

# THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

DIE DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT VON MARYLAND

## VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

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VOLUME 1, Issue 29

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

**Michael J. Nieberding, President**

***O du fröhliche, o du selige,  
gnadenbringende Weihnachtszeit!  
Mensch war verloren, Christ ward geboren  
freu, freu dich o Christenheit!***

***Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht  
Alles Schläft, enisam wacht  
nur das traufe hochheilige Paar  
holder Knabe im lockigen Haar  
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, schlaf im himmlischer Ruh!  
(Weihnachtslieder -- German Christmas songs)***

### **IMAGE OF SANTA CLAUS CREATED BY THOMAS NAST, IMMIGRANT**

When German immigrant Thomas Nast was asked to illustrate a book of poems which contained Clement Moore's "A Visit from Saint Nicholas", he combined the imagery of the poem with his memories of his boyhood in Bavaria to create a rotund, bearded, pipe-smoking figure in a woolly suit and cap and carrying a bag of toys. The festivities which once surrounded the feast of St. Nicholas (December 6), have now been transferred to Christmas. The gift-giver traditions vary in many parts of Germany. It is *St. Nikolaus* in the mainly Catholic areas, but *Klaus, Nickel, Weihnachtsmann and Christkindl* in the mainly Protestant areas. The term "Kris Kringle" came about by English-speakers attempting to pronounce the German "Kristkindl" - the Christ-child, or often, a Christmas angel. A delightful article by Eberhard & Ruth Reichmann dealing with this subject appears in the current issue of The Report, published by The Society for the History of the Germans in MD.

### **GERMAN SOCIETY STANDS AT 990**

Membership in the Society stands at 990, up from the number of names published in the program of our annual awards banquet (965). In 1994 the Society set a goal of achieving 1000 members by the start of the 21st century (January 1, 2001), just a few weeks away. Our membership committee is working hard to recruit 10 new members by December 31. Invite your friends and relatives who have an interest in German language and culture or in the German-American heritage to sign up. Also, consider signing up a prospective member giving a gift membership of the first year dues. Enroll your children. Student dues are only \$5 per year. Individual membership dues are \$15 per year, and spouses may be included as members at no additional cost. Dues are waived for teachers of German and clergy. An application form is printed on the last page of this newsletter. Clip it and send it in. You can have a copy of our newsletter mailed to a prospective member by calling our office and leaving the information on our answering machine. We will mail it with your compliments.

***"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."***

## **KALENDER**

### December

- 3 German Society Directors at Society office  
8-9 AATG conference at Western MD College  
17 Washington Sängerbund Christmas Concert

### March

- 23 Sprachfest - Towson University

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  
Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland:  
[www.md-germans.org](http://www.md-germans.org)

## **MD-AATG "FUTURE OF GERMAN" CONFERENCE AT W-MD COLLEGE**

The Maryland Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German will hold a 2-day conference at Western Maryland College on Friday and Saturday, December 8 & 9. The topic: "Introducing German in Elementary and Middle Schools: Afternoon and Saturday Enrichment Programs." Our Society is keenly interested in promoting the German language in the lower schools. Persons who have an interest in and a commitment to starting such programs are invited to the conference and should call Prof. Mohamed Esa at the college for a reservation.

## **KICKERS OFFER GERMAN LESSONS**

The Baltimore Kickers offers free German classes to the public on Thursday evenings at its clubhouse at 22 South Broadway, Baltimore, MD 21231. Beginners start at 6:45 pm and advanced start at 8:30 pm. Call the 24-hour information hotline: 410-276-4949. The Kickers sponsor a regular and a junior soccer team. Many members of the Kickers also are members of The German Society of Maryland.

## **GERMAN SOCIETY FINANCES**

A spread-sheet prepared by our treasurer, Clement D. Erhardt, II shows the investments of the Society valued at \$708,319.04 as of October 1, 2000. Approximately \$450,000 was in the general fund and \$250,000 in the educational fund, the balance in cash accounts.

**THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT** of the Washington Sängerbund will be held on Dec. 17 at 3 PM at the United Church, 20th and G St. NE, Wash. DC. For details call 202-310-4619

## **MEMBERS**

Condolences to the family of John J. Appel, Jr., who former member of the Society, died on November 20. John was a Towson attorney, a state administrative hearing officer and was involved in politics in Baltimore County.

Congratulations to **Matthias Hort** and Andrea on the birth of their first child, **Niklas**. Dr. Hort lives in Kiel, Germany and joined the Society while doing post-doctoral work in volcanology at Johns Hopkins Univ.

Congratulations to **Samantha Marie Potthast**, age 2½, adopted daughter of members Jack and Ann Potthast, who became an American citizen on November 8.

Thanks to **Herbert Hane**, a Society member from Severna Park who has offered to address the Society on his family's story of immigration from Germany to America in 1946. His father, a Jew, was held for a time in a Nazi concentration camp but survived because under the Nuremberg laws he had a "privileged mixed marriage" to a Christian, Herbert's mother. We hope to schedule a talk by Herbert in 2001.

