

THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

DIE DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT VON MARYLAND

VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2002

VOLUME I, ISSUE 36

ANNUAL BANQUET SET NOV. 2 AT TOWSON UNIVERSITY: DR. GELDRICH-LEFFMAN HONOREE

This year's honoree as the Marylander of a Germanic background who has made substantial contributions to our state and country is Dr. Hannah Geldrich-Leffman, a professor emeritus of German language at Loyola College. She has been a member of our Society for many years and served faithfully on the scholarship committee. She is well known in University circles for her activities in modern language studies. She also serves as vice-president of our sister society, The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland.

Dr. Geldrich-Leffman was born in Hungary and lived in South America before coming to Baltimore.

Although the deadline for tickets will have passed by the time this newsletter reaches you, you may call chairman Art Nieberding at 410-893-9542 to see if any tickets are still available. Tickets are \$45.

The Society is encouraging students who are studying German in college to attend and we are still looking for donations to subsidize the students. The subsidies are \$25. Please help to encourage student interest in German-American activities by sending donations for this purpose to Art Nieberding at 2031 McKinley Road, BelAir, MD 21015.

Four exchange students attending Towson U. from Oldenberg University in northern Germany will attend as guests of Mike Nieberding and Ed Wenck, members of our Board of Directors.

OUR PRESIDENT DOES HIS DUTIES

Our President, Dr. James Schaub, works hard fulfilling his role as our leader and our representative in the German-American community. He sets aside one Friday night each month to represent the Society at the Bürgerverein meeting at the Kickers' Club in east Baltimore. He travels from his position at the Department of Agriculture in Washington, going home to Laurel, MD and then a long drive to Baltimore. He holds monthly meetings of the Executive Committee and quarterly chairs the Board of Directors meetings. He is *ex officio* a member of every committee. In May, he hosted the high school awards presentation, presided at our annual picnic, and represented the Society at the Baltimore German Festival and at the Greater Washington festival at Blob's Park. He was one of the hosts at the reception after the St. Michael's Day ecumenical service. He represented the Society at the German-American Day ceremonies in the Friendship Garden on the Mall in Washington and at the reception of the Joint Action Committee at the Heurich House. He attended the German reunification celebrations at the German Embassy. He spoke at the AATG high school students' workshops at McDaniel College. At our annual banquet, he will host our honored guests. On a daily basis he fields phone calls and answers correspondence from members, organizations and the public. He rides herd on the directors and members, exhorting them to work on the Society's projects. In the background at many events is his wife, Abbey, who helps him survive his busy schedule and maintains his strength with her hearty meals. We owe them both a debt of gratitude.

"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

October 23-24 - Sauerbraten at Zion
Nov. 2 - German Society Awards Banquet
Nov. 30-Dec 1 - Christkindlmarkt at Zion
March 1 Karneval Ball at Zion
March 24 - Sprachfest at Towson University
April 23 - Annual banquet Historical Society
April 25 - Annual Meeting German Society
April 24-27, 2003 SGAS convention in Baltimore

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

SAUERBRATEN EVENT OCT. 23-24

Dinner Wednesday Oct. 23 4 to 7 pm and Lunch Thursday Oct. 24 11am to 2pm at Zion Church, City Hall Plaza. Plan to be there. Menu \$9.50, children \$4. Sour beef or roast beef; dumplings or mashed potatoes; vegetable, roll and butter, cake, coffee or tea. Proceeds benefit Zion's ministry and outreach.. This is always a pleasant event where everybody enjoys a fine time and has lots of fun. Prepared by experienced church women and men. A rare occasion for local German-Americans and their families

CHRISTKINDLMARKT AT ZION

The Baltimore Kickers and Zion Church will hold its annual Christmas Market in the German tradition at the Zion church across from the Baltimore City Hall on Saturday, Nov. 19 at 10 am and on Sunday, Nov. 20 at 1 pm. This presents a great opportunity to buy Christmas wreaths and decorations, German cookies and candies, cards and a vast variety of Christmas presents. It is reminiscent of the Christmas markets which all German cities sponsor during the holidays. The event has become a "must" for those who cherish the old German Christmas traditions. Mark your calendar to attend. Bratwurst, hot mulled wine and other German foodstuffs are also available for lunch and snacks.

