THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND'S VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

LATE SUMMER 1994

NEWSLETTER OF THE GERMAN SOCIETY

VOL. 1 - ISSUE 3

FORT McHENRY CELEBRATION SEPT. 11

The German Society joins with the Society of The War of 1812 in a very special event honoring the American victory in the Battle of Baltimore.

A new painting of the battle, entitled "The Stars are Still There", depicting the British fleet departing after its defeat, will be unveiled. The painting was commissioned by The Patriots of Fort McHenry.

Gov. Schaefer and Mayor Schmoke are expected to attend and President Clinton has been invited.

The Society's program will commence with a brief presentation at the fort, followed by a bus tour to various monuments throughout the city for the laying of wreaths. The Society takes special pride in the placing of a wreath on the grave of General John Stricker, the hero of the Battle of North Point. General Stricker was an incorporator of The German Society of Maryland (in 1817) and served as our vice president 1817-1827.

The bus will then take the participants to a dinner at a local restaurant, and from there will return to the Fort. A battle between the British and the patriots will be reenacted with military costumes and black powder, followed by a concert by the U.S. Army Band from Washington. The concert concludes with Tchaikovsky's 1812 overture, punctuated by cannons fired by the Maryland National Guard.

The climax of the day is the fireworks display fired from a barge anchored in front of the Fort, in close proximity to the audience.

Two of the directors of The German Society play prominent roles in the event. Dan Brooke is national chairman of the Society of the War

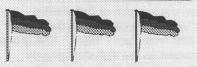
of 1812 and Clement Ehrhart is master of ceremonies.

We urge our members to join in this thrilling and emotional patriotic event to commemorate the participation of the German-Americans who fought to preserve liberty in the war of 1812.

Tickets for the bus tour and dinner will be fixed at about \$30 and include reserved parking space at the Fort. Call our office (410-685-0450) for reservations. Admission to the concert and fireworks is free.

PURPOSE OF GERMAN SOCIETY

"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."



ANNUAL GERMAN FESTIVAL

The German Society will sponsor a Pepsi stand at the Festival in Carroll Park and we need some help. Please volunteer to spend some time helping at the stand on August 19th (Fri.), 20th (Sat.) or 21st (Sun.). Call to schedule a time slot. To sign up for Friday, call Don Tillman (944-3459); Saturday, call John Aymold (944-6400-W; 410-781-6545-H;) or Sunday, call Mike Nieberding (244-4855-W, 796-7491-H).

All of the members of the Society are urged to attend the festival. Stop by our stand and identify yourself and say hello!

"KIRCHGANG" AT ZION CHURCH ON SEPTEMBER 18th

The German Society's annual "Kirchgang" (going to church) will take place on Sept. 18, 1994 at 11:15 at Zion Church, City Hall Plaza, Baltimore. After the ceremony, a light brunch will follow in Zion's dining room.

The Kirchgang is a long tradition of the Society. Prayers are offered for the Society's living and deceased members and for the success of our benevolent and charitable projects.

Many of the Society's founders, in 1783, were also members of Zion Church, which was founded in 1763. Zion is one of only about 250 churches in the U.S. and Canada still offering regular services in the German language. Our Kirchgang, however, will be at the English service. All members of the Society and their guests are invited.



German Society Picnic Saturday, October 3rd

The picnic will be held at the home of Roland and Lorraine Brockmeyer. Call our office and ask for the flier giving details and a map with directions. All members are invited. Come and enjoy delicious food, good fellowship and maybe even some German music!

Folk Dancers Visit Baltimore on September 13th

A popular folk dance group from
Germany will perform at The Barn
on the campus of Catonsville
Community College on September
13th from 7pm - 10pm. The group,
known as the Volkstanzgruppe
Benthulen-Harbern, comes from
north Germany and will wear their
unique trachten (costumes). The
group visited Baltimore five years ago and was
well received.

Admission is free and refreshments will be provided. No reservations are required, but a head count would be appreciated. The event is sponsored by the Deutsch-Amerikanischer Burgerverein of Maryland, Inc. Please call 465-9169 for further information.

Show your support for this affair!
Catonsville Community College is located at 800
South Rolling Road in Catonsville, Maryland.