## **NORMAN SCHULZE TOURS GERMANY TRACING HIS ROOTS**

Member Norman Schulze recently returned from a tour through Germany by train, bicycle and car, attending an Elderhostel and tracing his family's roots. His family first came to America in 1685 when his Mother's ancestor, Heinrich Frey came to Germantown, PA from Altenheim, near Strassburg. He visited there and also the region near Liebenau from whence his father's family came to America in the mid 1800's. Traveling to many museums, he heard on several occasions: "You are the first American to come to our museum." This was Norm's 6th trip to Germany in search of his ancestry. Some of his family came to Baltimore and he would like to make contact with someone with knowledge of the Baltimore German churches to investigate their records. Norm lives in Clifton, Virginia and can be reached at 703-818-2328.

## **ERNTEDANKFEST BY STUDENTS OF GERMAN IN HARFORD COUNTY**

The German classes of the Fallston High and Middle Schools joined with Verein Deutscher Trachten German Folk Dance Group (led by Maria Skowronek) for a German Thanksgiving Celebration and the blessing of the Erntedank Krone (Thanksgiving Crown) at St. Mark's Roman Catholic Church, Fallston on October 1.

## **ECUMENICAL SERVICE A GREAT EVENT ON FEAST OF ST MICHAEL**

The 11th annual German-American ecumenical service of the Society was held for the first time on the feast day of St. Michael, Archangel, on Sept. 29 at the Lutheran Church of St. Michael in Perry Hall, MD. St. Michael is the patron of Germany. Rev. Donald Beutel, pastor of the church and a member of our society, officiated, assisted by another member, Pastor H. J. Siegfried Otto. The Maryland Boys Choir sang and the congregation was assisted in the music by trumpeters. The event was well attended.

The Society provided refreshments afterwards in the church hall. A wonderful display of sandwiches and desserts were obtained from the Old World Deli of Randallstown.

## **THANKS FROM NORTH CO. H.S.**

Sixteen students of German language from North County High School whom the Society assisted in an exchange program in Germany wrote to thank us. Some excerpts from their letters:

"We stayed in homes with German families and got to see German life from the inside." (Jill Davis)

"We learned how the Germans like to hike, walk, bike and run. We had the joy of hiking in the Black Forest." (Chrissy Crook) "We learned about family and school life. German students have more privileges and freedom in school than we have." (Jenifer Brown)

"We learned many of the German cultural differences. This visit will help my future years of German education." (Kristin Robinson) "I saw the impact of the United States on Germany in many areas." (Tommy Kreuger) "I experienced German culture first-hand, instead of just through textbooks at school." (Brandy Thompson) "I stayed with the Herma family...they showed me how Sunday is still very much a day for the family to be together." (Chrissy Krantz) "Thank you for furthering my knowledge of German culture" (Ashley Vogelsang). The students were accompanied by their German teacher, Maureen Helinski, a director of our Society. 24 German students from Rottbeck Gymnasium, with two teachers and the school principal, returned the favor by coming to N. County High last month and staying with Maryland families.

**Thanks** to member **Brad Miller** who passed on to us a note from a friend, Käthe Wolter of Hamburg, a regular listener to North German Radio's program, *Hafenkonzert*, featuring German seamen's songs. Käthe sent the saucy lyrics of a tune entitled *Baltimore Shanty*, with the refrain: *Oh, oh, up she goes, we're bound for Baltimore.* (We can't print the rest of it here.)

## **217th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET**

The annual awards banquet on November 3 attracted 215 members and guests to the grand ballroom of the Pikesville Hilton Hotel. Following a long tradition, representatives of the English, Irish and Scot societies attended: King Barnes, pres. of St. George's Society, Jeremy W. North, Esq., pres. of the Hibernian Society and Bruce McNeal, pres. of St. Andrew's Society, accompanied by their wives. Dr. Hans Ulrich Seidt, cultural attache of the German Embassy, brought greetings from the Federal Republic of Germany. Also seated at the head table were President and Mrs. Nieberding, Bob Sheppard, Jr., pres. of Deutschamerikanischer Bürger-verein von Maryland, Mrs. Eva Maus Kelleher, pres. of the Women's Auxiliary of the German Society and Mr. Wm. Kelleher, and Pastor H. J. Siegfried Otto and Mrs. Bärbel Otto. Pastor Otto offered the invocation and the benediction. Arthur Nieberding and Brigitte Fessenden served as chairpersons of the event and their efforts made it a great success. The program for this annual event, which listed the members of the Society, is the annual occasion for publishing the names of all of our members.

The Society's annual award to a Marylander of German ancestry for significant contributions to the community went to former president and lifetime director Ted Potthast, Jr.

President Nieberding commented that Ted's mother, Marie Potthast (who was present) had attended over 40 of our banquets, beginning in 1929 as her first "dress up" date with her future husband, Ted Potthast, Sr. Marie stated that the numbers have turned: now 91, she was then just 19.

## **KARNEVAL BALL - FEB 24, 2001**

The Zion Forum for German Culture sponsors a Karneval Ball in the Adlersaal at Zion Church, City Hall Plaza from 8 p.m. to midnight, February 24. Come in formal dress or costume. Music by the Edelweiss Band, food catered by Old World Delicatessen. Admission is \$25 and reservations are required. Call 410-727-3939 by the reservation deadline of February 19th.

