

## Info-Deutsch

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## AATG-Maryland DC/Metro

Winter 2020

### Message from the President

A new year, a new decade—2020! Our first event of the 2019-2020 school year was the one day Symposium on “**Strengthening German**” in our chapter held on September 28 at Johns Hopkins University.

Participants (pictured below) included German educators from all levels, as well as principals, county supervisors and representatives from the German Embassy, the Goethe Institute and the ZfA. It was a day for sharing insights and setting goals for the upcoming year—More on page 2!

In **November**, we had the great pleasure to have the annual ACTFL/AATG Conference held right in Washington, DC. Along with the many practice-oriented sessions, attendees could catch up at the fun hot spots in DC and gather together for cultural

events at the Goethe Institute, where the annual AATG Awards Ceremony was also held. It was truly rewarding to see AATG Chapter member, **Astrid Weigert** (picture on right) receive the well-deserved AATG FLACH Award for her contributions to the incorporation of themes from all of the FLACH countries in curricula. We are lucky to have such active and accomplished members in our chapter! Keep up the good work!!

**We are a winning chapter!** MD/DC was one of the top chapters to increase membership, so we are receiving the *First Encounters: Menschen begegnen sich* exhibit to loan to scholls wishing to exhibit!! More on page 3.

Finally, remember to look ahead to upcoming conferences in the region: **MFLA, GWATFL and NECTFL** are all wonderful



Astrid Weigert receiving the AATG FLACH Award at the 2019 AATG Annual Awards Ceremony, held during the ACTFL/AATG Conference in Washington, DC.

opportunities for PD and networking with colleagues.

I look forward to seeing you at the **May 3rd High School Awards** Ceremony, co-sponsored with the German Society of Maryland.

Do keep in touch.

Frohes Schaffen!

Deborah McGee Mifflin  
AATG MD/DC Metro President  
[mifflind@jhu.edu](mailto:mifflind@jhu.edu)

### Symposium on the State of German in Our Area (p. 2)



## ***2019 Symposium: Strengthening German in Maryland and DC***

The Maryland / DC Metro Chapter of the AATG hosted a one-day symposium for German educators on the campus of Johns Hopkins University on September 28, 2019. The theme and the goal of the symposium was to bring German teachers and stakeholders together to share and discuss **strategies for the future to maintain and strengthen German programs at all levels of education** in our chapter schools. For long-term AATG Chapter members, the topic of how to stem the tide of program closures and declining enrollments in German programs at all levels is not new. Our chapter has regularly convened to discuss strategies and to put into place a support structure for teachers and programs to stay positive and strong. This work is never done!

The **37 participants** were a mix of elementary, middle, high school and university professionals, as well as invited guests from counties and German organizations, including the Federal Republic of Germany, the Goethe Institute, the ZfA, and the German Society of Maryland.

The event began with welcoming remarks in German from Derek Schilling, Department Chair and Hopkins Professor of French. Chapter President Deborah Mifflin (JHU) then shared enrollment statistics specific to Maryland, as well as national enrollment trends in German programs. This was followed by two panels. **The first panel** focused specifically on successful strategies at the county and school level to support and strengthen German in the schools, with presentations and remarks from Kimberly Banks, the Howard County World Languages Coordinator, Principal Michael Dinkins from Laurel High School, and Julie Koser, Professor of German at University of Maryland. In addition, Katrina Griffin and Jörn Esser from Anne Arundel County shared their insights into building a successful, articulated German program from elementary through high school.

**The second panel** focused on those institutions in the MD/DC Region which support German educators. Representatives from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of German, the Zentralstelle für das Auslandsschulwesen and the Goethe Institute were on hand to give the participants highlights into the plentiful resources available to them to help bring German alive for their students. In addition, the German Society of Maryland and the Maryland Foreign Language Association emphasized ways that their organizations support German education in the Chapter schools.

After a delicious lunch, during which folks reconnected and got to know each other better, participants worked in small groups to answer the following questions:

- ◆ **What characterizes a healthy German program?**
- ◆ **What are the challenges or barriers we are confronted with?**
- ◆ **What support is needed both internally and externally to meet goals?**
- ◆ **What concrete steps will each person take in the next 6 months to strengthen their program?**

The afternoon session allowed all participants to personalize the day's goals with the knowledge of the support system available to them. **We want to hear from you—how are things going?**

***Send us your success stories! What have you accomplished? What goals have you met?***

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## ***First Encounters: Menschen begegnen sich*** **Exhibit to reside with Chapter!**

At the annual AATG Conference, the leadership announced a membership drive initiative to all of the chapters. Eight chapters with the highest percentage increase in membership by the end of the 2019 calendar year would receive the *First Encounters: Menschen begegnen sich* exhibit to be housed in their chapter and made available to schools, teachers and organizations.

