

THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

DIE DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT VON MARYLAND

VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

APRIL, 1996

ISSUE NINE

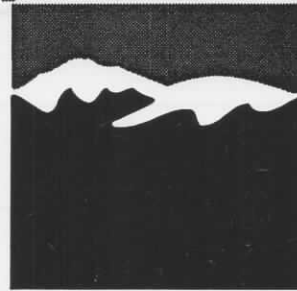
MICHAEL NIEBERDING ELECTED PRESIDENT

The Board of Directors elected Michael Nieberding as president for the year commencing March 28th. Mr. Nieberding replaces Theodore J. Potthast, Jr. who has served for the past three years. Dandridge Brooke remains as 1st Vice-President and John Aymold replaces R. Roland Brockmeyer as 2nd Vice-President. Ronald E. Antlitz, Sr., CPA remains as treasurer.

The outgoing president, Ted Potthast, said he overstayed his office by a year. He recommended that the Society should rotate offices every two years in order to bring new blood into the organization and spread the responsibilities of leadership over a larger pool of the membership. The Society now has a large group of active members who are willing workers in our numerous projects. He said that the goal should be to keep that pool of workers expanding by encouraging the membership to devote the time and energies to the works of the Society.

All of the outgoing officers and directors pledged to remain active and assist their successors in carrying out their duties of office.

GERMAN-AUSTRIAN FESTIVAL AT HOPKINS



The theme for the annual spring festival at Johns Hopkins University, Home - wood campus, is the Alps. It features German -Austrian music, yodeling, cultural events, dancing, etc. The affair runs April 19 through 21, Friday (noon to 6 PM), Saturday (10 to 7) and Sunday, (10 to 6). The Hopkins spring festival attracts about 70,000 visitors. The German Society of Maryland will host a booth and will distribute literature about our own Society, plus genealogy and German heritage materials. If you can help work the booths on any of those days, please call to volunteer. Leave your name and number on our 24-hour, 7-day-per week voice mail at 410-685-0450.

GERMAN SOCIETY ELECTS NEW DIRECTORS

The annual meeting of members was held on March 15 (postponed from March 8 due to snow, ice and a 1° sub-freezing wind-chill). Directors elected for a three year term were: John Aymold, Clement D. Ehrhardt, Jr., Fredericke H. Hecht, Hans Hurdle, Marcy Sturgill and Robert Gay. Mrs. Irma Tillman was chosen to fill a vacancy for a 1996 term. Dandridge Brooke and Donald E. Tillman were elected lifetime directors. Retiring directors were Jane Awalt and Albert Craemer. The membership meeting was well attended. The meeting was held after a German buffet dinner in the dining hall at Zion Church. The formula for a successful meeting was prescribed by Don Tillman, who in 1987 opined: "Germans can't conduct business on an empty stomach. You have to feed them before the meeting."

"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."

Activities & Events

Calendar of Events - The Maryland German-American Community

DATE	EVENT	SPONSOR	CONTACT
APRIL 19-21	Alpine Festival at Hopkins	Johns Hopkins Univ.	410 685-0450
APRIL 27	High School Awards at Western Md College	German Society	410 685-0450
APRIL 29	Society for History of Germans in Md. Lecture & Annual Meeting	Soc. Hist. Germ. Md.	Judge Wittstadt 410 321-9608
MAY 5	German Soc. Stand at Eastern Shore Festival/ End of Bay Bridge Walk	German Society	410 685-0450
MAY 5	27th German American Festival at Blob's Park, Jessup, MD	AGAS (Asso. of German-American Societies of Washington, DC	(202) 554-2664 (301) 681-3464
JUNE 29-30	Bus Trip to Kutztown PA German Festival	Club Fidelitas Edelweiss Club	Don Bollhorst (410) 256-2580 Carl Milleker(410) 747-2431

High School Awards on
April 27th

Volunteers Needed at May 5th
Eastern Shore Festival

The Society will present cash prizes to the Maryland high school students who score in the top segment of the National German Language Exam given by the American Association of Teachers of German. Those students scoring in the 90th percentile of the exam will receive \$100 and those scoring in the 85th percentil receive \$75. The awards will be presented at the dinner, on the campus of Western Maryland College, Westminster. Dinner begins at 5:00 PM. Entertainment at the dinner will include the Immergrun Dancers and student presentations emanating from the day-long convention of MOGS, the Maryland Organization of German Students. Students skits and music are scheduled at 4 PM. German Society members are invited to attend the event. Dinner tickets are \$12.50 per person. For ticket reservations, leave your name and number on our 24-hour, 7-day-per-week voice mail (420-685-0450) and the Society's secretary will contact you.

