

# THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

DIE DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT VON MARYLAND

## VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

JUNE, 1995

ISSUE SIX

### GENEALOGICAL SEMINAR

The German Society will sponsor a seminar on Oct. 28th on methods to search for your German (and other) ancestors. Location: the Maryland National Guard Armory at the York Road exit of the Baltimore Beltway. Jane Awalt, a member of our Board of Directors, is chair of the event. She has assembled an outstanding panel of experts. The costs of \$16 for members and \$21 for guests includes a box lunch. Reservations are needed, seats are limited and it is expected to be a sell-out. This will be an all-day affair and will be a real work session. Make your reservations early by calling the Society's office. at 685-0450.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 17 - Edelweiss bus trip to Allenberry
- August 18-19-20 - German Festival at Carroll Park, Baltimore
- September 10 - Defenders' Day Celebration, Fort McHenry
- October 28 - German Society Genealogical Seminar
- November 10 - Annual Awards Banquet & Dance
- November 22 - Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service
- Date pending - German Society Summer Picnic

### ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

The German Society sponsored an essay contest for Maryland junior high school students, on the subject of General John Stricker, Hero of the Battle of North Point. General Stricker was an incorporator of the German Society of Md. and its vice president for ten years. His defeat of the British in 1814 at North Point in Baltimore County effectively ended the War of 1812.

The winners were: 1st prize, \$500.00 to Dustin Kluttz, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School, Middle River; 2nd prize, \$300 Sandy Stevens, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School; 3rd prize, Benjamin A. Leuthold, Immaculate Conception School, Towson.

The prizes were awarded on May 10th at a well-attended ceremony in the Adlersaal at Zion Church, City Hall Plaza. Dustin Kluttz read his winning essay to the group. Copies of the essay will be distributed to members of the Society.

### NIEBERDING ADDRESSES AATG AT WESTERN MARYLAND COLLEGE

Mike Nieberding, chairman of the Society's Youth Committee, told the Maryland Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German, at its Spring conference on April 29 at Western Maryland College, about the Society's program for encouraging young people to study German language and culture. Fifty teachers, from Maryland's universities, colleges and high schools attended the day-long event. The conference's theme was "Building Bridges for Future Partnerships". Dr. Mohamed Esa, President of the Maryland Chapter, explained the need to build bridges between the high school language students and the German Departments in the universities, to interest them in continuing their German studies at the higher academic levels. President Esa also proposed the establishment of a state-wide organization of high school German language students, for the purpose of bringing them together for workshops and academic events. He referred to a similar organization in Virginia, which is very popular among the students and has resulted in an increase in interest in German studies.

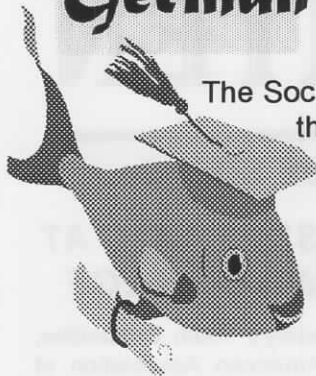
Ted Potthast, German Society president, participated in the discussions, pointing out that such a project lies within the scope of the German Society's mission statement. He suggested that the Society join the new organization to assist AATG and the students.

### OFFICE SECRETARY NEEDED

Dorothy Galway, the Society's office secretary for over 10 years, is retiring and moving to Texas to live with her daughter. She has tendered her resignation, effective August 1st. The Society is actively recruiting for her replacement. The secretarial job is part-time, three days per week, plus attendance at the various activities of the Society. Traditionally, the secretary needs a speaking and writing knowledge of German. The candidate should also have some basic computer skills. The office is located at St. Paul and Chase Street in Baltimore City. Any members of the Society interested in the position, or wishing to recommend someone should call the office and arrange for an interview.

