

THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

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

VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2007 ISSUE ~~#48~~ #57

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OFFICIAL NOTICE

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2007 AT ZION CHURCH

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the members of The Society will be held on Friday, April 13 in the dining room of the Zion Church, City Hall Plaza, Baltimore, Maryland, at 7:30 p.m. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be preceded by a German "Abendbrot". At the meeting, reports of committees will be received.

Elections of directors will be held. Nominations will be submitted by the nominating committee. Members wishing to be considered by the committee shall submit their names in writing by addressing a letter to the nominating committee and mailing it to the Society at P.O. Box 22585, Baltimore, MD 21203-4585. A member wishing to place the name of another member in nomination must do so by submitting a letter of nomination, mailed to said nominating committee, containing a statement signed by the nominee agreeing to serve as director if elected. Such letter of nomination must be postmarked on or before March 13, 2007. No nominations accepted from the floor.

The meeting shall consider any business or proposals presented by any committee of the Society. An individual member wishing to present matters for action at the meeting must do so by presenting the proposed action in writing by letter mailed to the Society and postmarked not later than March 13, 2007

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NAMES

The nominating committee recommends, for the elections at the annual membership meeting, the reelection of the following directors: Dr. Mohamed Esa, Merle Arp, Thomas Werner and Frederick Riedel; and as new director, Shelley Arnold and one more person to be named by the nominating committee. Members wishing to place other names into nomination must do so by March 13, 2007.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Davis, Bryant K.
Goodman, Katherine S.
Joseph, Paul
Joseph, Daniela V.
Kistler, Colleen R.
Sybert, Bonnie C.
Sybert, Sr. George J.

=====
**BILLS FOR DUES HAVE
BEEN MAILED. THE
SOCIETY NEEDS THE
FUNDS TO COVER OUR
EXPENSES. PLEASE
REMIT PROMPTLY.**

=====
**INVITE YOUR FRIENDS
TO JOIN THE GERMAN
SOCIETY**

=====
**REMEMBER OUR
EDUCATION FUND**

=====
**OUR ANNUAL
MEETING IS FRIDAY,
APRIL 13.
SEE NOTICE ON P. 2
MARK THE CALENDAR
BRING A FRIEND**

=====
**DUE TO OUR BUDGET
SHORTFALL, WE NEED
TO RAISE FUNDS. ANY
IDEAS? DROP A NOTE
OR CALL THE OFFICE**

=====
**GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY
ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

SOCIETY WILL HAVE \$14,000 BUDGET SHORTFALL FOR 2007

The finance committee met on Jan. 17 to review the Society's projected income and expenses for 2007 and found an excess of \$14,000 of expenses over income. The group searched for places to make cuts as well as means to increase income and presented recommendations to the Board at its quarterly meeting on January 25. At that meeting, the board took action to approved a partial budget but reserved action on the final budget until the April board meeting.

The board approved two expenditures: a \$5,000 award to the Maryland chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German for awards to high school students excelling in the national German language examination; and four awards of \$500 to college students studying German, based on standards approved by the education committee.

The board directed cuts in the newsletter budget by reducing the number of issues per year from 6 to 4. The board authorized the increase in dues from \$15 to \$25 per year, beginning in calendar year 2008. The last time dues were increased was 26 years ago - from \$10 to \$15. The board also directed that all members who are more than one year delinquent are to be dropped from the rolls immediately. As of January 1, 2007, anyone who has not paid the 2006 dues will be dropped. As the cost of maintaining a member on the rolls is substantial, this measure may result in a reduction of \$1,000 - \$2,000 p/a. Other cost reductions and means of increasing revenue will be explored. Recommendations from members will be considered. Pass your ideas to a board member.

2007 KALENDER

Apr 13	Annual meeting of members
June 2	Annual Picnic
July 28-29	German Festival
Nov. 3	Annual Awards Banquet

DINNER AT ANNUAL MEETING

We are planning a German dinner prior to the annual meeting and need to know approximately how many persons to prepare for. We therefore request that the members who plan to attend the dinner call our office and leave your name and the number of members in your party, by Tuesday, April 10. We also rely on members to bring desserts. If you can please call the office and leave word on the dessert which you plan to bring.

