

# THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

DIE DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT VON MARYLAND

## VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

JANUARY, 2002

Volume 1, Issue 32

### STUDENTS, TEACHERS SWELL RANKS AT ANNUAL BANQUET

The Society's Annual Awards Banquet held at Martin's Eastwind on November 2, proved to be an outstanding event, praised by all the 200+ attendees. Students from Western Maryland College and members of the American Association of Teachers of German filled nearly four tables. The college students of Dr. Mohamed Esa's German classes, brought the fresh air of youth to the event. President Mike Nieberding praised the banquet committee, chaired by his uncle Art Nieberding, for their hard work on the program.

The honorees, Judge Gerard Wm. Wittstadt, Sr. and Professor Doctor Rosemary Wittstadt, gave emotional expressions of their gratitude for the honors. Martin O'Malley, Mayor of Baltimore and Parris Glendenning, Governor of Maryland, sent proclamations congratulating both Judge and Doctor Wittstadt. Pres. Nieberding thanked all those who donated prizes for their gifts: Old World Delicatessen, the German candy makers Goetze Co., Kirschmaier, Wockenfuss and Rheb, The Society for the History of the Germans in Md. for its book, The Maryland Germans, as well as the advertisers in the program. As is the custom, the program published the names of all 1075 members of the Society.

Our honorary director, Dr. Hans-Ulrich Seidt brought greetings from the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany. He also read a moving letter from a young American naval officer describing an event in mid-ocean in which a German destroyer displayed unity with a US ship after the tragedy of Sept. 11th. (See article on page 5.)

### ECUMENICAL SERVICE HELD ON MICHAELMAS AT ZION CHURCH

The annual ecumenical service sponsored by our Society and The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland was also co-sponsored by Zion Church and held at the church on Sunday afternoon, September 30. The service was followed by a reception. The event was well attended by clergy and congregation. Music was provided by the combined choirs of Zion and St. Mark's Church, joined by trumpeters from the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

The ecumenical service is a celebration by persons of German heritage in thanksgiving for the freedom of all German-speaking countries to practice religion freely. The event was instituted by our Society in 1989, a few weeks after the fall of communism and of the Berlin wall. Until last year, it was held on Thanksgiving Eve, but was then changed to the feast of St. Michael, a more convenient time.

### PICNIC - A BIG SUCCESS

Over 220 adults plus dozens of children turned out for the Society's annual picnic at Blob's Park. The picnickers stayed dry under the roof of the pavilion where they feasted on wurst, hamburgers, sauerkraut, potato salad and 35 kinds of desserts.

Judge Neil Sybert made a family reunion of it, with wife and 20 of his children and grandchildren. New member Eric Kindt arrived with his wife and friends. Eric joined the Society, inspired by the TV show on PBS, "The German Americans." The number of Nieberdings from three generations was countless.

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***"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."***

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## **KALENDER**

**January 23 - Board of Directors' meeting**  
February ? - Zion Forum's lenten party  
March 2 - Washington Bach Consort performs St. Matthew's Passion at Goucher College  
March 3 - Edelweiss Society annual meeting  
March 7 - Sprachfest 2002  
**April 5 - German Society annual meeting**  
**April 11 - Board of Directors' meeting**  
April 27 - MidAtlantic Germanic spring meeting  
Aug. 16-18 - Baltimore German Festival  
Sept. 22 - Edelweiss Crab Feast  
October 12-13 - Maryland Oktoberfest  
**Nov. 1 - German Society Awards Banquet**

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

**Free German Language courses at the Kickers Club**  
22 South Broadway, Baltimore, MD 21231 Thursday nights. 24-hour information hotline: 410-276-4949.

