THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

DIE DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT VON MARYLAND

VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

MARCH, 2002

Volume 1, Issue 33

SOCIETY CO-SPONSORS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR CONGRESS

The German Society of Maryland was a sponsors of a "Day of Remembrance" on Feb. 19th for the U.S. Congress, recalling the 60th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 by Pres. Franklin Roosevelt, ordering the internment of many U.S. citizens of Japanese, German and Italian origin in the war hysteria of 1942. Our Society supports the resolution of Rep. Russell Feingold to study the imprisonment of loyal US citizens of German ancestry during WWII. (See p. 5). Other organizations sponsoring the event were: German American Education Fund; the Sons of Italy; and several Japanese-American and Arab groups.

GERMAN-AMERICANS & THE SUN AS VIEWED BY H. L. MENCKEN

German-Americans were also rounded up during World War I. Henry L. Mencken, the "Sage of Baltimore" and journalist for the Baltimore Sun, wrote in his diary: "In the Spring of 1917, after the United States had entered the war and the spy hunt had begun, I suggested to J. H. Adams, then editor of the Sun, that some of the things we were printing threw an unwarranted suspicion on perfectly peaceful German-Americans. I told him that many of them were quite innocent of political activity, and that the uproars going on exposed them to serious injury...To my considerable surprise, he refused to do anything. On the contrary, he told me that he believed that all German-Americans, however innocent, deserved to be harassed." (p.107)

ANNUAL MEETING - APRIL 5th

Mark your calendar to attend our annual meeting. See the notice of the meeting on page 3.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

To our members:

Our annual meeting is our most important event of the year. It is an opportunity to meet and socialize with other members; to learn of the activities of the Society; to talk to the officers and directors and ask questions and express your ideas and opinions on what we are doing and what you would like to see us doing. It holds a friendly and festive atmosphere. Please come and bring your family and potential members. You will be welcomed.

SPRACHFEST CANCELLED; MOGS FIRST MEETING SET FOR MARCH 23

The German language program for Maryland high school students set for March 3 has been cancelled. However, it will be held next year, at Towson University. The Maryland Organization of German Students (MOGS) will hold a meeting of high school representatives at Fallston High School on March 23. The agenda will include a number of topics: a review of the club's constitution; introduction of the club's website; the role of the representative; development of a statewide contest; assistance in organizing German clubs the schools; plan of action for 2002; and recognition of outstanding teachers, programs & clubs.

The German Society is anxious to assist the high school students in programs such as this.

"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

March 2 - Washington Bach Consort performs St. Matthew's Passion at Goucher College

March 3 - Edelweiss Society annual meeting

March 23 - German Students at Fallston H.S.

April 5 - German Society annual meeting

April 11 - Board of Directors' meeting

June 9 (Sun.) German Society Picnic 2-6 pm at Blob's Park

Aug. 16-18 - Baltimore German Festival

Sept. 12 - 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

For more local German-American happenings, check the web site of the Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland: www.md-germans.org

SOCIETY - DUES DUE

If you have not yet sent in your 2002 dues, please do so promptly. Our incoe has fallen drastically and we rely on dues for operating expenses (which have been substantially reduced already).

REPORT OF WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Eva Kelleher, President of the Women's Auxiliary of the German Society, reports the the Frauenhilfsverein has a successful 2001, with good attendance. The provided financial support for the German Language School and the American Red Cross for its Sept. 11th assistance. The kept alive tradition by singing Geman folk songs at each meeting, and exposed children to German culture by encouraging the mothers and grandmothers to bring them to the meetings. The group continued to cultivate German customs, literature and music.

GERMAN EXHIBIT - PRATT LIBRARY

The Enoch Pratt Library and the Stoney Run Friends community will host an exhibit of the contributions of the Quakers in Germany from the 1920's to the Post-WWII years. The exhibit, from Berlin, is entitled "Stille Hilfer," It will run at the main library at Catheddral and Mulberry Sreets in Baltimore from April 12 to May 17.