Thanks to members who renewed, as well as first-time members, **the Maryland/DC Metro Chapter was one of the winning chapters!**

It is fitting that ten years after the German-American Heritage Museum opened in Washington, D.C., our chapter will be a permanent home of this jointly-curated exhibit which chronicles the influence of German-speaking immigrants in the United States in a series of 9 free-standing panels. Each panel explores one topic or person and the information is in English on one side and in German on the other side. Extensive information about the exhibit and instructional materials can be found on the [AATG Exhibit Site](#).

If your school or district would like to receive the exhibit for a specific period of time, the 3 wheeled containers, each containing three of the posters with built-in stands, can either be picked up or shipped (approximately \$200.00 for shipping). Please contact Deborah Mifflin, [mifflind@jhu.edu](mailto:mifflind@jhu.edu), to arrange logistics.



**Ongoing Membership Initiative:** The Maryland/DC Metro Chapter has set aside funds to encourage members to recruit new members. Sponsor a new teacher or graduate student and send us the bill! Check out the requirements for the [membership grant online](#).

**Check your own membership.** Is it up to date? If lapsed, please renew today! Contact Jimmy Ellis [jimmy@aatg.org](mailto:jimmy@aatg.org), if you are unsure.

**Tap your colleagues** on the shoulder. Tell them about the support and benefits of AATG Membership from the NGE to Summer Study Scholarships, from PD opportunities to our fantastic journals, *die Unterrichtspraxis* and *The German Quarterly*, and everything in between.

**Sponsor a new teacher.** What a great present! At \$45.00, new teacher or part-time teacher membership is a super bargain. **Be the mentor you always wanted to have!**

**Initiate a Graduate Student.** Introduce graduate students or a teacher candidate to their professional organization with a \$25.00 student membership. **Be a generous role model!**

## Final German American Day (GAD) at McDaniel College

On October 15, 2019, more than 870 participants—middle and high school students of German, teachers and community members—from Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania met at **McDaniel College** in Westminster to celebrate the final German American Day. GAD is organized by German professor, **Mohamed Esa**, and has been held each year on McDaniel's campus for the last 25 years.

Mohamed, as we in the AATG know him, conceived this event to be held every year around German American week in October, using McDaniel's Fall Break to put on a unique and lively program of music, history and culture to motivate and excite young students about Germany and German Studies. Part of each year's GAD is the T-shirt Design Contest. This year's winning design is pictured here, by **Aaliyah Robinson** from Howard High School, a student of Chapter Board Member, **Amy Rill**.

Despite the sadness of seeing this wonderful tradition coming to a close, the energy of the day was high, as usual. Workshops on topics ranging from German immigration to

the Faustian legend, from how to make marzipan to how to land a job in the hot German job market made the day memorable to the students from 22 schools in the region.

Mohamed teamed up with long-time sponsor and supporter, the **German Society of Maryland, the Goethe Institute, the German Embassy**, and the **DAAD**, among others to highlight many diverse aspects of German society.

Each year, Mohamed arranges for the McDaniel cafeteria to offer German cuisine on German American

Day to make the day even more special and fun.

The pièce de résistance was a concert with **Eddie Huneke**, from the beloved former band, the Wise Guys, and **Tobi Hebbel**, to the delight of all.

Mohamed Esa created a tradition and kept it alive and relevant for 25 years. We salute him! Mohamed and McDaniel's German American Day have been a model and an inspiration for our Chapter. New traditions will come and whatever they are, we can be sure, Mohamed will be cheering us on.

