

THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

DIE DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT VON MARYLAND

VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

DECEMBER, 1994

VOLUME ONE -ISSUE FOUR

OFFICIALS FROM THE GERMAN EMBASSY AND FROM ETHNIC ORGANIZATIONS ATTEND BANQUET

Wilfried Krug and Helmut Benz, officials from the German Embassy in Washington, traveled to Baltimore to attend our annual banquet.

Officers of other Maryland ethnic organizations also participated in the festivities: R. Douglas Chambers, the St. George's Society (England), Thomas E. Klug, The Hibernian Society (Ireland), Allen C. Howe, II, The St. Andrew's Society (Scotland) and Vincent L. Luca, Sons of Italy.

Dr. F. Peter Kohler, Vice President of the German Society of Pennsylvania, came to the event from Philadelphia.

Nearly 350 members and guests made this year's banquet a great success. The names of all of the members of the Society were listed in this year's program.

RECENT EVENTS SUCCESSFUL

All of the events sponsored by the Society were well-received by the members, including:

- The Defenders' Day (Sept 11) tour of monuments, the dinner, the concert and fireworks at Fort MCHenry.
- The Kirchgang (Sept. 18) services and brunch at Zion was enjoyed by a large number of members and their families.
- The Picnic (Oct. 1) at Brockmeyers' home featured German food, wine, beer and folk music.
- The Society was represented at the German unification ecumenical service at St. Matthews Cathedral in Washington (Oct. 2) and the Ambassadorial reception afterwards.

"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."

PAUL SCHAFER HONORED AT 211TH ANNUAL BANQUET



Paul Schafer was this year's honoree at our annual awards banquet at Martin's Eudowood in Towson, Maryland. Paul, a member of the German Society since 1932, is our oldest member at age 90. The Society annually honors a Marylander of German ancestry who has made significant contributions to our state or nation. Paul Schafer was selected for his many years of business and charitable activities.

Dandridge Brooke presented Paul with the honoree's traditional silver bowl and described Paul's many charitable activities from his earliest days in Maryland through to the present. Paul came to America in 1926 and shortly thereafter founded a business, "Schafer's Meat Products". After WW II, he assigned one employee full time to purchase, box and mail food to people in need in Germany, shipping 20 to 40 boxes per week for several years. He helped many people set up new businesses in Maryland. Upon his retirement, he turned the business over to his employees. His quiet generosity toward many local charities has made him well-loved by his fellow citizens.

Comments were forthcoming from several tables at the banquet that Paul's wife Charlotte (Lottie) should have shared the award with him. Mrs. Schafer has been at Paul's side for more than sixty years, working along with him, giving encouragement, advice and assistance in the many good works. The Society also wishes to honor Charlotte Schafer at the same time we honor Paul.

WINTER Events Calendar

EDELWEISS FASCHING SET
FOR JANUARY 28TH



The membership of the German Society is



invited to attend the annual Fasching of the Edelweiss club on Saturday night January 28, 1995 at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Klosterman Ave., Fullerton. Costumes are encouraged. Open bar. Music by Helmut Licht.

WESTERN MARYLAND COLLEGE
SPONSORS GERMAN TOUR



Dr. Esa, Professor of German at Western Maryland College will lead a tour through German-speaking Europe Jan.4-20, 1995. The group will visit Heidelberg, Lucern, Liechtensein, Innsbruck, Salzburg, Vienna, Munich, Oberammergau-Rothenberg. Cost: \$1,900. Contact Dr. Esa, 410-857-2462.

KICKERS OFFER FREE GERMAN
LANGUAGE COURSE

Dr. Volker K. Schmeissner teaches the German language courses at the Kicker's clubhouse, every Thursday through May. The beginners' class begins at 6:45 pm and the advanced class at 8:15. Students are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Kickers' club is located at 26 S. Broadway in Baltimore. For information call (410) 538-3221.

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**FROHE WEIHNACHTEN
UND GLÜCKLICHES
NEUES JAHR**

**Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year to all of
our members and friends!**

TRIVIA QUESTION



When was the first Oktoberfest held in downtown Baltimore? and where was it held? and when? and lastly, who sponsored it?

Send your answers (guesses?) to "Trivia Question," 206 E. Seminary Ave., Lutherville, MD 21093. Winner's prize: \$5 off next year's dues.

Check the next issue of the newsletter for the answers.