GERMAN COOKING CLASS

The Baltimore County Mt. Carmel/Prettyboy Senior Center will present Pat Jakelski's German recipes and samples at 1 P.M. on Tuedsay, March 26. The center is located at Mt. Carmel Methodist Church, 17038 Prettyboy Dam Road in northern Baltimore county. Phone: 410-887-1923

LOCAL GERMAN CLUB NEWS

Jim Yingling has been elected president of Club Fidelitas. The Immergruen dancers are offering lessons in German flok dance on Friday nights. 10 lessons for \$8. All incumbents of the Deutchamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland were reelected.

MARLEY PRAISES HEURICH MANSE

Longtime member, Irv Marley, a retired schoolteacher, has visited the historic Heurich Mansion on New Hampshire Ave. in Washington, D.C. and found it most impressive. rv suggests a group trip to the mansion, where the United German American Committee keeps an office and is raising funds to purchase the building.

SOCIETY TRIMS BUDGET AFTER FINANCIAL LOSSES

The Executive Committee is working with President Michael Nieberding to prepare a budget for the next twelve months to stay within the limits of our anticipated income. Our portfolio of \$683,000 on 12-31-00 declined to \$585,000 on 12-31-01. Our losses were not as great as most other organizations. Interest rates and dividens, however, have fallen dramatically and our income is suffering. This requires major reductions and elimination of some of our projects. Fortunately, the Society has a substantial excess distribution carry-over, which means that the amount IRS requires us to distribute in 2002 is negligible.

DR. ROBERT HEYSSEL, HONOREE, PRESIDENT HOPKINS MED. SCHOOL

Dr. Robert Heyssel, honored by our Society at our annual awards banquet in 1995 as a Marylander who made a significant contribution to our state and nation, died June 13, 2001. Dr. Heyssel came to Maryland from Missouri and served as president of the Johns Hopkins University Hospital and Medical School for many years. He retired and moved to Delaware two years after accepting the Society's award.

Annual Meeting of the Members of The German Society of Maryland

Friday, April 5, 2002
Refreshments will be served
at 6:30 PM
Business Meeting begins
at 8:00 PM

Zion Church

400 E. Lexington Street, City Hall Plaza Baltimore MD 21202 The German Society (410) 685-0450 Zion Church (410) 727-3939 (for directions)

An announcement from the president to all members and friends:

Please plan to attend the annual meeting of The German Society of Maryland. As we have for the past 219 years, we will assemble the membership for a current update on the activities and interests of The Society.

The Society will provide a buffet-style German meal accompanied by beer, wine and soft drinks free of charge to our members. We strongly encourage those attending to bring desserts (preferably something homemade) for the event.

The meeting includes reports from several officers and directors on the activities of The Society and the election of directors to serve on our board. It is intended to be an open, informative discussion of our current state as well as future plans.

To assist us in making appropriate plans for food, drink and seating, we ask that you leave a message at The Society's office including your name, your telephone number, the number of guests in your party, and the dessert you plan to bring. The telephone number is (410) 685-0450. We will notify you of any change in plans.

The annual meeting is a unique opportunity to meet the officers, directors and members of your German Society. We hope that you will take an active role in the support of our goal to preserve our German heritage, language and culture so that we may continue to grow and prosper for many more years.

JUDGE DANIEL F. KLEIN, JR., 67

United States District Court Magistrate Daniel F. Klein died of cancer February 12 at his home in Hunt Valley, MD. Judge Klein was a member of our Society for a long time and was active in bringing many new members to us. He was the longest serving magistrate-judge in the history of the U.S. court in Maryland. He attended Friends School in Baltimore, was graduated from Union College in Schenectady, NY and in 1964 received his law degree from the University of Maryland. He was a pilot in the Air Force from 1956 to 1960, and thereafter served in the Maryland Air National Guard, attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel.