(The Kickers also sponsor a Christmas market excursion to Germany, which this year will visit the Bavarian cities of Wurzburg, Nürnberg, Bamberg and Dinkelsbühl, as well as a separate trip to Dresden and some of the former east German towns, Dec. 9-17.)

GERMAN-AMERICAN CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN BALTIMORE IN APRIL

The annual meeting of the Society for German-American Studies will hold its annual convention in 2003 in Baltimore, Thursday through Saturday, April 24-26. The Society presents a series of many lectures on topics relating to German immigration and achievements of the immigrants. The German Society is making arrangements for our members to attend some or all of these sessions. The SGAS membership consists of 361 individuals and 129 institutions from 43 states. It has 17 individual members and 9 institutional members from Germany, as well as members from Canada and other European countries. Last year the convention was held in Bremerhaven, Germany, a seaport which delivered millions of immigrants to the USA. Our Society is planning to participate in the convention by helping to display to the attendees Maryland's German heritage.

ANNAPOLIS CHURCH CELEBRATES 150th ANNIVERSARY, RENOVATION

St. Mary's Church, Annapolis is preparing to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the parish in 2003 by renovating its interior and exterior. Construction of the present church on Duke of Gloucester Street was begun in 1856 by the Redemptorist priests, who were assigned to minister to the German immigrants in the United States. The cornerstone was dedicated by German-speaking Father John N. Neumann who became Saint John Neumann. The church was also served by Francis X. Seelos, another Redemptorist priest, a Bavarian, who recently was "beatified", a step in the Catholic process of designating saints. The land for St. Mary's was donated to the Redemptorists by the descendants of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The renovations to the church are expected to be complete in time for Christmas services.

ILSE VON VELTHEIM MOVING BACK TO GERMANY IN DECEMBER

Our office manager, Ilse von Veltheim returns with her husband, Eicke, to their native Germany after living more than 25 years in Baltimore County. Her two daughters and son, who spent their teen-age and college years here, are married and living back in Germany. Ilse and Eicke were drawn to the homeland to be near their children and grandchildren. They are waiting for their new home to be built. They will be sorely missed. Mrs. Bärbel Otto has taken over as our new office manager.

OUR SOCIETY AIDS IN EXPANSION OF MEMBERSHIP IN MD. AATG

It has been nearly ten years since the Society joined with the Maryland chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German in sponsoring an annual awards convocation of high school students of German. We encouraged students to sit for the national examination of German language proficiency. We have been giving monetary awards to students who ranked about the 85th percentile in the exam. 32 students were in that category in the first year. This year 105 students achieved that ranking. This has encouraged not only the students but also the teachers. Maryland is the only state in the nation with such a program, all because our Society changed its focus from college scholarships for a few individuals to spreading our grants to a large number of younger students, in a program with far-reaching impact on spreading German language and culture. This has produced a truly unexpected and amazing result: while membership in the AATG has fallen an average of 7% nationwide, Maryland has increased its membership by 7% in the past year. Maryland is the only state to show an increase in AATG membership. Because the high school program has been one of the most successful programs in the history of our Society, the Board of Directors, at its meeting on October 10, 2002, assured the AATG that our support for this program will continue into the indefinite future. Prof. Mohammed Esa, a member of our board and a professor of German at McDaniel College, was instructed to notify the AATG at its program on Oct. 15 at McDaniel. 850 high school students attended the program.