SAINT MICHAEL'S FEAST DAY

The feast of St. Michael, the archangel, patron saint of Germany, is celebrated on September 29th. Sculptures of St. Michael slaying the dragon are found all over Germany, often as the centerpiece of fountains in town centers. Numerous churches in Maryland, Protestant and Catholic, are named for St. Michael. Many churches here will hold special ceremonies for this feast day.

In most of Germany, children celebrate their "saint's" day with the festivities Americans reserve for birthdays.

INVITATION TO JOIN EDELWEIS CLUB SOCIAL EVENTS

The German Society is limited in the number of social events it can sponser. Yet we want to make social events of a special German nature available. The Edelweis Club has kindly invited our members to join with them in their social activities.

The Edelweis Club is sponsering these upcoming events:

Bus Trip to NJ Heritage Festival	Sept. 11
Oyster / Bull Roast	Oct. 23
Christmas Party	Dec. 3
Fasching	Jan. 28 (`95)

For information, call our office or listen to the Edelweis Radio Hour on 750 AM every Sunday at 9:00am.

GERMAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL AT ZION CHURCH

The Deutsche Sprachschule will start its new academic year on September 10th. Registration is Sept. 3rd, 10 till noon. The school meets on Saturdays 10-12am, from September to April. A special 6-week "German for Travel" course is offered for prospective visitors to Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

Classes are held for both children and adults of all levels, plus a literature class for those fluent in German. Tuition for the entire year is \$110; \$90 for additional family members.

Call Eva Kelleher, the school principal, at 377-9508.

BE A WRITER!

As a follow-up to last month's notice, the Society is planning a series of biographical brochures on persons of Germanic heritage who have had an impact on the State of Maryland. We contemplate a series on various German American leaders in the fields of industry, literature, medicine, law, journalism, military, religion, etc. Add to those mentioned last month: Babe Ruth; H. L. Mencken; A. S. Abell; Barbara (Hauser) Fritchie and John Hager. The series will also include short histories of local institutions whose founders were or Germanic ancestry.

This will be a significant ongoing project, which is necessary to make known to our fellow Marylanders the important work done by German Americans in this state. The brochures will be circulated at civic events and celebrations and made available for distribution by our members.

If you would like to write a paper (500-1,000 words) about such a person or entity, please volunteer. If your article is published, your name will appear as the author. If you do not have a particular subject but are willing to do some research and writing, the Committee will assign you a topic. To volunteer, call or drop a note to our office.

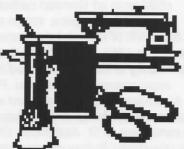
ESSAY CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT

Plans are underway to publicize our essay contest which will be open to students in the eigth and ninth grades. The purpose of the contest is to make Marylanders more aware of the positive achievements of people of German ancestry. The entrants must compose an essay of between 1500 and 2500 words on the assigned subject, which will be announced in September. Papers will be submitted in English and will be judged for content, research, and originality. The Society will award three prizes of \$500, \$300 and \$200. Clement D. Ehrhardt, Jr. is chairing the essay committee.

Please publicize the contest and encourage any interested students to compete. Call Clem Ehrhardt at 828-8218 for information.

International Fingerhut

For the first time, Baltimore hosted the annual convention of **Thimble Collectors International**, a world-wide organization. 300 of their members met at the Towson Sheraton Hotel from August 2nd through the 6th. A large contingent came from Germany, which is the home of the world-famous thimble museum in Creglingen, Bavaria (near Rothenberg ob der Tauber). The German word for thimble is "fingerhut" which translates literally as "finger hat".



Mrs. Irmgard von Traitteur, the founding president of the German club "Friends of the Thimble" and a former member of the Bavarian Parliament, was one of the lecturers. She comes from Forchheim, an ancient city in the Franconian section of northern Bavaria. Other club members, both women and men, came from Wiesbaden, Berlin, Hanover and several

other German cities. They are: Friederike Baechle, Katrin Foerster (President, Friends of Fingerhut), Paul and Edith Jungbludt, Rhiener and Siegrid Jungmann, Manfred, Andrea and Marc Lange, Ilse Manzke, Marthel Fabian, Inge Gerlach, Waltraud, Herman and Claudia Pressler and Holger Eisenhardt.