KELLEHER AND TILLMAN RECEIVE MEDALS OF THE SOCIETY



The Board of Directors has awarded the Medal of The German Society of Maryland to Eva Kelleher and Donald Tillman. The medal is awarded from time to time to members of the Society who have made important contributions for the good of the Society and in the furtherance of its goals.

Mrs. Kelleher has fostered the German language among children and adults as the principal of the week-end language school at Zion for more than 20 years. Many Marylanders received their introduction to German culture and language through her efforts.

Donald Tillman served as president of the German Society for five years, during which the Society was invigorated, its programs expanded and the membership greatly enlarged. Donald remains a director, vice-president and chairman of our Executive Committee.

The medals were presented at the Society's awards banquet on November 11th.

SCHNITZELBANK

Singing the song of "Schnitzelbank" (cobbler's bench) is a fond memory which many of us carry, some from childhood family parties and others from the local taverns in German ethnic neighborhoods. The leader of the band (or in family gatherings, der Grossvater or a jovial Onkel) stood before the Schnitzelbank chart with his pointer and sang in German: Ist das nicht ein Schnitzelbank? In a happy reply to Grandfather or to Uncle, the group sang back: Ja, das ist ein Schnitzelbank! And so on, (through hin-und-her, Kreuz und Quer, Dicke Frau, fette Sau) as Grandpop pointed to each new item on the chart. And at the end, a refrain by the chorus extolling the beauty of the cobbler's bench. The song was so popular in bygone days that even the local brewers published their own Schnitzelbank charts and passed them out in the taverns with their advertising printed on them.

The German Society and The Edelweiss Club are joining to design and print our own version of a Schnitzelbank chart, which will be available for our members and for sale to the public. Dutch Niemann, a retired professional illustrator and artist, has volunteered to design the chart. (Dutch is married to Betty Niemann, president of Edelweiss.) Since there are many varieties of such charts, we are looking for ideas. If you have a Schnitzelbank chart, please call our office (410-685-0450) so we can arrange to take a look at your version. Call soon, since we are anxious to get started on the project.

ECUMENICAL SERVICE HELD ON THANKSGIVING EVE

The 6th annual ecumenical service was held November 23 at the Zion Church, City Hall Plaza. The event was co-sponsored by The Society for the History of The Germans in Maryland, The German Society of Maryland and Zion Church.

The first such service was hurriedly assembled immediately after the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989, to give thanks for the long-awaited freedom of the subjugated peoples of East Germany. This year's theme was thanksgiving for the many gifts which we enjoy, and the gift of freedom for peoples of Germanic heritage throughout the world, especially for freedom to practice their religion without persecution.

Pastor H. J. Siegfried Otto gave the homily, in which he stressed the obligation to be generous to all those who are in need. In the five years past, sermons have been delivered by Episcopal, Catholic and Lutheran clergy.

The Zion Church Choir, directed by Mr. John Heizer, provided the liturgical music. Special songs were sung by The Arion Gesangverein and by The Children of the German Language School, directed by Mrs. Bärbel Otto. Mr. Tim White and Mr. Ted Jones provided the brass music. Sister Cindy Nardone, a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, presented the gospel reading.

The service was well attended. Many of the participants donated canned goods which were placed in the Thanksgiving Cornucopia. The harvest display was prepared by Bruno and Betty Niemann, Susan Leaverton and David Tabler.

Irma Tillman served as the chair of the Ecumenical Service Committee and arranged for the food and drink for the reception which was held in the Adlersaal after the service.

OUR NEWSLETTER

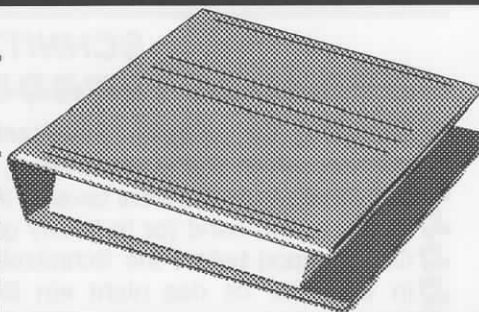
At the special meeting of members on May 7th, the members instructed the officers and directors to press forward with our newsletter. They felt that the key to progress is good communications among the membership.

Cooperation by the members is essential for making a good newsletter. We are now asking members to supply information, ideas and materials for use in the newsletter.

Send us a note with your idea on anything you think is of interest to our members. Mail your note to: Ted Potthast, Pres. 1819 Leadburn Road, Towson, MD 21204-1830, or call him at 828-8137. Suggested categories for our newsletter are set forth below.