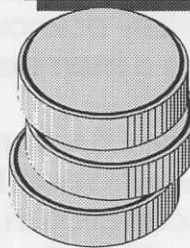
The Society has been invited by the Queen Anne's County Commission to sponsor a German cultural booth at its fair, held in conjunction with the annual Chesapeake Bay Bridge Walk. About 10,000 walkers start the walk on the Eastern Shore side of the bridge and are bussed back to the park where the fair is in progress. The German Society will distribute information relating to our Society, as well as general German heritage, cultural and travel materials. Please sign up to help staff the stand by calling our office and leaving your name and phone number on our voice-mail. (410) 685-0450. Easy parking at the fair; food, drink and music are featured.

FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE SOCIETY**GRANT COMMITTEE**

The Board of Directors, in response to numerous requests for funds from the Society, has established a "Grant Committee" to review such requests. The Board has also enacted policies and procedures regarding the awards of grants. Any member who wants a copy of the policy and procedure statement may call our office or drop us a note. Any members wishing to serve on the Grant Committee should contact the president of the Society, who is responsible for all committee appointments.

Gift to Goethe Society

The German Society has given its support to the fledgling Maryland Chapter of The American Goethe Society by a \$25 gift for its activities. The Goethe Society president is Brigitte Fessenden, who is also a director of the our Society. The Goethe Society presented an illustrated lecture at Towson State Univ. in February, by Dr. Beicken, of the University of MD, College Park. The subject: the Prague years of German author Franz Kapfka. Many members of our Society were in attendance. A favorable review of the lecture, by German Society member Dr. Armin Mruck, was published in the March 8th issue of the Washington Journal.



Ronald Antlitz, CPA and **John Ensor**, investment counselor, both members of the Board of Directors, prepared reports of the finances of the Society for presentation at the annual meeting of the membership. As of March 4, 1996, our general fund portfolio now stands at \$388,446 and our scholarship fund stands at \$199,411. Since last year, the general fund has increased by 18.2% and the scholarship fund by 20.4%. Our successful investment decisions have been based upon the recommendations of John Ensor, a stockbroker and member of our finance committee.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The scholarship fund was established in 1985. At that time the Board of Directors set a goal of raising a special fund of \$150,000 by way of contributions from the general fund. That goal was reached in 1994 and scholarships since then have been paid from the income of that fund, thus making income from the general fund available for other projects of the Society. We are now concentrating our earnings from the general fund on promoting German language studies at the high school and lower levels, and on heritage and genealogy programs.

Festival Culture Booth Earns Money

The German Society received the maximum credit of 60 manhours for maintaining our culture booth at the Summer German Festival. Manhour earnings are based on a percentage of the profits from the event. We received \$323 for our service. The principal goal of the Society in participating in the Festival was the spreading of information about the works of the society and distributing genealogical and cultural materials. The cash earnings were a bonus.

**ADVERTISING NOTICE**

Beginning with the next issue of this newsletter, the Society will accept small blocks of advertising. For information and rates, contact our office at 410-685-0450.

**JANE AWALT RETIRES
FROM BOARD**

Retiring from our Board of Directors upon completing her three year term, Jane Awalt announced that she would not seek re-election because her research and writing in the field of genealogy has forced her to give up her posts in this and several patriotic and scholarly organizations. She and her husband, Robert, both long-time members of our Society, have just completed their sixth book, a genealogic study for the Daughters of Colonial Wars.

Jane is national chairman of a genealogic organization and has agreed to act as consultant for its book publishing projects for the next three years. She is also working hard to finish the research on her own family genealogy, a project she has worked on for many years.