For more local German-American happenings, check the **web site of the Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland:** [www.md-germans.org](http://www.md-germans.org)

## **WASHINGTON BACH CONSORT FIRST APPEARANCE IN BALTIMORE**

Washington's premier Baroque chorus and orchestra, The Washington Bach Consort, will perform St. Matthew's Passion on Saturday, March 2, 2002 in the Kraushaar Auditorium at Goucher College. The Consort, lead by its Music Director and Founder, J. Reilly Lewis, celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Soloists include Kendra Colton, Soprano; Beverly Benso, Alto; Robert Petillo, Evangelist; Benjamin Butterfield, Tenor; Christopheron Nomura, Jesus; David Newman, Bass; featuring the Maryland Boys Choir. Tickets \$35-\$45 can be purchased by phone at 1-800-994-4375 or by mail to Washington Bach Consort, 5125 MacArthur Blvd., Suite 42, Washington DC 20016. [www.bachconsort.org](http://www.bachconsort.org)

## **SPRACHFEST 2002 - MARCH 7TH**

MOGS, an association of Maryland High School Students studying German will hold this year's German language competition, called the *Sprachfest*, from 9 to 1 on March 7th at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland, on Charles Street in Baltimore, under the auspices of the MD chapter of the AATG Members of our Society are invited to attend.

## **THE SOCIETY'S FINANCES**

The Executive Committee met to review our financial policies and determined that sharp decline in our income was due to low interest rates on our investments as a result of the economic slump of the country. In the last tax year, the Society made educational and charitable grants of \$37,000. As a result, we are not required under IRS rules to make any such gifts for the next two years. This is fortuitous, since heavy expenses for this year leaves us with very little available for 2002. The Executive Committee has recommended that gifts and program expenses be drastically curtailed until our cash flow dramatically improves.

## **DUES PAYMENT CRUCIAL TO OUR SOCIETY - BILLS COMING SOON**

Because our investment income has slowed to a trickle due to record-low interest rates, our Society must rely on the prompt payment of dues by members to fund our educational activities, our newsletter and pay our rent and office overhead. When you receive your bill for 2002 dues, please send us your check immediately. Also consider making an extra donation for our educational fund to help the Maryland high school and college students who are studying the German language, and the Maryland Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German.

## **KARNEVAL BALL FEB. 8 AT ZION**

The Zion Forum of German Culture will hold its annual pre-Lenten Karneval Ball in the Adlersaal on Feb. 8 from 8:00 to midnight. Costume or Black Tie. \$35 per person or \$300 for a table of 10. For information call 410-727-3930. The event will feature music by the "Edelweiss Band", a bottle of champagne for each table, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres catered by "Old World", entertainment and cash bar. Make checks payable to Zion Church. Members of our Society have attended this event in the past and recommend it for an evening of wholesome fun.

## **MID ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY TO MEET AT BLOB'S - APRIL 27**

The spring meeting of the MidAtlantic Germanic Society will be held at Blob's Park, Jessup, MD on April 27. The Society is dedicated to the research into German genealogy. Cost for non-members is \$35, which includes lunch. To register for the meeting, contact Diane M. Kuster at 251 Serpentine Drive, Bayville, NJ 08721 For more information check the website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~usmags/>

**DR G. KENNETH HORVATH, 88**

**CLEMENT D. ERHARDT, II,  
TREASURER AND DIRECTOR**

The Society mourns the loss of our esteemed director and treasurer, Clem Erhardt, who died in July at age 65. Clem served the Society for many years as a director and for the past two years as treasurer. Clem was a financial genius who tracked every penny of income and expense and presented the Board with a detailed monthly report unparalleled in the Society's history. He served as chairman of our "Grant" committee, devising standards and procedures which enabled the directors to make enlightened decisions on requests for aid. He coordinated the Society's participation in Baltimore City's commemoration of the events involved in the defeat of the British in their 1814 attacks on the City. Clem was Chairman of the City Commission on the War of 1812 and administered its modest budget as Baltimore City's only unpaid employee.

He devoted much time to many civic and charitable organizations: The National Society of the War of 1812, The St. George's Society, The Ancient and Honorable Mechanical Company of Baltimore, The Flag House and other civic groups.

Clem was Maryland's foremost forensic photographer, covering scenes of accidents and contract disputes for attorneys and insurance companies, and testifying in court on the facts revealed by his photographs.

He was a native of Baltimore. Upon his graduation from Loyola College, he served in the U.S. Army, reaching the rank of captain. He was known as an excellent military historian who could hold audiences spellbound with his lectures on military lore.

Clem worked behind the scenes in politics and had friends in very high places, having played important roles in their elections. For 30 years he served as chairman of the Village Green (community association) Architectural Committee, which successfully maintained the character of the neighborhood. He was a parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church, Towson. He is survived by his wife, Lila, his son, Clement D. Erhardt, III and grandchildren. He will sorely missed by his hundreds of friends. Our Society will forever cherish his memory.