TOURS OF BALTIMORE'S GERMAN HISTORY PLANNED FOR 2003

Baltimore has a rich German tradition. At the turn of the century, all laws of the City Council were published in both German and English. Our Society plans to organize a tour of local places of German American interest. We hope to obtain the services of Zippy Larson, owner of Shoe Leather Safaris, a firm which has been called one of the city's better-kept tourism secrets. The firm has been conducting tours since 1985 both on foot and by bus, selling ethnic "people, scandals, the neighborhoods, the cultures, the social times and even the food." We are looking into a bus safari in April during convention of the Society for German-American Studies, for the conventioners and any interested Society members.

BOARD RESOLVES TO PRODUCE EXHIBIT OF HISTORY AND PURPOSE OF THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MD.

At the Oct. 10 board meeting, President James Schaub presented a proposal of the executive committee to commission the preparation of a traveling exhibit commemorating the history, programs and accomplishments of our Society. Mr. Schaub has already begun talks with a company which specializes in putting together such exhibits. The goal is to have the exhibit ready for initial viewing when the Society for German American Studies holds its annual convention in Baltimore in April, 2003. The discussion at the board meeting emphasized that such an exhibit, which can travel to sites through the state will serve to make the Society better known and will likely serve to increase our membership. It was also pointed out that although this will be an expensive project, it will be long lasting and is a worthy allocation of the Society's resources. "It's time we toot our own horn for a change!" exclaimed one of the directors. The exhibit will be such that the Society will be proud to send it around to Maryland colleges and high schools, public buildings and places of assembly, such as the international wing of the Baltimore-Washington International Airport, ethnic summer festivals and the many Oktoberfests which occur in Maryland, as well as to national German-American festivals.

DECLINE AND RISE OF GERMAN LANGUAGE IN AMERICAN SCHOOLS

In the current edition of *The Yearbook of German American Studies*, Prof. Klaus Dehne of the Universität Passau, Passau, Germany writes: "One of the consequences of World War I was that the German language vanished almost totally from public life. This development had an effect on school life, too. Before the beginning of World War I, German had been by far the most popular foreign language taught in American high schools. The number of students studying French had never exceeded 10%, but in 1915 every fourth student studied German. In 1923 nothing was left of the language's once prominent position; only 0.6% of the students still attended German classes. German remains largely unimportant in American classrooms even today."

There seems to be a resurgence in the study of German. Prior to the opening of school this month, there was in Maryland a strong push to find teachers of German, to satisfy the demands of students in several counties.

THANKS ...

To **Sister Benedicta Viebeck, SSND** for her contribution to the Society for our programs and good works. Sister Benedicta came to the USA from Bavaria in the 1930's to teach as a young women and had a long teaching career in her order's schools in Maryland. She is now assigned to translating archives of the Notre Dame sister, from the original German to English

CHRISTKINDLMARKT IN BETHLEHEM

Bethlehem, PA, a short drive from Maryland, is worth the trip in December. It bills itself as "Christmas City USA". From Dec. 1 to Dec. 31 it holds Christmas walking tours (2-7 pm), horse drawn carriage rides (2-9 pm), an ethnic Christmas tree exhibit, Christmas concerts Sat and Sunday evenings at 6 pm, music in the chapel of the old Moravian chapel, Mon-Fri. at 4:30 pm, and the Bethlehem Christkindmarkt, a major festival on 3 consecutive weekends: Dec 2-5, 9-12 and 16-19. 200 vendors in 2 heated tents. Food, entertainment and decorations. The city sparkles with white lights and candles glow in every window of its 250-year old Moravian buildings. Enter the town and follow the signs to the Christmas Market. Admission \$4. 12 and under free.