He was active in the Boy Scouts of America for 30 years, starting as a troop leader in Lutherville, MD and progressing to regional and national positions in the Scouts. He received two of Scouting's highest awards: the Silver Beaver award in 1976 and the Silver Antelope award in 1996. He was a communicant for 50 years at the Church of the Redeemer in Baltimore and served as parliamentarian for the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, the former Hilary Hyde, two sons, a daughter, sister and seven grandchildren.

Although he retired from the bench in 1999, he served in active recall status until his death. (Facts taken from the *Sun*, article by Frederick N. Rasmussen.)

OUR SOCIETY OVER THE YEARS

When our Society was founded in 1783, Germany, the country did not exist. Central Europe consisted of a few kingdoms and hundreds of duchies and lesser political entities. Our early members were Prussians, Westphalians, Bavarians, Swiss, Austrians, Silesians, or came from parts of today's Poland, the Tyrolean section of today's Northern Italy, etc. In 1870, Prussia's Bismark, the "Iron Chancellor". persuaded many of these groups to form "Germany", as a protection against aggression from France. Bismark orchestrated the Franco-Prussian war of 1870, the result of which was a victory over the French and a unified Germany, with a Kaiser (Emperor). Until the Nazis took control of Germany, the Society's membership continued to include many Jewish members, but our Jewish brethren disassociated themselves from their German heritage and after World War II we received very few new Jewish members. The Austrians and the Swiss likewise no longer considered themselves German, even though the language of Austria and a large part of Switzerland is German, even today. Because our Society's roots are in the old German-speaking Europe, we welcome members from all traditional German-speaking areas.

REQUEST FROM THE EDITOR

Would you like to contribute to our newsletter? We are always looking for material. Do you know of an upcoming event which you think our members would like to know about? A historical note relating to our Maryland German heritage. Is there some event in your life or of another member which is of interest to our member-ship? a birth, an anniversary, an accomplishment, etc. We are often not informed of a death of a member - and we want to print some biographical maaterial about our deceased members. Our newsletters go into our archives, to be preserved for posterity. Please feel free to send in any report, notes or article of interest to our readership.

WHERE'S KING GAMBRINUS?

Remember the big statue of King Gambrinus which stood at the entrance to the American Brewery on Gay Street in Baltimore? The "King of Beer" is the mythical Flemish king credited with being the first brewer of beer. The 800 pound, 12 feet tall polychrome zinc statue was purchased by German brewer John Wiessner in 1879 and placed in front of his brewery, which his family sold in 1933 to American Brewery, Inc. The plant closed in 1973 but the king stood in front of the vacant building for another 25 years, It was donated to the Maryland Historical Society where it will be restored and exhibited. MHS is asking for contributions for the restoration fund.

GERMAN-NAME DONORS GIVE MILLIONS TO MD. SCHOOL Kimmel and Bloomberg give to Hopkins

Clothing industry billionaire Sydney Kimmel gave \$150,000,000to the Johns Hopkins University cancer center on Nov. 14, the largest gift ever received by that university. It will now be called the Sydney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center. Kimmel has made numerous other gifts to cancer research groups throughout the country. He has also bankrolled a a special holocaust exhibit in Washington.

Before Kimmel's gift, the largest grant to Johns Hopkins was \$100,000,000 made by Michael Bloomberg, a 1964 graduate of the school, former chairman of Hopkins' board of trustees and now the Mayor of New York City.

