximation of a perpetual public figure in the state. Indefatigable and irrepressible, he led the city's emergence from the depths of the rust belt to a tourism and downtown renaissance."

LUTHERAN CENTER DEDICATED

The new 6-story Lutheran Center in the 700 block of Light St. in Baltimore was dedicated Oct. 24. It will house five service agencies, including the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Society and Lutheran World Relief Agency. Germany being the source of Lutheranism, the majority of the very early German immigrants to Maryland were Lutherans. The church has a long history of aiding German and other immigrants to the USA.

GERRY KAINZ RETIRES FROM AND SELLS THE WASHINGTON JOURNAL

Gerry Kainz, the owner, publisher and editor of the Washington Journal, has announced his retirement from the only weekly German language newspaper with a circulation in the MD, DC and VA region. He has been a good friend of the German Society for many years and has personally covered the Society's important activities and written articles and taken photos which he frequently published in the Journal. He attended our Nov. 12 banquet and brought with him his successor, Peter Lobl, who drove down from New York for our event. Gerry announced at our banquet that he and his wife, Irmi, who has played an active role in the newspaper operations, are selling the paper to Mr. Lobl. Lobl owns and operates several other German newspapers from his headquarters in N.Y. He told the officers of our Society that he will run the paper from his NY office, and will look forward to receiving news of local activities for the Journal from organizations such as ours. The Society encourages its members to subscribe to the Journal as a means of maintaining and improving our German language skills and of keeping in touch with German American activities in the Washington-Baltimore region. Since the time the *Baltimore Korrespondent* went out of business in the 1950's, the Society has run a standing ad in the Journal. We expect that the Society's good relations with the Journal will continue under the ownership of Peter Lobl. We congratulate Gerry and Irmi Kainz on their retirement, and Mr. Lobl upon his new venture.

GOOD NEWS FROM BALTIMORE COUNTY LIBRARY - re: LUTHER

Our last newsletter reported that there was a dearth of information available in the County library about the great Reformation figure, Martin Luther. We stand corrected. Lynn Wheeler, the library system's Assistant Director, wrote to us that the library owns 11 titles on the life of Martin Luther, including the 1999 title *Martin Luther: The Christian between God and Death*, by Richard Marius. Her letter states: "If you and your readers need assistance in finding either library resources or information to answer questions, we encourage you to call upon our information services staff either in person or on the phone. They are standing ready to help seven days a week." We thank Lynn for this information about the library's resources.



LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE STUDIES FUTURE OF GERMAN IN REGION

At a two-day meeting held on the campus of Western Maryland College, local leaders studied "The Future of German Language and Culture in Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia". The group consisted of college professors, high school and middle school teachers and representatives of German ethnic organizations. The event was sponsored by the MD Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German, The Goethe-Institut Washington and Western MD College. Leading the conference was Dr. Mohamed Esa, Assoc. Professor of German at WMC.

Experts on the issues involved in fostering German language programs concluded that the key lies in attracting students in elementary and junior high schools. The conference devoted three sessions to language studies in elementary and middle schools and another session to "total immersion" programs.

Another session looked at "The Role of German Organizations" in which officers of The Washington Sängerbund, the German Orphan Home (Upper Marlboro, MD) and the German Society of Maryland made presentations. They explained the history of their organizations and the roles which each is now playing in encouraging language and cultural studies. The interaction between the ethnic organizations and academicians was mutually beneficial to each group.

The conference heard descriptions of the activities of many colleges, high schools and organizations. It concluded that while individual groups are successful in a number of projects, there is lack of communication with the result that the schools do not mutually benefit from the success of others. The need to communicate is seen as an essential step to avoid "re-inventing the wheel". Our Society's representative, Ted Potthast, was "shocked" when Bill Caldwell (who has served as president of both of the two largest German organizations in Washington) confessed that he had never heard of the German Society of MD. Ted took this as evidence that there must be better communications among those entities in our region who share the same goal of fostering the German language, culture and heritage.

The conference received reports on the status of German language studies, listened to experts on means to exchange ideas and formulating action, and engaged

AN EDITORIAL

TEACHERS OF GERMAN DESERVE HELP OF THE GERMAN COMMUNITY

There is something very special and extraordinary about German teachers. This was apparent at the weekend retreat held at Western Maryland College when academicians and leaders of German civic organizations met to discuss the future of German studies in our region. The enthusiasm of the teachers permeated the event. They are struggling in a climate of budget problems, in school systems which search for programs to cut-back or eliminate, and where German has traditionally been the easy victim, the politically correct course to eliminate. Nevertheless, the core of German teachers who came to the WMC campus consisted of the survivors; and the very strong message they convey is that they are not going to roll over and take it lying down.

