

THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

DIE DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT VON MARYLAND

VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

OCTOBER, 1995

ISSUE SEVEN

ANNUAL BANQUET WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 10TH

The Society's annual awards banquet will be held on Nov. 10 at Martin's Eudowood. Tickets are \$35 per person and can be obtained by sending your check to Gerard W. Wittstadt, Sr. at 8224 Carrbridge Circle, Towson, MD 21204. Members are encouraged to attend and bring guests.

The ticket price includes a cocktail hour with hors d'ouvres, the banquet dinner, all night open bar, music and dancing.

The honoree is Honorable Louis L. Goldstein, Comptroller of Maryland. Mr. Goldstein is one of the most popular persons on the Maryland political scene in the history of the state. He is currently in his 9th four year term as Comptroller.

The Society's annual award is given to persons of German ancestry who have made significant contributions to the citizens of Maryland. Some of the prior honorees have been Governor William Donald Schaefer, Joseph Sellinger, S.J., president of Loyola College, Robert Heyssel, M.D., president of The Johns Hopkins Hospital and Medical School, Frank and Mary Ellen Gunther, community leaders, and Paul Schafer, merchant and philanthropist.

ANNUAL KIRCHGANG SET FOR OCTOBER 29TH

The Society has a long standing tradition of attending church services once each year as a group, at the Zion Church at City Hall Plaza.

Zion Church, founded in 1763, pre-dates the founding of our Society by 20 years. Many of the founders of our Society were members of Zion when they came together in 1783 to form a group to aid German-speaking immigrants. The "special relationship" with Zion Church which existed in the 1700's still exists today, even though the Society's current membership runs a gambit of many different religious affiliations.

The Kirchgang begins at the 11:00 AM service, after which a brunch will be served to the attendees. The cost is \$3.50 per person. Our members are encouraged to attend and bring their families and guests.

Reservations for the brunch should be made by calling Irma Tillman at 410-843-4875.

ANNUAL PICNIC A SUCCESS



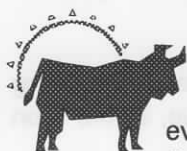
The annual picnic, a main event of the Society in the late 1800's and early 1900's, lapsed in the early 1960's. Last year the Directors decided to revive the event and the occasion was highly successful. German food, music and banners were enjoyed by all those who attended the affair at the estate of Roland and Elaine Brockmeyer in Cockeysville, Md.

For the second straight year the Brockmeyers allowed us to use their home for the picnic. On September 30th, the annual picnic was held and a good crowd attended. There were ample stocks of beer, wine and German food and desserts. The weather was lovely. Many thanks to the Brockmeyers for their hospitality and generosity.

"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."

FALL Events Calendar

EDELWEISS CLUB EVENTS



The Edelweiss Club has invited members of the German Society to participate in their social events. On Oct. 22 from 2-6 p.m., the club will hold its Oyster & Bull Roast at the American Legion Hall, 5503 Richard Avenue. For reservations call Bill Oeser at 252-3922. The Christmas Dance will be held at the VFW Hall, Harford Road. For reservations call Bill Scholtholdl at 242-0559.

German Restaurant Program

Jack R. Sturgill, Jr., a Towson lawyer, chairman of a program to introduce our members to the Maryland restaurants with specialties in German cuisine, has announced the start of the program with a trip to Rudy's Restaurant in Carroll County. Jack's wife Marcy is co-chair of the event.



Society members and their friends inaugurated the program with a dinner at Rudy's in Westminster on September 27th. The event was publicized among the membership and we had a good turnout.

Jack and Marcy hope to arrange an outing to one of Maryland's German restaurants every three months. The concept is to make known the fare of each restaurant to our members, as well as to support and keep alive the concept of German restaurants in our state. Unfortunately, many German restaurants have fallen by the wayside over the years because of lack of support. Such outstanding names as Schellhaus, Deutches Haus, Winterlings and others have disappeared from the Maryland scene. Mr. Sturgill opined that if the German community fails to support these institutions, the non-Germans will not patronize them and keep them flourishing.