Members of The German Society met with them during their visit in Maryland.

GERMAN RADIO PROGRAMS IN MD

THE GERMAN RADIO KLUB — AM 730 — SATURDAY 3-4 P.M. AND SUNDAY 2-3 P.M. (BALTIMORE)
THE EDELWEISS HOUR— AM 730— SUNDAY 9-10 A.M. (BALTIMORE)
GEMUTLICHKEIT—AM 1120—SUNDAY 6-8 P.M. (WASHINGTON)
GEMUTLICHKEIT—AM 840—SUNDAY 4-6 P.M. (ANNAPOLIS/DOVER)





YOUNG GERMAN BOY IN BALTIMORE FOR SPECIAL OPERATION

Michael Mallman, a 4-year old from Koblenz, Germany is spending 8 months in Maryland for a series of orthopaedic operations. Dr. Steven Kopitz is the only surgeon in the world who performs a highly specialized procedure to permit young persons afflicted with complications to grow to maturity. While the operations are ongoing, Michael wears a metal "halo" which greatly restricts his movement.

Dr. Kopitz performs the surgery at St. Joseph Hospital in Towson, MD., where he carries on his world-renown "Little People" program. Michael's mother is living here during the entire time of the process.

Between operations, Michael
and his mother are living in Towson.
Some of the women from our Women's
Auxiliary visit them on a regular basis.
Until August 25th, Michael will be in the hospital for operations on his feet.

Church (Aisquith St.) and St.
Alphonsus Church (Park Avenue). He was provincial of the Redemptorist
Order in America, with its
headquarters then being in Baltimore.
While pastor of St. Alphonsus, he

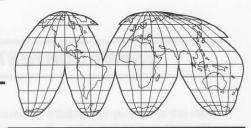
Michael is a handsome little blond, blue-eyed typical German boy who keeps his spirits high. He loves to get cards in the mail. Please send your cards to him at: Michael Mallman, 36 Bardeen Court, Dulaney Towers, Towson, MD 21286.

GAMBRINUS STEIN CLUB INVITES OUR MEMBERS

The Gambrinus Stein Club members collect antique German beer steins, and is one of 25 stein clubs in the United States affiliated with the Stein Collectors International.

Any members of The German Society who are interested in antique steins are invited to attend its meetings and have your stein evaluated by a recognized authority in the field.

Call Joseph Bent at 301-977-7429 or Norman Pastore at 301-498-7640.



FORMER LOCAL PASTOR CELEBRATED

John N. Neumann, a Redemptorist priest who served in Maryland between 1841 and 1852,was feted at a Mass and Banquet in Philadelphia on June 18th.

Father Neumann was pastor of St.

Augustine's in Elkridge and at St. John's German Church, St. James Church (Aisquith St.) and St. Alphonsus Church (Park Avenue). He was provincial of the Redemptorist Order in America, with its While pastor of St. Alphonsus, he wrote the German catechism used by children in all German catholic churches of America. When the bishopric of Philadelphia became vacant in 1852, the German Catholic community of that city pressed for the appointment of a German. Fr. Neumann was selected, and was consecrated bishop of Philadelphia in a ceremony at St. Alphonsus Church in downtown Baltimore, attended by clergy from all over America.

Because of his good works,
leadership and holy life, Bishop
Neumann was dearly loved by
Germans and non-Germans
alike, both in Maryland and
Pennsylvania. Pope Paul VI
declared him to be a saint. An
altar and a massive statue of
St. John was recently
added in St. Patrick's
Cathedral, New York City.

GERMAN LIFE MAGAZINE PUBLISHED IN MARYLAND

The first two issues of the new magazine, "German Life", have now been issued. The May issue featured articles on Germany (present and past), art, cuisine, books and a German-American section: "Roots, Records, and Relatives" and "The German-American Legacy." This new venture will provide a wealth of information of interest to Americans of German heritage.

Because the German Society is a part of the Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland and of UGAC-USA, our members can get a subscription of six issues per year for \$12.55, a 50% discount off the news-stand price.