The annual meeting is a good way to get to know your fellow members and to renew old friendships. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

We routinely schedule our annual meeting for the Friday after Easter. In earlier times, our meeting was held in February and sometimes March; and on several occasions the meeting was canceled due to snow or ice. We no longer have to face those hazards.

Due to the Society's budget shortfall for the current year, persons attending the meeting will be asked to make a contribution of at least \$5 to cover expenses. Last year's expenses for food and for the use of the hall was \$1,300. We hope to recover half the cost through donations.

DONATIONS FOR NEWSLETTER

Printing and postage for our newsletter costs about \$700 per issue. In order to cut our budget shortfall, instead of 6 issues per year, there will be only 4. However, a separate fund will be set aside for donations for the newsletter, and if sufficient contributions are received, we can increase the frequency. The bill for dues contains a place to indicate tax free donations to our educating fund and to our newsletter. Of you are interested in receiving the newsletter more often, you may contribute to the newsletter fund at any time. When the fund reaches the mark to pay for an extra edition, it will be worked into the schedule.

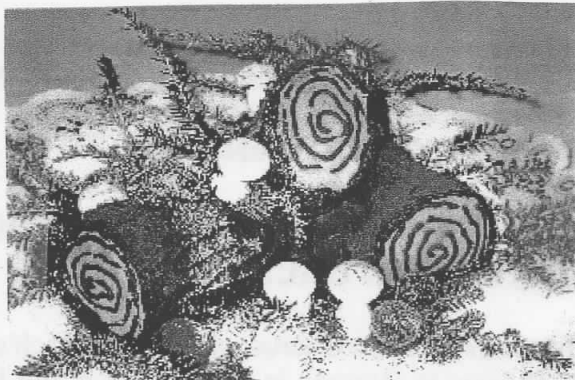
ANNUAL PICNIC SATURDAY JUNE 2 AT OREGON RIDGE PARK

Our director, Tom Werner has accepted the chairmanship of our annual picnic and has arranged for a pavilion at Baltimore County's Oregon Ridge Park in Hunt Valley. Final details are not complete. Please volunteer to serve on the committee. Call our office.

INTERNATIONAL AWARD GIVEN TO MARIA SPRINGER, MEMBER



At a ceremony on Jan. 11 at St. Petersburg, FL, Maria Springer received a culinary award for her Yule Log from the Cordon d'Or - golden Ribbon International Annual Cookbook and Culinary Arts Award 2006 Awards Program. Maria operates Maja's Viennese Kitchen Cooking School in Phoenix, MD. The judges commented that the Yule Log was "beautifully presented and tasted delicious." The recipe is complex and consists of three sections. Members of our Society who would like a copy of the recipe may contact Maria via email (majaskit@AOL.com) or call her personally at 410-561-1157. She said she will be happy to send you a copy. Several members of our Society and their young daughters were students in Maria's gingerbread-house class before Christmas. The girls were thrilled.



GERMAN FESTIVAL DATE MOVED

The summer festival will be held on the last weekend in July instead of in August. The Maryland German Festival is the oldest such event in the USA, having begun in 1900. It will be held at the Timonium Fair Grounds. The Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von MD, of which our Society is a member, sponsors it.

"ANCHORS AWEIGH" 100 YEARS-COMPOSER ZIMMERMANN GETS NAVAL ACADEMY TRIBUTE

Lt. Charles Zimmermann, a graduate of Baltimore's Peabody Institute and head of the Naval Academy band for 24 years was honored on Jan. 26 with a concert at the Academy's chapel. He was appointed the Navy's bandmaster in 1892. His German immigrant father was a Naval Academy musician during the Civil War. His son, born in 1861, in the German musical tradition.



Zimmermann was a prolific composer. It was his custom to compose a march for each graduating class of the Naval Academy. A member of the class of 1907, approached Zimmermann with a wish for a song with some "swing" to it and which would "last forever." The composition has seen it first 100 years with no sign of waning. It has sent countless sailors off to sea and many Navy football teams onto the field against Army. Though the tune remains today as written in 1906, the last stanza was altered in 1926:

"Anchors Aweigh, my boys, Anchors Aweigh/
Farewell to college joys/
We sail at break of day/
Through our last night on shore/
Drink to the foam/
Until we meet again once more/
Here, s wishing you a happy voyage home."

