

THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

DIE DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT VON MARYLAND

VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

MAY, 2000

Volume 1, Issue 27

ANNUAL PICNIC MAY 20 AT BLOB'S PARK; RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Make plans now to attend the German Society picnic at Blob's Park for Saturday, May 20. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students, \$5 for children ages 7-14, and children 5 and under free. Tickets must be paid for in advance by the deadline of May 8th. Blob's Park will cater the event. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Last year's event at Blob's was a huge success. In fact, too many people came, some without reservations and we ran out of food. In order to prevent that from happening this time, there is an early deadline for closing the purchase of tickets.

German and American food will be served, plus beer, wine and sodas. Picnic lasts from 1 until 5, and food will be served from 1 to 4. Our members are encouraged to come and bring family and friends. Each family is requested to bring a dessert for the dessert table. German music will be played all afternoon by "Das Meister Duett", a lively duo which encourages and teaches folk dancing to the audience. The picnic will feature games, a horse-shoe tournament, prizes, singing, dancing, "Schnitzelbank" and a special effort will be made this year to entertain children with games. A fine ethnic celebration and a great chance to introduce some of our German heritage to your children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces. Art Nieberding is serving as picnic chairman. Mail your checks to: The German Society c/o Noble Engineering, 30 E. Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014. DO IT TODAY!

SOCIETY GRANTS \$5,000 TO AATG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS; EVENT SET FOR MAY 12 AT ADLERSAAL

The German Society has given \$5,000 to the MD Chapter of Teachers of German (AATG) to honor the 68 Maryland high school students who excelled in the annual national AATG German language examination. Members of the Society and their families are urged to attend the presentation honoring the students, to be held at 6:30 PM on Friday, May 12 at Zion Church's Adlersaal at City Hall Plaza, Baltimore. After the awards are presented, the Society will host a reception with food and drink. The students, their families and teachers and officers of the AATG will attend. Since our Society began the awards program 4 years ago, the number of Maryland students placing in the 90th percentile of the national exam has dramatically increased. Dr. Mohamed Esa, past president of the MD AATG told us our Society's awards program has been an important factor in generating interest in the study of German among Maryland high school students.

SIX NEW DIRECTORS ELECTED

At the annual meeting on April 7, 6 persons were elected as new members of the Board of Directors: Richard Ackler; Ann F. von Forthuber; Maureen Helinski; Dr. Armin Mruck, Pastor H. S. Siegfried Otto and Dr. James Schaub. 4 others were reelected to the Board for the term 2000 to 2003: Christel van der Berg, Michael J. Nieberding, Betty Niemann and Robert Fritzsche. Ackler and Otto were also elected to three year terms. Mruck, Helinski and Schaub were elected to fill vacancies through 2001 and Forthuber to fill a vacancy through 2002.

"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 - 2000**May**

- 12 German Society's High School German Language Awards - Adlersaal
20 German Society Annual Picnic - Blob's Park
23-27 Visit by Gorch Fock, German tall ship at Baltimore Inner Harbor

July

- 1-9 Kutztown German Festival 9 AM to 6PM
13 Board of Directors meeting

August

- 3 Executive Committee Meeting
18-20 Bürgerverein German Festival - Carroll Park

September

- 9 Defender's Day at Fort McHenry
15 Bürgerverein 100th Anniversary Banquet at Sparrows Pont Country Club
29 Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, Patron of Germany: ecumenical service (tentative)

October

- 5 Board of Directors meeting
7-8 Maryland Oktoberfest - 5th Regiment Armory
14-15 German Fest - Thurmont, MD
(Call Vicki Grinder 301-271-4301)
21-22 Oktoberfest at Schifferstadt (301-663-3885)

November

- 3 German Society Annual Awards Banquet at the Pikesville Hilton

January

- 18 Board of Directors meeting
Tune in to the Sunday German Radio hours
Edelweiss: Radio 730 AM Sunday 9 am
Radio Klub: Radio 730 AM Sat. 3 pm; Sun. 2 and 8 pm
Also, check the web sites of the organizations of which our Society is a member:
Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland:
www.md-germans.org
United German American Committee (UGAC)
www.ugac.org

**OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2000
NIEBERDING IS PRESIDENT**

Michael Nieberding, who served two years as president in 1987 and 1988, was again called upon to fill that position at the meeting of the Board of Directors on April 19.. The other officers elected by the Board are: Robert Gay, First Vice President; Brigitte Voelkel Fessenden, Second Vice President; Clement D. Erhardt, Jr., Treasurer and Christel van der Berg, Secretary. All the new officers have served as Board members for many years. Harry Gruel, the comptroller, was reappointed to that office by the President.