To order, call 1-800-314-6843 or write German Life, 1 Corporate Drive, Grantsville, MD 21536.

Sister Adolph Schulmeister Dies at Age 101

What a wonderful name for a school teacher!

Bertha Elizabeth Schulmeister (the name, as all school children in Germany know, means "school master") joined the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1912 and took "Sister Adolph" as her religious name. She received her teacher's certificate in Maryland, and taught here and in neighboring states for 62 years. After retiring, she continued as a part-time teacher and teacher aide until 1976. For the past several years, she lived at Villa Assumpta, the SSND motherhouse at 6401 N. Charles Street in Baltimore County until her death in June. Sister Adolph was a native of Philadelphia and is survived by her brother Arthur Schulmeister and her sister, Cecilia Schmidt.



WASSLERS DONATE **NAMEPLATES**



Leo and Phyllis Wastler arranged, at their expense, for the manufacture of nameplates for use by members of the Society at official functions.

The Wastlers operate a tour business, and provide identifying badges to participants to help them recognize one another while on tour. The nameplates for the Society are similar to those used on the tours. The badge is inscribed 'The German Society of Maryland" and contains a place for the name of the officer or member. It is made of high quality white plastic with red printing, carries an impressive seal of the Society, with ample space for the names.

Leo made the presentation to the Society at our May 7th special meeting. Phyllis had to stay back at their office in Mechanicsburg, PA to mind the store.

The Society expresses heartfelt thanks to the Wastlers for this thoughtful gift to our members. The nameplates will be on display at their first official use at the German Festival in Carroll Park.

THEY TOSSED AWAY A PERFECTLY GOOD GERMAN NAME

Doris von Kappelhoff Edward Albert Heimberge Eddie Albert Elisabeth Edith Enke John Freund Ethel Zimmerman Donna Belle Mullenger Mary Kaumeyer Henry John Deutschendorf John Denver Hugh Krampke Joseph Gottlieb Frederick Austerlitz Alexandria Zuck Melvin Hesselberg Webb Hollenbeck Shirley Schrift

Doris Day Edie Adams John Forsythe Ethel Merman Donna Reed **Dorothy Lamour** Hugh O'Brien Joey Bishop Fred Astaire Sandra Dee Melvin Douglas Clifton Webb **Shirley Winters**

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Most German names have a meaning. The following is part of our membership list (from A to F). If your name isn't listed here and you want to know its meaning, drop us a note and we'll check it for you. In future issues of our newsletter, we will list the the meanings of the rest of our members' names.

Acker field Ammann an official Appel apple Antlitz Asendorf grazing village Bartels Bauersfeld peasant field Beichl little belly Boehn bean Bricker Brinkman small farmer Brockmeyer brake farmer Bruck Close lump, clump Conrad brave counsel Cooper copper dealer

face, countenance (St.) Bartholomew dweller by a bridge Falk dweller by a bridge

Craemer Daneker Deardorff Dietrich Dusterhoff **Eppler** Ehrhardt **Everhart** Fader Feuerhardt Fisher

Fogle Freund Friedrich Fritz

shopkeeper, retailer place in the fir trees animal village folk + rule dreary farm apple honor + strong wild boar + strong dweller on a fence falcon, falconer fire hearth; smith fisherman; fish monger bird friend peace + ruler

= Friedrich

WE CHECKED WITH DR. JONES

We looked up our members' names in the book "German-American Names," by Professor George Fenwick Jones. Dr. Jones is a professor emeritus of German from the University of Maryland. He studied in both Heidelberg and Zurich and was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford and earned his PhD at Columbia University. Dr. Jones spent nine years teaching at Princeton University and twenty-five years at the University of Maryland. Dr. Jones received the Cross of Honor from the Republic of Austria and the Cross of Merit from the Federal Republic of Germany. For six years, he was a U.S. Marine paratrooper serving in the Pacific. Also, he has written many books and articles. Dr. Jones serves on the board of directors of our sister organization, the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland.

> (Does this remind anyone of the fictional scholar-adventurer, Dr. Indiana Jones of movie fame?)