In Zimmermann's time, music was omnipresent at the Naval Academy: The band attended four formations a day, and performed at parades, ceremonies, flag raisings and funerals. Zimmermann composed original operettas for the midshipmen, led the glee club and played the church organ.

The Zimmermann lived on Conduit Street in Annapolis in a Victorian house which he bought from a Sears-Roebuck catalog. Zimmermann died in 1916 and was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery; he was later reinterred on the Academy grounds.

OUR SOCIETY'S MOST PROMINENT MEMBER: DON SCHAEFER

The most prominent member in the history of our Society is **WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER**. The titles he has held over his career are:

Colonel Schaefer (Army reserves)
Attorney Schaefer (Private law practice)
Councilman Schaefer
President Schaefer (of the Baltimore City Council)
Mayor Schaefer (of the City of Baltimore)
Governor Schaefer (of Maryland)
Comptroller Schaefer (of Maryland)
His career as an elected official began in 1955.

DR. HEINRICH J. LOSEMANN, 79

"Heinz" Losemann, Good Samaritan Hospital's former chief of anesthesiology, died Jan. 29. His son, Heinrich J. Losemann, Jr. is a member of our Society. Dr. Losemann was born on the family farm near Munster, Germany, received a degree from the Univ. of Munster and his medical degree from the Univ. of Heidelberg. There he met Christel Chares of Arbutus who was studying languages. They married in 1955 and moved to Maryland where he completed medical studies at the old St. Joseph Hospital in Baltimore and later became chief of anesthesiology at Bon Secours Hospital. He often visited family in Germany and attended reunions in Heidelberg. His daughter Erica noted that when she was growing up, the home was like a hotel, with frequent visitors from Germany.

GERMAN NAMES IN MD. NEWS

Many of our younger members did not grow up in a society in which people were aware of the ethnic backgrounds of their friends and neighbors. To help familiarize the young folks with Germanic names, we have taken items from the newspapers which feature the doings of German Americans:

KIMMIE MEISSNER, the 18-year old figure skating world champion from Harford Co., MD, won the U.S. crown and gold medal in Spokane on January 27th. She has taken up flamenco dancing, an art of Galicia, home of her maternal great-grandmother.

Newly elected Anne Arundel County Executive **KEN ULMAN** made news by making payouts to current county officers to form his new administration.

Command Sergeant Major **ROGER HALLER** died January 22 along with 14 other troops when their helicopter was shot down in Iraq by anti-American forces.

KENNETH D. SCHISLER, resigned as chairman of the MD Public Service Commission. The MD legislature tried to have him do so last year, but the Court of Appeals ruled their action was illegal.

MARIETTA GROSS died Jan. 16 at age 62. After graduating from Seton High School and Mercy Hospital nursing school, she and another nurse spent three years living in huts in the jungles of Brazil, delivering babies and traveling through remote regions by horses and mule. She returned to Baltimore, married and had six children. She volunteered as a nurse in her children's school and eventually became employed full time as the school nurse.

THOMAS BITTNER died Nov. 9 at age 86. As a gunnery sergeant, he flew 23 missions during World War II in Europe until his plane was shot down over Austria. He was held prisoner in Stalag Luft IV until he was forced to walk in the "Black Death March" ahead of the Russian advance for hundreds of miles in bitter winter. He was liberated in May, 1945. He grew up in Hamilton, one of 12 children, graduated from Calvert Hall and from the University of Baltimore.

Brides and/or grooms whose wedding receptions were held recently two doors from our offices, at the Engineers' Club:

GARRI HENDELL; BORRIS LANGER; MYRA HONEY FREILICH; JULIE SILBER; DANIEL STOLTZE; TIM BERGER; REBECCA GRABENSTEIN.

J. S. BACH'S ST. JOHN'S PASSION PERFORMED IN BALTIMORE

The German American Chorus will perform Bach's St. John's Passion in German in the Church of the Holy Rosary Parish 408 S. Chester Street, Baltimore MD 21231 on Sunday March 25th, 2007, at 7pm.

The Polish Baroque Orchestra of Cracow and well known soloists from Europe and America will join the chorus. The Polish and German Embassies are co-sponsoring the event.