CATEGORIES (GUIDELINES) FOR ARTICLES:

1. German Society future activities and projects.
2. News about our members.
3. Our members "in the news."
3. Sketches of current members.
4. Reports from our Committees.
5. News of the Women's Auxiliary.
6. Future events of other organizations in Maryland and nearby states.
7. Births, deaths, weddings, anniversaries, family reunions, celebrations, etc. of members and their families.
8. Visits by our members to the "fatherland," and visitors from overseas.
9. History of our Society
10. Items of interest to Marylanders of German ancestry.
11. Features on other local and national German American groups.
12. Publications and other sources of German ethnic historical and cultural information.
13. "Thanks" - to people who have contributed to the common good.



**HERITAGE BOOKS TO REPRINT
"MARYLAND'S GERMAN HERITAGE"**

The book by Daniel Wunderlich Nead, published in 1913 will be reprinted this fall by Heritage Books, Inc. of Bowie Maryland.

It details the history of early German immigration and settlement in Maryland and surrounding states, and focuses on the role of Pennsylvania Germans in founding the German element in Maryland.

The book is illustrated with sketches, maps and facsimiles and has chapters devoted to Home-making, Religion, Migration, Education and Industry. It explores German involvement in the Revolutionary War. Prof. Don Heinrich Tolzmann, a well-known historian from the University of Cincinnati has provided an introduction along with biographical references.

It can be obtained from Heritage Books, Inc., 1540E Pointer Ridge Place, Bowie, MD 20716 (800) 398-7709. 304 pp. \$24. Prepubl. price \$19 + s&h.

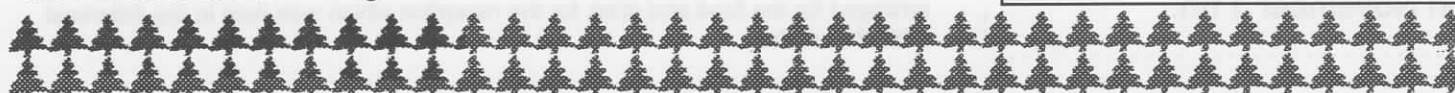
**GERMAN CEMETERY RECORD BOOK
PUBLISHED BY
ZIMMERMANS**

Elaine Obbink Zimmerman and Kenneth E. Zimmerman, both of whom are members of our Society, are the authors of a recently published book entitled "Records of St. Paul's Cemetery, 1855-1946". Copies are \$9.50 and are available from Elaine Zimmerman, P.O. Box 276, Woodstock, MD 21163. The publisher is Family Line Publications of Westminster, MD. Dorothy Galway, secretary of our Society, helped in translating some of the German records into English.

Book Review: (by Dick Bush, Columbia, MD.)

The book is a transcription of the original cemetery register, rearranged by the authors into burial lot order. There are 84 pages of names, about 2000 names in all plus an index and a history of the cemetery. The original St. Paul's cemetery register is in sequence order by death date and burial date. The first entries are transfers from the old cemetery owned by Second German Evangelical Lutheran Church. Records prior to 1891 were written in old German script. St. Paul's Lutheran cemetery sits atop a knoll in Druid Hill Park in Baltimore City and many German immigrants and their descendants are buried there. The cemetery pre-dates the park and is one of three cemeteries there. The cemetery was once jointly owned by three German Lutheran Churches: Emmanuel Lutheran, St. Paul's and Martini Lutheran of South Baltimore.

The book is of special value because some of the stones have been destroyed, not only by time, but vandalism in 1986. Since then the cemetery has been restored. The cemetery is currently owned and maintained by Martini Evangelical Lutheran Church.



DIE DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT VON MARYLAND

This is how our name sounds in German. In the book "Das Neue Baltimore" published in 1905 after the great fire, the story of our Society begins:

"Die 'Deutsche Gesellschaft von Maryland,' eine der segensreichsten und im Stillen wirkenden Organisationen in Baltimore, wurde vor 122 Jahren gegründet."

(The 'German Society of Maryland,' one of the most prosperous and quietly effective organizations in Baltimore, was founded 122 years ago.)

BIOGRAPHICAL PROJECT

The job of writing leaflets on Germans who have influenced Maryland is in full swing. Christal van der Berg has completed a pamphlet on Otto Mergenthaler, the German immigrant who worked in Baltimore and invented the linotype machine. Sister Benedicta Viebeck has written on Mother Theresa Gerhardinger, founder of Notre Dame college and the Institute of Notre Dame. Several others are in the drafting stage. Authors are needed to write on Mr. Hager, the founder of Hagerstown; General John Stricker; Mayor Broening; H. L. Mencken; Babe Ruth; Baron de Kalb and our modern governors of German ancestry, Gov. McKeldin and Gov. Schaefer. Ideas are needed for additional subjects. Call the office or drop a note if you have an idea or want a writing assignment.

