

# THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

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

## VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

JANUARY 2015 ISSUE #95

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### OFFICE MANAGER

Bärbel Otto

\* = past president

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Liebe Mitglieder - Dear Members

A very happy New Year and best wishes for 2015. I would like to thank all of our directors, members and guests who made 2014 a very memorable year. Since being elected president in May, we have had our Annual Awards ceremony for Maryland Students of German, our trip to the German American Friendship Garden in Washington, D. C., the German Festival in Timonium, a North Point State Park battlefield dedication, the commemoration of Baron Johann de Kalb at the State House in Annapolis, honoring Sgt. Henry Gunther at his gravesite on Veterans' Day, our annual awards banquet and the Christmas Market at the Inner Harbor in Baltimore.

2015 will see the dedication of the bust of General John Stricker. Our goal is to hold this event in September and to have as many members as possible at the event and your support will be greatly appreciated.

Our Society is looking for new, young members and I welcome the opportunity to visit any organization or school to provide information on the history and purpose of our Society. Please e-mail me with your ideas on how to get the next generation of German-Americans involved.

I urge all of you to visit our website and check our calendar for all of the important and exciting events that are coming. We are a very strong organization and we not only welcome your input but encourage your participation.

Best wishes and speedy recovery to all of our sick and shut-in members and I hope to see you at any of our many events of 2015.

Mit freundlichen Gruessen  
Anton G. Smoot, President  
agsmoot@verizon.net

### STRICKER BUST ON DISPLAY AT PARK

The bust of General John Stricker which was commissioned by our Society has been on display at the visitors' center at the North Point State Park, near the site of the battle which earned Stricker the title "Hero of the Battle of North Point".

The bust was sculpted by artist Francesca Guerin, president of the Schuler School of Fine Art and granddaughter of the famous Baltimore sculptor Hans Schuler. The final resting place for the bust will hopefully be on Federal Hill close to the statues of two other heroes of the Battle of Baltimore, General John Smith and Col. George Armistead. A dedication ceremony will take place in September.

### THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MD AND THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

This is a story that's never before been told: our Society has a direct connection to the flag and the national anthem via our vice president and incorporator, General John Stricker. This is part of our German American heritage. Stricker was one of the three officials who commissioned Mary Pickersgill to make the garrison flag and the smaller storm flag which flew over Fort McHenry. They paid her \$345 and she completed the job in 3 weeks, along with her daughter, two nieces and a servant. Commodore Joshua Barney and Col. George Armistead were the other two commissioners who authorized the making of the flag which inspired our national anthem. It is interesting to note that in 1991 the Smithsonian Institution spent \$7 million to restore and preserve the flag - a far cry from its original \$345 cost.

In 1818, John Stricker signed our Society's articles of incorporation.

**KALENDER**

- Feb 14 FASCHING; in Adlersaal
- April 10 Annual membership meeting
- May 17 High school student awards
- June 28 Annual picnic at Kurz's beach
- July 25-26 German Festival in Timonium
- Sept. tba Dedication of Gen. Stricker bust
- Sept tba Kirchgang - Berlin Wall Commemoration
- Oct German American Heritage Month
- 6 Friendship Garden event in Washington
- tba De Kalb Memorial in Annapolis
- 17-18 Buergerverein Oktoberfest
- 13 German American Day McDaniel College
- Nov 7 Annual Awards Banquet
- Nov. 11 Sgt. Henry Gunther Memorial
- Nov. 28-29 Christkindlmarkt at Zion
- In planning stage:
- Bus trip to Heritage Museum in Washington, DC
- Visit to grave of Stricker, Westminster Cemetary

Visit the German Society's website:  
[www.germansociety-md.com](http://www.germansociety-md.com)

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

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

For more local German-American events, check the web site of the Deutschamerikanischer Buergerverein von Maryland: [www.md-germans.org](http://www.md-germans.org)

You are invited to add articles about your German ancestors to the website conducted by our director Shelley Arnold; [germanmarylanders.org](http://germanmarylanders.org)

Listen to German music and announcements of local German American activities on internet radio at [germanamericanradio.com](http://germanamericanradio.com)