The teachers came from every branch of academia: from graduate school professors to junior high teachers, a home-schooler mom who wants her children to learn German, and even some engaged in German projects for elementary and pre-schoolers.

They shone brilliantly as people filled with inspiration; astute tutors, dedicated to their pupils and to their subject; deep thinkers searching for means to spread the language, culture and heritage of the German-speaking immigrants whose descendants now number nearly 60 million Americans. They are devoting their professional lives to teaching the German language to their students; and they convincingly made known to the "community", the officers of German organizations who were also in attendance, that they need, deserve and expect help from our ethnic community.

The German Society of Maryland has made the pledge to give the German teachers significant support, in contributions both of finances and time. We urge all of our members to help out.

in small group work sessions which reported conclusions and recommendations to the assembly. Among the distinguished speakers were Helene Zimmer-Loew, Executive Director of the AATG National Office; Dr. Birgit Schweckendiek, Goethe-Institut Washington; Dr. Mohamed Esa, Dr. Debra Lemke, Dr. Pat Barr-Harrison, Patty Orndorf, Hal Boland, Maureen Helinski, Sabine Appel, Ingrid Rieger, Rudolph Becker and William Caldwell.

OUR FIRST PRESIDENT A FELON?

Dr. Charles Frederick Wiesenthal, the first president of The German Society of Maryland who served from 1783 to 1789, is referred to in the current issue of the Maryland Historical Magazine. The author quoted a source which listed him as a "felon transported from London to Maryland" by the ship *Thetis* arriving at Annapolis in December, 1757. The author also states: "This may be a clerical error; he may have been the ship's surgeon or a paying passenger."

It appeared that Dr. Wiesenthal provided medical service to Captain Charles Ridgely of Hampton and to the Ridgely family, its employees, indentured servants and slaves. The clerk who kept track of the doctor's services referred to him by his nickname, "Jack" Wiesenthal. On one occasion Dr. Wiesenthal's prescription for a patient was "to live well and have grog and hard sider".

CARROLL CO. CHILDREN DEMOLISH A CHOCOLATE BERLIN WALL

The German Club at Western Maryland College built a wall of chocolate for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders at a Carroll County elementary school, as part of a German Day celebration to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall (Nov. 9, 1989). After an informal German lesson, some instruction about the Berlin wall and learning some German songs, the children took down the wall, chocolate block by chocolate block. The program was supported by the school administration and parents, as part of an introduction to German. The "chocolate wall" was part of a continuing project of the German club, to introduce children in elementary school to German in the hopes that when they reach junior high school, enough students will want to study the language that the school authorities will place German on the school curriculum. Presently the schools offer only Spanish and French. Several elementary schools in Carroll County have asked the WMC students to come and start similar programs. Our German Society is making plans to support the college in these endeavors. We are also looking for opportunities to introduce the German language and culture to children at the earliest possible ages.

GERMAN BREWER OWNER OF THE 1890'S BALTIMORE ORIOLES, FATHER OF MODERN BASEBALL

Brewer Harry von der Horst, who owned a beer garden just down the street from the ballpark, controlled the Baltimore Orioles and was instrumental in its moves and fortunes. A new book on the old Orioles credits them with giving birth to modern baseball. The team played in Union Park, bounded by 24th, 25th, Barclay and Guilford and which seated 30,000 potential customers of von der Horst's beer. A new book "Where They Ain't" by Burt Solomon, describes the life and untimely death of the original Orioles, which moved to New York to become the current New York Yankees, nemesis of our present day "Birds". The grand tomb of Harry von der Horst stands today in the Baltimore Cemetery at the eastern end of North Avenue, just up the hill from his beer garden.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND; FOLLOW-UP

The last newsletter announced the abolition of the Society's scholarship fund and explained some reasons for that action. Other reasons for doing so related to the decline in the study of German in schools and colleges, which caused the Board to decide to dedicate the funds to programs which would lead to preserving and encouraging the study of the German language, history and heritage. In addition, it was noted that the scholarships were in the amounts of \$300 to \$1,500. When the program started, a \$500 award covered most of the student's tuition. That amount today covers only a small fraction of college costs.