CALLING ALL COOKS!!



Several of our young members would like to compile a cookbook of favorite German recipes of the membership. We

hope to gather enough recipes to publish a cookbook. Otherwise, we can still print the recipes and distribute copies to those who contribute recipes, and members who would like a copy. Mia and Cappy Potthast will coordinate the effort, and Interested persons should submit recipes to T. Potthast, 1819 Leadburn Road, Towson, Maryland 21204..

WHAT'S IN A NAME? PART II

In our last newsletter, we published the meanings, in German, of some of our members' names. We continue with those names from F through K.

Falk	falconer	Hall	Swiss town
Feuerhardt	fire hearth, smith	Hasslinger	from the town of
Fogle(Fogel)	bird		Hasslinge
Fowler		Hecht	pickerel
(Fauler)	lazy	Heisler	
Freund	friend	(Haeusler)	hazel
Friedrich	peace + ruler	Henkelmann	home + master
Fritz	for Friedrich	Herd	herd
Gans	goose	Hesse	Hessian
Gede		Heymann	nickname for
(Gäde)	form of Gottfried		Heinrich
Geier	gerfalcon, vulture	Hibschman	
Geldrich	money rich	(Hübschman)	a courtly, well
Glotzbach			educated person
(Klotzbach)	stream full of logs	Hinkel	baby chick
Goetzinger	from the town of	Gradle	
	Goetzing	(Gradl)	terraced terraine
Goldbeck		Hoerichs	
(Goldbach)	gold brook	(Hörig)	herring dealer
Grams	angry, annoyed	Hoffman	manager of estates
Grassl			of nobility
(Gräsel)	ranger of the	Holman	
	meadows	(Hollmann)	from the place
Groll	grassy marsh;		name, Holle
	grudge	Holthaus	
Grubb		(Holzhaus)	a dwelling place
(Grub)	hollow, pit,		near the woods
	mountain cove	Horn	a field
Gruel (Gruel)	atrocitiy	Homer	one who works with
Guenschel	form of Günther		"hom", as a comb
Guenther			maker; occasionally
(Günther)	warrior in an army		a horn player
Gutbrod	baker	Hort (= Hart)	from the name of a
Haas(Hase)	hare		place
Hafenmair		Huber	owner of a "Hube",
(Hafemeyer)	oat farmer		a unit of farmland
Hahn	rooster	Kaestner	chest maker; also,
			manager of the
			granary

References:

"German-American Names", by Dr. George F. Jones;
Dictionary of German Names, by Dr. Hans Bahlow,
translated by Dr. Edda Gentry

MEMBER NEWS

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

CLEMENT D. EHRHARDT, JR was recently summoned to the White House to meet with President and Mrs. Clinton and Vice-President and Mrs. Gore. Clem, a Director of our Society, had filed a complaint with a health insurance company, analyzing what he found to be discriminatory practices against policy holders. To make a point, Clem sent a copy of the letter to Hilary Clinton. From over 50,000 such letters, Clem's was one of 12 selected to show examples of problems with the current health insurance system. Clem and 11 others met in the Rose Garden early on a September morning for a press conference. Afterwards, President Clinton spoke to Clem for several minutes, addressing from memory some of the principal points in Clem's letter and asking Clem for input into the program.

The German Society is delighted that one of our members has become a presidential advisor.

Past President and Lifetime Director FRED WEHREBERG is retired and living in Chicago. His mother is in a nursing home there. He writes that family commitments prevented him from coming to this year's Awards Banquet but he hopes to get to Maryland for some of our future activities.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Two of our members have recently been elected to public office.

CHARLES "DUTCH" RUPPERSBERGER, has been elected the County Executive, Baltimore County

ROBERT ERLICH, has been elected to for U.S. congress in the second congressional district.



OUR 200TH ANNIVERSARY PLACQUE WELL MAINTAINED

In 1983, when the Society celebrated its 200th anniversary, our directors asked the City of Baltimore to let us have a place near the inner harbor to locate a commemorative brass marker - perhaps on the side of a civic building or monument. Our request was denied.

Zion Church stepped forward and offered to let us place the marker on the south wall of the Church. Today it remains there, protected and well maintained. Our members are encouraged to visit the site and study our plaque.