Past President Ted Potthast thanked Mrs. Awalt for her service at our annual meeting and said that during her term on the board as chair of the genealogy committee, the Society made substantial advances in our genealogy program under her leadership.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO Nicholas and Brigitte Fessenden, who recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on a trip to Paris. Brigitte is a director and chair of our cultural committee.

**200th Anniversary
Placque**

Tucked away in the garden of Zion Church on City Hall Plaza, near the graves of its early pastors, on the side wall of the church is a bronze placque commemorating the 200th anniversary of the founding of the German Society of Maryland. While it is only a few steps away from the City Hall in the Zion's beautiful courtyard, it is open daily but is seldom visited by the public. When the Society was unable to get permission to place its memorial in the Inner Harbor, Zion offered the Society space in its garden. When visiting the City Hall area, stop by and view our memorial placque.

ALBERT CRAEMER, DIRECTOR 1980 TO 1996

The Society gratefully acknowledges Albert Craemer's many years of service as a member of our Board of Directors.

Albert came to the USA from Germany as a young man in the 1950's. He was trained in Germany in hairdressing and resumed that occupation in Baltimore. He currently owns a successful salon in Pikesville.

Albert devoted much time to the old Deutches Haus where he became well known to the German-American community of Maryland. After the Deutches Haus was torn down by the City to build the Meyerhoff Concert Hall, Albert launched a personal crusade to find another place to serve as a center for the German community. He leased a large building next to the Shot Tower across from the main post office in the city and opened a German restaurant and meeting place. The German Society contributed \$5,000 to the project for the construction of a German meeting hall in the building. Unfortunately, the location and the timing acted against the project, forcing Albert to close down after a couple years.

Albert has a scholarly bent and is an avid book collector. His private library contains more than 10,000 volumes. During his years as a Director, Albert participated in many projects. He was highly sensitive to the problems of aging German immigrants. Often he brought their plights to the attention of the directors, which could sometimes assist with relief. He served as the "conscience" of the Board. Albert offered his personal aid to immigrants who found themselves and their families stranded here.



THANKS TO:

BOB SHEPPARD for contributing 14 hours of his Festival Time to the Society, resulting in a gift of \$75 from the Summer Festival at

Carroll Park.

ALL THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE BUFFET at our annual meeting on March 15th: Isolde and Dan Brooke for their home-made German potato salad; Marie Potthast for her big can of oatmeal cookies; Irma Tillman for the sauerkraut and knockwurst; Don Tillman for arranging for the beer, sodas, ice, etc.; Connie Potthast for two trays of her secret-recipe cinnamon cake; and the staff at Zion Church for making the coffee and tea and helping with the cleanup.

Six Years After the Fall of the Berlin Wall

Within a few weeks after the Berlin Wall came down, the German Society of Maryland rushed to sponsor an ecumenical service of thanksgiving for the reunification. Relations between the east and west Berliners has not gone as smoothly as was hoped. The following is an excerpt from an article by Richard Atcheson, entitled "Return to Berlin" in the April, 1996 issue of Modern Maturity, the magazine of AARP:

"The chasm between East and West Berliners -- the *Ossis* and the *Wessis* -- is wide and deep. The divisions are social, economic, moral, spiritual, right across the board. The general Wessi view is that the Ossis are shiftless and clueless, excluded for so long from the rhythms of the West that they just don't know the moves.

The Ossis feel shut out. Since reunification they speak of wanting to have "their" '60's -- "their" ebullient epoch of new cars and trips to Majorca. And where's the money coming from? the Wessis wonder. The Ossis are busted, lucky to have crosstown carfare. Wessis pay higher taxes to fuel the rebuilding of the East, and they resent it.

So crossing town doesn't happen as much as you'd think. "There was a lot at the beginning" says a friend, "but it fell off fast. They do things their way, we do things our way." The Ossi way is to be friendly and glad to see you, eager to talk; Wessis could care less whether you're there or not. Ossis think Wessis are snobs, which they are. And Wessis regard Ossis as goofs, which I'm not at all persuaded of. (I actually like it when people are nice to me.)