You are invited to visit and participate in the interactive website "Der Wecker", founded by our member, Walt Mathers. Google search these 3 words: German American Forum

**BUERGERVEREIN FASCHING**

The German "mardi gras" will be celebrated at a ball in the Adlersaal on Saturday night, Feb. 14 from 7 to 11. Our members and their guests are invited. Tickets \$25, includes beer, wine, set-ups (byol) and snacks plus fabulous dancing music by the Continentals. All the German clubs will attend. Costumes optional, but prizes for the best. Come and help create the Karnival feeling for this Fastnacht. Table reservations available. Send check to Buergerverein, PO Box 22367, Baltimore. MD 21203. For info call 410-446-8189 or 410-916-2768.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

to our members who recently celebrated their 90th birthday: former director Jane Awalt, in September; lifetime director and past corporate secretary Christel van der Berg, in November and Lila Judkins in December. Lifetime director Dandridge Brooke will turn 90 on Jan. 20, 2015. And to a young student member: 12-13-14-15 happy birthday to Emma Potthast, who turned 15 on 12-13-14.

**DOWNTOWN CHRISTMAS MARKET**

Our Society participated in the Christmas Market in the Inner Harbor by staffing a booth and circulating information about the Society and the activities of the German organizations of the Buergerverein von Maryland. Cold rainy weather was not kind to the market this year, although many brave souls showed up to feel the spirit of a German Christmas season.

**FESSENDENS --2014 HONOREES**

Dr. Nicholas Fessenden and Brigitte Fessenden were honored at the Society's 2014 annual banquet. The award is given to persons of Germanic heritage who have made a significant contribution to our community, our state or nation. Dr. Nicholas is the President of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland. He has promoted the German American heritage and culture through his writings and lectures, most recently with two publications describing General John Stricker, Hero of the Battle of North Point during the war of 1812. Brigitte Fessenden served for three years as president of our Society. She is an immigrant from Germany. She has worked on projects for our Society and for other German American organizations for more than 25 years, volunteering in many capacities of leadership. In her present role as president of The Goethe Society, which meets in Washington, D.C., she is an avid promoter of German culture and literature. Both Dr. Fessenden and Mrs. Fessenden are strong supporters of numerous local and national German American events .

**WITTSTADT BANQUET CHAIRMAN**

Kurt Wittstadt served as chairman of the awards banquet. The food and music this year was the best in the memory of all who attended.

Thanks, Kurt.

Your planning was perfect, your execution amazing. And thanks to all who worked for its success.

## A BUS TRIP TO THE MALL

Our Society sponsored a bus trip to celebrate German American Day on Oct. 6 to the German American Friendship Garden on the Mall in Washington, D.C. The bus was filled with members of our Society and guests from other organizations. A crowd of several hundred assembled in the morning to hear presentations from local dignitaries and officials of German American organizations from Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. A declaration from President Obama and from the political leaders of the three local jurisdictions commemorated the contributions of German-speaking peoples to our country. German American Day was first promulgated by President Ronald Reagan and subsequent presidents have honored the tradition. All of the officers of our Society and a large number of our directors and members were in attendance. Following the ceremonies, our group had a luncheon at the Cafe Mozart before returning to the Baltimore area in the afternoon. It was an inspiring event which we hope will be repeated annually ad infinitum.

## OUR TIES TO THE GARDEN

Our Society has a special relationship with the German American Friendship Garden. Its designer was a former member of our Society, Wolfgang Oehme, an internationally famous landscape architect. Many of our members have fond memories of Wolfgang. He was the honoree at one of our Society's annual awards banquets. He published several "cocktail table" books of beautiful gardens which he designed both in the USA and in Germany. An immigrant from Germany, he settled in Towson, MD. and contributed his talents, gratis, to the community. Wolfgang could be seen early in the morning on the lawn of the Towson Courthouse tending to the shrubs, flowers and man-made hills which he designed and supervised. In his retirement, he also oversaw the planting of bushes and flowers in the median strips around Towson and he actually helped care for them. Wolfgang died 6 years ago and his obituaries were published in America and Europe.

He had many projects in Germany, especially in his native Chemnitz. He was a jolly soul and his memory is preserved through his works in many parks.