## **KICKERS PLAN TRIPS IN 2001**

The Baltimore Kickers are planning two Christmas trips to Germany in 2001, as well as two 2-week trips to Switzerland and Austria in mid-June and late September, 2001. Join the Kickers. To put your name on the list, call Celeste Heymann at 410-833-2823 or Hans Steffen at 703-707-9288 (Mon-Fri after 6pm)

**THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND HONOREE - YEAR 2000**

Ted Potthast was selected as the German Society of Maryland's honoree for the year 2000 principally because of his contributions to our own Society and his service to the community. Ted became a member of the Society in 1962 and by 1965 had become a member of the Board of Directors and soon thereafter a member of the Executive Committee. He served as a counselor to the Society for many years and in 1985-86 served his first term as President. When Donald Tillman became president 1987-92, he appointed Ted as chairman of the Executive Committee, a post he held until he succeeded Don as president, this time for three years, 1993-95. He has continued to serve on the Executive Committee and is the editor of our very popular newsletter.

His father, Theodore, Sr. introduced him as a boy to the Society by bringing the family to our summer picnics. In 1962, when Ted finished Georgetown Law School and returned to practice law in Baltimore, Ted, Sr. (a director of the Society) recruited him as a member. Following his father's example, Ted recruited his children, Cappy, Jack, Mark and Mia, and his wife, Connie.



**THEODORE J. POTTHAST, JR**

Ted attributes his enthusiasm for the works of the Society to the inspiration of Don Tillman, who worked tirelessly to promote the cultural heritage of German-speaking immigrants. One of the first actions Ted took when becoming president was to call a "constitutional convention" of the membership to study the goals of the Society, its strengths and weaknesses, and to decide the future course of the Society. The result was an intellectual awakening. He was instrumental in directing the Society from spending the bulk of its income on a few scholarships unrelated to German language and heritage to projects involving hundreds of students of all ages studying the language and culture.

He is a member of many national and local German-American organizations: DANK (the German American National Congress); UGAC (United German American Committee); The Society for German-American Studies; The Edelweis Club; The German Radio Klub; Baltimore Kickers; and he serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland. He is presently Vice President of The Ancient and Honorable Mechanical Company of Baltimore (organized 1763, twenty years before the founding of our German Society). He has served as an officer, director and trustee of numerous non-profit, business, civic and financial institutions and private trusts. His business ventures have included homebuilding, construction of office condominiums and electronic publishing. Prior to his legal career, Ted taught high school, served in management in the U. S. Department of Justice. He also has taught in the undergraduate and graduate schools of The University of Baltimore.

## **100th BANQUET OF BÜRGERVEREIN -- A SMASHING SUCCESS !!**

Maryland's Bürgerverein, the umbrella organization for the Baltimore area German clubs and societies, held its 100th anniversary celebration at the Sparrows Point Country Club on Sept. 15th, attended by representatives of local organizations and invited dignitaries. Dr. Eberhard Koelsch Deputy Chief of Mission from the Embassy represented the Federal Republic of Germany. The invocation was offered by Rev. Dr. Holger Roggelin, the new pastor of Zion Church who arrived just two days earlier from Germany. The invocation was his first official act on American soil. Our Society took two tables and was represented by President Mike Nieberding and directors Harry Gruel, Art Nieberding, Rev. H.S. Siegfried Otto, Theodore Potthast, James Schaub and Christel van der Berg; and by our members, Bettu Gruel, Abbey Schaub, Linda Nieberding and Elaine Nieberding.

## **KAINZ DONATES BACK ISSUES OF JOURNAL FOR RESEARCH**

Gerard and Irmi Kainz, former owners of the Washington Journal, have donated back issues of the Journal from September 1967 to December 1999 to the German American Heritage Society of Greater Washington. This newspaper, the oldest in the nation's capital, will be available to researchers on microfiche. When the *Baltimore Korrespondent* closed its doors in the 1950's, the Washington Journal took over publishing the activities of the German-American community in Baltimore and central Maryland.

## **JIM DIES - FAMOUS TERRIER**

Jim, the champion Staffordshire terrier owned by Irma and our late past president Donald Tillman, died in October at age 14 after a long illness. He was well known to many members of our Society and he attended all the meetings of the Executive Committee held in the Tillman home on Rolling Road in Catonsville during Don's five year tenure as president. Whoever drew a seat on the sofa was sure to have Jim parked quietly on his lap. Jim won the best of breed ribbon at the Westminster Dog Show in New York City and sired dozens of progeny. He was featured on the cover of a national dog fancier magazine. Jim was a constant companion to Irma after Don's death and she was Jim's faithful nurse. Lizzy and Ike, Irma's other two Staffordshires, survive. Ike is the son of Jim and Lizzy.

## **MOGS NEEDS JUDGES -TOWSON U.**

The Maryland Organization of German Students has put out a call for at least 20 judges from the German-speaking community to assist in the competition among Maryland high schools at the *Sprachfest* on March 23 at Towson University. Last year more than 700 students from all over Maryland participated in this event. The event is sponsored by the Maryland chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German and is encouraged by our German Society. If you would like to serve as a judge or want to recommend someone, contact Rick Jones, AATG co-president via e-mail: rickjbj@aol.com. Also check out the AATG/MOGS Sprachfest website at: <http://sprachfest.homestead.com/mogs.html> (If you are not connected to the "web", call our office and leave a message on our machine and we will put you in touch via phone).

