



President's Message-Kraig Dean

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Liebe Mitglieder-Dear Members

Let me begin by wishing everyone Ein Frohes Neues Jahr. As I am sure everyone is aware the past year has been an interesting time. Hopefully the New Year will bring much needed relief and a return to something more stable.

In November the Society had the pleasure of bestowing our highest honor on Dr Maureen Helinski. Dr Helinski is a lifetime Director of the Society; she is also a member of the Education Committee. Please look at our website and see what Dr Helinski has and continues to do for both the Society and the study of the German language.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that was involved with the planning and making sure the special night for Dr Helinski came together. The event was held at The Mary-

land Club in Baltimore City. Please take a few minutes and look at the pictures on our website <https://germansociety-md.com> and on pages throughout this issue. We were also honored to have the Presidents of the Saint Andrews Society and Saint George Society present. Michael Hasper, Head of the Communications and Culture Department with Ms. Ines Teisseire, German Information Center, USA were in attendance representing the German Embassy in Washington, DC.

Well, here it is January, and you should have received your dues notice for 2022 in the mail. Please remember our annual dues run with the calendar year. Not only is it our dues notice but our annual giving campaign. So, if it is possible, please consider donating to the Society's Educational Fund, the Newsletter Fund or the General Fund along with paying your dues.



Our Annual meeting will be in April a date and venue have not been determined yet, however a post card will be forthcoming with location, date, and time. We will also be asking that everyone that plans on attending to call ahead so that we have enough for everyone. Please watch your mailbox the end of February beginning of March for the notice.

On a final note, this is a non-profit organization, and we are always looking for volunteers to help with our mission of promoting the German Language and Heritage.

Danke

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



Unser Kalender

Date	Event	Place
January 27, 2022	Board Meeting	TBD
February 24, 2022	Executive Committee	TBD
March 24, 2022	Executive Committee	TBD
April 2022 (Date TBD)	Membership Meeting	TBD

Publication Dates:

January-March: Deadline 12/15
 April-June: Deadline 3/15
 July-September: Deadline 6/15
 October-December: Deadline 9/15

Links:

German Society Website:
www.germansociety-md.com

Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein:
www.md-germans.org

German Marylanders:
www.germanmarylanders.org



Welcome New Members



Laura Eskenazi

John A, Goebeler & Maureen P.

O'Donnell

Francis King

Amy Rill

George & Andrea Shoener

C. Rodger Waldmann

Warren & Lori Wöhr

To all 'Frohes Neues Jahr'

One of the more unusual customs in Germany, one to celebrate New Year's Eve or 'Silvester', is the viewing of 'Dinner for One'. This was a British stage skit originating in 1963. It has become a tradition in Germany and is viewed on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day. It is a short black & white comedy skit of a woman celebrating her 90th birthday. Unfortunately all of her friends have passed away and her butler, James, takes the place of each of her four friends. He becomes somewhat intoxicated. There is a phrase used in the presentation 'the same procedure as every year' that has become a 'catch phrase' in Germany. The skit is now available through You Tube. I watched it for the first time about ten years ago and look forward to it every year. There is no better way to start the New Year than with laughter.



Dinner for One (English)-Original version
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5n7VI0rC8ZA>

Dinner for One (auf Deutsch)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2v8C9xYiu_I

'Puttin on the Ritz'.

The German Societies 238th Anniversary Dinner a Huge Success!

No tune could be more fitting to describe the German Society's 238th Anniversary Dinner, held on November 6th at the Maryland Club on Eager Street in downtown Baltimore. More than 90 friends of the Society made their way through the grand entrance for the opening cocktail hour. As guests meandered throughout the venue, they



were awestruck by the décor, especially the large brown bear holding the German flag.

Guests were there to honor Dr. Maureen

Helinski, this year's recipient of the prestigious "Distinguished Service Award". Special guests included Michael Harper, Head of Communications and Culture Department at the Germany Embassy who spoke of Maureen's contributions, Ines Teisseire, of the German Information Center at the Embassy, Dr. John Gordon, President of the St. Andrew's Society of Baltimore, his guest the Lady Grace Sharp, and Daniel Fisher, President of the St. George's Society of Baltimore. All of the honored guests were announced. Maureen was escorted by her son David. Her entire family attended the festivities.

