223rd Annual Awards Banquet 2006

Saturday, October 28th, 2006
Zion Church of Baltimore City
Baltimore, Maryland

PROGRAM

Welcome
Brigitte V. Fessenden, President
Dr. Holger Roggelin, Pastor, Zion Church

Please join in
The German National Anthem and the The Star Spangled Banner
led by Robert Karl Fritzschke, AIA, Director

Invocation
The Reverend H.J. Siegfried Otto, Director

DINNER

Introduction of Honored Guests
Brigitte V. Fessenden, President

Student Representative
Sarah Brackbill, President, German Club at McDaniel College

Introduction of the 2006 Honorees
Jeffrey C. Glock & Merl Arp, Vice-Presidents

Presentation of the Society’s Distinguished Awards
Brigitte V. Fessenden, Dr. Mohamed Essa

Acceptance by the Honorees
Dr. David A. Denisch
Ms. Sarah Matthews, President, Frederick County Landmarks Foundation

Music and Dancing
Mike Surratt and “The Continentals”
Dr. David A. Denisch
Dr. David A. Denisch's ancestors were among the first settlers of Frederick and Harford Counties. Raised in Baltimore since the age of 8, he attended Baltimore City College High School. Dr. Denisch did his undergraduate studies at the University of Maryland College Park, and graduated from the first and oldest dental school in the world, the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, Dental School, University of Maryland. He was captain in the US Army Dental Corps, as well as a Clinical Instructor, at his alma mater.

In addition to his advanced degrees, he received many awards and honors. He is both a Fellow and a Master of the American Academy of General Dentistry, Fellow of the International College of Dentists, and Pierre Fauchard Academy. He received acclamations from the Governor and the State of Maryland for his work as a master dentist. Baltimore Magazine selected him as one of 4 "Top Docs" in his field. He also was named "America's Top Dentist" by the Consumer Research Council. He has been working in private practice in restorative dentistry with Dr. T.L. Llewellyn and is part of the staff at St. Joseph and GB Medical Centers.
Dr. Denisch has been an active member of numerous cultural and professional organizations, including Sons of Confederate Veterans, Society for the History of Germans in Maryland, the Nature Conservancy, and St. George’s Society. Of course, he is also one of the directors of the German Society of Maryland.

He is a man of many hobbies: preserving the environment and learning from it, running, hiking, bicycling, beachcombing, gardening, studies in Christianity, Libertarianism, and creation research. However, his prime hobby is keeping alive the memory of his pioneering German ancestors by spreading the word and helping in the preservation of Schifferstadt, which was built 11 generations ago, Joseph Brunner, who emigrated from Germany in 1729. He serves as a docent at the Schifferstadt Architectural Museum in Frederick and is always present at the entrance of the museum wearing colonial garb for the Schifferstadt Oktoberfest and other events.

Schifferstadt Architectural Museum

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the building of Schifferstadt by the Brunner family. Built in 1756, Schifferstadt Architectural Museum is one of the oldest and most historic buildings in the City of Frederick, Maryland, as well as one of the best examples of early Colonial German Architecture in the United States. The large stone house was built on 303 acres of virgin timberland by Joseph Brunner, a German immigrant, and his descendants. Brunner and his family left their village of Klein Schifferstadt in 1729 in hopes of gaining independence, including the right to own property and build a home in the “New Land.”

Although its exterior features and interior have been altered over the years, Schifferstadt has many well-preserved features that reflect the German traditions of its builders. The stone house now on the site was built during the time that Joseph Brunner’s youngest son, Elias Brunner, owned the farm, and likely replaced an earlier log home. Schifferstadt has two-foot thick sandstone walls, made with stone from a local quarry near Walkersville, Maryland. Its hand-hewn beams are pinned together with wooden pegs. A stone house was a sign of a family’s social and financial success and stability. It also was able to provide refuge to the extended Brunner family during the French and Indian War.
The house was owned by members of the Brunner family until the mid-19th century, although it later became a rental property and much of the original acreage was sold off. By 1972, the house had fallen into a state of disrepair and was in danger of being torn down to make way for a gasoline station. Fortunately, the newly formed Frederick County Landmarks Foundation recognized the historic value of the structure and assumed the task of raising money to buy the property. The Maryland Historical Trust also contributed a $60,000 interest-free loan toward the 1974 purchase of the property for $65,000.

More than 5,000 people visit the museum and its beautiful heritage garden each year. The museum hosts a variety of events each year, including an annual spring festival and Oktoberfest. On December 9, visitors will be able to see colonial living demonstrations, participate in wreath-making, music and children’s crafts. For more information contact Schifferstadt, 1110 Rosemont Avenue, Frederick, Maryland 21701 or call 301-663-3885. Or visit the website for the Frederick County Landmarks Foundation at: http://www.frederickcountylandmarksfoundation.org

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National Anthems

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für das deutsche Vaterland!
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Brüderlich mit Herz und Hand!
Einigkeit und Recht und Freiheit
Sind des Glückes Unterpfand;
Blüh’ im Glanze dieses Glückes,
Blühe, deutsches Vaterland.

The United States of America

Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

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He was a dedicated, hard-working
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Dr. David Denisch and his beloved Schifferstadt

You have brought history alive
You inspire us to follow our dreams,
as our immigrant ancestors followed theirs.
Thank you for your ideas!
Your passion for Schifferstadt is contagious.
Sarah, Randy, Alexander and Nicholas

Best Wishes

to
The German Society of Maryland

on their
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and
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Congratulations to Mr. David A. Denisch
and the Schifferstadt Museum regarding this well
deserved prestigious award.

From the officers, board of directors and members of
“The Edelweiss Club”, with best regards and best of luck
in the future.