

THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

DIE DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT VON MARYLAND

VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

AUGUST, 2004

ISSUE NO. 46

GERMANY, AUSTRIA, SWITZERLAND REPRESENTED AT STUDENT AWARDS EVENT AT ADLERSAAL

The embassies of the three German-speaking nations, Germany, Austria and Switzerland sent representatives to the student awards presentation sponsored by our Society and the MD-DC-VA Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German. Nearly 400 students, teachers and families packed into Zion's Church's Adlersaal where high school students who scored highest in the German language examination received monetary awards. Our Society donated \$5,000 to the teachers' association for the event.

Our Society initiated the program 15 years ago, to encourage the study of German in local high schools. At the time, the local chapter of AATG was small and only 30 or so students qualified for a prize. The past 15 years have seen the number of student awards increase to this year's number of 95. The local chapter of the AATG, encouraged by programs such as ours, has become the only chapter in the USA to show dramatic increases in membership.

Representatives of the embassies addressed the students and participated in shaking hands and giving the awards to each student.

For the first time in nearly 50 years, the Julius Hofmann Medal was awarded. It was won by Alexander Higgins of St. Paul's School for Boys, who achieved the highest mark on the examination, scoring in the 99th percentile. (The Hofmann Medal is explained on p.6.)

THE SOCIETY GIVES ESSAY CONTEST PRIZES TO STUDENTS AT MERGENTHALER VO-TECH SCHOOL

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ottmar Mergenthaler, our most famous member, the Society sponsored a writing contest among the students at Mergenthaler Vo-Tech High School in Baltimore City. The school faculty screened the entries and presented 13 essays to our selection committee, which picked three winners. Three of our directors served as judges: Linda Butt, Brigitte Fessenden and Dr. Maureen Helinski. Brigitte Fessenden and Ted Potthast conducted the awards ceremony at the school on May 18, attended by a large number of students and teachers, and by the principal, Dr. Irby Miller. A portrait of Ottmar Mergenthaler, painted in 1958 from a photograph, was displayed at the event. The first prize of \$300 was awarded to Stephen Conger; second prize of \$150 to Krystin Childs; third prize of \$75 to Andre Dixon. The students read their essays to the assembly. The winning essay is printed on page 7.

GERMAN EVENTS ENTERTAIN, EDUCATE BALTIMORE AREA

Two local events brought a touch of German culture to the citizens of greater Baltimore: a German fair in May held in Dundalk and sponsored by the Baltimore Kickers, and the annual Baltimore German Festival in August at Carroll Park. Both events presented German food, music, dancing and booths which put forth the best in local German American customs and culture.

"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

August 20-22 German Festival
September 26 - Ecumenical Service - Michaelis
Oct 9-10 - Maryland Oktoberfest 5th Regiment Armory
November 6- Annual Awards Banquet
November 14 - AGAS festival at Blob's Park

Visit the German Society's website:
www.germansociety-md.com

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

Tune in to the Edelweiss Hour every Sunday:
Radio 750 AM 9 am

BOB GIBSON ELECTED PRESIDENT OF BÜRGERVEREIN VON MARYLAND

The popular president of the Baltimore Kickers' Club was elected president of the Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland, succeeding Bob Sheppard who held the position for 25 years. Mr. Gibson has been the leader of tours to Germany sponsored by the Kickers, taking two groups per year to various locations. His competency and people skills have made him a well respected member of the German American community. Bob's reputation for fairness and his experience in dealing with diverse groups promises to make him a leader who can bring the German community together to work in cooperation and not in competition with one another. His attitudes give promise that he will work to promote greater integration of other clubs into the leadership of the Bürgerverein and participation in its activities.

ANNUAL PICNIC IS A BIG SUCCESS

Two hundred members and guests attended our annual picnic, held at Blob's Park in June. Music and games kept the fast pace of the event. German food and beer, supplied by Blob's, was abundant and satisfying. This year's picnic was marked by a large turnout of young people, along with families who made a reunion out of the event.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Total fund balance in the Society's accounts as of 6/30/04 was \$545,178. Of this amount, the Education Fund portfolio was valued at \$234,843.