## A GOVERNOR'S HISTORY LESSON

Former Governor Martin O'Malley, writing in the *Baltimore Sun* on Sept. 12 enlightened us about the cooperation among the citizens of Baltimore in 1814.

"This week we remember the black and white hands that worked together as Mary Pickersgill and her indentured servant, Grace Wisher, sewed the stars and stripes of the banner. We remember people of all ages, black and white, with no distinction of class or wealth, digging trenches to fortify their city against the invaders."

Members of our Society also played an important role in working on those fortifications.

## NOV. 11 AT 11 A.M.

Sgt. Henry Gunther, the last soldier killed in WWI, at 10:59 a.m. on Nov. 1, 1918 was a Baltimorean of German heritage. His grave is in the Redemptorist Cemetery on Belair Road at Moravia Avenue. His grave is marked by a commemorative plaque placed at the instigation of the German Society of MD. Members of our Society met at the site on Nov. 11 and were joined by others who came to honor his memory. We see it as our duty to preserve the memory of those who gave their lives for our country, particularly those who share our German American heritage. Henry Gunther is a part of our heritage and our Society will continue to honor and preserve his memory.

## De KALB CEREMONY INVOCATION

The following invocation was presented by our past president, The Rev. Siegfried Otto at the October event inside the Maryland State House in Annapolis honoring the memory of Baron Johann De Kalb:

"Dear Heavenly Father, We have gathered in front of this monument, dedicated by a grateful nation and Congress to General de Kalb, who took part in the great struggle 'to bring forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.' We remember his German origin, his service in the French army and his willingness to fight on American soil, being the Commanding General of the Maryland Line. We give thanks for his bravery to be in the midst of battle. We are grateful for his sacrifice. We remember General Johann de Kalb as part of the German American heritage going back to the beginning of our nation. Amen."





23 persons who were present 25 years ago for the initial Ecumenical Service stand in the Adlersaal on Sept. 30, 2014. Include: our directors The Rev. H. J. Siegfried Otto, Irma Tillman, Christel van der Berg, Hon Gerard Wm. Wittstadt, Betty Niemann and Theodore J Potthast, Jr.

## 25th ANNIVERSARY OF ECUMENICAL SERVICE

On Nov. 10, 1989 the Berlin Wall came down and communism died in Germany. 12 days later, on the eve of Thanksgiving, our Society joined with Zion Church and the Society for the History of the Germans in MD to hold a religious service of thanksgiving. That service has been repeated each year, but now on the Sunday closest to Michaelmas, the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, patron of Germany.

Late Sunday afternoon on Sept. 28 the rafters trembled. the floors vibrated and the oak pews resounded, pulsing into the fingers of the congregation as the organ roared, the trumpets blared and the angelic choir made their spines tingle. The tones brought joy to the senses. The listeners were enthralled.

Pastor Holger Roggelin, the celebrant and preacher, spoke of growing up in West Germany a half mile from the dreaded wall. He told of speaking to those who lived behind the wall, and how their lives were gripped in fear, neighbors spying on neighbors and reporting so the government knew what was going on inside their homes. People would disappear, never to be seen or heard from again. The churches, though

empty, were still a source of hope in a hopeless society. He spoke of the time his older brother drove him into the east where he saw a dull, deteriorating country in need of paint and repair. His conclusion: the churches, even though perhaps emptier now than then, are still the important bastion of hope and will be present to help those in need.

After the ceremonies, those present adjourned to the magnificent Adlersaal for a feast prepared by the ladies of Zion Church. Many said that the food was superior to professionally catered events. The hall was packed and all tables were full: Dutch and Betty Niemann had to sit and eat along the wall.

Religious participation in the service included the pastors of three Catholic churches: St. Vincent dePaul, St. Benedict's Church and St. Jude's Shrine; also St. John's Lutheran and St. Mark's Lutheran Churches.

At the outset of the event, Pastor Roggelin pointed out the presence of three of the parties who were instrumental in establishing the tradition in 1989: The Rev. Siegfried Otto (then pastor of Zion) Judge Gerard Wittstadt of the Society for the History of Germans and Ted Potthast, The German Society.