Tickets (\$16.00 adults, \$10.00 students) are available at the German School Office, 8617 Chateau Drive, Potomac Md. [Will call: 301-767-3846]

SONGBOOK COMMITTEE MOVES AHEAD WITH PLANS TO PUBLISH

Plans to publish a book of German songs were resurrected on Jan. 13 when the committee met and took the first steps in song selection and administrative details. The singing of German folk songs has a long tradition with our Society: the songs were a part of our meetings, picnics, banquets and social functions. Our archives contain some of the booklets which were distributed to our members. Folk songs were a fixture at our annual banquet. Since many of our newer and younger members are not familiar with them, the Society has decided to publish a booklet to help foster the Society's traditions.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The committee consists of: Barbara Harper, Norm Schulze, Christel van der Berg and her daughter, Monica Cecelia Muth Herman, Bärbel Otto, Claudia Friend, Ted Potthast, Bob Fritzsche and (ex officio) Brigitte Fessenden. Bob Fritzsche is chairman. He is also the president of the Arion Gesangverein, an German singing club which sang at Gettysburg when President delivered his famous Address.

SONG CATEGORIES

Current plans for the book are to present chapters in the following categories:

- Kinderlieder (children's songs)
- Volkslieder (folksongs)
- Faschingslieder (party, drinking songs)
- Tanzlieder (dancing songs)
- Kirchenlieder (hymns)
- Weihnachtslieder (Christmas songs)
- Seemannslieder (sea-faring songs)
- Schlager (popular songs)
- National anthems (Germany, Austria, Switzerland)

At the Jan. 13 meeting, the committee concentrated on the selection of songs for children. The target is to print 25 children's songs, some of which are listed below. Members are invited to propose other children's songs for inclusion in the book.

MEMBERS INVITED TO JOIN IN

Membership on the committee is open to all members of our Society. We would also like to recruit German teachers and music teachers. If you can't join the committee but have songs which you want to suggest, please do so. We are looking for songs of all kinds for consideration, and if you have old sheet music or songbooks, copies will be greatly appreciated.

METHODS OF PUBLICATION

The committee is exploring various modes of publication, including electronic. Also under consideration is

performing the music and singing for distribution on a CD. Most of the music which we are collecting is in the public domain, and thus not subject to copyright restrictions.

ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO SING

One of the purposes of the Society is the promotion of German language study, and our directors believe that by encouraging young children to learn and sing German songs, they will lose any fear of the language and be encouraged to pick German as the foreign language election when they reach middle and high school. While a full sized book is our final goal, it is likely the committee will publish short pamphlets as the process develops, and the pamphlets can be distributed to our members and to schools and parents interested in introducing German to children via singing.

SOME KINDERLIEDER SELECTIONS

- Alle meine Entchen
- Alle Vögel sind schon da
- Auf der schwäb'schen Eisebahne
- Backe, backe Kuchen
- Bruder Jakob
- Ein Männlein steht im Walde
- Ein Vogel wollte Hochzeit machen
- Es klappert die Mühle
- Fuchs du hast die Gans gestohlen
- Guter Mond du gehst so stille
- Guten Abend, gute Nacht
- Hänschen klein ging allein
- Kuckuck, kuckuck, rufts aus dem Wald
- Der Mai ist gekommen
- Der Mond ist aufgegangen
- Hopp, hopp. Hopp
- Sandmännchen
- Schlaf, Kindlein, schlaf
- Zeigt her eure Füßchen
- Weißt du wieviel Sternlein stehen
- Wer hat die schönsten Schäfchen

GOAL: MAKE THE PROJECT SELF-SUPPORTING

The committee hopes to make the project self-supporting through the sales of the books and booklets; and if any profit is generated, it would go to enable the committee to give free copies to high school and college German clubs, German language classes and music teachers.

ADVERTISING

The prospect of selling advertising in the songbook is under study, as well as the publication of special editions which businesses, institutions and benefactors could distribute as a form of advertising, or simply as gifts to encourage interest in German. We need help in the distribution process, not just in the artistic and musical aspects of the project. Any member can support the program by volunteering to help.