***"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."***

# German Society Awards Language Prizes



The Society granted prizes of \$100 to each student in a Maryland high school who scored above the 90th percentile in the language exam given by the American Association of Teachers of German. \$50 was awarded to those exceeding the 85th percentile. Since only the top students take the exam, these scores indicate an excellent mastery of the language at the high school level. The awards were presented on May 12th at the Adlersaal of the Zion Church at City Hall Plaza, Baltimore. More than 150 members of the Society and families of the winners attended the ceremony. Afterwards the Society served German food and traditional German drinks to those in attendance. The winners were:

<u>STUDENT</u>	<u>SCHOOL/TEACHER</u>
Aaron Mitchell	Baltimore City College
Benjamin Johnson	Sarah Daneker
Molly Cohen	"
Martin Svedman	The Bullis School
	Ethel Mayer
Shane Ratterman	Calvert Hall College H.S.
	Br. Charles Filberg
Michael Tuozzo	Chesapeake H.S.
Lauren Boudra	Shirley Santora
Rrey Delrosario	Dematha Catholic H.S.
Chad Hein	Sinclair Rzasz
Mia Cary	Eleanor Roosevelt H.S.
Eric Knausenberger	Hans-Alfred Schneider
Stephanie Nguyen	"
Lisa Mills	"
Yiren Ng	"
Tim Alley	"
Dan Roitman*	"
Sofia Marshak	"
Omar Nour*	Georgetown Prep
Philip Steward	Marialuisee Collins
Patrick Tyson	"
Michael Fischetti*	"
Harold Yun	"
Devin Swaney	"
Marko Pesic*	High Point H.S.
	Kristine Brecht
Catherine Heimerl	John Carroll School
Kathryn Lannon	Judy Potter
John Lurz	Loyola H.S.
	John Innes
Nadine Knight	McDonogh School
Eric Bind	William Lyon-Vaiden
Pamela Young*	North County H.S.
Nadra Wass	Maureen Helinski

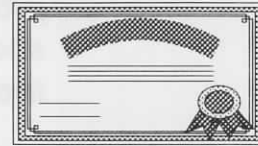
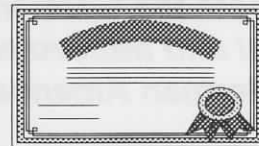
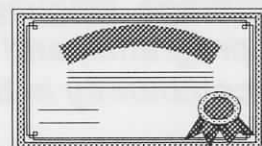
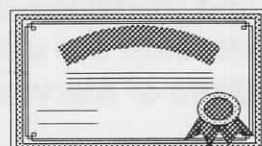
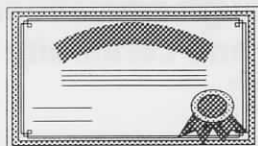
5 students (\*) scored in the highest (99th) percentile.

## GERMAN LANGUAGE SUMMER SCHOOL

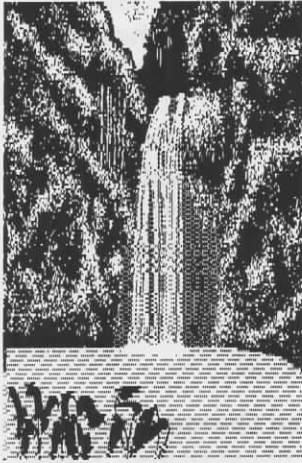
The German Language School at Zion Church offers a 2-week "DAY CAMP" for children ages 5-9, beginning June 19th. A one-week "TOTAL IMMERSION COURSE" is offered for children ages 10-13, beginning June 26th. Evening courses for adults are also available. Call Eva Kelleher at 377-9508 for details.

## LEARNING CENTER NAMED FOR GERMAN NUN

A learning career center for inner city women, recently established in downtown Baltimore, has been named in honor of Caroline Friess, a member of the religious order of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. The new institution is called The Caroline Center. Mother Caroline Friess arrived in the United States from Germany in 1847 and established her headquarters in Baltimore. In 45 years she opened 265 schools and orphanages in 17 states. The concept of the Caroline Center is to educate unemployed women, to enable them to find productive employment, obtain self respect and get off welfare. The idea is that of Sister Kathleen Feeley, who will manage the facility. Sister Kathleen was president of the College of Notre Dame of Maryland for many years.



## NIAGARA FALLS TRIP



The Edelweiss Club will sponsor a bus trip to Niagara Falls Sept. 21-24. German Society members may participate. Call Bill Groves: 410-744-0748.

# EVENTS

## NEW JERSEY GERMAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

The New Jersey festival will again be held at the Garden State Arts Center. This year marks the 22nd such festival and will be held on Sunday September 10. Tickets range from \$12 to \$18. This event draws an audience from the entire east coast. The Edelweiss Club will sponsor a bus from Baltimore.