(Note: Young Clem was the photographer at the 1958 wedding of our editor, Ted and Connie Potthast.)

Dr. Horvath, a long-time member of our Society and a director of the Society for the History of the Germans in MD, died December 23, 2001. Born in Austria-Hungary, he came to Baltimore at age 8, graduated from City College and received a bachelor, master and doctoral degree from the University of MD. He began teaching in the Baltimore City School system in 1937 and retired as its director of personnel in 1974. He taught education classes at Loyola College and served on the Boards of four Catholic high schools: Keogh, Seton, Mt. DeSales and Mt. St. Joseph. He was the first president of the board of Keogh High school, which grants an award in his name at graduation each year. In 1991 he wrote an essay called "Recollections: Seventy Years in the USA".

During his passage across the Atlantic as a boy, he ate his first orange, the luscious taste of which lasted as a fond memory. He taught evening citizenship classes for many years. In 1939 he married Agnes Marley of Baltimore, who survives him. He is also survived by a daughter, a nun, Sister Theresa Horvath of Fall River, Mass., his sister and several nephews and nieces. He was buried from St. William of York Church, where he had been a eucharistic minister since 1974.

**Dr. NICHOLAS J. KOHLERMAN, II**

A long-time, loyal member, Dr. Nicholas Kohlerman died June 1 at home after a long struggle with cancer. Dr. Kohlerman recruited many members for our Society. He trained many young doctors when he served as chairman of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Church Hospital, where he was in charge of its residency program. He later joined St. Joseph Hospital where he maintained an office until his retirement. A native of the Hamilton section of Baltimore, he attended Calvert Hall College, graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 1939 and received his medical degree in 1943. During WWII, he served as a captain in the Army Medical Corps in Iran where he performed life-saving surgery on Queen Fawzia, wife of the Shah and sister of King Farouk of Egypt.

He completed his military service at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington and then taught at Wayne State College of Medicine. He returned to Baltimore in 1951 and began his private practice. He performed in the men's chorus of the Paint and Powder Club in charity shows for 45 years. He was also a member of the St. George's Society. Dr. Kohlerman is survived by two sons, four daughters and ten grandchildren.



## **SOCIETY'S 2001 HONOREES; GERARD & ROSEMARY WITTSTADT**

The Honorable Gerard Wm. Wittstadt and Dr. Rosemary Wittstadt are the Society's joint honorees for 2001. Both have extensive roots in Maryland. Dr. Wittstadt ("Kimmie") is named for her distinguished ancestor, German-American General Anthony Z. Kimmel. Judge Wittstadt's ancestry includes Major General Baron Johannes deKalb, the Revolutionary War hero who died in battle while commanding the "Maryland Line".

Dr. Wittstadt was born and raised in Cumberland. She received degrees of B.S. and M.S. in nursing and a Doctorate in Education from the Univ. of Maryland. She was a Professor of Nursing at Towson University prior to her recent retirement. During her career she nursed at Sacred Heart Hospital, Cumberland and at University and Johns Hopkins Hospitals in Baltimore. She served as chairman of various state-wide nursing committees, authored and published manuals for nursing instructors and wrote for the national Journal for Nursing Education. She has lectured locally, nationally and internationally, and is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the Honorary Nursing Society, the American Nurses Association and the National League for Nursing.

Her civic accomplishments include serving on the editorial board of The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland, being an active member of the German Society of Maryland, the Walters Art Gallery, the Women's Civic Club of Oakland, MD., the parish council of Immaculate Conception Church, Towson and coordinator of the Ruxton-Riderwood ballet program..

A great part of Judge Wittstadt's early life centered around Dundalk where he grew up and practiced law for many years. Following graduation from Mt. St. Joseph High School, he joined the U.S. Marines during the Korean War, after which he received an A. B. degree and his law degree, a Doctorate of Jurisprudence at the University of MD. In law school he served on the editorial board of the law journal for which he wrote several published articles. He was president of his law school class, graduated with honors and passed the Maryland Bar Examination with one of the highest scores ever attained. He served with a law firm in Towson before opening his own office in Dundalk.