TURNERS IN MARYLAND

Gymnastics was a very popular sporting activity of the 19th century immigrants to America from Germany, and wherever they settled, they promptly formed a "Turnverein", a gymnastics club. Called "Turners", at least half a dozen such clubs existed in Baltimore around the turn of the century. We recently learned of a social group named "American Turners", which has a clubhouse at 9124 Lenning Lane, Baltimore, MD 21237. The club holds dances every first and third Sundays at its clubhouse, 2-6 p.m., with a band, hot platter, beer and set-ups. Its "party schedule 1999-2000" refers, for reservations, to Judy, 410-825-7864.



MEET YOUR DIRECTORS

EVA MAUS KELLEHER is the President of the Women's Auxiliary of the German Society of Maryland and is *ex officio* a member of our Board of Directors. She was born in Dortmund, Germany, of parents from Westfalen and Rhineland. She attended Volksschule in Austria, Gymnasium in Germany, obtained a college degree and moved to Boston in 1959. She married William J. Kelleher, and when he was transferred, came with him to Baltimore and has been a Marylander since 1964. The Kelleher's have four daughters: Barbara, Christine, Heidi and Erika. One daughter lives with her family in Halver, Germany and works in Lüdenscheid. Eva's brother also lives in Halver. Their other daughters live one in Stolberg, near Aachen; one in Chicago & another in Spring Grove, PA.

Eva teaches German at the Community College of Baltimore County. She is the Principal of the Zion German Language School. A member of our Society's Education Committee, she is presently working with the committee to explore means of introducing the German language to children.

The Women's Auxiliary recently celebrated its 82nd anniversary. It was founded at the time when only men were members of the Society. After the Society began admitting women, the Auxiliary's position was that "we like our group just fine, thank you" and continued to enjoy its exclusive and man-less existence.

MARCY STURGILL is the lone member of our Board from the public sector. She is a career official of the Social Security Administration where she has worked in the Woodlawn headquarters for 20 years. Marcy gets her German heritage from her mother, whose parents' family names were Eichenkraut and Beidenstedt. They immigrated from Germany and were married in Baltimore in 1913. Marcy is married to prominent attorney Jack R. Sturgill, Jr., who has also taken an active part in Society functions. Jack and Marcy's family include two German Schnauzers, Fritz and Emma. Marcy aids in arrangements for our annual Meeting and is a member of the membership committee. She is now in her second term on the Board. Jack and Marcy are frequent travelers throughout the United States, and are looking forward to a trip to Germany and Austria which they hope to finance with winnings from a holiday trip to Las Vegas.

THEODORE J. POTTHAST, JR. Ted, now a lifetime director, was brought into the Society in 1962 by his father, Ted., Sr., then a member of the Board of Directors and later also a lifetime director. He had just returned to Baltimore after completing law school at Georgetown in Washington, having worked his way through school as an officer in the Justice Department. After he served on several committees of the Society, he was prevailed upon by President Charles Stein to become a director, a position Ted has held since 1967. Ted served a one year stint as president in 1985, and again as president for a three year term from 1992-95. He also served as the counselor of the Society.

Ted was born in Baltimore in 1931, attended parochial grammar school, Loyola High School and obtained an A.B. degree at St. Louis University in Missouri. In 1958 he married Constance Fava, who has worked on many occasions preparing food for our annual meetings and picnics and providing her trademark cinnamon cake for numerous German events. Their four children are also members of the Society: Catherine, a Towson attorney; John, formerly treasurer of the Bürgerverein, who now lives in Chicago with wife Ann, 6 year old Andrew and 1 year old Samantha; Mark, also a director of the Society, living in Towson with wife Lisa, 2 year old Ben and newborn Emma Kathleen; and Mia, who lives with husband Brian in Towson and newborn Katie

Ted spent many years as a trial attorney, specializing in jury trials representing both private citizens and government agencies in condemnation cases. Today he maintains an active law practice in Towson in the areas of trusts, wills, probate and business law.

Ted is a member of several Committees: Executive, Banquet, Education, and is the newsletter Editor. He worked hand-in-hand with now deceased president Don Tillman, who was one of his closest friends. He also served as an assistant to past president Mike Nieberding and current president John Aymold.