Maureen was chosen for her undying dedication to Education and the German culture. Please see Maureen's bio on page 4.

Bill Kommalan, Chairman of the Banquet Committee, welcomed the guests as did Kraig Dean, President of the Society.

Siegfried Otto provided the blessing, followed by a dinner consisting of salad, Kasseler (brined and smoked bone-in pork loin), asparagus, German potato salad and a delightful dessert. The EmCee for the evening was Bernard Penner, Esq. Bernie made it clear that this was an 'in person' event, not Zoom. There would be no turning off the video or secretly leaving the room. He was clearly happy, as were all of the guests, to finally be meeting again in person.

Mohamed Esa prepared and presented a wonderful video to spotlight Maureen's many accomplishments. The video included many 'kudos' from those that have had the opportunity to work closely with Maureen, including teachers, officers



hammed Esa provided comments that solidified Maureen's true devotion to German education.

"Since I first met Maureen about 25 years ago I have been most impressed by her dedication to her teaching profession, her many successful efforts promoting the German language, and deep understanding of the importance of the American-German student exchanges. By running the German Society's various scholarship programs and our website for many years, Maureen is a stellar example of "walking the walk" - someone with high integrity and standards who can always be absolutely counted and relied upon. I consider myself lucky to be her friend," stated Brigitte Fessenden, President of the Immigration Memorial and Museum and Past President of the German Society of Maryland.

Personally I have worked with Maureen more on the digital front with Maureen as the GSM webmaster. She single handedly revamped our website during the past year. I am happy to know and work with Maureen.

The evening ended with dancing to the sounds of 'Sounds Good'. Everyone had a great time and are looking forward to the next event.

More photos on page -8-



Michael Harper Head of Communications and Culture, German Embassy

of the AATG (American Association of Teachers of German), of which Maureen has been a member, officer and dedicated worker for decades. The current president of the AATG, Deborah McGee Mifflin as well as fellow Board members and AATG members, Shirley Santora and Mo-



Maureen McCarthy was born in

New Orleans, Louisiana, on April 24, 1939. Her maternal grandparents and her father's mother were of German origin; however, her fraternal grandfather was from Ireland. Maureen had three brothers, two are now deceased. Growing up, the family routinely visited a fishing camp on Bayou Dupre, with no modern amenities. It was a fun time to grow up seeing the wild country of the Bayou, especially alligators.

Maureen attended Dominican High School in New Orleans, where she studied Spanish, and she graduated in 1957. She enrolled in Newcomb College of Tulane University and began to study as a science major and was told she should also take German to assist her studies, as many scientific documents were published in German. It was a German teacher who brought the language alive for Maureen.

During the summer of 1958, Maureen had the opportunity to spend six weeks with an aunt and uncle who worked for Creole Petroleum in Venezuela, and a new and

bigger world was presented to her. Because of her German studies, Maureen was able to join the Newcomb Junior Year Abroad Program, going to Mainz, Germany. During her time in Mainz, Maureen became interested in German literature and eventually changed her major to German Studies. During this time, she became acquainted with students from Middlebury College, in Vermont, who were also in Mainz. Maureen decided to attend Middlebury in the summer of 1961. Then the world changed, as the Berlin Wall was erected, and the "Cold War" was solidified. Several professors from Mainz, visiting Middlebury along with students, were horrified by the closing of the east-west border and Berlin being cut in half.

Maureen graduated from Newcomb College at Tulane University in 1961 and received a Woodrow Wilson grant to continue her studies at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. She received her master's degree in 1962 and in 1963, upon continuing her studies, she received a DAAD scholarship to study in München, Germany. Upon her return in 1964, Maureen continued her studies for a Ph.D., writing her dissertation "The Image of America in German Drama 1890-1930".

In 1964, Maureen met Bernard Helinski at a dance in Baltimore. They were married in New Orleans on August 28, 1965. Bernard rose to be a General Services Administration Building Manager. Daughter Celeste

was born in 1966, daughter Laura in 1967, son David in 1969, and daughter Jennifer in 1973. Even with a growing family, Maureen finished her dissertation and obtained her Ph.D. in 1970. All their children are married, and Bernard and Maureen have 10 grandchildren.