## THE BEER ACT OF 2013

The Washington Times of 8-27-14 reports that taxes make up 40% of the cost of beer in the USA. Thus the BEER Act of 2013 may bring some solace to German Americans, who are rumored to be rather fond of the liquid. The Brewers' Excise and Economic Relief (BEER) Act of 2013, currently pending in Congress, would cut the federal excise tax on a barrel of beer in half, from \$18 to \$9. The Brewers' Institute, a trade group, reports that beer and related industries employ more than 2 million Americans and generate \$49 billion in local, state and federal taxes. Beer has been an important commodity to Germans, and has been strictly regulated since the passage of the Reinheitsgebot (Purity law) in Bavaria in 1516. In addition to purity, it regulated price: 1 Pfennig per Mass (Bavarian liter) from Michaelmas to Georgi and 2 Pfennigs per Mass from Georgi to Michaelmas.

## ISRAELIZATION OF ANTI-SEMITISM

Angela Merkel, the tough chancellor of Germany, spoke out about the growing anti-semitism in Europe, which she says is cloaked in demonstrations against Israel for defending itself against Hamas. The chancellor observed that there is a sharp increase in anti-Semitic attacks and incidents in Europe, so that "not a single Jewish institution in the country can go without police protection today". She said "It is every German's duty to make his or her voice heard." She mentioned that "much of the criticism against Israel is camouflaged anti-Semitism, and not very well camouflaged."

A half million Jews lived in Germany when Hitler came to power in 1933 and only 30,000 remained in 1945. She pointed out that five acres are now devoted to a Holocaust memorial in central Berlin. "That far more than 100,000 Jews are now living in Germany is something of a miracle... It's a gift and it fills me with deepest gratitude. Jewish life is part of our identity and culture. It hurts me when I hear that young Jewish parents are asking if it's safe to raise their children here, or when the elderly ask if it was right to stay here."

The German Society of MD once had numbers of Jewish members, even an officer. But since Hitler's time, Jews have avoided membership in our Society and other German American organizations, even though they are welcome as members.

## HOW MANY MEMBERS WORK?

How many of our members are actively working to carry out the mission of the Society - to preserve our heritage and culture and promote the language? While we have many dedicated hard workers, others are content to give quiet support (and that's fine). We will be lucky to get the percent of members working as the Pope found actually working in the Vatican. When Pope John XXIII was asked how many employees worked in the Vatican, his reply was: "About half of them".

## THE SINATRA DOCTRINE

TV documentaries can be both entertaining and educational. One recently addressed the fall of communism in Europe. Various theories credited Ronald Reagan, Michael Gorbachev and Pope John Paul, II. This documentary said it was Frank Sinatra. When the world feared the Russians would send tanks into the recalcitrant Soviet republics, as it had done in Hungary and Czechoslovakia, a high communist official was interviewed on American TV and asked how Russia would respond. He mentioned Frank Sinatra's song "My way" (then a big hit in Europe) and said that each country will make its own decision and do it their own way. Russia thought most would stick with them. A few weeks later the Berlin wall came down and the other republics struck out on their own. They called it "The Sinatra Doctrine". That must have made the fans of Old Blue Eyes mighty proud!

## WILLKOMMEN TO IMMIGRANTS

Germany has become the #2 country, behind the USA, in the number of immigrants. Because of its low birthrate and aging population, Germany needs workers. It will accept anyone with a university degree and a job offer. Last year the number of legal immigrants exceeded 400,000. American college graduates have been having trouble getting jobs. The prospect of jobs in Germany ought to give an impetus to the study of German in our high schools and colleges. Let's hope the AATG (American Association of Teachers of German) works with Germany to set up a jobs program for Americans who are studying German. The situation could be a boom for German studies in the USA.

## **WILLIAM “BUDDY” BUTT, 93**

Buddy Butt, a devoted member of our Society, died Jan. 2, 2015 at age 93., of an infection suffered during a short illness. Buddy was a much beloved, lifetime citizen of Baltimore County where he lived in the farming community on Belair Road north of Joppa Rd. known as Germantown for its many German farmers. Buddy was awarded the honorary title still displayed on a large sign in his front yard on Belair Road reading “Home of Buddy Butt, Mayor of Germantown.” In his retirement and into his final days, Buddy operated a business making fruit baskets which were purchased by many German clubs for their hospitalized and ailing members.