Call 610-861-0678 or check www.christmascity.org

FARIS BEEHLER STUNTZ, 90

Her great-grandfather immigrated from Heidelberg, Germany to Baltimore in 1828 where he founded the first umbrella factory in America. It continued making umbrellas here until 1977. (During those early years, Baltimore was the umbrella and straw hat capital of America.) Mrs. Stuntz died in Baltimore on September 9, 2002. As a child she often visited her father's umbrella factory at 222 W. Lexington Street and played among the fabric and umbrella parts. She was educated at the Bryn Mawr School and Wellesley College in Massachusetts. She married Lawrence Stuntz, an Associated Press Reporter whose assignments took them to Mexico City, Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro. While living in Argentina she had a private audience with Eva Peron, the beautiful and charismatic wife of dictator, Juan Peron. She talked about it the rest of her life. The couple moved back to Baltimore in 1984. She inherited the umbrella factory from her father. The City acquired it for urban renewal, but not without several battles with Mrs. Stuntz who went through three lawyers in the eminent domain proceedings. She is survived by a daughter, son, sister, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

GERMANS VOTE ANTI-USA IN NATIONAL ELECTION

Gerhard Schröder, who had been 8 points behind Edmund Stoiber for the job of German Chancellor, won the election by waging an anti-American campaign in the last weeks of the election. Schröder's justice minister made a public statement comparing President George W. Bush to Hitler, provoking a harsh response by the US government. The anti-American stance had strong appeal to Schröder's "red-green" coalition which handed him a victory on Sunday, September 22. The anti-USA attitude of the German voters reflects a change in heart from the strong sympathy and support for the USA after the terrorist attacks of 9/11/01. Until now the USA has been Germany's strongest ally. US Defense Secretary Rumsfeld reiterated Washington's view that Germany's anti-US posture has "poisoned" the ties between the two countries. As soon as he won the election with his anti-US rhetoric, Schröder tried to minimize his "differences of opinion" with the U.S. Radio talk shows in the US immediately became inundated with calls to pull US troops out of Germany, with complaints of "why should we defend them if they hate us?"

Newspapers in the US have devoted significant space to addressing the new relationship between German and the US. The entire first page of the Sept. 20th issue of the *New Yorker Staats-Zeitung & German Times* depicted Schröder standing Nixonesque with arms in the air holding the two-fingered "V", with the legend above his head: "Gerhard Schröder - Saddams Best Friend?"

Regardless of Schröder's apparent anti-US political stance to get reelected, we should recall that he earlier put his political life on the line by forcing a no-confidence vote to get the German parliament's consent to aid the US by sending soldiers to Afghanistan. He won by only 2 votes. And, besides the US, no other country has more troops abroad and on the ground to fight global terrorism than Germany. And the justice minister who made the Bush-Hitler comparison was forced to resign. Despite the hoopla, there is enormous public goodwill toward the US in Germany and the US still has a strong ally in the Berlin chancery. How Germany's new official hostility toward the USA will affect the attitude of German-Americans toward the fatherland remains to be seen.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES YET?

A few members still have not sent in their dues. Since our investment income has dropped dramatically, we rely on dues to fund our important projects.

MENCKEN IS NAMED GREATEST ALL-TIME AMERICAN COLUMNIST

The three greatest American newspaper columnists of all times all came out of Baltimore: H. L. Mencken, Murray Kempton and Russell Baker, so says Theo Lippman, Jr., himself a great columnist for the Baltimore *Sun* for 20 years and who taught Opinion Writing at Johns Hopkins University for 10 years. Lippman wrote in a July 7, 2002 article in the *Sun* that, of the three, Mencken was number one.

After itemizing Mencken's many defects, Lippman wrote: "He was a knowledgeable critic of politics, literature, music, medicine and much else and he was a scholar whose volumes on the American language and literature will live forever, but he was loved and hated by a wide readership mostly for his columns." Baker and Kempton were both Johns Hopkins-educated and Baker did a stint on Mencken's newspaper, the *Sun*, before his career on the New York Times. Kempton had been a copy boy for Mencken at the 1936 Democratic convention.

Henry L. Mencken had a strong sense of pride in his German heritage, and was a member of our sister organization, The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland.