While teaching at Archbishop Keogh High School, Maureen used her exchange student experience to promote the Baltimore-Solingen Exchange Program. This program included other Baltimore area schools: Bryn Mawr, McDonogh, Boy's Latin,

St. Paul's Schools, Mount Saint Joseph, and Baltimore Lutheran. This program exchanged students from Germany and students from Baltimore, who attended the Realschule in Solingen. In 1984, Maureen began traveling with this program and her four children participated as well.

In 1990, while teaching at North County High School in Anne Arundel County, Maureen formed a new exchange program with the Rotteck Gymnasium in Freiburg, Germany. She also traveled with the students. Upon her retirement in 2001, the programs were discontinued. Maureen says this was a lot of work but was also an exciting experience for the students on both sides of the Atlantic." Travel is one of the greatest learning experiences a student can have. They see themselves from a different point of view." In 2001, she began teaching German courses at Anne Arundel Community College, which continues today.

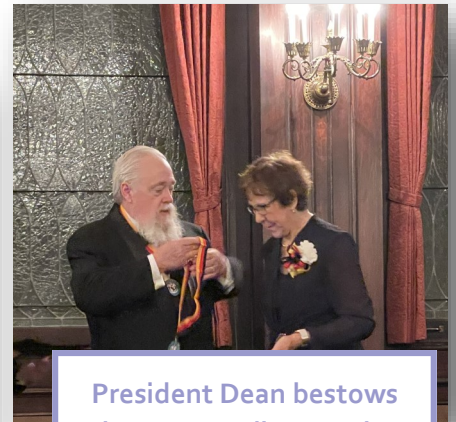




Maureen and Bernard's children



Rev. Siegfried Otto leads our prayers



President Dean bestows the Outstanding Service Medal to Maureen



Bernie Penner, our Emcee for the evening



Barbara Harper and Bärbel Otto lead the anthems

German American Heritage Month's First Annual Seminar Series is a Success

The German Society, to celebrate German– American Heritage Month, scheduled a series of seminars to be presented every Saturday in October. The seminars were held at Zion Church of the City of Baltimore, except October 23rd, which was held via Zoom.

The seminars covered influential Germans in Maryland, German Immigration, German POW's in Maryland, Hitler's Aktion 4 program and Germany's scary side.

The seminars averaged 15-20 per session, with the exception of the interruption presented by the Baltimore Marathon, which unfortunately, led to many of our attendees stuck in downtown Baltimore traffic.

Many thanks to our GREAT group of speakers, Nick Fessenden, Ilka Knüppel, Will Prunka, Reiner Prochaska and Shelley Arnold.

One session, 'The Story of Ruth', which spoke about Hitler's Aktion 4 program, will be repeated via Zoom on January 9, 2022. Look for details.

We look forward to next year. If you have any suggestions for speakers or subjects, please send Shelley an email at GermanMarylanders@gmail.com.

KRIMSKRAM

German elections 2021: Simple guide to vote ending Merkel era

On September 26, Germany voted for a new Chancellor, as Angela Merkel leaves the office after sixteen years. Like many others, I needed to understand the elections and how they are held in Germany.

So, how will Germany's election work?

On Sunday 26 September, Germans will elect the lower house of the federal parliament, the Bundestag. Although voting in person takes place on the day, postal voting began earlier. Some 60.4 million Germans over the age of 18 are eligible to vote.

The Bundestag is made up of at least 598 seats, and usually more.

Although the winning party becomes clear on the night, the make-up of the next government is only known once the winner is able to form an absolute majority in parliament with one or two other parties. So the next chancellor will not be known immediately.

Typically the coalition party with the most seats picks the chancellor. But coalition-building takes time as parties have to agree common ground and haggle over ministerial appointments.

To read more about the voting process, the parties, coalitions and the legacy of Angela Merkel, see <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-58311108>

Germany win in wet Skopje to secure 2022 World Cup spot

Germany have qualified for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar following a big win against North Macedonia in Skopje, with Timo Werner scoring twice. A lot has changed since

Germany last faced the same opponents.

Germany have qualified for the World Cup more than a year before it starts.

North Macedonia 0-4 Germany (Havertz 50', Werner 70', 73', Musiala 84')

What a difference seven months makes.