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

HISTORICAL NOTES

BALTIMORE'S LYRIC MARKS 100TH YEAR OF GERMAN ORIGINS



October 31 marks the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Lyric Opera House at Mt. Royal and Maryland Avenues. Its design was modeled after the Neues Gewandhaus in Leipzig.

On Oct. 31, 1894 conductor Emil Paur opened the music hall with a rendition of the prelude to Wagner's "Die Meistersinger von Nuremberg." The famous soprano, Nellie Melba concluded the ceremony with Handel's "Sweet Bird" aria.

Over the years, many famous German Americans stood on the Lyric stage, including Charles Lindberg and Amelia Earhart. Early owners of the building included such German names as Frederick Gottlieb and Otto Kahn.

In 1916 the newly-formed Baltimore Symphony Orchestra performed its first concert in the Lyric under the direction of Gustav Strube. In 1921 Frederick Huber formed the Baltimore Opera Company for the purpose of bringing operas to the Lyric. The building narrowly escaped demolition in the 1950's when Mayor Theodore R. McKeldin, Jr., (a prominent member of the German Society of MD) attempted, unsuccessfully, to acquire the building for an interchange for I-83.

The Lyric now competes with the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. An arts center is planned adjacent to the Lyric. An idea for a single management for the Meyerhoff, the Lyric and the new arts center has been put forward, to market the three has as one strong entity. "The key is to get them all to work together," said Governor Wm. Donald Schafer (a current member of our Society).

ETHNIC SOCIETIES CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF COOPERATION

At our Annual Awards Banquet on Nov. 11th, we commemorated 100 years of the Maryland ethnic organizations working together for the common good of our State. Their work is set forth on page 30 of the history of the German Society "Pioneers in Service" which is given to each member upon joining our Society. It reads, in part, as follows:

"In 1893 reports of cruelties and murders aboard oyster vessels were so frequent that the Hibernian Society, the St. Andrew's Society, the St. George's Society, the French Benevolent Society and the Charity Organizations Society of Baltimore joined the German Society in establishing a 'Bureau for the Protection of the Oyster Dredgers'. The representatives of these organizations elected Louis P. Hennighausen president of the committee for the establishment of the bureau. Col. Heinrich C. Tiek, counsel of the German Society was appointed counsellor for this inter-group bureau."

Their joint activities resulted in Congress granting federal protection to the dredging industry.

The officials of the Hibernians and of St. Andrew's and St. George's attended our banquet to celebrate 100 years of cooperation and good will among our Societies.

THANKS TO . . .

BILL SCHOENEMANN for his good advice that we put some German in our newsletter. Bill referred to our statement of purpose: "to preserve and promote the German...language..." At Bill's suggestion we are using the German name of our Society in our masthead, beginning with the current issue of our newsletter.

ROLAND AND LORRAINE BROCKMEYER for having the German Society's picnic at their Cockeysville estate.

IRMA TILLMAN and ISOLDE BROOKE for their help in bringing much of the food to the Society's picnic.

JOHN GOELLER for the loan of his German folk music collection to provide music for our picnic.

BILL BROOKE for his generous donation for the carrying on of the work of the Society.

JUDGE GERARD WITTSTADT and DR. ROSEMARY WITTSTADT for their hard work in making the Annual Awards Banquet such an outstanding success.

LUDWIG PEITSCH for the loan of his powerful and magnificent voice in leading the Society in singing the German and American national anthems before our banquet, and in a songfest afterwards.

FOUNDED 1783



The German Society of Maryland

OFFICE OF THE SOCIETY

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1993-1994

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mail to:

**GERMAN SOCIETY
WELCOMES NEW
MEMBERS**

We welcome the following new members to the German Society and urge them to participate actively in the events of the society:

Susan Gratzer
Mark Gratzer
J. H. Glander
Elizabeth Glander
Margit Travers
John D. Stange
Pamela Naporano
Anthony Naporano
Michel Ney Sheffer
George W. Numsen
Virginia M. Numsen
William J. Hunt
Mary Potthast Hunt
Albrecht Robert Hafenmair
Marie Hafenmair
Maria Malbrough
Robert J. Malbrough
Gary C. Miler
Bradford Miller
Ingeborg C. Miller

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ Zipcode _____

Spouse(optional) _____ Phone _____

I hereby apply for membership in the German Society.

Signature _____

Mail along with \$15 annual dues to the Society. A spouse may be added as a member at no additional cost.

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

Editors and Desktop Publishing

Catherine A. Potthast
Mia Potthast Walsh

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