RICHARD ACKLER, DIRECTOR

Richard Ackler, a director of the Society for six years until he resigned due to health in April, died June 26 at age 90. Dick had been a member for many years and attended most of the Society's functions. He was solicited to become a board member because of his more than 50 years of leadership in another non-profit organization, the Boy Scouts of America. Dick contributed many innovative ideas to the deliberations of our board. He was born in Baltimore and grew up in Pimlico. He was graduated from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in 1931, worked for the gas and electric company before joining the Navy and serving in the Seabees in World War II. He then obtained an engineering degree from Johns Hopkins University and served as an industrial engineer with BG&E until he retired in 1977. He made jewelry which he exhibited and sold at craft shows for many years. His 45 years in scouting ranged from troop leader to scouting commissioner.

Dick is survived by his wife, the former Nancy Markey, a son, Bryan Ackler of Portland, Ore. and a daughter, Lois R. Abbott of Hampstead.

ELSBETH SEEWALD, D.A.N.K. PRESIDENT, SOCIETY'S FRIEND

Elsbeth Seewald national president of the German American National Congress, died June 2 in Wisconsin. She served as president from 1981 to 1991. She welcomed our Society into DANK membership and took an active interest in our activities. Mrs. Seewald was the founder of German American Day, established in 1987 by President Ronald Reagan and is observed annually on October 6.

MEMBERS SEEK GERMAN SPEAKING DAYTIME NANNY FOR DAUGHTER

Dayna and Mike Stueck are looking for a German and English speaking nanny to care for their 18 month old daughter in their Lutherville home. The hours are 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday, but are flexible. The Stuecks want to introduce their daughter to the German language and culture. For further information, contact Mike or Dayna Stueck at 410-458-2280

ATTEND OUR ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Plan to attend our ecumenical service on Sunday, September 26 at 5 pm, Zion Church, City Hall Plaza.



SOCIETY COMMITTED TO PRESERVE MEMORY OF JULIUS HOFMANN

Julius Hofmann was Pastor of Zion Church for nearly 40 years, until his death in 1928. He was the leading representative of Baltimore's German American community and he was on good terms with its mayors and public officials as well as with such luminaries as H. L. Mencken and Cardinal Gibbons.

On page 177 of the History of the German Society, "Rev. Julius Hofmann" is listed as the manager of our Society for the year 1906.

In 1930, some friends and admirers created The Julius Hofmann Memorial Fund to encourage students to study the German language. In the late 1980's the fund had amounted to about \$8,000. It was then being administered by Dr. Carrie Mae Kurrelmeyer Zintl, a member and a director of our Society, who turned it over to our Society. Our officers promised to carry on.

The medal shown above and below, bearing Pastor Hofmann's image, was the work of Hans Schuler, a renowned Baltimore sculptor. It was awarded annually to the top student in each German language class in Maryland high schools and colleges. By the 1960's that practice ceased. A supply of the medals are in the possession of our Society. These will be awarded to the local high school student who achieves the highest grade in the national language exam of the American Assoc. of Teachers of German.



LUCKY EVERY DAY

THE WISDOM OF DIANE GEPPI-AIKENS



20 UNFORGETTABLE LESSONS
FROM A COACH WHO MADE
A DIFFERENCE

CHIP SILVERMAN

BOOK ON "WISDOM" OF MEMBER GETS HIGH GRADES IN REVIEWS

Reviews of the just-released book on our member, Diane Geppi-Aikens, who died last June at the age of 40, received high praises from many sources, including the New York Times. Diane was assistant director of athletics and women's lacrosse coach at Loyola College. Baltimore author Chip Silverman, described the recollections of Diane's students, team members, fellow coaches and family in 20 short chapters exemplifying Diane's philosophy and approach to life. The book is available at all bookstores. It sold out at Barnes & Noble and is being re-stocked. Part of the proceeds from the book sales goes into a trust for the benefit of Diane's four young children. A copy of the book has been donated to the archives of our Society.

ANNUAL MEETING REVEALS FACETS OF OUR MEMBERS

130 attended the 2004 annual meeting. President Jim Schaub asked the members to introduce themselves. We learned a lot. Members came from Virginia and from many Maryland counties: Baltimore, Howard, Carroll, Harford, Prince Georges, Charles and from the Eastern Shore. About 25% present were born in Germany. 30% were belonged to other German organizations. 75% were retired. 40% had held positions with city, state, county and federal agencies, such as the State Department, the military, police and fire departments and administration.

SOCIETY'S 15TH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS PROGRAM

Our annual presentation of awards to high achieving high school students brought a record, standing room crowds at this year's presentation. Listed below are the students who achieved in the 90th percentile or higher, and their teachers. Lack of space prevents us from listing 36 who achieved above the 85th percentile. awards.

The 2004 National High School Testing Program

3:00 p.m.