In German, the name Kimmel means "spice-dealer or grocer or a caraway grower" (cf. Hans Bahlow's *Dictionary of German Names*). Bloomberg (Blum) means flower-mountain. (The germanic ancestry of the two philanthropists has not been verified,)

MEMBERS MEET SENATORS IN D.C., SUPPORT FEINGOLD BILL TO STUDY INTERNED GERMAN AMERICANS

Four members of our society, president Michael Nieberding, Director Merle Arp, Brad Miller and Garv Grassl went to Washington to meet several senators in support of the resolution introduced by Senator Russell Feingold of Wisconsin to study the injustices to loyal German Americans who were interned during World War II. While the US has paid reparations to Japanese Americans and apologized to Italian Americans who were interned during the war, it has never shown any remorse for the same actions against German Americans. They were joined by Edward Grunwald. president of the Washington unit of The Steuben Society and others. They met with two senators and although they were unable to meet with Maryland's senators Sarbanes and Mikulsky, they met with staff from their offices.

National German American organizations are seeking support of the Feingold resolution.

RECENT DEATHS OF SOME GERMAN-MARYLANDERS

Albert L, Rheb, 83. President of the family-owned candy company found-ed by his father and mother, he lived all his life above the candy factory on Wilkens Avenue. Rheb often donated candy as door-prizes to the German Society.

Ronald F. Heeman, 76. Upon graduating from Baltimore's Polytechnic Institute in 1943, he joined the Army Air Corps. When his B-29 was hit in a bombing run over Japan, he bailed out and became a POW in Japan. He later attended the University of Maryland, graduating in 1950. A lifetime member of Immanuel Lutheran, he was the president of its congregation and president of the Augsburg Lutheran Home.

Gertrud A. Mengels, 86. In May, 1939, 950 Jews were attempting to escape from Hitler aboard the ship St. Louis. They tried to land in the U.S. but President Franklin D. Roosevelt sent them back to Germany where they were persecuted by Hitler and most died. Gertrud A. Mengels was one of 250 passengers aboard the St. Louis who survived. She escaped to Holland where she was hidden by a

Catholic family. She was discovered near the end of the war and spent 30 days in a concentration camp before being liberated. After immigrating to Baltimore, she worked as a bookkeeper for various dress shops.

GRASSL URGES US TO LEARN GERMAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

Gary Grassl, a member of our Society and the outgoing president of the German-American Heritage Society of greater Washington, DC wrote a moving letter to its members as he stepped down from that office. He was born in the USA but grew up during World War II in Germany. He and his mother were caught up in the war and unable to return to the USA. After the war he attended the US Army Dependents High School in Nürnberg. He wrote that in 1950 he returned to the USA, but was considered to be German and made to feel guilty over the Nazi crimes. To try to counter the negative attitudes, "I decided to write about the contributions Germans have made to the United States." Mr. Grassl is a recognized scholar in the field of German-American studies and has written and lectured extensively on the subject. In stepping down as president of the heritage society, Mr. Grassl urged preparing for the our quadricentennial celebrations in 2008. The first Germans came to America nearly 400 years ago, in 1608, along with the founders of Jamestown.

JOHNS HOPKINS SPONSORS GERMAN-AMERICAN STUDIES

The Johns Hopkins University conducts the American Institute for Current German Studies in Washington, DC. The institute maintains a web page which contains announcements of upcoming events, publications and original articles relating to developments in the German-American dialogue. The AICGS *Advisor* is sent to 3000 of the leading policymakers and researchers on the German American relationship. Its website is: http://www.AICGS.org

GERMAN INFORMATION WEB-SITES

If you need to find something about Germany, try one of these useful web-sites on the internet:

FRIENDSHIP WITH ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY PREDATES 1840

CLOSENESS REFERRED TO IN 1940 LETTER OF OUR PRESIDENT

The Report of the German Society for 1942 (covering the years 1937-1942) includes the 1940 correspondence between our Society and the St. Andrew's Society. At that time, Germany was at war with Great Britain (incl. Scotland) and there was tension between Scots and Germans. Our president, Karl A. M. Scholtz, was invited to the annual banquet of the St. Andrew's Society. Mr. Scholtz felt he should decline the invitation, to avoid friction.

The 1942 Report prints the letter with this introduction: "The following letter has in it all the melody of beautiful music and the rhythm of a poem. Its friendly gesture and avowed self-denial are perfect in detail and expression.