## **REV. VANCE PASTORIUS DIES**

Father Vance Pastorius, a descendant of the founder of Germantown, PA who led the first group of Germans who fled to America for religious freedom over 300 years ago, died October 3. He was pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Cumberland, a church founded by a German missionary, Saint John Neumann, in the mid 1800's. Father Pastorius was a member of the Franciscan religious order known as the Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin. He and another priest at his church, Fr. Vernon, were known as Father Long and Father Short, for the length or brevity of their sermons. (Fr. P. was Fr. Long, following the tradition of German preachers, famed for long sermons, as their parishioners are known for their ability to survive many hours of sitting on hard pew benches.) Well known for his piety and hard work, Fr. Pastorius had said Mass at a mission church in Mt. Savage, MD just two days prior to his death.

## **HAGERSTOWN ALMANAC PREDICTS EARLY SNOW, SHORT WINTER**

The nation's premier almanac, founded by German-American Marylanders over 100 years ago, predicts 50 inches of snow for central Maryland this winter. Last year its prediction was accurate within 4/10ths of an inch. It calls for a wet but short winter, much colder than the past few years. First accumulation of snow will arrive before Thanksgiving, with a possible major snow event in December. So get ready to bundle up.

## **SOLOMON ETTING, A JEW, WAS AN ORGANIZER & VP OF OUR SOCIETY**

Solomon Etting, a prominent German Jew, was one of the organizers of our Society in 1817 and was a vice-president for twenty years, serving with another of our vice-presidents, General John Stricker, the hero of the Battle of North Point. While Etting was not a signer of the Society's charter, he was one of the organizers who attended the historic meeting on Feb. 23, 1817 at 6:30 pm at Kaminsky's Hotel on Light Street in Baltimore to incorporate the Society. He was a director of the first American railroad, the Baltimore & Ohio, as was also Charles Carroll, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Etting was a patriot and a leader of the business world. He began his business career in Baltimore as the owner of a hardware store on Calvert Street, and in 1786, while still a storekeeper, he became director and stockholder of the Union Bank. (Stricker was also a banker, a founder of the Bank of Baltimore.) During the War of 1812, while Baltimore was under attack by the British, Etting founded a hospital for the sick and wounded troops and arranged for accommodations for the soldiers. His 18 year old son, Samuel, (who also was a member of our Society) participated in and was wounded in the siege of Fort McHenry (and was presumably present during the "rockets red glare, bombs bursting in air" and witnessed the waving of the Star Spangled Banner). In 1839, at age 66, he was still active in civic affairs and served as the chairman of the Infirmary Committee of the University of Maryland, which became the first hospital in the state and developed into the present University Hospital. In 1826 Etting was elected to the Baltimore City Council. He died in 1847 at age 83. (The foregoing information was obtained from a "History of Baltimore Jewry from 1873 to 1920".)

German Jews were active at all stages of the history of The German Society of Maryland, from its founding onward. However, after the atrocities by Hitler against the Jews, Jews have been reluctant to be associated with German organizations and it is now nearly impossible to recruit Jewish members. Jewish people should know, however, that our Society is American and that our "German-ness" is a matter of culture and heritage, which they share with us.

**HISTORICAL NOTES** The first German-speaking Zionist organization in America was founded in 1903 in **Baltimore**, known as the Theodor Hertzl Zionistischer Verein. The Lloyd Street Synagogue in **Baltimore**, the second oldest synagogue in America, founded by Germans in 1845 and now part of the Jewish Historical Museum, was a Lithuanian Catholic church from 1879 to 1905, when it was reclaimed by the Jews.

## **LUTHERAN BISHOP INSTALLED CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL BECOMES LUTHERAN FOR THE CEREMONY**

German-American Bishop Henry Gerard Knoche was installed as bishop of the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the nation's largest Lutheran denomination in a ceremony at Baltimore's Roman Catholic Cathedral of Mary Our Queen on Saturday, October 14. Knoche was formally installed by Presiding Bishop H. George Anderson who heads the 5.2 million member Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the country's 5th largest Protestant denomination. Knoche knelt before the altar and was surrounded by a group of Lutheran bishops who were joined by the T. Rev. Robert W. Ihloff, who leads the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. (In January the Lutherans and Episcopalians signed an agreement allowing the two denominations to exchange clergy and cooperate in mission and service projects.) Also present was Cardinal William Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore, who stated at the beginning of the ceremony: "It doesn't happen every day that the Cathedral becomes a Lutheran church."

## **GERMAN LANGUAGE IMPORTANT TO EARLY BALTIMORE JEWS**

Isaac M. Fein, in his History of Baltimore Jewry from 1773 to 1920, wrote that the Jews in Baltimore in 1830 would not send their children to public schools because the schools did not teach German. (Nearly all of the Jews at that time were from Bavaria.) Although a public school with 108 students was located in the center of the Jewish community, it included no Jewish children. He wrote: "The main reason for this was the absence of German in the curriculum. That English was important was obvious; but German had an importance of its own. English was needed because one lived in America: but German was the native tongue. German to the German Jew meant to be Jewish, to be of the Jewish group."