ABOUT THE GERMAN SOCIETY

Some refresher notes about our history and activities:

OUR FOUNDING

Our Society is the third oldest German organization in the USA, behind New York and Charleston, S.C., both founded a few years earlier. Ours was founded in 1783 by Baltimore residents who came from or whose ancestors came from German-speaking Europe: present day Germany and Austria and parts of present day Switzerland, France and Poland. Germany did not exist as a nation until 1870. Before then it was a series of kingdoms, principalities, duchies and political entities whose rulers were members of the lesser nobility. The citizenry spoke in numerous dialects. Maryland's first Germans came mostly from Europe, but many later migrated to Maryland from Pennsylvania, mostly farmers looking for cheap land in the Frederick and Hagerstown areas.

GOALS OF OUR FOUNDERS

The Society's original purpose was to help recent immigrants to become established and to act as a social agency for immigrants in distress. A head tax was levied upon ships bringing passengers to the port of Baltimore and the tax applicable to German passengers was turned over by the city to the German Society, which became a social agency or a "welfare department" to take care of Germans in distress. This lasted for many years until the federal courts declared the tax unconstitutional. Thereafter, with private contributions the Society continued to assist Germans who fell upon hard times, especially widows and orphans. The Society's welfare role ceased when federal, state and municipal agencies created the "welfare state" and our participation was not needed. However, even into the early 1990's the Society was occasionally called upon to help in emergencies which government red tape could not respond to fast enough.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

In 1959 the Society started a program of college scholarships to assist students of German ancestry who were in need of funding. By the mid 1980's the Society noticed that the study of the German language had fallen to a low level and our directors wanted to help prop up the German language programs. The scholarship program was revised to limit the grants to those students who were studying German. Our directors also noticed that one of the reasons for the decline of enrollment in college German language courses was a scarcity of German courses in the high schools. Very few public high schools taught German.

By the mid 1990's it was discovered that college

students who received a grant from the Society did not reapply the following year. When the colleges learned of our grants, they reduced the aid provided by the schools in the amount of our grants. At that point, the Society canceled the college program and began concentrating on encouraging the study of German in the high schools.

PROMOTING GERMAN IN HIGH SCHOOLS

For the past 15 years the Society's high school program has been successful in dramatic increases in the interest of high school students in the study of German. The German Society of Maryland was recently recognized nationally by the American Foreign Language Association for our activities in encouraging the study of German at the high school level. Our program has also provided encouragement to the Maryland chapter of the American Society of Teachers of German. With German studies on the decline nationwide, the Maryland AATG chapter is the only one in the country that has grown, while most other have declined in membership.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Although the German Society is not in itself a social organization, we nevertheless provide situations in which members can join together to get to know one another and enjoy companionship. By our relationships with other German organizations in the Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein, we work with other German clubs in cooperative social events, travel opportunities and German dining.

"PIONEERS IN SERVICE"

An 80 page booklet entitled "Pioneers in Service", written by a deceased member and historian, Klaus Wust, is a history of our Society through its last edition, 1983. It is available on the Society's website. Our directors have been planning to update it and publish a new edition in the near future. Another history, published in 1906 and written by a former president of the Society, Louis Hennighausen, is available in libraries. We also plan to scan it into our website sometime in 2007.

NEED FOR NEW MEMBERS

Our works are financed primarily by dues and some investment income, and so we are always looking for new members as well as soliciting lifetime gifts and inheritances. The Society in recent years received an inheritance of \$10,000 from a former officer, Dr. Carrie May Zintl and a \$40,000 inheritance from a former member, Edward Banka. The Society's investments are set up into two funds: the education and the general fund. They total about \$500,000 but do not provide sufficient income to fund the programs which our members and directors believe are necessary to achieve our goals.

CONGRATULATIONS to members:

to former MD governor **BOB EHRlich**, who sat in for talk-show host Tom Marr for 3 hours on Jan. 24 and urged callers "Don't move out." A caller said he was going to move out of Maryland after the democrats won the governorship. Bob also upheld a tradition he began while governor, or joining the polar bears in a plunge into the icy Chesapeake, raising funds for the special olympics, sponsored by the MD State Police.