100TH BALTIMORE GERMAN FESTIVAL - THE NATION'S OLDEST

The Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland will hold its 100th German Festival this year at Carroll Park in southwest Baltimore on Friday to Sunday, August 18-20. The Baltimore German fest is the oldest such festival in the USA. Plan to attend. Our Society has traditionally sponsored a cultural booth and a soda or beer stand, except for the past two years. The Society is considering participation this year, depending upon what restrictions are imposed on the participants and whether enough members volunteer to work. If you wish to volunteer, please call the office and leave a message. Do so by June 1st, so our officers will know whether to apply for a booth.

SIGN UP NOW TO ENTERTAIN CREW OF TALL SHIP, GORCH FOCH

The Gorch Fock will be among the tall ships coming to the Baltimore Harbor from June 23 to June 27. Our Society will be part of the Bürgerverein's program to show the crew members the life and times of the Maryland German-American families. Plan to see the ships. The crew would like to visit and make friends with American families. If you can invite some of the young men to your home, or take them out for a dinner or other entertainment, please sign up. Call our office and leave your name and phone, and you will get a return call with information and instructions.

**ANTLITZ RESIGNS AS TREASURER;
ERHART ELECTED SUCCESSOR**

Ronald E. Antlitz, CPA, who has served as the Treasurer of the Society for more than 10 years, resigned that post because of the press of business in his accounting practice. The Board of Directors elected Clement E. Erhart, Jr. as his successor. In addition to holding the designation of certified public accountant, Mr. Antlitz also holds a Master's degree in taxation. Mr. Antlitz will continue to serve as the accountant for the Society. The Board re-organized the duties of the various officials who deal with the Society's finances, allocating specific tasks to the treasurer, the comptroller (Harry Gruel), the finance committee, the office manager (Ilse von Veltheim) and the accountant. The new system will provide for regular monthly and quarterly reports of the Society's finances.

POPE NAMES FORMER MD PASTOR, FR. FRANCIS X. SEELOS "BLESSED"

Father Francis Xavier Seelos, who lived and worked in Maryland for 12 years between 1847 and 1865, was "beautified" by Pope John Paul II in Rome on April 9. Beautification is a step in the process of the Catholic church which precedes canonization, the designation of sainthood. Father Seelos was a native of Füssen in the Bavarian Alps. Early on he wanted to be a priest and to serve the Germans in America.

After his studies in Germany, he came to Baltimore where he joined the Redemptorist Order and was ordained in St. James Church on Aisquith Street on December 22, 1844. The Redemptorists were charged with ministering to German Catholics in America. He served 9 years in Pittsburgh before returning to Baltimore and serving as pastor at St. Alphonsus Church at Park Avenue and Saratoga Streets from 1854 to 1857. While there he also served as chaplain to the School Sisters of Notre Dame, a congregation of Bavarian nuns. In 1857 he became pastor of St. Mary's Church in Annapolis, but the same year was reassigned as pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Church in Cumberland and director of the Redemptorist seminary. The Civil War created serious problems in Cumberland, so he moved the seminary to Annapolis. During the war he did pastoral work for Confederate prisoners in Parole, MD and for wounded Union troops at St. John's College and the Naval Academy. In 1865 he was transferred to Detroit and in 1866 to New Orleans as pastor of St. Mary's Church. While caring for victims of yellow fever, he contracted the disease and died in New Orleans on October 4, 1867.

During his short tenure in New Orleans, he became revered as a holy man, and after his death until the present, the Catholics of New Orleans have been devoted to his memory and are now preparing a shrine his honor.

If Fr. Seelos is later declared a saint, Baltimore will be unique in having a church whose two pastors have been canonized. St. John Neumann preceded Fr. Seelos as pastor of St. Alphonsus from 1847 to 1852, before becoming the bishop of Philadelphia. Although born in Bohemia, his father was Bavarian and his native language was German.

Father Arthur Bastress is presently pastor of St. Alphonsus. He is a member of our Society and was the preacher at last year's Thanksgiving Eve German Ecumenical Service held at Zion Lutheran Church.