## **GERMANS DIDN'T INVENT BEER; THEY ONLY PERFECTED IT !!**

Archeologists from the University of Chicago have found the remains of a 5500 year old as-yet unnamed Syrian city, believed to be the first trace of urban civilization. Earlier sites exist but lack the characteristics we associate with cities and civilization, such as city walls, community food production, **breweries** and bureaucracy. It appears that beer goes back to the very beginning of civilization and is a sign of civilization.

## **CHURCH CELEBRATES 250 YEARS -FOUNDED BY GERMAN FARMERS**

First and St. Stephen's Church, founded in 1750 by German tenant farmers as the High Dutch Reform Calvinist Congregation and now located in Rogers Forge, Baltimore County, celebrated its longevity as the second oldest Protestant Church in the area (only St. Paul's Episcopal is older). Shortly thereafter it changed its name to The First German Reformed Church and continued conducting its services in German until 1818. Over the years, its members spun off and formed the Second, Third and Fourth Reformed, the Aisquith Street Reformed and St. Stephen's Reformed. The latter merged with First German in 1918 and became First and St. Stephen's. It moved to Rogers's Forge in 1928. In 1957 the Reformed churches merged with the Congregational Christian Churches to form the United Church of Christ so that the church is now known as First and St. Stephen's United Church of Christ, today having a 160-member congregation. At the October 15 ceremonies, Rev. Peter Schmiechen, president of the Lancaster Theological Seminary preached, followed by a banquet at which many of the church's archives were displayed.

## **POLES SUCCEED, GERMANS FAILED - WAR MONUMENT DEDICATED**

On November 19 the Polish community succeeded in placing a World War II monument in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. The German Society of MD tried to get the City of Baltimore to permit a placque celebrating our 200th anniversary in the Inner Harbor in 1983 but our petition was rejected. The Polish monument to its army officers killed by the Russians in Katyn Forest is now the tallest sculpture in the city. It stands on a large circle on President Street on the east end of the harbor, a showcase for the new development there. (The east Baltimore Poles are still a potent political force, with a Polish-American U.S. Senator to back up their wishes.) The Germans could not get even an obscure nook near the harbor to celebrate our 200 years of service. However, Zion Church, opposite City Hall, stepped forward and offered a place for our placque on the side of the church where it stands today near the beautiful churchyard garden.

## **MD'S "OLD BAY" CRAB SEASONING INVENTED BY GERMAN IMMIGRANT**

The Old Bay seasoning, used by most Maryland households when steaming hard crabs, originated with Gustav C. Brunn. Brunn was in the spice business in Germany, but fled to the USA in November, 1938 when the Nazis were rounding up Jews. He was taken to the Buchenwald concentration camp, but released and immediately arranged to leave Germany. He came to Baltimore with his wife and two children to be with his uncle. Unable to get a job in Baltimore's premier spice company, McCormick's, he began to compete with them and opened his own spice company opposite the old fish market. By 1943 he was marketing Old Bay - a blend of celery seed, salt, pepper, paprika, cloves, red pepper, mustard, etc. - under the label of his Baltimore Spice Company. McCormick tried to buy the Old Bay label, but Brunn recalled his early rejection by them and refused to sell. Eventually the Baltimore Spice Company was sold to a British concern, which then sold the Old Bay label to McCormick for more than \$11,000,000. Baltimore Spice Company was thereafter sold to its present owner, Germany's Fuchs Gewerze GmbH. Old Bay can be found on the shelves of supermarkets in Germany and is now sold world-wide.

## **TOUGH COP OR FUSSY HAUSFRAU?**

Our most illustrious member, William Donald Schaefer, in the Oct. 29 issue of the Sunday Sun was presented in conflicting terms. A front page article described his Comptroller's tax police raiding some after-hours drinking clubs in high-crime sections of the city. Another article describing the trash-strewn areas of Baltimore City, citing his demands for civic cleanliness while he was mayor of Baltimore, referred to him as a "fussy hausfrau". Both appellations seem to reflect characteristics of his German heritage. Often affectionately termed "Hizzoner", Mr. Schaefer served as a city councilman and mayor of Baltimore, as governor of Maryland and now as the comptroller.

A biography of Schaefer by C. Frazier Smith, published by Johns Hopkins University Press, received a highly favorable review in the current issue of the Maryland Historical Magazine, calling it "absolutely fascinating." (1999, 464 pages, \$29.95 cloth) It starts with his childhood in West Baltimore and travels through his 50 years of public life to the present.