Future outings are planned for Haussner's, Eichenkranz, Blob's Park, Minnich's, Baltimore Brewery and others in the Baltimore, Hagerstown, Frederick areas and Washington suburbs. Some of the events are planned as bus trips.

NOTICE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	PLACE	EVENT
OCTOBER 22ND	AMERICAN LEGION	EDELWEISS CLUB OYSTER AND BULL ROAST
OCTOBER 25TH & 26TH	ZION CHURCH	SAUERBRATEN DINNER (25TH) AND LUNCHEON (26TH)
OCTOBER 28TH	RUHL ARMORY	GERMAN SOCIETY GENEALOGY SEMINAR
OCTOBER 29TH	ZION CHURCH	GERMAN SOCIETY ANNUAL KIRCHGANG
NOVEMBER 10TH	MARTIN'S EUDOWOOD	GERMAN SOCIETY AWARDS BANQUET
NOVEMBER 23RD	ZION CHURCH	GERMAN SOCIETY ECUMENICAL SERVICE
DECEMBER 2	VFW HALL	EDELWEISS CLUB WEIHNACHTSTANZ (CHRISTMAS DANCE)

LOCAL GERMAN RADIO SHOWS

The German Radio Klub and The Edelweiss Klub offer broadcasting of interest to the German community of Central Maryland on radio 750 AM. The schedule:

Saturdays at 3 PM, "German Radio Hour";
Sundays at 10 AM "Edelweiss Hour";
Sundays at 2 PM, "German Radio Hour."



YOUNG BERLINERS PERFORM IN MARYLAND



The Junges Ensemble Berlin, a youth brass orchestra from Berlin, Germany, performed a concert of swing, Dixieland, German and American march music at Western Maryland College on September 20. The concert was supported by the German Embassy and sponsored by the Foreign Language Department, and the German Club of the college. The German Society was represented at the event by Mike Nieberding, chairman of the Youth Committee, and Theodore Potthast, president.

The Berlin brass orchestra marched in the Steuben Day parades in both New York on Sept. 16th and Philadelphia on Sept. 23. The orchestra consists of 150 youths between the ages of 10 and 30. About 30 members performed in Maryland.

PEWTER EXHIBIT IN LANCASTER, P.A.

Pewter communion and baptism vessels from German churches in rural Pennsylvania founded before 1800 will be on exhibit in Lancaster until December 30. For the last eight years, Dr. Donald M. Herr, a Lancaster veterinarian, religiously spent every Tuesday (his day off) visiting 569 Pennsylvania German churches to photograph their pewter. As a result of his research, 126 of the religious vessels are on display at the Heritage Center, a small historical museum on Center Square next to the Central Market in downtown Lancaster. Most of the vessels are hidden away in bank vaults and brought out for use only for a few special occasions each year.

Herr's new book, "Pewter in Pennsylvania German Churches", was published last month by the Pennsylvania German Society.

For pewter collectors, the exhibit is awesome: a procession of flagons, chalices, tankards, beakers, mugs, basins, dishes, plates, ciboria and candlesticks used by various German-speaking congregations of Lutheran, Reformed, Mennonite, Church of the Brethren, Moravian and Catholic denominations. The Pewter Club of America holds its annual meeting this year in Lancaster.

Festgottesdienst Celebrates German-American Day

The German American Joint Action Committee sponsored an Ecumenical Church Service celebrating the national observance of German-American Day, 1995, on October 1 at the National City Christian Church.

The Church is located at Thomas Circle, N.W., Washington, D.C. Small groups from around the country participated, as did members of the German diplomatic corps and U.S. government officials.

The Joint Action Committee consists of three national German-American organizations: DANK (Deutschamerikanischer National Kongress), UGAC (United German American Committee, and The Steuben Society of America. The German Society of Maryland is a member of DANK and UGAC.

