



Newsletter: Herbst 2018

CELEBRATE THE NATIONAL GERMAN EXAM Awards Ceremony 2018 a Success!!!

As we gear up to register for this year's National German Exam, what better time to reflect on our Awards Ceremony, held not in the *Adlersaal* but in the sanctuary of Baltimore's historic *Zionskirche*. The Maryland-DC Metro chapter held its 26th annual awards ceremony to recognize high achievement on the 2018 National German Exam on a beautiful, spring Sunday afternoon, May 20, 2018, in the sanctuary of the *Zionskirche*. Approximately 100 dignitaries, friends and family of the 85 gold and silver medal winners watched as the honorees received their medals, certificates and cash awards, generously donated by the German Society of Maryland (GSM).

The ceremony began with Bernard Penner, *Zionskirche* archivist, speaking on the history of the *Zionskirche*, founded by German immigrants in 1775. Congratulatory remarks by Kurt Wittstadt, President, GSM, Eileen Sellman, Goethe-Institut, Washington, DC, and Helmut Kehlenbeck, German Language Advisor USA Northeast, Central Agency for Schools Abroad (*Zentralstelle für Auslandsschulwesen*) followed. All speakers addressed the theme of the importance of being bilingual in today's globalized world and encouraged the honorees to maintain and expand their knowledge of German. Elif Akbas, Naige Correal-Winters, Anjali Gajendiran and Jessica McCarthy, all students of Daniel Desmond, Centennial High School, Ellicott City, Md., then entertained guests with a joint reading of *Erlkönig* to celebrate the German language.

Next, Amanda Sheffer, chapter president, Kurt Wittstadt, GSM president, and Marian Graham, Maryland testing chair, awarded the 62 gold and 23 silver honorees their medals, cash prizes – generously donated by GSM -- and Embassy swag. All gold medal honorees received cash prizes of \$75; silver medal honorees in the 85th – 89th percentiles received \$50. New this year was the participation of the Friends of the Goethe-Institut (FOGI). Eileen Sellman, Language Program Officer, GI Washington, awarded students FOGI certificates and one-year student FOGI membership cards. Finally, Susanne Sutton, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, received the chapter's 2018 award for Recognition and Appreciation for Outstanding Contributions to the field of Teaching and Studying German. The celebration concluded with German pastries, photo ops, and resolve to continue learning German.

Here are some photos of the event!



Award winners, flanked, front row, r-t-l: by Mohamed Esa, AATG President Emeritus, and Amanda Sheffer, MD-DC Metro Chapter President. Top row: Helmut Kehlenbeck, German Language Advisor USA Northeast, ZfA, stands in the church doorway.



Helmut Kehlenbeck, German Language Advisor USA Northeast, Central Agency for Schools Abroad (ZfA), Richmond, Virginia, addresses the audience.



Maureen Helinski, GSM Board Member (far left), and Amanda Sheffer, Chapter President (center), kick off the ceremony.



Susanne Sutton (left), recipient of the chapter's 2018 Award for Recognition and Appreciation for Outstanding Contributions to the field of Teaching and Studying German, with Amanda Sheffer, Chapter President (right).