## **FRIEDRICHSTADT. MARYLAND ?**

A 1756 church ordinance refers to "The Christian Reformed Church in Friedrichstadt", indicating what today is called Frederick, Maryland. In colonial times, that section of MD was mostly German. The oldest extant house in Frederick County is *Schifferstadt*, named by Joseph Bonner, an immigrant from Rothenstein, Germany. The house (now a museum) built by his son Elias was constructed so as to protect its inhabitants against Indian raids, which were still a great danger in the 1750's. The *Maryland Gazette* of March 11, 1756 contains a report from the Frederick area: "We found John Meyer's house in flames...down the road we found a man killed and scalped, with one arm cut off and several arrows sticking in him." In August of that year George Washington wrote: "The whole settlement of Conochieg is fled and there now remain only two families from thence to Fredericktown ... That the Maryland settlements are all abandoned is certainly a fact as I have had an account transmitted to me by several hands and confirmed yesterday by Henry Brinker, who left Monocacy the day before, and who also affirms that three hundred fifty wagons had passed that place to avoid the enemy, within the space of three days." (For this gem of information we thank our member, Dr. David Denisch, a descendant of the founder of Schifferstadt.)

## **BALTIMORE WALDORF SCHOOL HAS STUTTGART GERMANY ROOTS**

The Waldorf School, located 4801 Tamarind Rd., Baltimore, MD 21209, takes its pedagogy from the theories and methods of Dr. Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925) who founded die Waldorfschule in Stuttgart in 1919. Some-times known as Steiner-Waldorf schools, there are now 700 schools, 1,500 kindergartens and 50 teacher-training institutes throughout the world in countries ranging from England, Israel, South Africa, Peru, the USA, Australia and many others. All of the schools work out of a common educational philosophy and approach. The schools emphasizes very close relationships between parents and teachers.

Dr. Rudolf Steiner was asked by Emil Molt, owner of the Waldorf-Astoria cigarette factory in Stuttgart to open a school for the children of the factory officials and employees, based on the educational principles about which he had written numerous books. His methods, directed to the individuality of each student, quickly spread throughout the world.

The Waldorf school is one of the few schools in Maryland teaching German in the primary grades.

## **BALTIMORE'S "LITTLE ITALY" WAS "LITTLE GERMANY" IN THE 1850's**

In the 1850's the German colony of Baltimore was situated on the east side of Jones Falls in an area which included present day "Little Italy". The Jewish community was a circle within the German section. Isaac Fine, in his History of Baltimore Jewry writes: "Although they maintained their own institutions, the Jews were part of "Little Germany". Like the German gentiles, the Jewish Germans spoke the language of the *Vaterland*; they brought up their children in this language; and they advertised their private as well as communal affairs in Baltimore's two German dailies: *Der Deutsche Korrespondent* and *Der Wecker*. The Jews were then identified variously as Germans, German Hebrews, or "Israelites".

## **BALTIMORE'S HANSA HAUS HOME TO GERMAN SABOTEURS IN WWI**

Hansa Haus, recently restored and opened as an Allfirst Bank office, was once the North German Lloyd steamship line's local head-quarters, built in 1912 at Baltimore and Redwood (then German Street). It played a significant role in WWI. Fred Rasmussen, columnist for the Baltimore Sun, wrote on October 14 that the NGL steamship agent Paul Hilken (called the von Hindenberg of Roland Park) served as paymaster for a German espionage ring that raised havoc on the east coast. Much intrigue and plotting took place in the Hansa Haus' third floor attic rooms.

The coats of arms of 26 German and Hanseatic cities were previously displayed on the outside walls of the building. They have been restored and taken inside. The German community is disturbed that these magnificent emblems are no longer available for viewing by the public.

## **IF YOU LIKE HISTORY, JOIN THE MD GERMAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The latest issued of the journal of The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland holds great interest to Marylanders: articles on Jonathan Hager, a patriot and founder of Hagerstown, MD; the mistreatment of German Americans during WWII; Britain's use of German troops against the colonists in the Revolutionary War; how German customs and culture made its way to America, and many more items of special interest. The annual dues of \$15 includes a copy of the journal. You may join the historical society by sending your check of \$15 (payable to SHGMD) to P.O. Box 22585, Baltimore, MD 21203.



## **PASS THE GERMANIC HERITAGE ON TO THE CHILDREN -- POSTERITY**

German-American Day (Oct. 6) encouraged us to pass on to posterity their inheritance: our heritage and culture. Otherwise the accomplishments of German-Americans will become "just another unrecognizable and indistinct ingredient in the famous American melting pot, floating around in a sort of 'weekend soup' that equalizes all its ingredients into a mixture of no return." A seminar on October 6 in Arlington, VA, brought together the national German-American leaders sponsored by The German American Joint Action Committee, the umbrella group put together by the three national German organizations (DANK, UJAC and the Steuben Society). It concluded that "foremost, Education efforts must be strengthened to inform our co-ethnics and fellow Americans of the history and participation of German Americans in America, and to evidence their important contemporary contributions. Our children deserve to know why they should be proud to call themselves Americans, and with equal pride, to call themselves German-Americans." The German Society is dedicated to making this happen.

## **GERMAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE SOCIETY OF GREATER WASH., DC**

If you are interested in Maryland's German-American history, you might want to join the G-A Heritage Society of Greater Washington. It is a society which provides a newsletter, lectures, trips to local sites with a German-American connection in Maryland, D.C. and Virginia. It's newsletter is a remarkable source of local Germanic background which would never come to the attention of most Marylanders. (For example, Johannes Valentine Reinzell, Jr., born in Virginia of a German immigrant and whose wife was a Marylander, assisted George Washington in laying the cornerstone of the U. S. Capitol; and German-born August Gottlieb Schönborn designed the dome of the Capitol, and the maid doors of the Capitol were cast in the Royal Bavarian Foundry in Munich.) Our member Gary C. Grassl is president of the Heritage Society, and our members Bradford W. Miller and Prof. Volker K. Schmeissner are past presidents. You may join by sending your \$15 membership dues to. Rossmiller, Treasurer, 7616 Charlton Ave., College Park, MD 20740.