Ossis and Wessis alike have said to me that everybody who remembers the Wall will have to be dead before Berlin has a common heart again."



**"Don't drive
faster than
your guardian
angel can fly!!"**

KUTZTOWN, PA. GERMAN FESTIVAL



Club Fidelitas and the Edelweiss Club will sponsor an overnight bus trip to the German Festival in Kutztown, Pa. June 29-30. Tickets are \$145 and include transportation, buffet breakfast and family style dinner, two days festival admission, a musical comedy, etc. The Kutztown Festival is a highly popular German heritage event of food and music which draws crowds from the entire mid-Atlantic region. German Society members are invited to participate. Call Don Bollhorst (410-256-2580) or Carl Milleker (410-747-2431) for details.

REPORT #43 TO BE RELEASED

In the 110 years of the existence of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland, 42 volumes of its publication "The Report" have been issued. Within the month, that Society will publish volume 43, which is reported to contain the most articles and be the biggest volume yet issued in the history of organization. Board of Directors of The German Society of Maryland voted a \$1,000 contribution to assist in the publication of this historic issue. A limited number of copies of the Report will be made available to members of the German Society of Md., upon request.

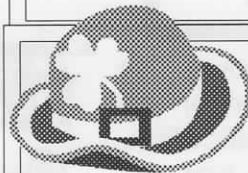
Dr. Randall Donaldson, professor of German at Loyola College, is the editor of The Report. Judge Gerard Wittstadt is president of the Society. Judge Wittstadt commended Dr. Donaldson for his efforts in obtaining so many scholarly and interesting articles of this unique edition.

A copy of The Report is mailed to all members of the historical society and is included in their annual \$15.00 dues. The Society is soliciting new members. Call Judge Wittstadt at 410-321-8608 for a membership application.

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES SEEK FUNDS

A national historical society, the Society for German-American Studies, and a Maryland historical society, the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland, are both raising money for publication funds. The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland has established a trust fund to assure the continuation in perpetuity of its publication, The Report. While most other ethnic societies from the 1900s are now defunct, the latter society, established in 1883, has published 42 issues in its 102 years of existence. It publishes scholarly articles whenever it has enough articles to make it worthwhile, and enough money to print them. That is the secret of its success, according to Prof. Harold Jahn, (now deceased) its former editor and a Professor of German at Johns Hopkins University. The Maryland Society is half-way to reaching its goal of \$50,000. The Society for German-American Studies, established in 1968, is also half-way in reaching its goal of \$100,000. It publishes the Yearbook of German-American Studies. German Society of Md. members who wish to contribute to these scholarly efforts may call our Society's office for information.

GERMAN SOCIETY HELPS HIBERNIANS CELEBRATE



The German Society was represented at the annual banquet of the Hibernian Society by President Ted Potthast. This year's event was held early, on March 14, since the usual festival day of the Irish, St. Patrick's Day, fell on a Sunday. The Hibernians and the German Society have had close ties for over 150 years. In the early 1800's, before the days of DSS's (Departments of Social Service) and public assistance the problems of immigrants were handled by private organizations. The City of Baltimore collected a \$2 head tax on each immigrant entering the port. The German Society receive 50¢ for each immigrant from Germany, Austria and Switzerland, and the Hibernians received 50¢ for each Irish immigrant. Over the years our Society received over \$35,000 from the head tax, which was used to aid the immigrants. The Hibernians received similar amounts.

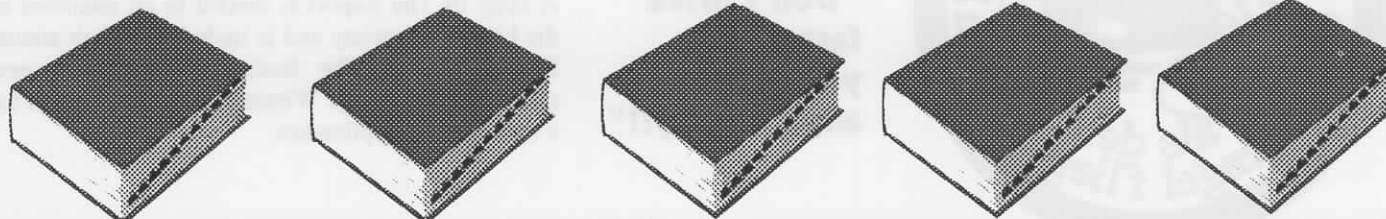
Historical Society Plans to Update Book

The Directors of The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland, authorized the publication of a new book on the modern history of Germans in Maryland.