PRES. GRANT AT NOTRE DAME COLLEGE, FOUNDED BY GERMANS

In 1873 members of the School Sisters of Notre Dame founded a college on Charles Street at Homeland Avenue in what was then Baltimore County. The order was founded in Bavaria and the nuns came to Baltimore in 1848, at first founding a high school and many elementary schools. The college was built on a hill and featured "a graceful tower, the highest building within miles of Baltimore." The first class was graduated in 1876. It was reported that President Ulysses S. Grant "benignly crowned with laurel the first graduates in June, 1876." It was the first Catholic women's college in the United States.

MUTH PARK: WHERE WAS IT?

Cecilia Muth Herman is the family genealogist for the Muth family. Her research led her to a reference to "Muth Park" located somewhere on North Gay Street in Baltimore. It was a place where picnics were held and which was referred to in The Report No. 26, published by the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland. The Report cited Muth Park as the place where the Knights of St. James drilled and paraded "in their full military uniforms". The Knight of St. James were recruited by Father Dauenhauer, pastor of St. James Church from its German parishioners. Do any of our readers know the location of Muth Park?

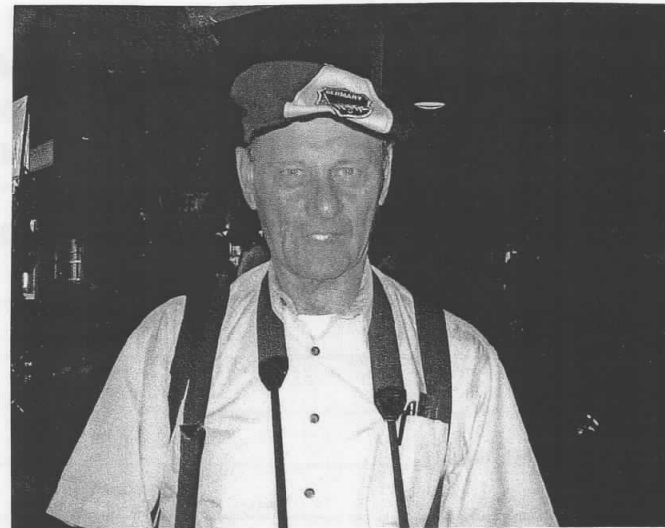
AN 1845 CHRISTMAS RE-ENACTED

St. Alphonsus Church in downtown Baltimore was built by German immigrants and completed in 1845. It was referred to as "The German Cathedral". Its pastor, Monsignor Arthur Bastress, a member of our Society and an accomplished musician, recalled that the church had no electric lights then and was lit entirely by candles. On St. Stephen's evening (Dec. 26) he presented musical arrangements featuring the organ, flutes, violin, harp, choir and communal singing of

carols in the church which was lit only by candlelight, as in the days of its founding. A few of those in attendance were descendants of the early German immigrants and commented on the feelings they experienced while sitting in the same pews where formerly sat their ancestors and their feelings, seeing the church the way it was seen at night by their grandparents and great-grandparents.

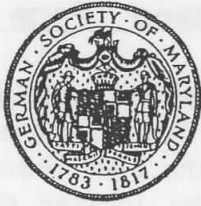
DENIS SMITH: PHOTOGRAPHER OF GERMAN EVENTS; HISTORIAN

Denis Smith is well known, at least by sight, to all who attend German events in Maryland on a regular basis. He is the official photographer of our Society, of the Bürgerverein and many German clubs. He is omnipresent at banquets, dances, picnics, festivals, parades and other events sponsored by the German American community. He has been called upon to photograph the Steuben Day Parade in New York City, a national annual event. Denis carefully prepares a binder for each event, and his collection constitutes a history of the German community's activities spanning the past 30 years.



Mr. Smith's collection of over 100 volumes tells the history of Maryland for more than a quarter century. Hopefully the photo's will be housed in a proper museum and preserved for posterity.

Denis has retired from the Baltimore City Department of Public Works. He currently is a section manager at a local Walmart store.



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

“The purpose of the German Society of Maryland is to preserve and promote the German heritage 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.”

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

Visit the German Society's website:

www.germansociety-md.com

Articles from some past newsletters are posted on our website. Dr. Maureen Helinski maintains the site.

“Pioneers in Service”, the history of our Society, can now be found on our web site.

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

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 the 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.