## **GERMAN NAMES APPEAR IN THE PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS**

Senator Joseph Lieberman, the Democratic's vice-presidential nominee and his wife, Hadassah Freilich, bring German names to the presidential race. Hans Bahlow's *Dictionary of German Names* gives the name Liebermann as meaning a "dear, pleasant person". His wife's maiden name, Freilich, derives from middle high German and means "freedman". Both are Orthodox Jews. Mrs. Lieberman's parents were both holocaust survivors. Her father was a rabbi in Czechoslovakia who was taken for slave labor. He later married Ella Weider, a survivor of Auschwitz and Dachau. They emigrated to the USA in 1949 with their daughter, Hadassah. Mrs. Lieberman was married to a rabbi and she has a 24 year-old son from that marriage. He is a rabbinical student. Senator Lieberman has two children from his first marriage. Their 12-year old daughter, Hana, attends a Jewish day school in the Maryland suburbs of Washington.

The Gore-Lieberman ticket won the votes of 97% of the American Jews. In Maryland history, the first time Jews were called upon to vote as a block for a Jewish candidate occurred in the Baltimore city-councilmanic elections of 1903. There had been a division in Baltimore between the "uptown" German Jews and the "downtown" Russian Jews. The leader of the uptown faction, Joseph Friedenwald, urged the Jewish community to vote for a Democrat, gentile Albert S. Gill against Republican Joseph Seidenman, a Jewish immigrant from Russia. The Jewish Republicans were outraged that Friedenwald should urge Jews to vote for a gentile over a Jew and made religious affiliation the issue of the election. The Jewish candidate won in the heavily Jewish district, setting a tradition which has continued to this day.

## **CENTENNIAL OF WIZARD OF OZ BY GERMAN-AMERICAN FRANK BAUM**

Indiana University celebrated the centennial of the *Wizard of Oz* with a convention July 20-24. The first book of the Oz series was published in 1900. The German American author. L. Frank Baum, promptly adapted his script of Oz into a hit Broadway musical which toured the country and came twice to the Baltimore stages. Some of the songs for the original play were composed by Baltimorean A. Baldwin Sloane. Among other tributes at the convention, fans of Oziana (as Oz paraphernalia is called) were treated to a lecture on the original Broadway hit and a slide show reconstruction. The play also appeared at Towson University in July.

## **"GIVE ME YOUR POOR, YOUR HUDDLED MASSES..." WORDS OF A GERMAN-AMERICAN POET**

Emma Lazarus, whose mother's family came from Germany in the early 1700's, wrote the words which are engraved in the Statue of Liberty. Her father's Jewish family came to America in 1654, fleeing the Spanish Inquisition. Emma was born July 29, 1849. She was a shy woman who led a sheltered life in a wealthy industrialist family. She studied music, French and German and began writing verses at an early age. Her early poems were about the beauties of nature. She translated the works of the German poet, Heinrich Heine. She was a friend of Ralph Waldo Emerson and through him met the intellectuals of Massachusetts society. Her poems were published in *Lippincott's* and *Scribner's* magazines. She wrote a novel based on the German literary giant, Goethe.

She took up the cause of the persecuted immigrants after learning of the suffering of the Jews forced to leave Russia in the pogroms after 1881. France had donated the Statue of Liberty to the USA, but private funding was needed to building the base on which it would stand. Emma joined a committee which included Walt Whitman and Mark Twain and other artists who donated their works for auction to raise funds. A folio of poems by Emma was auctioned for \$1,500. The Statue of Liberty was completed and dedicated in 1886. Emma died at age 38, a year later, in 1887.

The folio of her poems disappeared and was found in a used bookstore in New York in 1903. It included the poem "The New Colossus" (about the Statue of Liberty) and the last five lines of the poem were then engraved and placed inside the second story of the statue's pedestal. In the 1930's the poem began being printed in school books and children were reciting it. In 1945, when floods of refugees began pouring into America after World War II, the entire sonnet was placed over the entrance to the statue for all to see.

The famous last five lines read:

*Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to be free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!*

## **PRES. TRUMAN NEARLY KILLED TEN MILLION GERMAN CIVILIANS**

In 1946 the German population was facing starvation. President Truman resisted all efforts to provide or permit humanitarian aid to the Germans. Truman's policies prevented Americans from sending food to their German relatives. Truman refused to give an appointment to Theodore Hoffman of the Steuben Society of American to discuss food relief for Germany. Hoffman wrote that "thousands of innocent women and children in Germany and Austria are dying daily", but Truman again refused to see him. German Americans in New York, Chicago, Cincinnati and Milwaukee organized to lobby for relief for their former fatherland.