In a soggy Skopje, Germany got their revenge against North Macedonia for that shocking upset in March. In doing so, Hansi Flick's Germany revealed just how much has changed since the two teams last met.

Once again, Germany played more vertical passes, took more risks across the field, and worked harder to win the ball back the moment it was lost. It is clear how this team wants to win games.

"I have to compliment the team's attitude," Flick told *RTL* afterwards.

Leon Goretzka admitted afterwards Germany had to tire North Macedonia out before they could make their breakthrough, and so it proved as Germany's patience was tested.

Starting debutant David Raum's impressive deliveries from the left weren't capitalized on, Timo Werner hit the post and Joshua Kimmich did his best to overcome having a laser pointed in his face.

Germany have Serge Gnabry though. The Bayern attacker, who has 20 goals in 30 games for his country, sparked Germany into life with a perfectly weighted pass that split North Macedonia's defense, allowing Thomas Müller to draw the goalkeeper and set up Kai Havertz for an easy finish.

"The final ball was right in the second half," Kai Havertz told *RTL* afterwards. "The last few games have shown the quality in this team."

To read more, <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-win-in-wet-skopje-to-secure-2022-world-cup-spot/a-59461666>

UK on course to drop from Germany's top 10 trading partners

The UK is expected to drop out of the list of Germany's top 10 trading partners by the end of this year, official German statistics suggest.

Germans spent £13.8bn, or nearly 11%, less on British goods in the first six months of 2021, according to data from the Federal Statistics Office.

The UK has been in Germany's top 10 trading partners since 1950.

But with Brexit-related hurdles taking a toll, it looks set to drop to the 11th spot by the end of 2021.

The UK left the European Union's (EU's) single market - which allows frictionless trade and the free movement of people between its members - at the end of 2020 after four years of wrangling.

Since then, customs checks have been implemented, which have complicated trade.

As a result, German companies have been looking to source goods from EU suppliers instead of UK ones - and this trend is increasing, an expert said. "More and more small and medium-sized companies are ceasing to trade [with the UK] because of these hurdles," said Michael Schmidt, president of the British Chamber of Commerce in Germany.

They "simply can't afford the extra burden of keeping up to date and complying with all the kicked-in customs rules, such as health certificates for cheese and other fresh products", he added.

To read more: <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-58484454>

President's Proclamation

German-American Heritage Day-October 6, 2021

Since the first Germans arrived on American soil in the 17th century in search of religious freedom and opportunity, German-Americans have played an essential role in the foundation and growth of our country. Today, German-Americans make up one of the largest ancestry groups in our country, with more than 43 million Americans of German heritage living in the United States. Their influence has been felt in each successive generation, and their contributions to the United States have been innumerable. On German-American Day, we celebrate the German-Americans who continue to enhance our Nation with their talents, skills, knowledge, and rich cultural heritage.

The contributions of German-Americans are woven into the fabric of America, touching our lives every day. From the Brooklyn Bridge to airplanes, jeans to pianos, the food we eat to the beer we drink — German-Americans have invented, built, and influenced some of the most iconic American products and institutions. Generations of German-Americans have served our Nation as first responders, public servants, scientists, entrepreneurs, farmers and ranchers, authors, and athletes among many other occupations.

The strong ties between the people of America and Germany that have arisen since the end of World War II reflect the common bonds our countries enjoy. We remain committed to the shared democratic values and institutions that have shaped our nations and our economies. Earlier this year, the United States and Germany signed the Washington Declaration, reaffirming the democratic principles that underpin our steadfast commitment to bilateral cooperation in promoting peace, security, and prosperity around the world. The United States and Germany are inseparable allies.

On German-American Day, we celebrate our Nation's German-American heritage and recognize the contributions both past and present of German-Americans across our country.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 6, 2021, as German-American Day. I urge all Americans to celebrate the rich and varied history of German-Americans and remember the many contributions they have made to our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.



New German Biergarten to open in Severna Park!