THE HITLER CHANNEL

The Sept. 19 issue of *The Christian Science Monitor* carried an article by Abe Novick, senior vice president of Baltimore's Eisner Communication (advertising firm) which began: "The History Channel with its constant reruns of newsreel footage has been called "The Hitler Channel" because it seems that as often as not, the little dictator is there giving his *Sieg Heil* to his henchman. It is hard for a channel surfer to just skip by without stopping for a look" The article further comments on the tendency of television and the movies to constantly rehash the Hitler years. Mr. Novick's theme is that "artists" should "sift through the rubble of the past, to explore and reveal the meaning they find in it...Without this freedom of expression, we'd never be able to observe the very kind of art that a pathetic little man once burned."

Within the American Jewish community there are holocaust "professionals" who make their living by throwing up unrelenting anti-Hitler tirades. They serve a good purpose in preserving the memory of this example of man's inhumanity to man. However, in doing so, they also build up hatred against all things German. They want to make us ashamed of our Germanic heritage and they have had some successes. Another effect has been the elimination in many school districts of the study of the German language.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

A WALK AROUND THE NORTH POLE. Paul and Rose Evelyn Rice traveled from June to September, driving through Canada to Alaska, boating into the glaciers, with the highlight of their trip being a flight to the North Pole, where they landed and walked around in the sub-freezing temperatures. On their return trip they visited a large contingent of relatives in Kansas City. Rose Evelyn and the relatives were all descendants of Vincent Potthast, one of the founders of Baltimore's Potthast Bros. furniture company.

Congressman **ROBERT EHRlich** is in the midst of a tight campaign as the Republican candidate for the office of governor of Maryland. With just a few weeks until the election, the contest is too close to call and every vote is important to each candidate. Ehrlich was honored by our Society at the annual awards banquet four years ago as the German-American Marylander of the year for his contributions to our state and nation.

Baltimore County Executive **DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER** is the Democratic candidate for the congressional seat abandoned by Robert Ehrlich. In the recent redistricting by a democratic governor and legislature, a safe district had been carved to assure his election, but the Court of Appeals stepped in and made the district more competitive. He is still the favorite in the race against the Republican, Helen Bentley.

MAGS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

The Mid Atlantic Germanic Society (MAGS) celebrated its 20th anniversary with a banquet on Friday, Oct. 18th, followed by its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, Oct. 19th. The banquet speaker, Dr. George K. Schweitzer, presented "Was your ancestor a Wine-Drinking, Beer Drinking or Schnapps Drinking German?" MAGS is an organization devoted to Germanic genealogy. All persons interested in this subject are invited to join. The banquet was held in the Hilton Hotel, Columbia, MD. MAGS was partnered with the National Genealogical Society for its program.

MEMBERSHIP DIVERSE IN MD.

Our past 10 presidents have resided in 8 different counties in the State: Schaub, Prince George; Nieberding, Howard; Aymold, Carroll; Potthast, Baltimore; Tillman, Queen Anne & Baltimore; Ferguson, Baltimore; Thau, Baltimore; Wehrenberg, Carroll; Pritchett, Baltimore City and Wiesand, Worcester.

POINSETTIAS POPULARIZED BY GERMAN-AMERICAN ECKE FAMILY

If you have a poinsettia plant in your home at Christmas, chances are it originated at the 72 acre Ecke farm in California. 80% of the plants, worldwide, come from Ecke. (Its main competitor is Fischer, USA of Boulder, Colo., a unit of a German firm.)

Albert Ecke, a German immigrant, began selling poinsettias from his farm stand in Hollywood, CA. His son Paul saw the commercial advantages of the plant and over the decades turned this obscure wild flower into America's favorite flowering potted plant that has become synonymous with Christmas. Albert's great-grandson Paul Ecke, III now heads the ranch which ships tens of millions of cuttings to wholesale growers in the US and Canada. Until a few years ago, Ecke had a virtual monopoly because of his secret process of grafting to produce multiple branches off a single stem. However, in 1990 a university researcher discovered and published the secret process, so that now everyone uses the same technique.