Rep. Colmer (D., Miss.) visited Germany in November, 1945 and returned to criticize the Truman policy as one that would "require the elimination of 8,000,000 to 10,000,000 Germans. On December 15, 1945 thirty four senators of all parties signed a petition to Truman asking for famine relief in Germany, stating that "we did not fight the war to exterminate the German people." Senator Kenneth S. Wherry, (R. Neb.) thundered in the Senate that "The President knows perfectly well that the diet" imposed by the Truman administration subjects the German people to starvation and the ravages of disease. Public pressure to permit private relieve was mounting on all sides. Debates in the Senate argued that the president was not distinguishing between participants in the Nazi regime and the great number of other people who lived in Germany and needed help.

Slowly the administration changed and in January Undersecretary of State Dean Acheson wrote that "the body of public opinion is so strong...that the Department has retreated from its previous negative position". The government finally relented and permitted private relief through "CARE" packages and other means. Many members of the German Society of MD who are over 65 may well remember shopping for foodstuffs, chocolate and cigarettes to send to their relatives in Germany. (Cigarettes served as currency, better than money.)

The latest issue of *The Report* (the journal of the Society for the History of the Germans in MD) contains an article on this topic by Martin Lorenz-Meyer of the University of Kansas, entitled: "To feed the Hungry: German-Americans, The Truman Administration and the European Food Crisis".



## **THE LEGACY OF CHARLES SCHULZ, CREATOR OF "PEANUTS" CARTOON**

One of the best-loved German Americans, Charles Schulz died on February 13, 2000, the day his last original cartoon was published. The magazines and every newspaper in the nation carried his obituary and biography, praising this modest genius of down-home philosophy and psychology. He drew his cartoons for nearly 50 years, giving immortality to his creations, *Snoopy (patterned after his own dog, Spike), Charlie Brown, Lucy, Pig-Pen, Linus (with his security blanket), etc.* As an editorial cartoonist who knew him wrote: "We loved him because he kept his childhood nickname *Sparky*, because Charlie Brown was a real-life pal of his (a fellow cartoonist), and because the "little red-haired girl" was a real person who had once spurned his affections." He left us tangible objects to treasure his comic strip: lunch boxes, dolls, toys, sheets and shirts-over 600 licensed products. His strip was carried in 2,600 newspapers worldwide, with 355 million readers in 75 countries and 21 languages; 1400 books with sales over 300 million; many TV specials and a Broadway show. We still recall his memory in the many re-runs we are still seeing in the comics and on TV. When all is said and done, Schulz said, a human's greatest contribution is to "go home and make your dog happy."

## **AMERICAN STUDENT WORKS WITH GERMAN BUGS, MAKES DISCOVERY**

Leah Nemetz, an American student intern, discovered by accident that catnip is a powerful roach repellent. She soaked a coffee filter in catnip juice, placed it in a bowl with German cockroaches and they quickly ran away. Did you know that "German cockroaches" were a genus to themselves? Her professors took her report and found catnip to be 100 times more effective as a roach repellent than the commonly used DEET. Roach dung aggravates asthma, which is the single greatest medical reason young children are absent from school.

## **GERMANS COME TO VISIT THE WILD, WILD WEST - ARIZONA**

Germans have long envied the American wild west and now Lufthansa has direct flights from Frankfurt to Phoenix to serve the demands of the German "cowboys". 153,000 travel from Germany to Arizona each year to satisfy their western longings. They especially like Tombstone, "The town too tough to die" or as they say auf deutsch "eine Stadt, die schwer stirbt." The Old West holds a mystique for Germans who never had that type of history. There are 100 Wild West clubs in Germany, with adults playing cowboys and Indians. Karl May (1842 - 1912), a German author who began writing wild west stories while in a German prison, is the Zane Gray of Deutschland. 60,000,000 copies of his books have been sold, translated into 30 languages. Germany even has a Karl May museum. Inspired by May and by Hollywood wild-west movies, the Germans are drawn to Arizona's wide open spaces. May never set foot in the west, and only spent a few weeks in America's northeast when he was 70, four years before he died.

The archives of the University of Lubbock, Texas will open an extensive collection of May items and 100 May fans from Germany are coming to the grand opening. May is also very popular in Nebraska where the governor, Mike Johans spoke recently about the author.

## **AMERICANS CELEBRATED GERMAN UNIIFICATION IN 1871**

Victory over France in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 resulted in the unification of Germany's many kingdoms, duchies and principalities into a single German nation. German-Americans, who previously considered themselves as natives of a particular territory of the former Holy Roman Empire, were now able to gain respectability: they could now call themselves "German"-Americans. Just 6 years earlier, after the American War-between-the-States, they had been simply referred to as "Dutchmen" (Robert E. Lee complained that he could have beat the North were it not for the Union's "Dutchmen.")

The German Americans exulted over the unification. Celebrations were held in the major "German" cities. The parade in Milwaukee was 5 miles long. The parade in New York displayed German-American contributions in the arts, sciences, trades, agriculture and industry, ending in a large reception at City Hall. In Chicago the Germans marched by trades and professions, with the shoemakers marching 300 strong. Parade floats carried busts of Beethoven, Hayden, Schiller, Goethe and Humboldt.

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Incorporated by Act of the General Assembly  
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Make check payable to "The German Society of MD" P.O.  
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