### MEMBERS ATTEND SHOW AT ESSEX



German Society members attended a dress rehearsal of the show "FROM BERLIN TO BROADWAY" on May 19th. It presented the musical career of the composer Kurt Weil, who left a successful musical career in Berlin, fearing persecution in the mid-1930's and fled to America to start a second career. Members of the Society completely filled the theater.

The Essex Community College players traveled to Germany, at the invitation of the US State Department, to participate in an international theatre competition. The German Society of Maryland assisted them with funding, to help pay the airfare of the Maryland troop. The college reciprocated by inviting us to their final rehearsal before departing for Germany.

### SCHIFFERSTADT IN FREDERICK



The Stein Collectors' dinner meeting was held on June 11 at the Schifferstadt house and museum at 110 Rosemont Avenue, Frederick, MD 21701. The dinner followed a stein exhibit and sale in New Market, MD. To learn about the stein collectors' club, call Joe Brent (703-904-5579).

Dr. David Dennisch, an active member of the German Society, is a docent at the Schifferstadt museum. The building was built by German immigrants who modeled it on their own homes in Germany. It is considered one of the finest examples of German architecture in America. The Society is planning a bus trip to Schifferstadt in 1996.

### BÜRGERVEREIN'S ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED AT COUNTRY CLUB

Members of The German Society of Md participated at the celebration of the Bürgerverein's 95th anniversary. The event took place on May 13th at the Sparrows Point Country Club. Representatives from the Federal Republic of Germany attended, along with officials of German organizations from Maryland and neighboring states.

A large contingent from the Klub Fidelitas attended to commemorate the 40th anniversary of its founding.

### KICKERS FAMILY DAY

The Baltimore Kickers' Club held its annual Family Day for children (ages 6-12) on Sunday March 19th at its clubhouse, 26 S. Broadway, Baltimore. The children were taught German childrens' songs and some German dances. Free "Kickerburgers" were given to children. The Kickers also offers German language classes at its clubhouse, taught by Prof. Volker Schmeissner. The chief function of the Kickers is sponsoring several soccer teams.

### **INTERNET FOR GERMAN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES IN D.C.**



Mrs. Anne F. Moeller has set up an electronic area for information for the German-American community of greater Washington. It includes schedules of events, club information, discussion and other items of interest. You need a computer and a modem and must register as a guest with CapAccess and obtain your "login" and your password. For information, write to Mrs. Moeller (5607 Riggs Road, Laytonsville, MD, 20822, or at her e-mail address: (amoeller@capaccess.org)

### **PRAMSCHUFER AWARDED MEDAL OF THE GERMAN SOCIETY**

The Board of Directors voted to honor Francis Pramschufer, Jr. with the medal of the Society. Francis and his father before him, Francis W. Pramschufer, have together served the Society continuously for fifty years. His father, now deceased, was president 1959-1961 and Francis was vice-president 1981-85. He is now a Lifetime Director. Besides his contributions to our Society, Frank still works long hours for the Baltimore Kickers and the Oktoberfest organizations.

### **WHY JOIN THE GERMAN SOCIETY?**

America is losing the memory of its ethnic roots. It is especially true of Americans of German ancestry, who easily dissolve in the "great American melting pot."

Many ethnic groups have nation-wide holidays to make them aware of their ethnicity. St. Patrick's Day, Columbus Day and Martin Luther King Day are marked with parades and parties to remind the Irish, the Italian and the African Americans of their heritage. Public schools devote the month of February to "Black History Month". There is nothing to remind children of a German-speaking ancestry (Germans, Austrians, Swiss) of their heritage.

If we don't make a special effort to hold on to the German heritage, culture and traditions, they will be lost to future generations. Today few American schools even teach German as an elective foreign language. (Amazingly, in Japan, 68% of the students study German.)

The German Society of Maryland fosters the preservation and promotion of the German heritage, language and traditions. Your membership in the Society throws your support behind these goals.

As a member, you are invited to join in our activities, but are not required to attend any of them. There are many people who want to help preserve the German traditions but are unable to take an active role. However, just being a member and on our mailing list will make you aware of the happenings in the community and enable you to pass on, in your own way, your ethnic traditions and culture.

Think of some friends or relatives of German ancestry and pass this thought on to them.

### **PROFILE OF NEW MEMBERS**

**ROBERT H. GAY** is the national sales manager of Goetze's Candy Company, Inc. of Baltimore, MD. Goetze's, a family business of German heritage, is celebrating its 100 year anniversary in business this year.