Germantown is still found on some Baltimore County maps, although it has largely disappeared due to development and marauding deer.

Buddy is survived by his wife, Marie, a member of the Klausmeier family which still operates a large farm, though it is surrounded by 7-foot tall fences to protect the crops from the deer. Also by a daughter, many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

## **GEORGE H. VON PARIS, R.I.P.**

George was proud to be a member of our Society and of the Edelweiss Club. He died Nov. 4 at age 90. He was born in Baltimore’s Highlandtown, one of nine children of Bonaventure and Teresa Anton von Paris. His family moved to Woodlawn. He attended high school at Mt. St. Joseph, but dropped out as a sophomore to help in the family moving and storage business, working from the bottom as a warehouse-man and driver to eventually become its president. He joined the navy in WWII, returned to the family business. and helped build the firm founded by his grandfather, into one of the largest such companies in Maryland. He was recalled for his strong work ethic, his humility. his business acumen and his patriotism. He was a loyal member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was also generous to our Society. George is an integral part of Maryland’s German American heritage.

## **JOE KNIGHT, RADIO STAR**

Anyone over age 40 who listened to Maryland radio knew the name Joe Knight, but few knew his true German American name, Joe Neidig. He was a legend to listeners of WFBR and WCBM. He died Nov. 16.

Known as the Knight of the Spinning Roundtable, he had a loyal audience. Even after his retirement from the local scene, his voice continued to be heard around the USA in make-overs and commercials. He is survived by his wife Bobbie and daughters Lisa and Kimberly (Bostwick), a Baltimore TV personality. . Joe is a part of Maryland’s German American heritage.

## **MODEL OF THE U-DEUTSCHLAND**

Next year our Society will celebrate the centenary of the visit of the U-Deutschland to Baltimore. Maryland in 1916 had a strong German sentiment and Paul Koenig, the submarine captain, was welcomed with a banquet attended by 1,000 citizens, including the Governor and the Mayor. Among our archives is an iron cross depicting the sub and the captain, a gift to contributors who aided the cause of Germany, which was then at war with England and France. As part of the commemoration, we are hoping to be able to display a 5-foot model of the sub and we are now engaged in an effort to buy or borrow such a model which is owned by a private party in Pennsylvania. If we are successful, it will become the centerpiece for our ceremonies. The visit of the Deutschland is a part of Maryland’s German American heritage and it is our duty, as stated in the mission of the Society, to preserve the memory of the event.

## **DR. MRUCK’S STORY IS TOLD**

The Society’s lifetime director, Dr. Armin Mruck, has published a new edition of a most unusual story.

He was drafted into the German army and at age 18 was wounded and hospitalized. A nurse saw him and said she had seen too many young men die and she vowed to keep this one from dying. She nursed him back to health. The young soldier thought of her often over the years, grateful for her care. They went separate ways. One day about 40 years later he received an e-mail: “Are you the Armin Mruck whom I nursed during the war?” They re-connected. The book is a collaboration by the two, describing their lives since the war. The book is written in German. The next issue of our newsletter will provide our readers with the details of the book.



## CHARLOTTE PINE, LAWYER

Charlotte Welkinger Pine, born in Würzburg, Germany in 1922, died at her Parkton home on Jan. 6 at age 93. Daughter of a butcher and a seamstress, she immigrated with her parents to Ellis Island at age 9. She earned a law degree from the Univ. of Maryland, married James Pine, who served as a senator for Baltimore County for 16 years. They practiced law together in Towson. Charlotte represented many German American clients. She and her husband were prominent in local politics. Charlotte aggressively represented her clients, manifesting her German traits of hard work and attention to detail.