CARROLL COUNTY HONORS GERMAN SOCIETY

The President of the Carroll County Commissioners, Richard T. Yates, joined the Society's dinner program at Rudy's in Westminster and presented a surprise Proclamation honoring the German Society and Ted Potthast, our president. Mr. Yates delivered the Proclamation which was designated #48-95 of the acts of the Carroll County Commissioners and was signed by Mr. Yates and the two other County Commissioners, W. Benjamin Brown, Vice-President and Donald I. Dell, Secretary. The Proclamation referred to Mr. Potthast's 33 years of activity in the Society. Mr. Yates was the guest of one of our members, Joseph Hooper Mettle of Eldersberg.

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

Wilfried Krug and Helmuth Bens, officials of the Federal Republic of Germany were honored at an Embassy reception on June 23rd. They have completed their assignment in the U. S. and are returning to Bonn. Mr. Krug and Mr. Bens have been good friends of the German Society and they have been most helpful to us during their stay in America. They attended many of our events. The members of the German Society are sad to lose them and send them our best wishes in their new positions.

The reception also welcomed Reinhold Neukötter as the new Deputy of Administration of the Embassy.

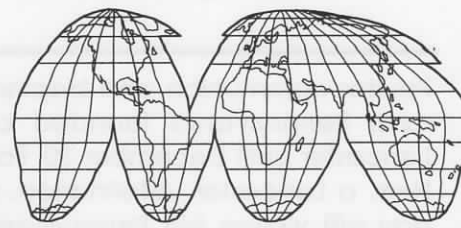
The reception also celebrated the birthdays of Gerald Kainz, Editor of the "Washington Journal" and Bob Sheppard, German Society member and President of the Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland.

Donald and Irma Tillman represented the Society at the affair.

Ripken Enters Baseball History

On Sept. 6, 1995, Cal Ripken, Jr. of the Baltimore Orioles baseball team broke Lou Gehrig's record of playing in 2131 consecutive games.

Ripken's great grandparents on his father's side immigrated from Germany in the 19th century. They were Frederick Peter Ripken and Affena Lubina Wychgram. They settled in Harford County, Maryland and opened a general store in Stepney, a crossroads three miles south of Aberdeen. Cal also found German ancestry in his mother's family. She is the former Violet Gross, of German/Irish descent. The Gross family immigrated long before the American Revolutionary War.

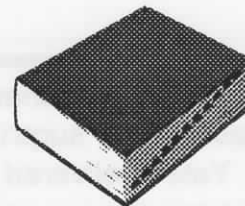


HISTORY OF GERMAN-AMERICANS IN THE WORLD WARS PUBLISHED

Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann, a scholar at the University of Cincinnati, has edited a documentary history of the German-Americans in the World Wars. The work consists of 5 volumes in 10 parts. Subscriptions are DM 2,400 (about \$1,900.00).

In both wars, German-Americans became objects of anti-German hysteria. In WWI, the German language was banned in 26 states; Germans were lynched, dismissed from their jobs and persecuted in all imaginable ways, including internment by the thousands.

For historical research, the value of Dr. Tolzmann's publication is in the selection, evaluation and collection of widely scattered materials and documents. To subscribe, contact K. G. Saur, 121 Chanlon Road, New Providence, NJ 07974



SOCIETY IN GOOD STANDING WITH STATE

Nancy Grueninger, Administrative Officer of the State Dept. of Assessments and Taxation of Maryland, issued a Certificate of Good Standing to the Society on May 25, 1995. The Certificate, which was requested by President Potthast, states that the German Society of Maryland is a corporation duly incorporated and existing under and by virtue of the laws of Maryland and is duly authorized to exercise all of the powers recited in its charter and to transact business in the State of Maryland. The Society was incorporated by an Act of the General Assembly in 1817.