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

EUGENE & ERNIE SCHMIDT visited Emie's cousin, Robert Starkloff, at Tannroda near Weimer in early July. Emie saw the estate where her grandfather, William Starkloff, was born. She learned of the loss of property and other hardships her family suffered under the Russians. Even though she had written to her family before the unification of Germany, she did not learn much about daily life there until this visit. Emie's Virginia cousins, Carol and Gary Matuck, accompanied them on the trip. The German relatives were very excited at the visit by their American cousins and plan to return the favor by coming to the United States next May.

JACK & ANN POTTHAST. Jack's job has taken him to Kiev, Ukraine for a three year assignment. On July 21, the day before adoptions by foreigners was outlawed, Jack and Ann received permission to adopt a baby, Andrew Joseph Potthast. The decree of adoption required the signature of the vice-president of Ukraine. Before taking the foreign assignment, Jack was the treasurer of the Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland.

DONALD & IRMA TILLMAN. Don has retired from Westinghouse and he and Irma are preparing to move to their retirement home across the Bay Bridge.

They are quite proud of their Staffordshire terrier, Jim, which has appeared on national television in the Westminster dog show and as the representative of the Staffordshire breed in a recent spread in Life magazine.

FREDERIKE HURDLE & BILL HECHT have become engaged and have set the date for December 30th. Freddie's parents, Dr. & Mrs. Edward Hurdle and her brother Hans have been members of the Society for several years.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

GOV. WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER. Twelve buildings, institutions or locations in Maryland have been named for Governor Schaefer, ranging from the Schaefer Tower in Baltimore City, to the Schaefer Promenade at the National Aquarium, Schaefer Hall at St. Mary's College, the Schaefer Center for Superconductivity Research at the University of MD, College Park and the Schaefer International Terminal at Baltimore-Washington International Airport. Don served as Mayor of Baltimore City before his election as Governor of Maryland.

CHARLES RUPPERSBERGER. "Dutch" Ruppersberger, chairman of the Baltimore County Council, is a candidate for County Executive.

JOHN APPEL. John is a candidate for the Baltimore County Council.

MARK WITTSTADT. Mark is a candidate for the Maryland House of Delegates from the 42nd district. Mark was just married in mid-July and brought his spouse into the Society as a new member, the former Susan Durrell.

WILIAM FOGLE, Maryland Secretary of the Department of Licensing and Regulation has issued what are being called the strongest antismoking regulations in the country, banning smoking in all workplaces, including restaurants, bars and hotels. The tobacco industry, including American, R. J. Reynolds, Lorillard and Brown & Williamson tobacco companies have challenged the regulations in court and hearings are set for the Fall.

ROBERT L. ERLICH, JR. is a candidate for the United States House of Representatives from the 2nd congressional district, seeking the seat of outgoing congresswoman Helen Bentley (who in turn is seeking to replace outgoing Gov. Don Schaefer). Bob is currently a member of the House of Delegates.

Please notify the Society of any items of interest about our members so we can keep our membership informed: visits to Germany and visitors from there; activities of interest; births of children and grandchildren; sick or homebound members. We often learn of deaths of our members only when their mail is returned, so please advise us of the deaths of any members as soon as possible. We hope to publish an "In Memoriam" listing of deceased members (since last November) in time for our annual awards banquet.

HISTORICAL NOTES

BALTIMORE GERMAN AMERICAN CAPTAINS FIRST INVASION BOAT



The first landing boat to touch the Normandy beach on June 5, 1944 was commanded by Captain Leonard T. Schroeder, Jr., 25, "who comes from Baltimore, Maryland, and is

of old German-Americn stock." So it was reported in the News-American on June 7. 1944 and quoted by Michael Olesker in The Sun during the recent celebration of the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

The German Society checked the telephone directory to try to find a current listing for Schroeder, without success. Schroeder is a popular Maryland name and the phone book has two columns of them. Baltimore even has a Schroeder Street, evidencing the prominence of the name.

Our interest in the history of German Americans in Maryland prompts us to continue to search for the answers to the questions: Did Captain Schroeder survive WWII? Did he return to Baltimore? What happened to him thereafter? Our members are requested to contact any of your friends named Schroeder and report back to the Society if you turn up any answers to these questions.