Preserve and Harmony Hospitality has announced their purchase of the former Cafe Breton. Their plan is to open Garten as a new take on the German Biergarten, offering elevated German cui-

sine. The two acre property offers outdoor space as well as gardens where fresh vegetables and herbs can be grown. Chefs Jeremy and Michelle Hoffman, both grads of the Culinary Institute of America, are the creative force in the kitchen. This should be a spectacular dining scene. No opening date has yet been announced.

March 2,
2022

HAVE A
BLESSED
**Ash
Wednesday**



GSM's 238th Anniversary Dinner



Congratulations Maureen!



Traveling in Europe-New Guidelines & Requirements

Traveling to Europe will soon have two new requirements. The requirements, affectionately known as EES and ETIAS are new European Union regulations.

EES or Entry-Exit system will replace the current system of border guards stamping passports (no more stamps). It is a similar system currently in use at Dulles airport, but they only check that the photo matches the face on the passport. The new EU system will also determine how long you are allowed to stay in the EU and a few other details, such as has the passport ever been flagged by immigration. This will go into effect within the first six months of 2022. The cost is 7€. The fee is waived for those under 18 and over 70.

ETIAS or the European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) was introduced by the European Commission in November 2016 and passed by the European Parliament on July 5, 2018. The start date is quickly approaching and will

be mandatory. The start date will be the end of 2022 and from that date, travelers from visa-exempt countries, such as the US, will be able to apply for ETIAS. There will be a six month transition period, but it is strongly recommended that once it becomes effective application should be made. This electronic travel authorization will become mandatory in 2023.

What does it do? It was designed to improve security in Europe by screening travelers before their arrival in the 'SCHENGEN Area'. What is the Schengen? It is a zone where 26 European countries abolished their internal borders, for the free and unrestricted movement of people in harmony with common rules for controlling their external borders. It covers most of the EU countries except Ireland. Although not EU countries, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Lichtenstein are also part of the Schengen zone.

To apply for an ETIAS visa waiver, it is necessary to have a valid passport, credit card and email account. The fee for the service has not been established as of this writing. Without this document you could be denied access to the zone. It will grant access to all 26 of the countries covered by the zone and allows a short term (up to 90 days) without a visa. ETIAS is for tourism and business purposes only. Work-Study programs will require a different type of visa. The ETIAS is valid for up to three years or until the passport expires, whichever comes first.

To learn more about the ETIAS program see <https://www.etiasvisa.com/etias-requirements/americans>. To see the differences between the EES and ETIAS see <https://www.etiasvisa.com/etias-news/ees-europe-etias-visa>.



Odd, at Least to us, German Table Manners



So what is the big deal? The Germans and the Americans eat their meals the same...right? A recent article in the Local, led me to ask around. Here's what I found out.

From pizza to salad, the Germans always use their table knife. Americans, on the other hand, unless they have a luscious porterhouse in front on them, eat primarily with their forks. Europeans will use both a fork and knife to cut apart nearly every non-dessert food. However, when speaking of using a knife to cut their food, did you know that

Germans do not use a knife to cut their potatoes? I was very surprised when I learned that even sandwiches (consider that most are served open-faced) are eaten with a knife and fork. The Germans use their fingers and hands much less than we do.

The way the two cultures use their utensils is also different. We do use our knives, but noticeably different than the Germans.

Through the "continental style", Europeans (and many other cultures) will keep their forks in the left hand and knife in their right hand, maintaining a composure that appears somehow sophisticated even with pizza. Americans, on the other hand, will do what has been dubbed the 'Homeland Handoff', or the cut-and-switch, alternating the fork and knife back and forth.

And then we have tipping, which is decidedly different. We Americans leave a tip on the table, where our German counterparts usually inform the waiter/waitress what they intend to tip by telling them to round up or telling them the actual amount. Just a few years ago, large tips were not common in Germany, but our way of tipping has entered into their table manners.

Most Germans are aghast when you ask for water and clarify that you want 'tap' water. Everyone in Germany uses bottled water. On my first visit to my family's home, I asked for a glass and proceeded to the kitchen. When I turned on the tap and drank the water, you would have thought I was Fido drinking from the toilet bowl. It wasn't until a few days later I learned that some believe the tap water is unclean, but others, especially in restaurants, think it is a sign you are cheap.

In asking some of my German friends, I also found that:

Their tables are set differently. Keep in mind that the Germans have smaller utensils for those open faced sandwiches and other utensils for fish, etc.