Ted's grandfather, John Potthast, came to Baltimore from Borgholz, Westphalia in 1893 and his grandmother, Margareta Leib, from Eggolsheim, Bavaria. They met in Baltimore and were married in 1899. His maternal grandparents came from County Galway, Ireland. Ted often visits his cousins in Westfalen, Bayern und Rhineland-Pfalz.



New member profile

**C. GEORGE FRY, PhD, DMin.,
PRESIDENT/BISHOP**

The Rev. Dr. C. George Fry is the newest member of our Society. He is a semi-retired Lutheran pastor, now President/Bishop of the International Lutheran Fellowship. He has also been a university professor of history and philosophy. One of his ancestors was a Pretzmann (Prutzmann), a Hessian Moravian missionary who arrived in Baltimore in 1747 -he came "to do good" and he stayed "to do well". Other German ancestors were Suabian and Prussian.

Prof. Dr. Fry is an active participant in the national General Society of the War of 1812. At its annual convention in Louisville, Ky., he was introduced to our Society by its national vice-president Dan Brooke. Dan is a lifetime director of our Society. Dan invited Dr. Fry to become a member of our Society. Dr. Fry resides in Circleville, Ohio.

In Germany, academic titles and degrees are treated with great formality. There our newest member would be addressed "Herr Professor Doctor Doctor Fry", because of his professorial title and because he holds two doctorates.

**GRUEL REMEMBERS SCHOOL DAYS
AT WESTERN MARYLAND COLLEGE**

Director Harry Gruel has recently been attending many functions sponsored by the German Department at WMC. (Under the leadership of one of our members, Dr. Mohamed Esa, WMC has developed one of the nation's most outstanding programs in German language and studies.) Harry recalls his college years in the 1940's when WMC was a religious boarding school where Church attendance was mandatory. The entire student body of 500 had to be back on campus for the 7 PM Sunday religious services (names were taken and absentees called on the carpet). Those were happy days when every student knew every other. Today's campus is larger and the student body is now about 1,500. A new and larger brick church is the centerpiece of the campus, but the old stone chapel of Harry's day still stands. It was used recently for a seminar sponsored by the MD Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German, attended by Maryland high school German language students.

**McDONOGH SCHOOL DEDICATES
ROOM TO EDWARD BOEHM**

To the car aficionados a Beemer may refer to a BMW auto, but to Marylanders the sound "beemer" means a "Boehmer", a painted porcelain sculpture produced by Edward Marshall Boehm, a world-renown Maryland artist of German-speaking ancestry. He was born in Baltimore in 1913. His mother died when he was 6 and he was sent to McDonogh in Owings Mills, a Baltimore suburb, then a farm school for poor boys from the city. He later studied animal husbandry at the University of Maryland before taking up the study of art. His specialty was designing and painting porcelain sculptures of animals and he developed a process for turning them into molds so they could be reproduced.

In 1950 he and his wife, Helen Franzolin Boehm opened a basement studio in Trenton. A year later he sold The Metropolitan Museum a sculpture of a horse, inspired by one he had seen at a Timonium horse show, and the New York Times art critic praised his work, giving him overnight recognition in the world of art. By 1959, three of his pieces were on exhibit in the Vatican Museum. Beginning with Pres. Eisenhower, presidents of the United States have given his works to heads of state. Five popes have received them. The company which he founded has been producing limited editions for 50 years. His works are today displayed in 134 museums throughout the world. Edward died in 1969. His wife took over after his death. The Vatican named a wing of its museum after him in 1992.

In early December his wife, Helen, attended the dedication of the Edward Marshall Boehm room at McDonogh, where there is a portrait and a bust of him, and 17 of his creations. She donated his papers to the school, saying that "McDonogh saved his life. It's where the Baltimore orphan received his creative inspiration." Mrs. Boehm is the company's ambassador to the rich and famous collectors of the firm's works.

Boehm company's products are sold at numerous retail stores in the USA and a set of five "Millennium Anniversary" sculptures can be bought from the company's web site for \$5,000. His works portray horses, lions, bears, owls, geese, eagles, flowers and religious figures. Golf superstar Tiger Woods has a Boehm tiger decorating his home.