The historical society has 350 members. It is considered a "sister society" of the German Society of Maryland, and many individuals belong to both societies.

Professor Dieter Cunz of the University of Maryland authored a book entitled "The Maryland Germans" which is the landmark publication on the topic. It covered the first German immigrants, and ended with the year 1940. It was published in 1948.

The book will update history of the Maryland Germans from 1940 to date.



HISTORICAL NOTES

MAYOR OF BALTIMORE INCORPORATOR



Jacob Small, a member of the German Society of Maryland, while serving as Mayor of Baltimore in 1817, acted as one of the twenty two incorporators of the Society. The incorporators also included General John Stricker, the hero of the War of 1812 Battle of North Point and founder of the Bank of Baltimore.

CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY

Article XIV of the Constitution of the Society, registered with the Secretary of State of Maryland in 1879, reads as follows:

ARTICLE XIV "Non-Acceptance of Office"

If any member elected to an office, refuses to serve therein, he shall pay a fine of ten dollars into the treasury, unless he has already served in the same office, or paid the fine for non-acceptance."



JUSTICE IN FREDERICK MD DURING REVOLUTION

Frederick was a center for holding Hessian prisoners during the revolution. It was not an easy time to be on the wrong side of the law in Frederick.

In the series *American Historic Towns* Published by G. P. Putnam Sons in 1900, it is reported that seven Tories were convicted of treason in Frederick Town and the following sentence was passed upon them:

"You shall be carried to the gaol in Frederick town, and be hanged therein; you shall be cut down to the earth alive, and your entrails shall be taken out and burned while you are yet alive. Your heads shall be cut off; and your body shall be placed where His Excellency the Governor shall appoint. So Lord have mercy on your poor souls."

The author comments: "This terrible sentence was in four instances executed!"

GERMAN AMERICAN RESEARCH SOURCE

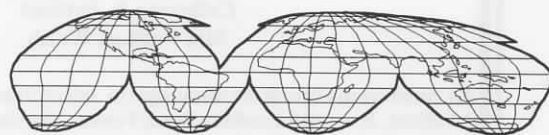
The Society for German-American Studies has developed a new Homepage on the Internet entitled "International Bibliography of German-Americana". It contains indexes to German-American historic sites, museums, libraries and archives and societies and research centers, and other resources.

Access to the homepage:
<http://foyt.iupui.edu/gas/sgaspgtr.html>



RECHTSCHREIBREFORM

Last month the German government approved a set of 112 rules on writing, from how to spell foreign words to where to place a comma. The "Rechtschreibreform" - Reform of the Right Way to Write, drafted by the ministry of culture, was presented to the 16 German states, which accepted it without objection. France has similar laws, for which offenders are taken to court and fined. Germany imposes no fines for violations of good grammar. Imagine the turmoil which the ACLU would cause in America if our government tried to dictate spelling and grammar!



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FOUNDED 1783

The German Society of Maryland

OFFICE OF THE SOCIETY

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685-0450

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1996-1997

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Dandridge Brooke
1st Vice President
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Secretary
Ronald R. Antlitz, Sr. CPA
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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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Wolfgang Oehme
Omi Oehme
A. Virginia Phelan
Frederick L. Riedel
Louise E. Riedel
E. June Schock
Josepf Wetz
Linda Wetz

DUES NOTICE

Some members state that they have not received a bill for their 1995 dues. If you were a member on June 30, 1995, your dues are due. (Those who joined after June, 1995 are paid up for 1996.) Please send \$15 with your current address and phone to P.O.Box 22585, Baltimore, MD 21203-4585.

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