Their meals differ with the larger meal served at lunchtime or early afternoon and a small meal in the evening.

Their breakfasts are different, theirs consisting of luncheon meat, rolls, etc.

Do not sit with your hands on the table. As a child I was chastised daily, 'Get your elbows off the table', whereas in Germany it is your hands. They may rest their wrists upon the table.

Regardless of the etiquette, the best part of dining in Germany (no matter the type of restaurant or place) is that you will not be hurried. They expect you to 'slow down' and enjoy the meal. We Americans rush through meals and really do not enjoy the experience. Dining in Germany is a wonderful experience, relax, enjoy, and Gute Appetite.

FREE STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS

We encourage all students from first grade through university level to become student members of our Society. Email their name, grade or level, and name of the school to the Society at german@germansociety-md.com and stating that you wish to become a student member. This is FREE. **NO ANNUAL DUES WITH VALID EMAIL ADDRESS!**

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Spouse (Optional): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Referred by: _____

"I hereby apply to be a member of the German Society of Maryland"

Annual dues \$25.00. Spouse included at no extra cost..

I wish my newsletter to be sent via email at the above email address: I wish my newsletter to be sent through US postage at the above postal address:

Lifetime Membership: \$250

Mail to:

The German Society of Maryland
2300 York Road, Suite 209
Timonium Maryland 21093

Your Dues Billings are Coming!

Dues billings were sent on December 1, 2021 and are due on January 1, 2022. The Membership clause in our bylaws state: Membership dues shall be in an amount as recommended from time to time by the Executive Committee and approved by the Board of Directors (currently \$25.00). Such dues shall be used to pay the general administrative expenses of the operations of the Society and any income in excess of such expenses shall be used as determined by the Board

of Directors. Dues are payable by January 1 of each membership year. Life membership dues shall be established by the Board of Directors (currently \$250.00). The dues remain at \$25.00 and your spouse may be added at no additional charge. Those members who are in arrears, but wish to remain a member, please make every effort to pay your annual dues. The dues are a mere 7 cents per day. You may pay anytime by either mailing your dues renewal funds to: German Society of Maryland, 2300 York

Road, Suite 209; Timonium, Maryland 21093. You may also pay via paypal. Our paypal link is on our website at <https://www.germansocietymd.com/contact.htm>.

Your \$25.00 is used to help the German Society continue its mission. Keep in mind that additional funds may be included and earmarked for the newsletter fund or the education fund.

**Help the German Society be more efficient and save paper. If you have an email address and would like to receive your 'Vereinsnachrichten' via email, send an email to Lynette Dean at german@germansociety-md.com
This action alone saves paper and postage costs.**

Get Ready...it's Carnival Season!

You may know it as Carnival, Fasching, Fastnacht or Fasnacht. So it should be apparent that the name changes depending on where you are in Germany, Switzerland and Austria. It also varies from region to region within the countries. The one steady is that it occurs in the German speaking countries prior to the season of Lent (a solemn religious observance beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending six weeks later, before Easter Sunday). They are moveable dates and depend on the date of Easter.

Fasching is the older of the terms, dating back to the 13th century. In old times, Lent was strictly observed and the people did not drink alcohol, eat meat, milk products or eggs. Fasching is celebrated mostly in southern Germany and Austria.

Carnival is a newer term (around the 17th century). It means or signifies

the same, however, that the time is spent without meat. The Carnival in Venice is one of the oldest recorded and it is still celebrated with parades, costumes, masks, etc. Carnival is used in northwest German, except Mainz, which celebrates Fastnacht.

Fastnacht also spelled Fasnacht, is celebrated predominantly in the Swabian area of Germany, western Austria, Luxembourg (Fuesend) and Switzerland. It is also found in Baden-Württemberg, Franconia in Bavaria, and Hesse. Unlike what it seems, it does not mean fasting night or 'eve of Lent', but instead means night of being wild and foolish' for the German word 'fasen (to be foolish, silly or wild).

The Carnival season is also known as the 'fifth season', which begins on 11 November at 11:11



am, but the real activities and events begin the day after Dreikönigstag (Three Kings Day), January 7th and ends on Ash Wednesday. Many of the older traditions of Fasching have led the way for the Carnival traditions including their parades. The Carnival has quite a historical path leading from that Venice event to the celebrated Mardi Gras in the United States.