STUDENT FROM DÜSSELDORF PLAYS MD HI-SCHOOL FOOTBALL

He came to Baltimore's Cardinal Gibbons High School after playing three years for the Düsseldorf Panthers, an amateur "American" football team sponsored by the US National Football League. He is 6'2", 240 pound 19-year-old Sergei Berzhniuk, born in Ukraine but having grown up in Germany. The NFL Scholars Exchange program learned of his athletic talents and academic excellence and sought him out. Gibbons coach Scott Ripley says that in ten years of coaching, he's never seen anyone as good as Sergei, who wants to go on to play college football. Scouts from Univ. of Maryland, Penn State and Florida State show interest in recruiting him.

LEBKUCHEN HERZEN (Gingerbread Hearts)

Baking has an important role during the Christmas holidays in Germany and *Lebkuchen* is a must. It can be cut into shapes and is often used to decorate the Christmas tree. Make the dough in advance:

- 3-1/3 cups flour
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 Tbsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. cardamom (ground)
- 1/2 tsp. cloves (ground)
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp. ginger
- 1/2 cup + 2 Tbsp. honey
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten

Heat the butter, sugar and honey until the sugar dissolves. Do not boil. Sift flour onto a sheet of waxed paper. Sift all other dry ingredients onto another sheet of waxed paper. Remove honey mixture from heat and stir in sifted spices. Beat sifted flour into the honey/spice mixture in a large bowl until dough pulls away from side of bowl. Beat in egg. Knead dough with hands. Wrap in plastic and let it rest overnight in the refrigerator. Roll dough to 1/4 inch thickness. Cut with a heart-shaped cookie cutter. Use a straw to make a hole for hanging. Butter and flour baking sheets. or spray with a non-stick oil. Bake at 350° about 15 minutes, until lightly colored and puffed. Loosen and allow to cool on the sheet to set. Makes about 35 three inch heart cookies. Cookies can be decorated with chocolate glaze and/or icing. Let dry and lace with satin ribbon to wear or hang on tree.

SOCIETY'S INVESTMENT ACCOUNT MOVED TO MERRILL LYNCH

The Finance Committee interviewed seven firms who were interested in handling our account and selected Troy Bryant. When he moved to Merrill Lynch, we moved our account to his new firm. Mr. Bryant will supervise four outside account managers, each handling a portion of our investments. As of July 30, 1999, the Society held five accounts with a total value of \$676,414.00.

WESTERN MD CHURCHES MEET ON HISTORIC AUGSBURG AGREEMENT

Seven Lutheran and ten Catholic churches in western MD are now meeting to discuss the meaning of the recent agreement signed in Augsburg, Germany concerning the doctrine of justification, a major issue of the Reformation initiated by Martin Luther. The agreement was signed Oct. 31 in Augsburg by Catholic Cardinal Edward Cassidy and German Lutheran Bishop Christian Krause. The agreement was nailed to the door of the cathedral in Augsburg, and also nailed to the doors of Catholic and Lutheran churches throughout the world. In Baltimore, Cardinal Keeler and Lutheran Bishop Mocko met to nail the document to their respective church doors.

Franciscan Father Vance Pastorius, (a descendant of the leader of the first Germans to come to American and who founded Germantown, PA) has circulated the agreement to his parishioners and he will participate in the discussions. Fr. Pastorius is pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Church, Cumberland, MD. Pastor Stephen Yelovich of St. Luke Lutheran Church, Cumberland, is answering questions of his flock about the agreement. The churches hope to bring in speakers who were present in Germany for the historic signing.

GERMAN FIRM LOCATES HERE

The world's second largest coal producer, Germany's RAG Corp., will establish its U.S. headquarters in Linthicum in Anne Arundel County in spring, 2000. It will bring 90 high-paying jobs to Maryland, consolidating its operations from New York, Colorado, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Although its primary product is coal, it is also involved in mining, engineering, power generation, chemicals and plastics. It has more than 100,000 employees worldwide and annual sales of \$17 billion.

A GERMAN "STUDENT PRINCE" AT MARYLAND'S "NEW" ST. MARY'S

Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin was born Dec. 20, 1770 in the Netherlands, the son of a German Countess Amelia, daughter of Samuel von Schmettau, field marshal to Prussia's King Frederick the Great, and of Prince Dimitri Alexeievich, Envoy Extraordinary of Russia's Catherine the Great. He received his princely title from his father. In 1786 the family moved to Münster. An opportunity arose for a two-year trip to America and Mitri's parents thought the trip would fill out his education. Thus the young Prince Gallitzin journeyed with a priest, Father Felix Brosius, who was invited by the first American Catholic Bishop, John Carroll, to come to minister to the German immigrants.