Welcome

Dorothy Louks Testing Chairperson

Deborah McGee-Mifflin AATG, Maryland/DC Chapter

Greetings

Ralf Mildebrath, Cultural Affairs Department

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany

Annina Luck, Cultural Counselor

Eric Amhof, Cultural Counselor

Embassy of Switzerland

Stefan Brunner, Cultural Coordinator

Goethe Institut Washington

James Schaub, President

German Society of Maryland

Entertainment

Elisabeth Halliday, Christopher Kovalchik and Tsveta Dabova

Johns Hopkins University/Peabody Institute students performing selection of German classics

**Elisabeth, Christopher and Tsveta all combine their love of music with their studies in German and vice versa*

Presentation of Awards

Dorothy Louks, Testing Chairperson

Daniel Desmond, Awards Committee

Deborah McGee-Mifflin, President

AATG, Maryland/DC Chapter

James Schaub, President

Michael Nieberding, Treasurer

German Society of Maryland

National German Exam High Achievers and their Teachers

Group 1: Students scoring at or above the 90th percentile

Baltimore City College

Teacher: *Sarah Daneher*

Jennifer Akchin,

Wahiba El Frih

Leonard Manz

Calvert Hall College High School

Teacher: *Br. Charles Filberg*

Gregory Gentry

Ryan Coster

Eric Swanson

Dematha Catholic High School

Teacher: *Marilyn Murphy*

Nicholas Rabano

Matthew Wascher

Georgetown Prep

Teacher: *Marioluse Collins*

Joseph Brenninkmeijer

Shaun Hughes

Marshall Ruthenberg

German School Washington, DC

German Language Courses

Teacher: *Monika Biller-Harris, Turti Wilroy, Moechtild White,*

Hal Boland, Moechtild Schroepel

Elias Oelrich Hamida

Jannis Oelrich Hamida

Sophia Hubler

Sophie Kollegger

Alessa Ferroni

Alanna Boyajian

Alexandra Weinig

Oliver Umpleby

Gonzaga College High School

Teacher: *Richard Rogan*

Kevin Corrigan

Daniel Lechner

Joseph Hannon (National Award Winner)

Adam Kachinske

Ryan Minogue

Carl Selzer

James Healy

Andrew Wassmann

Hartford Christian School

Teacher: *Peggy Nickson*

Shawn Bowerman

Ashley Straw

Kevin Wuest

Jessica Bell

Loyola High School

Teacher: *John Innes*

Patrick Jones

Michael Raymond

McDonogh School

Teacher: *William Lyon-Vaiden*

Brooke Staton

Theresa Lengauer

Adam Bulkley

Jeffrey Wildermuth

Sarah Lengauer

Kimberly Naden

National Cathedral School

Teacher: *Audrey Joyner*

Max Schellinger

Jason Warlick

James Warlick

Paulo Brito

Saint Paul's School

Teacher: *Richard Schellhas*

Alexander Huggins

Michael Sameth

Filip Vanco

Corbin Hoenicke

Owen Raccuglia

Adam Sharretts

Woodrow Wilson High School

Teacher: *Sally Cranston*

Ramsey Aburdene

Alexander Beskurnikow

Lucija Millonig

Valentin Tone

Daniel Conk

Susanna Ashley

HELP US REDUCE EXPENSES BY GETTING NOTICES BY E-MAIL

The Society sends six or more notices per year to our members. The cost of a mailing is 37¢ for postage, 13¢ for envelope and printing and 7¢ for office overhead and clerical expense, for a total of 57¢ per notice, or about \$3.42 per year. If we send the notices via e-mail, the Society could save \$850 per year if we could use e-mail for about 250 members. If you would volunteer to receive your notices via e-mail, please send your e-mail address to our secretary at her address: barbelotto@cs.com

ECUMENICAL SERVICE, 16 YEAR TRADITION, SET FOR SEPTEMBER 26

Three weeks after the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989, our Society joined with Zion Church and The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland to call the German citizenry of Maryland to give thanks for the freedom from communist oppression of all of Germany. It was held on Thanksgiving eve. Because family activities at that time of the year made it difficult for many to attend, the time was ultimately changed to the Feast of St. Michael, patron of Germany. This tradition continues, and also supplants a tradition of more than 100 years of the society's annual "Kirchgang." Mark your calendar to attend the event this year.