More about Fasching

Some important terms you will hear associated with Fasching:

Fat Thursday (Weiberfastnacht) (February 24, 2022): the last Thursday before Lent.

Lent is traditionally a time of fasting so those celebrating will not feast until the Easter table. Fat Thursday is a day to 'pig out' especially on cakes, sweets, and meals not traditionally eaten during Lent. A special treat in Germany (and one I had for the first time a few years ago, while in Bad Krueznach) is a berliner, which is a large donut (no hole) filled with rose marmalade and cream and covered in powdered sugar...delightful! The majority of the workplaces in Germany close on this unofficial holiday a half day, actually 11:11 am. There are no parades, but people do wear costumes and celebrate. Another tradition, which was believed to have begun in Bonn in 1824 is Women's Weiberfastnacht. This is when women first formed their own carnival committee and when they stormed the town hall. In many cities it is a ritual 'takeover' of the town halls by the women. It is also the day when women cut off the ties of men... the tie of which is seen as a symbol of the male status. They wear their tie stumps all day and in return get a little kiss or 'Bützchen'.



Rosenmontag (February 22, 2022):

Rose Monday, also called Shrove Monday is the Monday before Ash Wednesday every year. As the Monday before Ash Wednesday, it is part of Carnival celebrations which take place in many parts of the Christian world, from Greece, to Germany, to the Mardi Gras in Louisiana.

Louisiana.

*Shroud Tuesday,
Fastnachtdienstag,
Faschingsdienstag, or
Karnevalsdienstag*

(March 1, 2022) (also called 'Fat Tuesday' and in some countries Pancake Tuesday) is the day immediately preceding Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent). It is a day of 'fat eating' or 'gorging' before the fasting period of Lent. In Christianity this date allows Christians a 'self-examination' of what wrongs they need to repent and what areas in their lives they may improve upon.

The days before Lent would be the last opportunity to eat the foods, such as meat, eggs and milk, which persons 'gave

up' for the Lenten season. The Lent sacrifices last for forty days and this made Shroud Tuesday a great day and excuse to gorge, party and feast. This is the origin of the alias name Karneval as it is derived from Latin carne vale, meaning 'farewell to meat'. In the Middle Ages, this command was not too difficult to follow because food stocks usually were expended by this time of year, and it was a good idea to consume the remaining stocks which would most likely start to rot in the following weeks.

Some towns will hold their parades this day. There are also towns that will have their burial or burning of the Nubbel (a lifesize doll made of straw symbolizes and holds all of the sins committed during carnival season). It is burned or buried on Tuesday evening before the last celebration before Ash Wednesday.



Have a Happy & Safe
Carnival Season



COVID Rocks Europe, AGAIN

Austria’s COVID incidences have increased so dramatically that the country is ordering a national shutdown, as well as MANDATORY vaccines for all residents. As this takes place, Germany is also contemplating the same moves. Austria will become the first western European country to impose, once again, widespread restrictions and the first country to mandate vaccine shots. This will be Austria’s fourth lockdown.

Germany, in the third week of November, also instituted widespread restrictions including closing all bars and clubs. The states of Bavaria (the state with the largest infection rate) and Saxony, also cancelled all Christmas markets, just days before their expected opening. Germany is also restricting access to many public venues for those unvaccinated. Germany is experiencing their fourth wave and seeing some of the largest infection numbers with 65,000 as the most new cases seen in one day. In a



Bloomberg report, Lothar Wieler, head of Germany’s RKI (Robert Koch Institute), said “This is a national emergency”. Hospitals are stretched to the limit which may require emergency actions. Germany has been working on a G-3 Guideline. G3 the current rule, went into effect in August 2021 and requires anyone wishing to enter certain public spaces must be vaccinated or tested. The test must be no older than 24 hours. This includes restaurants, nightclubs, movies, gyms, air travel, hospitals

(visitors), swimming pools, casinos, etc. Implementation is on a state by state basis and involves the seven day incident rates. As a side note, Germany is only 70% vaccinated.