His professional career also included service as an Assistant Attorney General of Maryland. From 1976 until his retirement in 1992, he served as Judge of the District Court of Maryland. While on the bench, he was chairman of various committees, including the Committee of the Maryland Judicial Conference. He

represented the judges of Baltimore and Harford Counties on the Administrative Committee of the District Courts.

His civic career included serving as chairman of the Balto. Co. Election Committee for John F. Kennedy, Chairman of the Balto. Co. Military Draft Board; he was founder and first president of the Greater Dundalk Jr. Chamber of Commerce, co-founded the Catholic Alumni Club of Baltimore, a social organization where he met his wife, Kimmie. He is a lifetime director of the German Society of Maryland, which he has served as vice-president, executive committee member, co-founder and chairman of our ecumenical service, counselor and for many years chairman of the Annual Awards Banquet. He has held the post of President of The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland for 15 years, the longest term in the 118 year history of that Society. He has been honored by The Federal Republic of Germany as an outstanding German-American, by DANK (German American National Kongress), by the Fraternal Order of Police, by his high school, Mt. St. Joseph, as an outstanding graduate.

Jerry and Kimmie are the proud parents of five children, Gerard Wm., Jr. and Mark, both attorneys with whom Jerry now practices law; Rosemary Wittstadt Padgett, a pediatric nurse practitioner; Ann Wittstadt Watson, a paralegal; and John Kimmel Wittstadt, a home construction contractor. They are grandparents to eight wonderful children. The entire Wittstadt family is proud of its German heritage.

## **UGAC NATIONAL OFFICE OPENS IN D.C.'S SHEURICH MANSION**

The United German America Committee/USA has opened its national office in Washington in the carriage house of the Sheurich Mansion, off Dupont Circle at 1921 Sunderland Place 20036. (Phone: 202-467-5000), The German Society of MD is a member of UGAC. UGAC requests contributions so it can purchase the Mansion and make it into a national German-American museum. Donations can be sent to the office at Sunderland Place. The red-brick and brownstone mansion was built in 1894 by Christian Heurich, a German-American brewer. It is located around the corner from the carriage house at 1307 New Hampshire Avenue.

The Washington office is headed by Executive Director Iris Spitzeder. She was born in Oberursel, near Frankfurt, came to America 4 years ago and studied at East Carolina University where she received an MBA degree in 1999. She will generate information materials on German-American history and will work with German-American organizations to strengthen public awareness for the largest American ethnic group.

## **PROF. SCHMEISSNER ELECTED PRESIDENT OF HERITAGE SOCIETY**

German Society member Dr. Volker Schmeissner has been elected President of the German American Heritage Society of Greater Washington, D.C., succeeding our member Gary Grassl in that position. Dr. Schmeissner also serves as vice-president of the United German American Committee/USA, a national organization with headquarters in Philadelphia. He is head of the National Affairs division of the Society for German American Studies, a national scholarly organization. He is also active in the Baltimore area where he teaches German at the Baltimore Kickers Club. He is a recipient of the *Bundesverdienstkreuz*, the Federal Cross of Merit, presented by the German government for his service in promoting German-American relations. He is a loyal German Society member who is on hand at most of our events.

## **BALTIMORE PICKED BY SGAS**

Baltimore has been selected by the Society for German American Studies for its national convention in 2003. Our Society will join with other local German organizations to help make the Baltimore convention a success. Stay tuned!

## **NIEMANN'S BACK FROM GERMANY**

Betty Niemann, a director of our Society and her husband Bruno ("Dutch") have been in Germany since April and returned January 8th. They undertook this momentous tour to research their ancestry and to brush up on their German language skills. (Betty reported that they did not have much chance to practice their German, since the Germans insisted on practicing their English on the Niemanns!) Dutch and Betty both had German parents and both spoke German fluently as children, but that skill diminished over the years. Upon arriving in Germany, they bought an auto in Stuttgart to use in their peregrinations. They attended several German festivals at which they found "tables under shade trees decorated with flowers, a good hard cobblestone surface - no mud, dust, straw - no spot-a-pots, a place for dancing, wine served in real glasses, food served on real plates, etc., etc. We've seen museums, town walls, many churches and Rathauses, monasteries both active and in ruins. We've taken hundreds of pictures and I don't even want to think about getting them organized in a photo albums. We've had wonderful hosts and hostesses at all of our rental places where American tourists such as ourselves are somewhat of an oddity."