**JOAN AND NORM DREISCH** operate the "Harris Grove Cottages Bed 'n Boat", 5 miles from St. Michael's -- two hours and ... "2000 miles" from the megalopolis. Phone: (410)-879-7672.

## MEMBER NEWS

A SKETCH OF OUR  
NEW DIRECTORS

At the annual meeting of the membership, Fredericke Hurdle Hecht was elected to the board of directors. At the next meeting of the Board, Christel van der Berg and Edwin O. Wenck, Esq. were elected to fill vacancies on the Board. Theodore J. Potthast, Jr. was elected a lifetime director.

Mrs. Hecht is the owner of Fredericke's Designs, an interior decorating company. She and other members of her family have been members of the Society for several years. On December 30, 1994 she married William Hecht (also a member of the Society) at St. Ignatius Church. Their reception was held in the Adlersaal at Zion Lutheran Church. Fredericke spent a year studying in Germany, where her mother was born. Her grandfather, uncle and other relatives currently reside in Germany.

Christel van der Berg has been active in the German community of Maryland for many years. Her husband Herbert, who died in 1993, was president and a founder of the Edelweiss Club. Christel was a native of Germany who met her husband when he served there in the US army.

Ed Wenck is a prosecuting attorney for the State's Attorney of Baltimore City. Ed is an ordained Lutheran minister, having served in the ministry for ten years before becoming a lawyer. He recently obtained a degree in fine arts from Towson State University. His wife, the former Patricia Kelly, is also a prosecutor in the office of the State's Attorney and served as counselor of the Society.

Theodore Potthast, the President of the Society, has been a member of the Board of Directors since 1967. His father, Theodore, Sr. is also a lifetime director and has been a board member for over 40 years. His son, Mark Ignatius, is a board member. His son John was treasurer of the Bürgerverein before he was transferred to Kiev, Ukraine. His daughters, Catherine and Marialena, help to publish this newsletter.

NEWS ABOUT  
MEMBERS

Mary Mitcherling, daughter of member Dr. John Mitcherling, was married on May 26th to Peter Hurdle, son of members Dr. Edward Hurdle and Friedemarie Hurdle, at St. Ursula's church in Baltimore County. Peter is the brother of Fredericke Hecht, a director of our Society. Peter is also the nephew of Hans-Friedrich von Ploetz, Secretary of State of the Federal Republic of Germany.

George R. Schmitt, II is now living in Waterloo, Belgium. George is a former Director of our Society, and until recently was the manager of the Oxford, Inn on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Leonard Hesse has moved permanently to Rome, NY and has resigned from our Society. He writes: "I have enjoyed the Society and send best wishes for its continued success." And the Society wishes Leonard well in his new residence, where we hope he will take with him some of the Maryland German heritage and traditions.

Gene and Ernie Schmidt and their daughter Diane Schmidt-Fisher hosted a contingent of relatives from the former East Germany, on their first visit to America. The cousins were suitably impressed and marveled at the beauties of Maryland.

## CONDOLENCES

The German Society extends its condolences

to **Dorothy Galway**, upon the death of her mother-in-law with whom she lived for 40 years.

to **Mary Walke Kittel**, upon the death of her husband, FRED L. KITTEL, who died 8-24-94 and was a member of our Society.

to **David Peitsch**, son of LUDWIG PEITSCH and **Julie Peitsch**, David's wife, upon the death of Ludwig. Ludwig's magnificent and booming voice led our Society in the singing of the German and American national anthems at our annual awards banquet for many years. On the morning of our annual banquet last September, Ludwig's doctor told him he had terminal cancer; and he nevertheless put on his tuxedo, came to our affair and for the final time, led us in our singing. David and Julie are members of our Society.

to **Al Zorn**, president of the Klub Fidelitas, whose 35-year-old son died of an aneurism at Al's house during a family event on Mother's Day last month. He is survived by his wife and three young children.

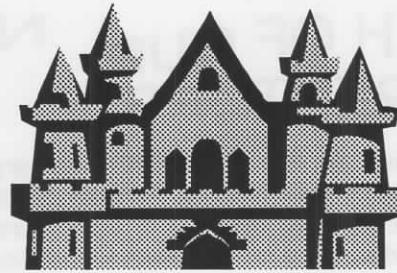
# Thank You!