The 45-year old Paul Ecke, III holds a degree in horticulture, and an MBA from Duke University. Paul explains: "I'm basically a farmer at heart and farmers are used to dealing with adversity. It's always too hot or too cold, or too wet or too dry. That's why," he says cheerfully, "you'll never meet a happy farmer."

STEUBEN PARADE A MAJOR GERMAN-AMERICAN EVENT

The Steuben parade in New York City and its related activities is the largest German event of this year, held in mid September. It was canceled in 2001 because of the terrorist attacks of 9/11 but on Sept. 21 this year it came back as a resounding success. Marchers came from all over New York State as well as from New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Texas. Dozens of American college, high school and club bands marched and played. Siegfried and Roy, Las Vegas' tiger tamers, were the grand marshals. Bands, dancers and marchers crossed the Atlantic from 20 German cities to participate: Rosenheim (Siegfried's hometown), Karlburg, Traunstein, Wendlingen, Zaberfeld, München, Illschwang, Eschweiler, Bedburg-Hau, Bad Lausick, Ützing, Hagen, Eichendorf, Bremerhaven, Lamsstedt, Werdohl, Rüdighausen, Kenzingen and Hausen.

Denis Smith, a member of our Society, served as an official photographer for the parade. Mark your calendar: next year's parade is on Sat., September 20.

GERMAN CONNECTION TO THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

The flag which flew over Baltimore's Fort McHenry on September 14, 1814 when the British fleet conceded defeat and sailed away, and which Francis Scott Key observed and was inspired to write what is now our national anthem, remained in the family of the commander of the fort during that siege, Lieutenant Colonel George Armistead. The colonel later became a general and his statue sits atop Federal Hill in Baltimore. Armistead is the anglicized version of Armstadt, the German immigrant's original family name. The flag became a family relic and was not publicly displayed again until it was loaned by Armistead's widow, Louisa, for a celebration at the fort honoring the Marquis de Lafayette on October 10, 1824, the last time the flag flew over Fort McHenry. The flag passed to Louisa's daughter, Georgianna Appleton, upon Louisa's death in October, 1881. Georgianna's son Eben Appleton inherited the flag, and in 1912 donated it to the Smithsonian Institution. It has been on display there and is now undergoing a preservation process which will require several years.

MARYLAND JEWISH SURVIVOR OF ROOSEVELT REJECTION DIES

In May, 1939, when 950 Jews who were attempting to escape from Hitler aboard the ship St. Louis tried to land in the United States, President Franklin D. Roosevelt refused to let them in the country. His actions resulted in sending them back where they were persecuted by Hitler and most died. Gertrud A. Mengels was one of 250 passengers aboard the St. Louis who survived. She eventually came to Baltimore where she died June 28 at age 86. She made it 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 by Canadian troops. After she and her husband migrated to Baltimore, she worked for many years as a bookkeeper for various dress shops. She is survived by a son who lives in Baltimore, a daughter in Pikesville and another daughter living in Frankfurt, Germany.

53.4% OF MARYLANDERS HAD GERMAN PARENTS 100 YEARS AGO

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.

FRIENDS OF THE MENCKEN HOUSE

The house at 1524 Hollins Street where Henry L. Mencken did most of his writing was for a while part of Baltimore's museum system. As the City began to run out of money, it closed its museums. The Mencken House was about to be put on the auction block when a group of Mencken admirers formed a non-profit organization to try to save it. Today the house is at a juncture. The Sun newspaper donated some money to repair the termite damage which could cause the house to collapse. The City has temporarily allowed the "Friends" to have access to it to try to maintain it. The Friends' goal is to acquire the house from the City, restore, preserve and operate it as a non-profit Museum of the life and times of H. L. Mencken. The Friends also have educational goals and hope to be able to offer insights into the culture of Mencken's America and of Mencken's City. The group featured a booth at the summer German Festival and is making its presence known. It needs funds and members. You may join the "Friends of the H. L. Mencken House" by sending your name, address and \$40 check to 733 Martin Drive, Catonsville, MD 21229-1116. Our Society is a member.