## **SEIDT CITES US-GERMANY UNITY**

At our annual banquet, our honorary director, Dr. Hans-Ulrich Seidt read a letter from a young American naval officer to her father, which narrated a recent story. The German destroyer, The Luchen, approaching her ship in mid-ocean and flying the American flag at half-mast, sailing close-by with the entire German crew in full uniform standing on deck and saluting the American vessel. It exhibited a banner with the text, "We stand by you". The letter related that there was not a dry eye aboard the American ship. Dr. Seidt also reported that the German Embassy established a fund to aid the victims of the Sept. 11th disaster in New York. They hoped to raise \$100,000 in contributions from Germans. The fund has raised over \$27,000,000. The full text of the letter can be found on the website of the German embassy: [www.germany-info.org](http://www.germany-info.org)

## **SCHAUB & VAN DER BERG ATTEND BÜRGERVEREIN MEETINGS**

Dr. James Schaub and Mrs. Christel van der Berg are our Society's representatives at the monthly meetings of the Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland, held in the Kickers' Clubhouse on Broadway in upper Fells Point, usually on the last Friday of each month. One of our members, Bob Sheppard, is the president of the Bürgerverein. It consists of 15 German-American organizations, all of which are headquartered in the Baltimore-Annapolis area. Dr. Schaub explains the organization: "Its purpose is 'To strive for a closer union of German clubs, organizations and citizens of German descent in the promotion of German culture, language, gymnastics and soccer through cultural, educational, social and charitable endeavors.'" A web-site is maintained by the Bürgerverein, which includes sketches of all 15 member-groups: [www/md-germans.org](http://www/md-germans.org)

## **MERL ARP REELECTED VICE PRESIDENT OF D.A.N.K**

Merl Arp, a director of our Society, was reelected vice president of the Deutch Amerikaner National Kongress, a national German-American organization based in Chicago, of which our Society is a member. Mr. Arp is also president of the Washington Chapter of DANK.

DANK also elected a new president, Christa Garcia who has been a long-time executive officer of DANK and is a professional educator with advanced academic degrees. She served as president of the Northern Illinois Chapter of the AATG.



## **EDENWALD ACHIEVES 120 YEARS**

The Edenwald retirement facility in Towson was founded in 1881 as The General German Aged People's Home of Baltimore, which is still the official corporate name of the institution. Our Society has had a long and beneficial relationship with the institution which our older members used to refer to as the "Greisenheim" (home for the "gray" ones). When the old Greisenheim was sold, the proceeds were used to help build the new facility. Edenwald permits our Society to use its board room for all of our own Board of Directors meetings and certain committee meetings.

## **McKELDIN PRAISED AS MODEL**

Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin was recently proposed as a model political figure for his gentlemanly manners and proper speech. McKeldin was a faithful member of the German Society who regularly attended our annual meetings and always was called upon for a speech. "Teddy" was elected mayor of Baltimore in 1943, governor of Maryland in 1950 and mayor again in 1963. He was one of the best speakers in the USA and was chosen to nominate Dwight Eisenhower for president at the Republican convention of 1952.

G. Jefferson Price, III, an Editor of the *Sunday Sun* recently wrote: "A tall, distinguished-looking gentlemen, McKeldin was a rare creature in Maryland political success. He was a Republican. He didn't drink and he didn't swear... He got some great roads around Baltimore going, built what is now Baltimore-Washington International Airport, reorganized state government and, in his last term as mayor, started to transform the renewal of downtown Baltimore and the Inner Harbor from inspiration to reality."

## **ISCHINGER NEW GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO UNITED STATES**

Former ambassador Jürgen Chrobog has traded places with Wolfgang Ischinger. Chrobog has assumed Ischinger's position in Berlin as Staatssekretär. (The American model of Secretary of State is divided in Germany into two jobs: the foreign minister and the secretary of state.) Ischinger first came to the USA as an exchange student and graduated from high school here. After obtaining law degrees in Germany and Switzerland, he studied at Harvard University and Fletcher School of Law where he received a master's degree. His other U.S. posts included a stint at the United Nations in New York and as first secretary at the Embassy in Washington.