OUR BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR

Mark your calendars now for the ANNUAL GERMAN SOCIETY BANQUET to be held on November 11th at Martin's Eudowood. Tickets are \$30 and include cocktails, dinner and dancing to the famous Edelwies Band. Call our office now to make reservations and BRING YOUR FRIENDS ALONG!



MAJORITY OF MARYLANDERS IN 1900 HAD GERMAN SPEAKING **PARENTS**

A chart captioned "Vereinigte Staaten, Im deutschen Sprachgebiet Mitteleuropas Geborene" revealed that 53.4% of Marylanders in 1900 had one or both parents who were born in a German speaking district of middle Europe. Maryland was exceeded only by Kentucky (57.4%), Indiana (56%) and Missouri (54%). The national average was 30,2%. At 4.2%, Massachusettes had the smallest percentage. The "deutschen Sprachgebiet" included all areas of German-speaking peoples, including Austria, Switzerland and areas which now include parts of Italy, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Russia, etc. The chart, along with a map of the heavily German-populated areas of "Amerika" and an article by Don Heinrich Tolzmann, was published in the first edition of the new magazine "German Life" which is published in Maryland.

"I hereby apply to be a member of	
The German Society of Maryla	nd."

Name (print)

Phone

Spouse (optional)

Street Address

City, State, Zipcode

Annual dues \$15. Spouse included at no extra charge. Make check payable to "The German Society of MD"; P.O. Box #22585; Baltimore, MD 21203-4585.

THANKS TO:

Rev. Austin Schildwachter for his note of encouragement to the Directors in their efforts to move the Society forward.

Sister Benedicta Viebeck, SSND for her generous offer to turn over to the Society a large number of German books. We are exploring the prospects of setting up a library to house and circulate such items.

Zion Church for assisting the Society in entertaining our German visitors to the Fingerhut Convention, by inviting the visitors to the annual church picnic.

DANK (Deutsch Amerikaner National Kongress) for its prominent display in the July-August issue of its newpaper, welcoming the German Society of Maryland to its membership. The monthly issues were combined for the summer because of vacation time - the "Sauere Gurken Zeit" (sour pickles

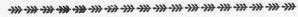
Charles Hinkel for his letter pointing out many elements of German-American history. We will feature these items in future issues of this newsletter.

CULTURAL BOOTH CANCELLED

A last minute switch in its rules by the JOIN THE GERMAN SOCIETY! festival committee gave the ax to the German Society's planned cultural booth at the annual German Festival. This is the first time in memory that the Society will not have a cultural booth at the Festival.

> The Bürgerverein festival committee ruled that we could not distribute the literature which we have been accumulating all year long, nor can we promote the German Society at a cultural booth. This forced the Society to scrap its year-long plans. The new rules were enacted by the committee without any advance notice. Our Board of Directors is sorely disappointed with the way the Bürgerverein's committee does business and we hope that it will improve its medthods of communication with its member organizations. The Society will distribute the accumulation of German materials to our own current and potential members.

FOUNDED 1783





The German Society of Maryland

OFFICE OF THE SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 22585

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21203

685-0450

OFFICERS 1993-1994

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GERMAN SOCIETY WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the German Society:

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. Kendel Ehrlich Brother Charles Filberg, F.S.C Frederike Hurdle William Hecht John R. Innes Rev. Charles L. McClean, Jr. Mr. & Mrs. Douglas R. McClean Mr. & Mrs. Douglas R. McClean, Jr. Mr. & Mrs. Michael K. McClean, Jr. John L. Meinhardt Dione J. Meinhardt David Peitsch Julie Peitsch Mr. & Mrs Charles W. Pierce, III Sister Kara Ryan, SSND Shirley S. Santora Bernard F. Semon Ruth Roeder Semon Colin C. White Craig W. White James W. Yingling, Sr. Sandra E. Yingling

This newsletter is a publication of The German Society of Maryland - an organization founded in 1783 and incorporated in 1817.

Contributors to this issue are:

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All members and friends are encouraged to submit items of interest to Theodore J. Potthast, Jr. at 1819 Leadburn Road, Towson, Maryland 21204-1830.