November 28, 1940

Mr. John C. Paterson, Secretary St. Andrew's Society of Baltimore Fidelity Building Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Paterson:

Many thanks for the kind invitation to attend the 135th Anniversary Dinner of the Saint Andrew's Society. I need not tell you that it is an invitation always pleasantly anticipated and ever welcomed.

Well have we appraised the kind-hospitality and the courteous consideration ever accorded our representative by your membership, and I feel sure that such would again be the case even in these portentous times. For over a century our two Societies have -- in friendliness and good-will -- watched their common work of benevolence, and when need was, acted in unity.

Hence it is with sadness and regret, and to avoid any chance of embarrassment that though accepting your kind invitation in the same friendly spirit in which it is offered, we ask to be excused from attending at this date, but none the less ask to be permitted now and herewith, to tender your worthy president, the members of Saint Andrew's Society and their honored guests the greetings of The German Society of Maryland and to extend their hearty good wishes for the success of your 135th Anniversary Dinner; may it be as jolly and rich in good cheer and amity as its traditions warrant and may good old Saint Andrew,

looking down from his high seat in heaven above upon his loyal Scots bless them with a long life, a fat purse and a genial disposition, and that the dinner --

"For them no visioned terrors daunt; Their nights no fancied specters haunt."

This be our true wish, with the hope that the times may soon send and we again meet in mutual good-will and understanding.

Cordially and appreciatively, for the German Society of Maryland.

Yours sincerely, (signed) Karl A, M Scholtz President"

Mr. Scholtz sent his final message to the Saint Andrew's Society from his sick bed on the afternoon of December 1, 1941, as follows:

"John C. Paterson

Secy. St. Andrew's Society of Baltimore DLR 6 pm Southern Hotel, Baltimore

The President and Members of the St. Andrew;s Society:

Good-will and hearty greetings. May your present celebration equal if not excel all your past observances. And that the men of Scotia ever proudly commemorate their kind Saint. This be the wish of the German Society of Maryland.

Sincerely, Karl A. M. Scholtz, President"

Karl Scholtz died in January, 1943 and our Society received the following communication:

"There has always been a warm friendship and strong spirit of cooperation between the German Society of Maryland and the St. Andrew's Society of Baltimore. It existed throughout he administration of Louis P. Henninghausen and Robert M. Rother, and then largely expanded during the administration of Mr. Scholtz. The best tribute the Saint Andrew's Society of Baltimore can pay to the memory of Karl A. M. Scholtz, its departed friend, is to foster and keep alive for aye warm and helpful friendship between our Societies.

(signed) John C. Paterson, 1943, Jan. 26. Secretary, St. Andrew's Society of Baltimore"

The presidents of both Societies attended one another's annual banquets in 2001: the 196th of St. Andrew's and the 218th of The German Society.

SOME BITS AND PIECES OF OUR MARYLAND GERMAN HERITAGE

GERMAN SOCIETY PROTESTED HITLER'S TREATMENT OF JEWS AS EARLY AS 1933

Our Society has always stood up for right and protested wrongs against persons of German backgrounds. The president of our Society sent the following telegram to Adolf Hitler on March 31, 1933:

"I appeal to you to exercise to the German Jews a spirit of justice, humanity and mercy. I speak for our German racials who have ever before and after the war* held high the German standard and are sensitive to the honor of the Germans." *reference to World War I, which ended only 15 years prior to this letter.

Obviously, Hitler paid no attention to the German Society of Maryland.

SAUERKRAUT AND SAUERBRATEN -SPECIAL TO MARYLANDERS

Sauerkraut on Thanksgiving and Christmas is unique to Maryland among the US states. Sauerbraten in the home and at church dinners is also a local specialty. Jacques Kelly, in his Saturday morning column in the Baltimore Sun traces this to the traditions begun in the later 1800's, pointing out that in 1900, 25% of Baltimoreans spoke German as their native language. "That statistic speaks volumes about why we like our cabbage, sour beef and dumplings...! give my blessing to the fearless food searcher who spends a November night wandering the complicated streets of old Baltimore in search of our best (church) sour beef supper."