**GENERAL ROBERT L. EVANS** for his aid in arranging for the use of the National Guard Armory in Towson for our genealogical seminar. General Evans is a long-time member of the Society. He is a Major General in the Maryland militia, a practicing attorney and former president of the local bar association. General Evans is a direct successor in office to General John Stricker, who founded the Maryland militia around 1796 and who defeated the British and ended the war of 1812. At the Society's award presentation on May 12, General Evans presented the \$500 first prize to Dustin Klutz, for his winning essay entitled "General John Stricker, Hero of the Battle of North Point."

**DOUG HEISLER and SARAH DANEKER.** Both have completed two terms as Directors of the Society and have made significant contributions to our projects. Doug has moved to Delaware where he works in hotel and motel management. Sarah, who teaches German at Baltimore City College, continues to serve the Society as Chair of our college scholarship committee.

**DONALD E. TILLMAN and JUDGE GERARD W. WITTSTADT** who have completed two terms as vice presidents of the Society. Don continues to serve as chairman of the executive committee and Gerry as chairman of our annual awards banquet.

**BENJAMIN (BOB) SHEPPARD,** president of the Bürgerverein, for his contribution of \$50. Bob is a member of our Society and in that capacity he allocated part of his hours of service in last year's German Festival.



## GERMAN CASTLE BEING DEVELOPED BY MARYLANDER

A Marylander is in the process of turning an ancient castle into a 4-star hotel, with its own golf course, tennis courts and equestrian center. Eicke von Veltheim, an 18-year resident of Phoenix, MD and a former Olympic equestrian competitor, hopes to get the project off the ground this year. The site is in a rural area of Sachsen-Anhalt near Wittenberg, and only 50 miles from Berlin. For investment opportunities, call Mr. von Veltheim at (410) 527-0834.

## ST ALPHONSUS CHURCH MARKS 150 YEARS

Founded in 1845 by Germans at the corner of Park Ave. and Saratoga St., ceremonies last month marked St. Alphonsus' 150th anniversary. However, the site was first acquired for a German Catholic church when the Revolutionary War hero John Eager Howard deeded the land on Oct. 11, 1799 to certain "German Gentlemen of Baltimore Co." They then erected St. John's German Church on the site. In 1840 the church was taken over by the Redemptorist order of priests who built a new and larger church on the site and changed its name to St. Alphonsus. From 1847-49 its pastor was St. John N. Neumann, the only male American citizen canonized as a saint by the Catholic Church.

## "MEYER" IS MOST FREQUENT GERMAN NAME IN AMERICA

Professor Eichhoff of Penn State U. spoke at the annual meeting of the Society for the History of The Germans in Maryland, on April 18th. His speech was warmly received. It covered the clash of German names with American culture and the English language. He pointed out that the name Meyer, while the 5th most common name in Germany, is 1st in America. The reason is because it cannot be Anglicized. Müller, Schmidt and Fischer, the three most popular German names, were frequently changed to Miller, Smith and Fisher by the German immigrants. Professor Eichhoff gave many examples of spelling changes which also created new, seemingly English names with no historical English background. For example, all Snyders were originally Schneiders.

Prof. Eichhoff's speech will appear next year as an article in The Report, the publication of The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland. Each member of that society receives a copy of The Report as part of the annual \$15 dues.



### BENEFIT CONCERT FOR GERMAN CULTURAL CENTER



The Washington Sangerbund, the choir of the German School of Washington and the Crystal Strings Orchestra, presented a concert to benefit the proposed national German Cultural Center in Washington on June 10th. It featured the Washington premier of a Magnificat by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, a recently discovered work on loan from the Berliner Singakademie.

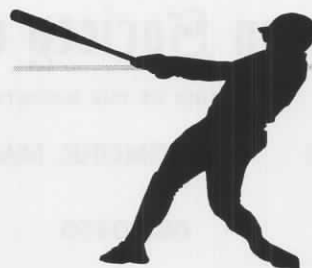
### GRAMM, PART-TIME MARYLANDER, IS GRANDSON OF GERMAN IMMIGRANT

Phil Gramm, Senator from Texas and one of the Republican frontrunners for President in 1996, is the grandson of a German immigrant. The senator's father joined the US army at age 15, served in WW I and rose to the rank of sergeant, later teaching at the infantry school at Ft. Benning, GA. Gramm is a part-time Marylander. He owns a summer house on the Eastern Shore.