LIKELY POPULATION CHANGES

For a population to remain stable, each woman must produce 2.1 children. Europe falls far short of this measure, with the result that muslim groups, who greatly exceed the 2.1 standard, will soon take over many countries such as Germany, France and Italy. Italy's reproduction rate is only 1.1 children per woman. It is possible that in less than 100 years, Germany may be populated with a majority of non-German ethnics. In the United States, a survey by the United Jewish Communities found that Jewish women were producing at the rate of 1.8 children per woman, which will result in a decline in the Jewish population. No statistics are available for other white Americans, but the hispanic and black segments are generating demographic results far exceeding the 2.1 standard. Muslims in America likewise exceed the 2.1 figure. The USA will likely see dramatic changes in demographics in the next century and the percentage of German-Americans will certainly decline.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Michael J. Nieberding reported to the Board of Directors that the Society assets totaled \$493,078 as of October 10, 2002. He called for a meeting of the finance committee to review investment policies.

REV. AUSTIN SCHILDWACHTER

Father Austin Frederick Schildwachter, an Episcopal rector and chaplain, died July 29 at age 84. He was a member of our Society for many years and attended our annual meeting and awards banquets until a year before his death. He was friendly and well-loved by the members of our Society who knew him. He was born in Baltimore, raised in Walbrook and was a graduate of Catonsville High School. He was rector of St. John's Huntington Episcopal Church and chaplain of the Maryland National Guard. He received his degree of Bachelor's of Divinity at the Virginia Theological Seminary. Ordained in 1946, he served as vicar at St. Matthew's Church in Oakland and as rector of the Church of Ascension in Westminster. In 1958 he became rector of St. John's Huntington at a critical time and he helped to integrate it. After retiring in 1980, he accepted a post as assistant rector at St. Thomas' Church in Towson and also served as a co-chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital. At the time of his death he was chaplain of the Timonium post of the American Legion and of the Greater Baltimore chapter of the Retired Officers of America. His sons Mark and Thomas predeceased him as did his wife, Elizabeth Jean Sanders, who died in 1991. He is survived by his wife of 10 years, the former Betty Smith, a daughter, a stepson and two stepdaughters. Father Schildwachter's death is a severe loss to our Society.

ST. MICHAEL'S ECUMENICAL SERVICE WELL ATTENDED

The ecumenical service co-sponsored by our Society and Zion Church to commemorate the fall of the Berlin wall and freedom of religion for the German peoples was attended by many Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox clergy and by many members of our Society and congregants of several participating churches. The reception which followed in the Adlersaal received plaudits for its ambience and food. Our Society paid for the trumpeters and also contributed to the reception.

GERMAN COMPOSERS AT BSO

The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's spring selection will feature Hayden, Mendelssohn, Mozart, Mahler, Beethoven, as well as Bartok, a Hungarian who was deeply influenced by Strauss. The programs run on weekends from April 24 to May 11.

**HELP RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS FOR OUR SOCIETY.
CALL THE OFFICE FOR APPLICATION FORMS.**

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



OCT.-NOV., 2002

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The German Society of Maryland

OFFICE OF THE SOCIETY

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

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Carole K. Manger
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Audrey Peppersack
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Mark Hill Wittstadt

PLEASE RECRUIT ONE NEW MEMBER

Because of such a poor return on investments, the Society's income has fallen dramatically and the main source of our income today is dues. We are limited in ways to get better returns on investments, so it is vital that we recruit new dues-paying members. Each of us has a friend or relative who "ought" to belong to the German Society. Call or write that person and invite him/her to join with us. Send this copy of the newsletter, with the application form printed right here.

MAIL TO:

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ Zipcode: _____

Spouse (Optional): _____ Phone: _____

Referred by: _____

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

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

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