AYMOLD PRESENTS \$3,700 TO NORTH COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

John Aymold, in one his last functions as president of the Society, presented a German Society award of \$3,700 to the principal of Anne Arundel County's North County High School, to help 17 members of the German Club finance their 3-weeks of summer school in Germany. They are students of German teacher Maureen Helinski, who each year has lead groups of students to Germany in pursuit of excellence in the study of the German language. The students will live in the homes of German high schoolers, who will, in turn, come to Maryland in the fall and live in the homes of the Anne Arundel County families. Exchange programs of this type are one of the most effective means to generate enthusiasm for the study of German. The students who make the trip return home with a zeal for the language which rubs off on and infects their classmates. Those who attend college also tend to take up German as their foreign language, so the program has a continuity with a long lasting ripple effect, touching many others besides the exchange students themselves.

MANY THANKS.....

to **Lottie Schafer**, for her recent very generous contribution to the Society.

to **Zion Lutheran Church** for allowing the Society the use of its facilities for our annual meeting and for the high school awards program.

CONGRATULATIONS

to **Germaine and Tim Endres**, upon the birth of their first child, daughter **Aline Grace**; on February 4, 2000, 6 pounds, 9 ounces.

to **Frederike Hurdle Hecht**, on her achievement at being named best decorator in last year's Decorator's Showcase charity house, and in her presentation of this year's "music room" in the showcase.

300 MD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN "SPRACHFEST" AT TOWSON U.

At the contests for German language students held at Towson University on March 24, more than 300 students from 16 schools around the state demonstrated their expertise in German. It consisted of 14 competitions and 5 workshops. Several members of the German Society acted as judges for the events.

THANKS FOR A GREAT YEAR-2000 ANNUAL MEETING - APRIL 7

Nearly 100 members turned out at the dining hall at Zion Church for the last annual meeting of the 20th century. President Aymold acknowledged the presence our Society members who are also active in other organizations: Merle Arp, National 2nd vice Pres.- Deutch-Amerikanischer National Kongress (DANK); Frank Hobbs, Pres.- Edelweiss Club; Vernon Scheffel, Pres.- Arion Sangverein; Gary Grassl, Pres.- Washington Heritage Society; and Dr. Mohamed Esa, retiring-Pres.-MD Chap.- American Assoc.-Teachers of German **THANKS** to the persons who worked for the meeting's success, in alphabetical order:

Aymold, John for keeping it brief, and for his work in organizing the event.

Aymold, Barbara for slaving in the kitchen, cleaning up the after-dinner mess.

Brooke, Dan came early to set up, greet members at the door and take attendance.

Cake and Cookie Makers Anonymous, those members who brought 14 home-make cake specialties which turned our dessert table into a gourmet heaven

Committee Chairmen, miscellaneous, for keeping their committee reports brief and to the point.

Gruel, Harry and Betty for coming early and staying late to set up and clean up the hall.

Rev. Roy A. Maack for his pre-prandial prayers for all good Germans but also for those less fortunate ethnics **Nieberding, Art** for setting up the tables and putting his engineering organization skills to good use.

Nieberding, Mike for selecting and buying the excellent beer, wine and soda and working in the kitchen.

Niemann, Dutch and Betty, who opened and closed the hall, and worked as jacks-of-all-trades.

Rev. Siegfried Otto for his German and English benedictions, for giving the assembly a touch of class.

Pie Maker Anonymous, the member for the incredible apple pie and brought it still warm from the oven.

Potthast, Connie for making the 12 pounds of egg salad, 10 pounds of tuna salad, creating the pretty displays of the cold cuts and cheeses.

Potthast, Ted for shopping for the cheese, meat, potato salads and coleslaw. etc.

Tillman, Irma for cooking 30 pounds of her secret-formula sauerkraut, hot German potato salad and giant beef sausages, and for all the incidentals.

Van der Berg, Christel for her contribution of flowers and for setting up flowers for every table in the hall.

von Veltheim, Ilse for chauffeuring the temporarily sight-impaired Ted Potthast buy the salads and meat, and for coming early and staying late to clean up.