Rockville and Pinneberg, Sister Cities

Rockville, Maryland and Pinneberg in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany have been sister cities since 1957. President Eisenhower started the People-to-People Program, which has grown to link 900 US cities and towns with 1500 communities in 100 nations of the world.

Rockville's program is an active one which brings 15 students per year to Rockville from three high schools in Pinneberg (located 12 miles north of Hamburg). The program also sponsors cultural arts projects, sports exchanges and small, informal visits by Sister City members throughout the year. The Rockville Sister City Corporation publishes a newsletter periodically detailing ongoing exchange activities and quarterly social events for members.

For information write to Rockville Sister City Corporation, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850-2364.



MEMBER NEWS

Galway Moves to Texas

Dorothy Galway, a member of the Board of Directors and our office secretary for the past ten years, moved to Texas on August 7th. The German Society awarded her a silver platter, engraved with words of gratitude for her service, at an awards breakfast held in her honor by Zion Church. The affair was attended by a large number of Dorothy's friends and fellow church members. Some officers of the Society attended a farewell luncheon for her at Vellegia's on August 4th.

Mrs. Galway is a native of Germany. She lived in the east, but before the iron curtain fell, she fled to West Germany and obtained a job with the Red Cross. In that position she met her future husband. Forty years ago they came to Baltimore where she had a long career with the First National Bank of Maryland. When she retired from the bank, she took the part-time position as secretary to the Society, and also worked part-time at Zion Church.

She will be living with her daughter and son-in-law. Her new address is 5317 Saddleback Road, Garland, Texas 75043.

VAN DER BERG ELECTED SECRETARY

Christel van der Berg was elected Secretary of the Society at the Board of Directors meeting of August 9th. She succeeds Dorothy Galway who resigned and has moved to Texas. The Bylaws of the Society require the Secretary to be a member of the Board of Directors. Mrs. van der Berg has been on the Board since this past March. She came to America from the Rhineland as one of the first "war brides" in 1947. Christel is also quite active in the Edelweiss Club.

Family of New Member, Richard Ater, Traces Long Lines in America

Caspar Eader came from Alsace-Lorraine around 1765 and settled in what is now Clarksberg, Ohio, then part of the Virginia Military District. Caspar had seven sons. Family members have fought in every conflict in which the USA was engaged. Jefferson Davis belongs to the family tree. The Eader name evolved into many spellings, one of which is Ater. Dick's father, Gideon Davis Ater, was born in Ohio, moved as a child to Louisville, and later worked his way to Baltimore, met and married Virginia Gruber in 1937. Dick and his brother Jerry are the ninth generation in America. The Aters hold an annual meeting in Clarksburg, Ohio, attended by more than 500 family members.

Dick's maternal grandmother, Katherine Statler Gruber, was born in Heidelberg on April 12, 1865, the day Lincoln was shot. She married Ludwig Gruber of Salzburg, who came to America in 1890. He established a tailor shop and returned for his wife. They sailed into the port of Baltimore and settled on Somerset Street, behind the St. James schoolyard. They had 16 children, of which Dick's mother, Virginia, was the youngest. All 16 stayed in Baltimore and raised families. Dick says his relatives are "uncountable."

New Member Through Marriage



Jim MacAlister was heard saying that it's smart to marry a member of the German Society, since this gets you a free membership. Lisa Bisenius heard about this bargain and took advantage of it. On August 26th she married Mark Potthast, a member of our Board of Directors. Lisa grandfather was a Luxemburger, and her grandmother came from Germany.

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 (since last November) in time for our annual awards banquet.

BALTIMORE PEDIATRICIAN TRANSLATES POETRY INTO GERMAN

The book of poems of Jim Wayne Miller, entitled "Copperhead Cane" has been translated into German by Thomas Dorsett, M.D. Dr. Dorsett is a pediatrician with Johns Hopkins Medical Services, resides in Baltimore and is an author of his own poetry collection, "Dance Fire Dance".