Michaelis

**An Ecumenical Vespers Service
Celebrating St. Michael and All Angels
Giving thanks for the freedom to worship in all German-speaking nations**

5 p.m., Sunday, September 26th 2004

We are honored to welcome as our distinguished guest preacher this year:

THE REVEREND EDWIN O. WENCK, ESQ.

Edwin Oliver Wenck is a native of Baltimore with St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church (the "butchers' church") as his home church. He attended Lancaster Theological Seminary and was ordained Pastor in the Evangelical and Reformed Church (now United Church of Christ/UCC) in 1961. After serving several parishes, he attended University of Baltimore School of Law, graduating in 1973. He has worked as an Assistant State's Attorney, as an Interim Pastor, and since 1999 as Staff Attorney with the Baltimore Legal Aid Bureau. He earned a second AB from Towson in Graphic Arts and Illustration. He is married with two sons and three grandchildren. Ed Wenck is a lifetime director of the German Society.

**Zion Church of the City of Baltimore,
City Hall Plaza, 400 East Lexington Street**

- Free Parking on Church Lot, 150 North Gay Street -

This festive ecumenical service is co-sponsored by:

The GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

THE SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF GERMANS IN MARYLAND

ZION, CHRIST INNER HARBOR and ST. MARK'S Churches,

Reception (co-sponsored by the Society) after the service in Zion's magnificent historic Adlersaal
For more information call (410) 727 3939, or visit <http://www.zionbaltimore.org/>

MICHAELIS, St. Michael's day: A day of remembrance and celebration, as we come together to worship and give thanks to God for his protection. Michael, archangel or prince of angels, is mentioned several times in the Bible: in Daniel 10:13, and 12:1; Jude vs. 9, and in Revelation 12:7-9. His name is taken to mean 'WHO IS LIKE GOD'. This was the war cry of the good angels as Michael led them in the great battle fought in heaven against Satan.

September 29, the feast of ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, or Michaelmas, falls about the time of the autumnal equinox - when the nights would be getting longer and the earth would begin to die. St. Michael came to be seen as the protector against the forces of the dark and became very popular in the Middle Ages. There are indicators that his cult 'christened' features of a Germanic deity. Many churches were dedicated to him, usually on high places near the sea.

Being depicted as a warrior saint in armor, he has been considered to be the helper of Christian soldiers. Although being popular throughout Britain and northern Europe, he came to be seen as the particular Patron Saint of the Germanic Nations (hence the nickname 'der deutsche Michel'). The feast was traditionally celebrated with a fattened goose, which had fed well on the stubble of the fields after the harvest. By Michaelmas the harvest had to be completed and the new cycle of farming would begin. It was a time for beginning new leases, starting the academic year, rendering accounts, paying the annual dues, and celebrating. Even after the Reformation, MICHAELIS was still considered one of the 4 major festivals in the church year. In Germany, Harvest Thanksgiving ('ERNTE-DANKFEST') is celebrated on the following Sunday, and surely, the "OKTOBERFEST" is near...

PROCLAMATION

BY

MAYOR MARTIN O'MALLEY

DESIGNATING MAY 11, 2004

AS

"OTTMAR MERGENTHALER DAY"

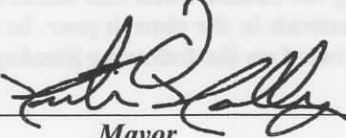
IN BALTIMORE

- WHEREAS*, the people of Baltimore are proud to join with the German Society of Maryland, on the occasion of the celebration of the 150th birthday of Ottmar Mergenthaler on May 11, 2004; and
- WHEREAS*, Ottmar Mergenthaler, born on May 11, 1854, a German immigrant from Hachtel near Stuttgart, arrived in Baltimore at Locust Point in 1872 in search of a job and a better life; and
- WHEREAS*, in 1886 Ottmar Mergenthaler invented the Linotype, a machine that allowed an operator to automatically set type, which revolutionized the printing industry worldwide, by bringing reading materials to the general public, meaning more books – more education for all, and sparking the increase in literacy, contributing tremendously to the ideal of democracy; and
- WHEREAS*, prior to Mergenthaler's invention of the Linotype, no newspaper in the world had more than eight pages; this Linotype invention made Baltimore the birthplace of the modern printing industry, thus contributing to Baltimore's unique place in history; and
- WHEREAS*, the people of Baltimore and the German Society of Maryland are honored and proud to be associated with Ottmar Mergenthaler and his significant contribution to the printing industry, celebrating his 150th birthday on this day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN O'MALLEY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE, do hereby proclaim May 11, 2004 as "OTTMAR MERGENTHALER DAY" IN BALTIMORE, and do urge all citizens to join in this celebration.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set the Great Seal of the City of Baltimore to be affixed this eleventh day of May, two thousand four.