GERMAN-FOUNDED SCHOOL CELEBRATES 125 YEARS

Mount Saint Joseph High School has just celebrated its 125th anniversary. Founded by the religious order of Xavierian Brothers from Germany, it was for many years known as Mt. St. Joseph College. It issued its last college diploma in 1920. The school was located on 31 acres on the outskirts of Baltimore City, on Frederick Road in Irvington. Dedicated on Thanksgiving Day, 1876, the school grew to 90 students by 1885. It now has 1.086. A full-page photo of the school appeared in the German-language book *Das Neue Baltimore*, which described all of the German institutions in Baltimore in 1905. It mentioned that the cost of room, board and tuition then was \$4 per week.

NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN

The words written in 1859 by Wilhelm Raine, owner and editor of the German language newspaper *Der Baltimore Correspondent*, are as true today as they were then: "It is highly regrettable that in Congress, party interests and political ambition are superior to patriotic motives. Through this, the people are more and more alienated...every day."

ON THE OTHER HAND, EVERYTHING CHANGES

As the ancient Greek philosophers said, "Panta rei" - everything changes. The Republicans of 1860 was the radical, left wing political party. The Democrats were the conservatives, protectors of the status quo. Most of the Baltimore Germans of 1869 were Democrats. For an analysis of the political views of the Baltimore Germans in the election of 1860, read the article by Martin Lorenz-Meyer in the latest *Yearbook of* the Society for German American Studies. (Incidently, only 7% of Baltimore's voters voted for Lincoln.)

GERMAN DOGS SNIFF FOR BOMBS

When the air in Baltimore was filled with rumors of bombs on September 12th, German shepherds came to the Baltimore courthouse to sniff for explosives. Napoleon and Ike, both trained in Germany, were two of the 5 German shepherds on the staff of Mercy Hospital who volunteered for courthouse duty. The dogs didn't find anything, but their presence freed up police to handle the traffic jam resulting from workers fleeing the city. Mercy is believed to be the only hospital on the east cost with a canine unit. The first month Ike started work at Mercy, larcenies from autos in its garage fell from 30 to zero. The furry security guards give the message that Mercy takes its security seriously. The dogs also visit immobile patients and have a profound, positive effect on them.

ANTI-GERMAN PROPAGANDA STILL ABOUNDS IN BALTIMORE

Hostility toward things German, a carry-over from the two World Wars, still raises its ugly head from time to time in Maryland. Example: on October 15, talk show host Tom Marr (10:15 a.m.) compared the terrorists' hatred of America to the way "the German people hated America, because they hated our freedom." On March 10, 2002 at the Pikesville Hilton Mr. Marr will be honored at a banquet by Boys Town Jerusalem "as a true friend of the Jewish community". We hope there is no relationship between Marr's anti-German attitude and his pro-Jewish feelings.

Founded 1783

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



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The German Society of Maryland

P.O. Box 22585 Baltimore, MD 21203-4585 MARCH, 2002 410 685-0450

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Hans Petrich
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Erin Kasell
Patrick Merkle
Rev. Joseph Skillman, Jr.
Barbara Skillman
Robert T Hobble
Thomas A Werner

HELP WANTED!

Our office manager, Ilse von Veltheim, is moving back to Germany. We need to fill her shoes. Must have computer skills for word processing. Work at your home as independent contractor. Part time, about 10-15 hours per week. Car needed for mail pick up, etc. Within limits, set your own time schedule. Hourly pay plus mileage and expenses. German language desirable, but not required. If you know anyone who may be interested, please pass the word. Call our office for details.

MAIL TO:

Name:

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

Annual dues \$15 Spouse may be included at no extra cost.

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

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