Europe was the epicenter when COVID began with Italy being the hardest hit. Italy again is seeing a surge with an average 10,000 new cases per day, but with an 85% vaccination rate, hoping to avoid more lockdowns and closures. Europe is again the epicenter with some of the Eastern European countries hardest hit. Most of those such as the Czech Republic introduced new guidelines and prohibitions to unvaccinated people. Latvia just came off of a full lockdown. All in all Europe is COVID’s new hotbed.

COVID UPDATED NUMBERS

COUNTRY	TOTAL CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	ACTIVE CASES	SERIOUS, CRITICAL	POPULATION
USA	48,613,337	18,819	793,798	9,225,130	11,818,	333,696,583
GERMANY	5,402,280	24,088	99,727	653,253	3,675	84,155,849
AUSTRIA	1,070,419	13,806	12,042	152,984	562	9,077,722
HUNGARY	1,025,697	27,209	33,172	144,533	649	9,626,285
SWITZERLAND	955,800	1,938	11,407	91,311	135	8,742,454
POLAND	3,357,763	12,334	80,830	375,133	1,526	37,789,050
FRANCE	7,420,237	5,266	118,555	249,361	1,049	65.474.034
ITALY	4,932,091	6,404	133,247	151,514	549	60,338,365

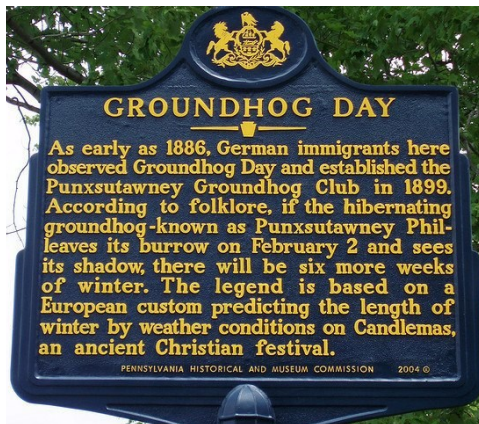
Memorial for the German Soldiers at Fort Meade

As a follow up to the article written in our last issue (October, page 6), the German Embassy placed their flags and wreaths at the cemetery at Fort Meade. The event was held on November 14, 2021. Close to our Veterans Day, Germans honor 'Volkstrauertag', the National Day of Mourning. This day recognizes all who have fallen in armed conflicts around the world.

Germans and Americans joined to honor those buried at Fort Meade. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend, but appreciate the Embassy's invitation and look forward to next years' which will be held on November 13, 2022.



Groundhog Day is German?



Well, we all know that it was the Germans that gave us the Christmas Tree, Easter Eggs and Kindergarten, but did you know...they gave us Groundhog Day?

Yep...on February 2nd we will wait to see if Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow when he leaves his underground home in Gobbler's Knob, Pennsylvania, and if so, will we have six more weeks of winter. But do you know where the tradition originated?

It is a special wintertime tradition that can be traced back to Ger-

many and to the German settlers that came to live in Pennsylvania. Christians in Europe celebrated Candlemas Day. It is a religious celebration marking the midpoint of winter. The Germans added to that tradition by adding an animal, for them it was usually a hedgehog, and it saw its shadow...six more weeks of winter, or in their terms, the 'Second Winter'. "For as the sun shines on Candlemas Day, so far will the snow swirl in May," the Germans proclaimed.

When the Germans arrived in Pennsylvania and were unable to find hedgehogs, the groundhog became the substitute.

Over the years, Candlemas became Groundhog Day. I don't believe the early Germans had anything to do with naming the Groundhog. Its early name was Br'er Groundhog. I firmly believe that if they had renamed, it wouldn't be Phil (which is after

King Phillip), but probably Ludwig, Hans, Gunther or something along those lines.

In the US, the first official Groundhog Day was on February 2, 1887, at Gobbler's Knob, about 65 miles northeast of Pittsburgh. There are earlier references dating back to 1841.

Deutsch

Ist's eine Lichtmeß hell und rein,
Wird ein langer Winter sein.
Wenn es aber
Stürmt und schneit,
Ist der Frühling
Nicht mehr weit.

English

Is it bright and pure in light,
Will a longer winter be.
But if it is
Storms and snows,
The spring
is not far anymore.

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