Mayor



STEPHEN CONGER, WINNER OF MERGENTHALER ESSAY CONTEST

Text of the first place essay:

"Like Gutenberg

Every contemporary company that relies on print, such as computer printer manufacturers, newspapers, publishes, etc. owes thanks to Ottmar Mergenthaler. Like Gutenberg, Mergenthaler revolutionized the printing industry, and re-ignited interest in printing. Mergenthaler's invention, the Linotype, opened doors for newspapers - the only effective way to relay news at the time. This invention made printing easier, increased the number of copies printed and expedited the printing process itself.

The American Dream

Mergenthaler was and continues to be an archetype of the "American Dream." Born in Wurtemberg, Germany on May 11, 1854, he was the son of a poor village schoolteacher. At the young age of fourteen, Ottmar's ambition was to be a watchmaker. He was anxious to study in the engineering field, but his father could not afford a higher education for him, after financing Ottmar's older sibling's education. However, after some hesitation, Ottmar's father apprenticed him to a relative named August Hahl. Soon, Ottmar told Hahl he wanted to travel to America. Hahl was not enthusiastic about the idea, but his son in Washington paid for Ottmar's passage to America. On October 25, 1872 the *Berlin* docked in Baltimore, Maryland. At the outset, Mergenthaler worked on knives and other tools in Hahl's shop. He obtained his first patent at the age of twenty. After a decline in business, Hahl moved to Baltimore. Talk spread of Mergenthaler's talents. Charles Moore entered the shop, of which Mergenthaler had become part owner, on August 17, 1876. He told Mergenthaler that he had a patent for a

typewriter that automatted typesetting; however, the machine did not work. Moore asked Mergenthaler to help by designing and constructing a better machine. Two years later, Mergenthaler had built a machine that printed, but did not fulfill his vision!

Mergenthaler then became determined to complete and construct the machine he named the "Linotype." One night, a fire consumed his shop and everything inside. The fire destroyed his designs and machine models. While it was a setback, the fire further inspired Mergenthaler to succeed in building the Linotype.

In 1854, Mergenthaler found support in Whittaker Reid of the *New York Tribune*. However, it took two more years to finally unveil his Linotype machine to a large audience. On June 3, 1885, he demonstrated his machine to the *New York Tribune*. He had finally achieved public fame, and most importantly, he completed his printing machine.

In an unfortunate turn of events, Mergenthaler contracted tuberculosis. The illness did little to make him falter. He continued to improve the printing process and continued to work insatiably until his death at the young age of 44, in Baltimore, Maryland on October 28, 1899.

In conclusion, Ottmar Mergenthaler truly did revolutionize printing. The Linotype paved the way for newspapers to be produced with increased quality, - with more pages and improved print, as well as quality. I feel honored to attend a school named after Ottmar Mergenthaler, because of his historical achievements and undying determination to succeed. If he had not died at such a young age, I believe he would have improved the printing process even more than he had already accomplished. Without Ottmar Mergenthaler, we would not know printing as it exists today.

THANK-YOU NOTE FROM WINNER

Stephen Conger, who won our essay contest, wrote a lengthy thank-you to the Society. Excerpts from his note: "My high school, appropriately named after Ottmar Mergenthaler, features many trades. One of the trades is, of course, printing. ...Excitement filled the day during which the winners of the contest were announced. Prior to the announcement, Mayor Martin O'Malley's proclamation of Mergenthaler Day was read. I thank the German Society for its support...The Society has a long history of aiding immigrants. ... For this, all Americans owe thanks because such societies embody the spirit of America, a nation built by immigrants."

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

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AUGUST, 2004
ISSUE #46

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Abendschoen, George
ABendschoen, Phyllis
Arndt, Christa
Corrigan, Kevin
Drechsler, Roger E.
Ferroni, Alessa
Finnegan, Kathy
Finnegan, Gregory
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Hildebrandt, Philip M.
Jacob, Dieter K.
Littlepage, Sarah
Huseman, Metz Craig
Jahnigen, Albert J.
Penner, Bernard
Penner, Helga
Walter, Joshua M
Weinig, Allie
Wetherald, Alan

PLAN TO ATTEND OUR NOVEMBER AWARD BANQUET

RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER - HELP THE SOCIETY GROW

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.