To conceal his royal lineage, the Prince traveled to the New World using the name Augustine Schmet, a short version of his mother's name, von Schmettau. After he arrived in Baltimore, Schmet was changed to Smith. Bishop Carroll allowed the young man, now 22, to stay at the new St. Mary's Seminary and study with men his own age. After a while he asked Bishop Carroll to let him study for the priesthood. The Bishop was reluctant to do so, but allowed the Prince to accompany him on a pastoral visit through his diocese, which then included all 13 colonies. The trip confirmed Mitri's desire to become a priest, and he returned to Baltimore to study for the priesthood. He studied his theology here in Maryland and was ordained in 1785.

In the 1790's he was sent as a missionary to the Germans and others in the Allegheny Mountains. In 1799 he was given a parish in Western Pennsylvania, where he built a church atop a mountain and, in keeping with a European tradition for churches built on mountaintops, named it after St. Michael, the Archangel. He took US citizenship in 1802. He was a frontier philosopher-apologist who founded dozens of parishes which later became the Diocese of Johnstown-Altoona. That diocese reveres him as its spiritual founder and this year is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the founding of his church, now the Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel.

The Prince's rectory was on a farm. The men of his parish would not permit him to do farm work, and so, since he was a talented violinist, he would perform for the men while they worked, often playing the three compositions which Beethoven wrote for the Prince's royal family when he was a child in Europe. Today his name is perpetuated by the town of Gallitzin, PA and by the very large Prince Gallitzin State Park.

PROMINENT JEWS WERE AMONG THE FOUNDERS OF OUR SOCIETY

The German Society of MD had two foundings, the first in 1783 and the more formal incorporation in 1817. The adoption of the 1817 Constitution was reported in the Society's archives as follows:

"One hundred and forty-nine citizens of German and Swiss birth or descent subscribed their names to the new Constitution of the Society, among them such leading citizens as Frederick W. Brune, Charles Diffenderfer, J. J. Cohen, Jr., Philip D. Sadtler, Samuel Ettig, Charles W. Karthaus and Benjamin J. Cohen. Their numbers included descendants of colonial settlers, immigrants from Austria, Baden or Switzerland, Lutheran, Calvinists, Jews and Catholics, men from all walks of life, a true representation of the German element of Maryland at that time."

The Society had a fair representation of Jewish officers and members through its history, until the end of World War II. Because of Hitler's horrible activities, Jews have been reluctant to join the German Society of MD, and for the past 50 years, we have had very few Jewish members. We have attempted to recruit Jewish members, but without much success.

GERMAN IMMIGRANT FARM WIVES RECEIVE HIGH PRAISE

Friedrich Muench (1799-1881), a Lutheran pastor and farmer who migrated to Missouri in the 1850's, wrote a book to instruct prospective German immigrants what to expect in a new life in that part of America. He commends the German farmers' wives for the wonderful way they adapt to their new country:

"...Our wives have significant and difficult tasks here. In performing these, they feel important, are never plagued by boredom and are satisfied by what they accomplish for their family. They keep their house clean and orderly, do the cooking, baking, washing, knitting, mending, sewing (some make men's clothing better than a tailor), care for children, milk the cows, make butter, cheese and soap, dry the fruit, cook jams, prepare fruit and vegetables, tend the flower and kitchen gardens and the fowl. Indeed, many even weave the necessary fabrics for household use....Despite all that, wives do not cease to live as cultured human beings. They are the center of the intimate and warm family life where every member helps as he can."



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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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

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Cecilia Muth Herman
Julia Maennik
John E. Oppitz
Wolfgang H. Otto
Charles Shriver
Alberta C. Smith
Charles H. Smith
Claire Shriver
Eileen Timothy

OUR NEWSLETTER

Our Vereinsnachrichten is now 5 years old and this is our 25th issue. About 5 times per year, we write a few pages to notify our members of upcoming events; to tell about recent activities of our Society and the local German-American community; to offer a bit of history of our Society and of our German-speaking predecessors in MD; to motivate our members to support and to preserve our heritage; occasionally to pass on news from the Fatherland of interest to our members; and once in a while to give some pointers about the progress of the German-American culture. When seriousness is called for, we are serious. But most of the time we try to keep it light and brief. We always need material, so if you have any, please send it in.

MAIL TO:

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ Zipcode: _____

Spouse (Optional): _____ Phone: _____

Referred by: _____

"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 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.