OUR SOCIETY AIDS CHILDREN'S GERMAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM

The German Society granted more than \$300 to the two-week long intensive summer classes offered by the Zion German Language School, to advertise its program. Eva Maus Kelleher, the principal of the school and President of the Society's Women's Auxiliary, reported that the school was in dire need of funds to make the program known to parents in Central Maryland. As a result, the Society allocated \$325 for advertisements in several issues of the "City's Children" newspaper and "Kidstreet News", monthly publications with circulations totaling about 100,000 in that region. Families interested in sending a child to the summer school should call Zion Church (City Hall Plaza) for a brochure. 410-727-3939

AN EAGLE SCOUT TRADITION

Christel van der Berg was thrilled when her grandson, William Gregory McCormick, became an Eagle Scout on March 2nd. He follows in the steps of his two older brothers, David Patrick and Brian Christopher, also Eagle Scouts. Reaching the rank of Eagle Scout is a rarity, fewer than one in a hundred attaining that goal. Christel, the Society's secretary and Board member, immigrated to Maryland from Düsseldorf as a "war bride", having met her soldier-husband while working for the Red Cross in Germany. Christel's daughter Monika and son-in-law Bill encouraged the boys to pursue the ideals and virtues espoused by the Boy Scouts of America.

HISTORY OF THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MD IS AVAILABLE ON LOAN

In 1909 Louis P. Hennighausen wrote "The History of The German Society of Maryland", highlighting the activities of the Society from its founding in 1783. A lawyer and historian, he was then president of the Society. The book is long out of print, although some copies are found in local libraries. Past president Don Tillman, of fond memory, made six copies of the book with the intention of circulating the copies among our membership. To carry out the wishes of Mr. Tillman, our Society will make these copies available on loan to members on request. If you would like to borrow a copy, please call our office and leave your name and phone number. Our office manager, Ilse von Veltheim will return your call and arrange for the book to be sent to you. We will pay the postage to you, and you pay postage to return it to our manager.

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE 1990's - A REFLECTION ON THE SOCIETY

On Saturday, February 29, 1994 our Society held a special meeting at the Elks' Lodge in Towson to study the status of the Society and plan for the future. About 100 members attended that all-day session. We looked at our strengths and weaknesses. We were then only 350 members and we resolved to increase that number to 1000. We are now nearly 950. We were weak in communication with our members. We voted to start a newsletter, and we are now in our 27th issue. It has received favorable comments from all over the country.

In 1994 we lacked an educational program. We now support educational projects from the elementary school, through high school, college and university levels. We had little involvement by female members. Now nearly half of our board members are women. We were then "too focused on the Baltimore area." Since then we have held events in College Park, Jessup, Westminster, Hagerstown, and our 1999 Honoree was a woman from Garrett County in the far reaches of Western Maryland. Our attendance at meetings was low. Recently our annual meetings have filled the house and left us searching for extra chairs. We had an image problem and inability to get publicity. There has been vast improvement in these areas, but we are still working hard at it. We were then struggling with the scholarship program, as it did not encourage the study of the German language and culture. We abolished the scholarships and are using the funds to promote educational programs of German language and culture.

We voted to give awards to students for achievements in the study of German language, and since then we have granted over \$15,000 in such awards through the American Association of Teachers of German, MD Chapter. We needed to promote the history of the Society. We have been doing so by regular articles in our *Vereinsnachrichten*.

As we read the minutes of that historic meeting in 1994, we see that we have progressed a long way. Much of the vision expressed then is still pie in the sky, but we are keeping that vision before our eyes and working to achieve it.

Much of the credit for these successes must be given to those persons serving on our Board of Directors, our Executive Committee, and of course, our Presidents, Don Tillman, Ted Potthast, Mike Nieberding and John Aymold.

MEET THE SOCIETY'S NEWLY-ELECTED DIRECTORS

Richard Ackler is a retired engineer from the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company who has been active in the German Society for nearly 10 years. Dick has been seen at most Society functions and now has been drafted to serve on the Board. He has great experience with non-profit organizations, with a long career as an official of The Boy Scouts of America.

Ann von Forthuber is, by profession, an auctioneer. She owns her own company which serves owners who wish to expose their real and personal property to the market by way of public auction. She was listed in this year's Baltimore Business Journal as one of the top 10 women in business volume in the Baltimore metropolitan area. She will bring her business sense and organization ability to the Society's projects.

Maureen Helinski is an Anne Arundel County high school German teacher. She is a leader in the Maryland chapter and in the national organization of the American Association of Teachers of German. She is a vocal and inspiring "idea" person whose work with German language students brought her to the attention of our nominating committee. For nearly 20 years she has led groups of high school students to Germany in summer student exchange programs. The committee sought her to lead our efforts to promote the study of German in elementary through high schools.