### BARBARA FRITCHIE, GERMAN MARYLANDER

A German woman, Barbara Fritchie (nee Hauser) proudly flaunted her patriotism when she defied Stonewall Jackson by displaying the Stars & Stripes from her attic window as he marched through the city of Frederick. She is immortalized in Whittier's poem, known to all school children: 'Shoot if you must, this old gray head, but spare your country's flag,' she said."

### BABE RUTH'S GERMAN ANCESTRY



February 6th marked the 100th anniversary of Babe Ruth's birth, and it was celebrated with great fanfare by seminars and publications throughout the country. The baseball hero was born in Baltimore at 216 Emory Street in 1895. His home is now The Babe Ruth Museum. Baltimore newspapers ran articles all week long and the Baltimore Sun printed a full page color poster of the Babe, plus a 14 page commemorative section. Among the thousands of facts and hundred thousand words in the news articles, no mention was made of his German ancestry.

### DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FIRST PRINTED IN GERMAN

Before it was published in English, the official Declaration of Independence was first printed in a German newspaper, on July 9, 1776. The paper was the "Pennsylvania Staatsbote", published in Philadelphia.

### C.A. KUEHNLE, JR. CAMOUFLAGE EXPERT, PAINTER

Christian Albert Kuehle, Jr. died March 30th at age 83. He owned Baltimore-based Kuehnle-Wilson Paints, its plant located near Fort McHenry. He did all the camouflage work on the Martin bombers in WW II. He also painted the House and Senate rooms at the U. S. Capitol and the dome of the Naval Academy.

### GESUNDHEIT!!!

It's the word Germans use to comfort someone who has just sneezed, and it means "health". In a small, informal poll taken recently, it was found that a majority of people using "gesundheit" did not know the original German meaning of "health" but thought it to mean "God bless you".

FOUNDED 1783



# The German Society of Maryland

OFFICE OF THE SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 22585

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21203-4585

685-0450

FROM THE OFFICE OF

## OFFICERS 1995-1996

Theodore J. Potthast, Jr.  
President  
Dandridge Brooke  
1st Vice President  
R. Roland Brockmeyer  
2nd Vice President  
Dorothy Galway  
Secretary  
Ronald R. Antlitz, Sr.  
Treasurer  
Jack R. Sturgill, Jr., Esq.  
Counselor  
William N. White, Esq.  
Counselor

## DIRECTORS

Ronald R. Antlitz, Sr.  
John K. Aymold, Jr.  
Jane K. Awalt  
R. Roland Brockmeyer  
Dandridge Brooke  
Albert J. Craemer  
Clement D. Erhardt, Jr.  
John Ensor  
Brigitte V. Fessenden  
Dorothy Galway  
Harry Gruel  
Fredericke Hurdle Hecht  
Michael J. Nieberding  
Mark I. Potthast  
Donald E. Tillman  
Christel van der Berg  
Edwin O. Wenck  
Hon. Gerard W. Wittstadt

## EX OFFICIO

Pres., Women's Auxiliary  
Margarete Kramer

## LIFETIME DIRECTORS

Theodore J. Potthast, Jr.  
Theodore J. Potthast, Sr.  
Francis Pramschufer, Jr.  
Charles F. Stein, III  
Frederick H. Wehrenberg  
Vernon H. Wiesand

mail to:

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Doris Anderson  
Ann Louise Burger  
Thomas J. Burger  
Darlene S. Dail  
F. Shelmon Dail  
Peter H. Denning  
Joan Dreisch  
Norm Dreisch  
Dr. Mohamed Esa  
William C. Franz  
Frederick M. Goethe  
Lois Marie Heinrich  
William J. Heinrich  
Mary Kathryn Pfeffer Hollidayoke  
Kiri Johnson  
Richard Kleinfelder  
Karl Heinz Kramer, Jr.  
Linda Kramer  
Raymond J. Krul  
Esther Krul  
Angela Lauman  
Anne Leblans  
Margaret E. Mullens  
Jan E. Nieberding  
Josef B. Nieberding  
Diane Paulson  
Uta Peterson  
Robert C. Sippel  
Dorothy H. Sippel  
Karl F. Stenzel  
Friedrich Sullivan  
Patricia L. Weir

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ . Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

"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 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