The "Copperhead Cane/ Der Schlangenstein" collection is printed in English side by side with its German translation. The author, Jim Wayne Miller, teaches at Western Kentucky University and resides in Bowling Green, Ky.

Brigitte Fessenden, a member of the Board of Directors of the German Society, read drafts of the translation and made suggestions. A copy of the book is available for review by members of the Society. Call the office to arrange to review it.

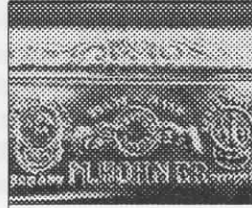
The "Old Comrades" Selected for Musikbund



The Blaskapelle "Alte Kameraden", the German Band of the City of Fairfax, Virginia, is the only American band to be invited to membership in Germany's Musikbund von Ober-und Niederbayern (music society of Upper and Lower Bavaria). The band was recently featured on ABC's "Good Morning, America" and in Germany's "Deutschland Heute".

The band performed at numerous summer festivals in Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

THE HARMONICA: A GERMAN AMERICAN TRADITION



The most popular wind instrument of all time is the harmonica, made by the German firm, Hohner. In 1896 M Hohner, Inc. name its model #1896 "The Marine Band Harmonica". John Philip Sousa, of German ancestry, the composer and leader of the U.S. military band was an avid supporter of the Hohner harmonica and gave his name to its commercial endorsement.

A precursor of the harmonica was invented by Christian Friedrich A Buschmann, a clock maker, who made a "mund-aeoline" (mouth harp) in 1821. A Bohemian named Richter improved on it and in 1826 named it a Mundharmonica (mouth organ). In 1857 Matthias Hohner, a clock maker of Trossingen, Germany near the Black Forest, began full time production of harmonicas. He brought them to America in 1862 and by 1887 was producing more than one million per year.

Several American presidents have enjoyed the Hohner harmonicas, such as Abraham Lincoln, Calvin Coolidge, Dwight Eisenhower and Ronald Reagan. (Many famous musicians got their start in music as children playing the harmonica. We have no word on whether President Clinton, an ardent saxophonist, got his start on a Hohner.)

Hohner, a German company, maintains staff in Richmond, VA, which provides the firm with technical and manufacturing expertise. One of its officials is Richard Epping nephew of a member of the German Society of Md., Elizabeth Epping.

Parade for the Pope

On October 8th the Pope visited Baltimore. After a Mass at Oriole Park at Camden Yards, a parade lead the Pope from the ballpark to the Basilica on Cathedral Street. The German Society of Maryland was invited to have a contingent march in the parade. However, the Society adopted a policy in 1914 that it would not participate in parades. In its 212 year history, the Society participated in only one parade (in 1914), and the Board promptly thereafter resolved to revert to its former policy of "no parades." Because of this long-standing tradition, the Society respectfully declined to march in the Pope's parade.