Dr. Armin Mruck was the Society's 1998 honoree at our annual awards banquet, and head of the German department of Towson University. He now directs the University's exchange program with Oldenberg Univ. in Germany where he is also a part-time faculty member. He has been a member of the scholarship committee. He will serve on the committee which recommends graduate students for our award named in honor of Dr. Carrie Mae Zintl, our former director and benefactor.

Pastor H. S. Siegried Otto has attended most of our recent annual meetings and ecumenical services. He is a scholar who has devoted many years studying the German-American experience. He is also a leader in the religious community, having served as president of the inner-city ecumenical council. He recently retired as Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church and is presently serving as assistant Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Dr. James Schaub is an economist and advisor to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. He has shown a keen interest in the Society's activities in recent years and was approached by the committee to join our Board. Jim lives in Laurel, MD, a suburb oriented toward Washington and will serve to represent the Society in the Howard and Prince George County areas.

MARYLAND RANKS 15TH IN PERCENT OF GERMAN AMERICANS

The 1990 census showed Maryland having 1,218,257 citizens of German ancestry, 25.48% of the total population of 4,751,468. California's percentage of German Americans is only 16.58%, but because of the size of that state, it has 4,935,147 German Americans, more than the entire population of Maryland. The top 15 rankings in the 1990 census, by percentage of German Americans, were:

- 54% Wisconsin
- 51% North Dakota
- 50% Iowa
- 50% South Dakota
- 46% Minnesota
- 39% Kansas
- 37% Indiana
- 37% Oklahoma
- 36% Pennsylvania
- 36% Missouri
- 35% Montana
- 34% Wyoming
- 32% Colorado
- 29% Illinois
- 28% Indiana
- 28% Washington (State)
- 27% New Mexico
- 25% West Virginia
- 25% Maryland

There was very little German immigration to the South or to the New England States, which accounts for the paucity of German Americans there today. The Maryland and Pennsylvania percentages might be higher but for the fact that the more adventuresome Maryland and Pennsylvania Germans decided to pull up stakes to make their fortunes in the West.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF MARYLAND GERMANS LARGELY UNKNOWN; SEND IN YOUR NOMINATIONS

If we don't toot our own horn, nobody else will. The historic literature of German-Americans gives short shrift to Maryland in favor of those states to which the great masses of Germans immigrated: Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Missouri. Yet our ancestors in MD accomplished many things. Among those leaders in industry, education, politics, religion have been the likes of Ottmar Mergenthaler, H.L. Mencken, General John Stricker, General George Armistead, Saint John Neumann, Baron Johann deKalb, and more recently Gov. Theodore R. McKeldin, Gov. William Donald Schaefer, Robert M. Heyssel, M.D. and Joseph Sellinger, S.J.

SEND IN YOUR NOMINATIONS

The German Society plans to publish a book of the biographies of 50 or more Marylanders of German ancestry who have made significant contributions, from the founding of Maryland to the present. We are soliciting nominations from our members (and from the public at large). The purpose is to remedy the lack of knowledge of the local German contributions. We can't expect to receive national recognition for our illustrious forbears when the citizens of Maryland and even many of our own members don't know of their feats. So far we have received a fair input from our members who have suggested the names for this publication. We still need many more. Please send your nominations so that we can get the book written and published by the end of the year. Mail to Ted Potthast 1819 Leadburn Rd. Towson, MD 21204-1830

GERMAN-AMERICANS: WHO ARE THEY? WHY DID THEY COME HERE?

If you want to learn why they came from Germany to America, from what German-speaking areas they came, how they physically managed to get here, what they did after they arrived, what were their politics and religions (or lack thereof), how they survived, how some of them stayed together and others quickly disappeared into the melting pot, how some Anglicized their names, what they contributed to the American nation -- nearly anything you care to know (and some things you didn't want to know) -- then read Don Heinrich Tolzmann's latest book, ***The German American Experience***. It's the story of your German-American heritage, and will help you understand how your ancestors fit into the big picture. It describes the conditions in Germany over the past 250 years which, from time to time, created the exodus of a people whose descendants now constitute America's biggest ethnic group -- nearly 60,000,000 German-Americans. Dr. Tolzmann's book, with a year 2000 copyright, is published by Humanity Books, 59 John Glen Drive, Amherst, New York 14228-2197, for about \$29. Dr. Tolzmann's book is such a worthwhile reading experience that we can forgive its major shortcomings: its failure to mention the German Society of Maryland, founded 1783, and failure to mention our most illustrious member, Ottmar Mergenthaler, the inventor of the greatest tool for the expansion of knowledge since Gutenberg's printing press, the linotype machine, which made possible the modern printing industry.