## **PRESIDENT BUSH PRAISES GERMAN IMMIGRANTS' CONTRIBUTIONS**

George W. Bush, in proclaiming Oct. 6 as German-American Day, stated: "Throughout our history German Americans have contributed to every facet of the American experience... German Americans have influenced our history, strengthened our ideals, and enriched our culture, and in the years ahead they will continue their noble role in helping to ensure the vitality of our democracy." He cited examples of German American military leaders, artists and publishers. He said: "I encourage all Americans to recognize the contributions of our citizens of German descent to the liberty and prosperity of the United States and to celebrate our close ties to the people of Germany."

## **SINGING GROUP SEEKS MEMBERS**

The Arion Gesangverein is looking for some new singers. If you like to sing and want to participate in a group which sings German songs, contact Bob Fritschke, president of the group and a director of The German Society. Send him a note at 101 East Elm Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21206. The singers rehearse in the hall at Zion Church, City Hall Plaza. The Arion made a joint presentation with the Verein Deutscher Trachten, a German dancing group, at the Bel Air Public Library on December 18th to a well-attended and enthusiastic audience. The dancers appear in traditional German costumes.

## **OLD GERMAN SCHOOL TO CLOSE**

St. Alphonsus School, founded 150 years ago to serve the children of German immigrants, will soon close, for lack of funds to renovate it. The school was founded when the Bavarian priest, St. John Neumann, was pastor of the church, and it was staffed by the German School Sisters of Notre Dame. Above the entrance to the school's hall is engraved the German word "Halle".

## **SHROEDER PLEDGES "UNLIMITED SOLIDARITY" WITH USA IN WAR**

To carry out German Chancellor Shroeder's pledge of support in the war against terrorism, a parliamentary vote was called to make 3,900 troops available in Afghanistan. When it appeared that many of Chancellor Shroeder's own party would not vote for the bill, he threatened to resign. The measure passed 336-326, 2 votes more than the required 334.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO MEMBERS**

--to **DAN BROOKE** upon his promotion to national President-General of the General Society of the War of 1812. Membership is limited to men whose ancestors fought for the Americans in the War of 1812.

--to **INGRID BROSZEIT-RIEGER, Ph.D**, who served as office manager for the German Society 1995-97, upon being awarded a doctorate in German from the University of Virginia. Dr. Broszeit-Rieger now holds the position as assistant professor of German at Eastern Michigan Univ. She previously taught at Carroll Community College in Maryland.

-- to **BRIAN AND MIA WALSH** on the birth of their second daughter, **Sara Marie**.

-- to **GARY GRASSL** on the publication of his scholarly article in the Yearbook of German-American Studies about Johannes Fleischer, Jr., the first German to come to Jamestown, VA in the winter of 1608 after a 6½ month voyage from England. He was a medical doctor and botanist who came to America in search of medicinal herbs, but died at age 26, of malaria 3 months after his arrival. He was the first Lutheran in English North America. Before the publication of Mr. Grassl's article, it was widely believed that the first Germans in the English colonies were German glass-makers who arrived in Jamestown in October, 1608.

-- to **IRENE TREMPER** on the publication of her first book, *The Little Devil*, stories for children. The 65 page book is available for \$7.95 from Vantage Press, 515 W, 34th Street, New York, NY 10001 or from your local bookseller. The Little Devil lives in the green forest, tricks the chief devil and wins heroically, thus allowing him to live happily on earth with his friends. Irene Tremper's background is in creative and design advertising. She is a graduate of business school in Germany and is a German translator. She resides in Reisterstown, Maryland.

-- to **JOHN WITTSTADT** on his marriage October 19 to Laura MacDonald in historic Williamsburg. John is the son of our 2001 honorees, Judge Gerard Wittstadt and Dr. Rosemary Wittstadt.

-- to **JACK & MARCY STURGILL** on their 25th wedding anniversary which was celebrated at a Lutheran service, followed by a gala banquet and dance at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, attended by 60 Marylanders, including fellow German Society members **Lou and Nancy Kleinfelder**, who served as best man and matron of honor.

## **CONDOLENCES**

--to **Klaus Nickel** on the death of his father, Herbert A. Nickel. He joined the German navy in 1938 and was a flag officer on the battleship *Admiral Scheer*. He became a US citizen in 1958.

-- to the family of **ARNO WEIDNER**, a member of our Society, who died early in October.