BLUE JEANS INVENTED BY GERMAN IMMIGRANT

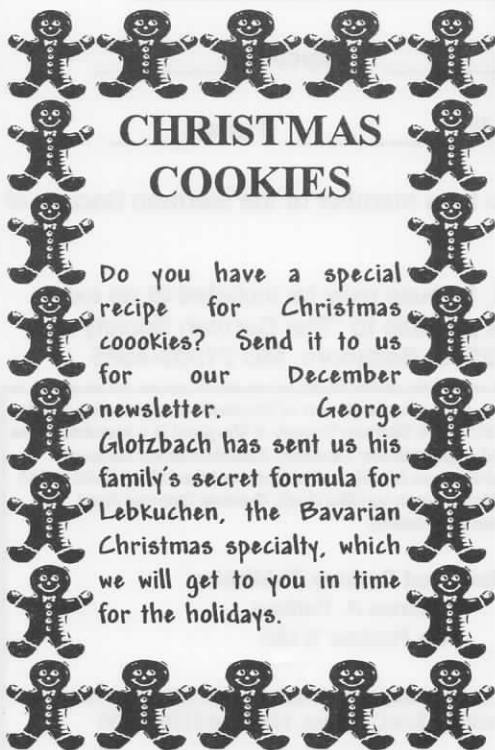
The world's most popular pants originated from a quirk of gold rush history. Young Levi Strauss, an immigrant from Buttenheim, Bavaria, sailed 17,000 miles from New York around Cape Horn and up to San Francisco with a load of canvas for tents for the miners, the 49ers. By the time he arrived, the gold rush had fizzled out, but the miners, farms and cowboys of the wild west needed tough pants. Levi made a few pair from his canvas. The miners loved them, demand skyrocketed and the rest is history. The Levi Strauss company became the largest maker of clothing in the world. Today the company has 76 factories in 24 countries, sells in 60 countries with sales of \$5.6 billion. Levi Strauss modeled his pants on "genes" worn by sailors from Genoa, Italy. He changed the spelling to jeans. The name "Levis" was not used until 1920 and the name "jeans" was not used in ads until 1960.

The blue dye used in the blue jeans was invented by another German company, BASF, headquartered in Ludwigshafen. The demand for the dye was so great that, in 1916, 60 tons of it was brought to Baltimore via the commercial U-boat "Deutschland", which outwitted the British blockade of the Chesapeake Bay.

An interesting history of the Levi Strauss company is carried in the May 1995 issue of "German Life", a new magazine published in Grantsville, Maryland.

GERMAN COURT VOIDS CROSSES IN SCHOOL

Germany's Supreme Court, on August 10th, ruled against the custom of crosses in the classrooms of Bavaria. The constitution of the state of Bavaria requires schools to teach children to respect the Lord. Cardinal Wetter of Munich and Freising said the ban violates a constitutional right of religious freedom. He alluded to Nazi rule, when a government ban on hanging crosses in classrooms was withdrawn because of Bavarian resistance. "What was possible under the Nazi dictatorship should be possible in our democratic state based on the rule of law", the cardinal said in a statement released by the archdiocese.



CHRISTMAS COOKIES

Do you have a special recipe for Christmas cookies? Send it to us for our December newsletter. George Glotzbach has sent us his family's secret formula for Lebkuchen, the Bavarian Christmas specialty, which we will get to you in time for the holidays.

SPOTLIGHT ON NUREMBERG



NUREMBERG (Nurnberg) -- Nuremberg (pop. 494,900), founded in 1040, is an interesting mix of the quaint and the cosmopolitan.

The Altstadt (Old City) is a medieval walled city with large pedestrian walkways graced by the pretty Pegnitz River. Spend the afternoon wandering the narrow streets and alleys, shopping for antiques, toys, crafts and jewelry. At Christmastime, the city's main market turns into the famous Christkindlmarkt, an open-air Christmas Market that has spawned imitators throughout Germany. The main attractions are Gluhwein (warm spiced punch) and sugary Lebkuchen (Christmas cookies). Visit the city's three churches (Frauenkirche, St. Lorenze Kirche, and St. Sebaldus Kirche) and the Albrecht Durer House (where the artist lived for 20 years). Before you leave, turn the gold ring at the Gothic Schoner Brunnen (Beautiful Fountain) for good luck, and taste the city's unique spicing of bratwurst. 92 mi/148 km north-northwest of Munich.

Source: This City profile was downloaded from America Online, "Traveler's Corner". Sponsored by Weissmann's Travel Reports. Transmitted: 95-09-08 10:38:01 EDT



FOUNDED 1783

The German Society of Maryland

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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. The German Society of Maryland is a member of the following national and local organizations: Deutsch- Amerikanischer National Kongress (DANK), United German American Committee of the USA (UGAC-USA); Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland; General German Aged Peoples' Home of Baltimore (Edenwald).

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