GERMAN WAS OUTLAWED IN WWI; EFFECTS STILL FELT TODAY

The anti-German hysteria created by President Woodrow Wilson to get the USA into the war on the side of England had disastrous results upon the use and study of the German language. 26 states passed laws against the use of German on public streets, in public meetings or on the telephone. 17,903 persons were arrested for using German. By the end of WWI, German instruction had been eliminated from all public schools and remained only in a few private and parochial schools. Many libraries decided to burn, destroy or remove German materials. Laws and anti-German strategies forced the closing of 258 German language newspapers. Some closings resulted from the boycott of any firms which advertised in these papers. Leaders of German-American groups and their families were systematically persecuted and their children harassed in the schools. The study of German came to a halt by 1920, and after 80 years since then, we are still struggling to get the German language back into the curricula of the public schools. The German Society of MD has resolved to dedicate substantial resources for the promotion of the study of German language and the study of the German-American history and culture.

NAZI AMERICA: A SECRET HISTORY

It is still fashionable to take cheap shots at German-Americans. Just a few days ago, on April 30, 2000, the History Channel (Comcast cable TV in central Maryland) ran a 1 ½ hour feature titled "Nazi America: a Secret History". It told the history of the American Nazi party which existed for a few years preceding WWII. The party had less than 6,000 members. The overall impression given by the documentary was that not all German-Americans are bad, but.... The show also detailed the actions of some of the crazies who emerge from time to time still claiming Hitler as a hero. The message was clear: German = bad. A few parts in the recent book by Professor Don Heinrich Tolzmann of the Univ. of Cincinnati, "The German-American Experience", traces the anti-German campaigns from the US government's efforts to draw America into WWI on the side of the British through the pre-WWII hearings of congressional Un-American Activities Committees, to more recent times. The airing of TV programs such as "Nazi America" makes it apparent that it is quite acceptable, even today, to present as "History" on American TV the erratic actions of a few Nazi-type racists and to drag down the fabric of German-American culture and heritage in the process.

GEORGE WASHINGTON SPOKE GERMAN TO HIS BODYGUARD

In his marvelous book, *The German American Experience*, Don Heinrich Tolzmann writes:

"On the advice of his adjutant, Washington had a German-American bodyguard formed to protect himself. ...They started in 1778 and continued through the end of the war with outstanding service. Twelve of the German-American bodyguards escorted Washington to his home in Mount Vernon at the end of the war. Because of this, they have the distinction of having served longer than any other American soldiers in the Revolution. The body guard consisted of 53 men and 14 officers who were, of course, German speaking. From this it can be assumed that the first president of the United States was able to converse in German."

WHENCE COMES NIEBERDING?

Every German name has a meaning. The background of a German name can usually be found in the classic *Dictionary of German Names* by Hans Buhlow or in the book *German-American Names* by George Jones, retired professor of German at the University of Maryland. We looked up the name of our newly elected president, with these results: **Nieberding**: The name does not appear as such in either the Jones or the Buhlow book, so we need to break the name into two parts. *Ding* is the German word for "thing", but in middle high German, a Dinger was a judge or a lawyer. Buhlow refers *Nieber* to two comparables: *Niefer* and *Nufer*. *Niefer* is from the name of a place, "Niefern" near Potsdam. *Nufer* is from the Swiss *nuefer*, meaning "cheerful, lively". Perhaps our past president Mike and our director Arthur Nieberding descend from some "cheerful, lively judge or lawyer".

GERMAN DOGS POPULAR IN MD.

Ads in a recent local Sunday newspaper attest to the popularity of German dogs in Maryland. The number of ads for the dogs were: German Shepherds 14; Dachshunds 9; Rottweilers 6; Poodles 6; Schnauzers 3; and Weimareiners 2. (President Nieberding has a long-haired dachshund named Max)

AN INQUIRY RE: KAPP INSTITUTE

Member Robert Schaub of Shrewsbury, PA is trying to trace his ancestors. He needs information on the F. Kapp Institute which existed in Baltimore in the 1860's. If you know anything about this, please write to Mr. Schaub at 350 W. Railroad Avenue, Shrews-

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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2000-2001

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

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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

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