--to former director **Marcy Sturgill** on the death of her mother, Arlene Hayes, (nee Eichelkraut)

## **ABOUT OUR MEMBERS**

**ANN VON FORTHUBER** was featured in the morning TV news and was praised as a "true pioneer" for her role as an auctioneer. Ann is one of the few women in the industry and was named earlier in the top ten business women in the Baltimore area. She is a director of our Society.

Two of our members are contemplating their political futures. Baltimore County Executive **DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER** is rumored to seek the Congressional seat of member **BOB ERLICH**, who himself may make a run for the position of Governor of Maryland. Bob and his wife, Kendall, attended our annual banquet, as they have done for the past several years.

**DENIS SMITH**, the Society's own official photographer who holds the same position for New York's Steuben Day Parade, advised that the parade was canceled this year to respect the victims of the Sept. 11th tragedy.

**REV. H.S. SIEGFRIED OTTO**, retired pastor of Zion Church, has accepted a pastoral post at St. John's Lutheran Church in Baltimore County. He and spouse **BÄRBEL OTTO** elected to remain in the Baltimore area and purchased a home in the county.

**TED POTTHAST** was re-elected as president of The Ancient & Honorable Mechanical Company of Baltimore City, founded 1763, the oldest extant civic organization in the United States.

## **MANY THANKS**

-- to **WILLIAM D. BROOKE** for his most generous donation to the Society for our charitable functions.

-- to **ART NIEBERDING** for his untiring efforts and extensive donation of time in supervising the Society's picnic and annual awards banquet.

-- to **BRIGITTE AND NICHOLAS FESSENDEN** for hosting a Christmas reception in their home for the Society's Board of Directors and committee members.

Founded 1783  
Incorporated by Act of the General Assembly  
of Maryland, Chapter 100, Feb. 3, 1818



## The German Society of Maryland

OFFICE OF THE SOCIETY

P.O. Box 22585 Baltimore, MD 21203-4585  
410 685-0450

**JANUARY 2002**

### OFFICERS

**Michael J. Nieberding**  
President  
**Robert Gay**  
1st Vice President  
**Brigitte Voelkel Fessenden**  
2nd Vice President  
**Christel van der Berg**  
Secretary  
**Gerard W. Wittstadt**  
Counselor

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**Linda Butt**  
**Prof. Dr. Mohamed Esa**  
**Brigitte V. Fessenden**  
**Robert Karl Fritzsche**  
**Ann von Forthuber**  
**Robert Gay**  
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**Betty Nicmann**  
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**Ann von Forthuber**  
**Edwin O. Wenck**

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Pres., Women's Auxiliary  
**Eva Maus Kelleher**

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**Dr. Hans-Ulrich Seidt**

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**Charles F. Stein, III**  
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**Vernon H. Wiesand**  
**Hon. Gerard W. Wittstadt**  
**Office Manager**  
**Ilse von Veltheim**

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Albert L Bartlett  
Agnes T Bartlett  
Randolph Geck  
Carol Geck  
Emily F George  
John W Gray Jr  
Elfie Gray  
Kenneth Legge Hardesty  
Leona Menke Hardesty  
Helen Jaacks  
Ernest Jaacks  
Bruno Kohlmann  
Elisabeth Kohlmann  
Ellen Lichtfuss  
Robert Lichtfuss  
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Mary Woodfill Park  
Joan E Ritter

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 5, the Friday  
after Easter, for our  
annual meeting of  
members. This is a  
fun affair. Lots of  
food and drink.  
Dinner 7 to 8 pm;  
meeting over before  
9 or the president  
gets impeached.  
Bring family and  
prospective members  
with you. No charge.

### MAIL TO:

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

"I hereby apply to be a member of the German Society of Maryland".

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

This newsletter is published by The German Society of Maryland, an organization founded in 1783 and incorporated in 1817 by Act of the General Assembly of Maryland. It is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation pursuant to the provisions of §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Society is a member of Der Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland, D.A.N.K. (German American National Congress) The United German-American Committee of the USA, Inc. and other civic groups which promote German-American culture and heritage. Please submit items of interest to Theodore J. Potthast, Jr., Editor, at 1819 Leadburn Road, Towson, MD 21204-1830 or fax 410-832-2903.