## THE SONG BOOK PROJECT

A few years ago our Society began a project to publish a song book of German folk music. We had high hopes of national distribution, something to promote the image of our Society, as well as something we could distribute among the young people in Maryland who are studying German. Bob Fritzsche, one of our directors, was chairman of the committee. We bought a computer program for writing musical scores and Bob was half-way through the project when he contracted Lou Gehrig's disease and died. Until now, the project has lain dormant. Bob's widow has sent us a copy of the work Bob had completed and the computer disk which can be used for printing Bob's work. We are seeking the program to permit the job to proceed. Fortunately, our director Kurt Wittstadt is a musician and has the skills to take the job to completion. Kurt has volunteered his services. Although it is a slow process, we now see light at the end of the tunnel and expect to be in the song publishing business in the near future.

## OUR SOCIETY ON YOU-TUBE?

When our president, Anton Smoot asked a class of high school students how they wanted to learn about the German American heritage and culture, their resounding reply was: "on the social media". Easier said than done. Not many of our officers or directors have experience with the social media.

There are many German American activities within the community which might interest young folks. If we had volunteers with an interest in an outreach to the youth, it would help perk up their interest in the German culture and heritage.

If we start a committee and a program to reach out to the youth via social media, would you assist? Call our president, Anton Smoot and he will put your talents to work. It can be done with a small group who like young people and are willing to put in some time. Don't let this opportunity pass you by.

## G-A DAY AT McDANIEL COLLEGE

German American Day at McDaniel set a new record of 1,500 Maryland high school students attending the seminars and workshops on Oct. 14th. GAD was introduced at McDaniel (once called Western Maryland College) 20 years ago. It has helped inspire young students to enroll in German language classes and build enthusiasm for it. Dr. Mohamed Esa, a director of our society, has been the moving force behind the program. He now serves as the national president of the American Association of Teachers of German and has been awarded honors by the Federal Republic of Germany for his leadership in the teaching of the language. President Anton Smoot attended the event, along with our directors Dr. Armin Mruck, Dr. Mary Upman, Dr. Maureen Helinski and others. President Smoot was inspired by his contacts with the students and the teachers. Students arrived from 32 middle, high school and junior colleges.

## MENCKEN : A PROUD MARYLANDER

Henry L. Mencken was a dues-paying member of our Society. He was once the most famous author in America. In 1926, as editor of the American Mercury magazine, he published a story called "Hatrack" which was banned in Boston. Enraged, he took a train to Boston to challenge the action by selling a copy of the April issue on Brimstone Common to J. Franklin Chase, the head of the local watchdog society to ban unorthodox thinking. Mencken was promptly arrested by two plainclothes police and hauled to court before a judge. Mencken faced two years in jail. The judge took the magazine home to read it and the next morning announced he found nothing obscene about the story. Mencken adjourned to Harvard where 2,000 students cheered him on. He took out a Maryland flag, unfurled it and said: "This is the flag of the Free State of Maryland, of which I have the honor to be a citizen." He added "The best thing about liberty is that it is such a charming thing to fight for." (Thanks to Marian Elizabeth Rodgers, as cited in the Spring, 2014 issue of Menckeniana.)



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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Paul Forette  
Liana Forette  
John H. Foertschbeck, Sr.  
Josephine A. Foertschbeck  
Dale D. Green  
Michelle Green  
Donna F. Hertrich  
Debra A. Hoffman  
William Oliver Leonard  
Eleanor D. Leonard  
Margot Senula  
Heinrich K. Senula  
Robert Wisch  
Linda Wisch

*“The purpose of the German Society of Maryland is to preserve and promote the German heritage and traditions through educational, social and benevolent programs; and to develop the unity and continuity of the German American community in the State of Maryland.”*

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Annual dues \$25 Spouse may be included at no extra cost.

The German Society of Maryland  
P.O. Box 22585  
Baltimore, MD 21203-4585

Visit the German Society's website:  
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This newsletter is published by The German Society of Maryland, an organization founded in 1783 and incorporated in 1818 by Act of the General Assembly of Maryland. It is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation pursuant to the provisions of §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Society is a member of the Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland, D.A.N.K. (German American National Congress) The United German-American Committee of the USA, Inc. and other civic groups which promote German-American culture and heritage. Please submit items of interest to Theodore J. Potthast, Jr., Editor, at 1819 Leadburn Road, Towson, MD 21204-1830 or fax 410-832-2903.