Read more about the Final German American Day:

[The Baltimore Sun](#)  
[Wbaltv](#)  
[The German Society Newsletter](#)

- DMMifflin



## SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, May 3, High School Awards Program

To recognize High School students of German who achieve excellent scores in the 2020 National German Exam, the Maryland/DC Metro Chapter of the AATG and the German Society of Maryland will hold their annual awards ceremony on Sunday, May 3 at 3pm in the *Adlersaal* of the historic Zion Church of the City of Baltimore. Students who achieve scores in the

85<sup>th</sup> and above percentile will be recognized and presented with monetary awards, thanks to the generous support from the GSM. Several scholarship recipients from Maryland colleges, who are majoring or minoring in German, will also be recognized. Students who visited Germany in summer 2019 on the AATG Summer Study Trip, including the recipient of

the Gerhard Meinzer Scholarship will speak about their trips. The ceremony will conclude with a "Kaffee and Kuchen" reception. **We look forward to seeing you there!**

Questions about the NGE & Awards Program can be addressed to Susanne Sutton, MD Chapter Testing Chair at [ssusanne@umbc.edu](mailto:ssusanne@umbc.edu).

# TIPPS

## Facebook:

- ◆ Like our Chapter's facebook page @[AATGMarylandDC](#)
- ◆ A favorite private facebook group for German teachers is [AATG-Listserv Fans](#). This is an outgrowth of the email listserv and is a great place for sharing.
- ◆ The [AATG facebook FLACH](#) group, managed by the incomparable Amanda Sheffer, is a great way to keep up with all manner of interesting items from Austria, Switzerland & beyond.

## Listserve:

- ◆ Are you receiving our emails through the chapter md-aatg listserv? If not, send a request to [mifflind@jhu.edu](mailto:mifflind@jhu.edu).

## Calendar

February 13-15: [NECTFL Conference](#)

February 28: [Proposal deadline, GWATFL](#)

March 6: [NGE Study Trip Application due](#)

March 27-28: [MFLA Spring Conference](#)

April 18: [GWATFL Spring Conference](#)

May 3: [Maryland High School Awards](#)

September: [Teacher Immersion](#)

## \*\*GSM Scholarship Awards!\*\*

The **Gerhard Meinzer Summer Scholarship** awards one high school student with an AATG summer trip to Germany. Application deadline is **February 14, 2020**. <https://www.germansociety-md.com/education.htm>

The **German Society of Maryland** awards Maryland / DC resident students majoring in German at a MD/DC university cash awards of \$1000.00 and students minoring in German \$500.00. Encourage your students to apply! Applications for the 2020 awards are due **March 20, 2020**. <https://www.germansociety-md.com/education.htm>

## The Felix Jägerstätter Story



The 2019 Terence Malick film 'A Hidden Life' follows the tragic story of Felix Jägerstätter, an Austrian conscientious objector who was executed in 1943 after a trial for refusing to pledge allegiance to Adolph Hitler, which was required of all who served in the *Wehrmacht* during World War II. The Malick film has sparked interest in this relatively unknown story in the United States. The German language version *Ein verborgenes Leben* has received a very positive reception in the Austrian press.

German teachers may be interested in the play 'Jägerstätter' by Felix Mitterer (2013) which is available in both German (with Austrian dialect) and in English, and is a superb complement to the unique 3-hour film.

- DMMifflin



## Colleges & Universities Celebrate 'WunderbarTogether' with a Variety of Events

Our chapter can boast a number of German programs that participated in the 2019 *WunderbarTogether* Campus Weeks program, initiated and funded by the Federal Republic of Germany. For the past several years, the Embassy has put out an invitation to higher-ed programs to plan events on their campuses around a particular theme. In 2019, 30 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall and 100 years since the founding of the Bauhaus architectural movement, college students in our chapter were engaged by their faculty in this history through film series, invited speakers, roundtable discussions and more.



Students of German at **UMBC** built a "Berlin Wall" on campus to commemorate the historic fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989 and to interact with the campus community. Planned and executed by the German students, the 'wall' invited all to write or draw on it, before it was symbolically toppled. **Contact [Susanne Sutton](#) if you would like to use these boxes at your school for a commemorative wall!**

In an interdisciplinary project, three UMBC classes (Advanced German I, German Translation, and Media and Communications' Video Ethnography Class) produced digital stories commemorating the fall of the Wall, based on interviews of members of the UMBC and broader Baltimore communities and their personal recollections of those historic events. A link to the stories can be found here: [Wall Stories](#)

As a culminating event to their semester-long commemoration, the German program at the **Johns Hopkins University** (Deborah Mifflin) invited the social activist, Ali Çan, to speak about his initiative @metwo and book 'Mehr als eine Heimat'. Organized jointly with the student organization European Horizons and facilitated by DAAD Visiting Professor of History, Victoria Harms, the event drew a large crowd of students from across disciplines to hear about the immigrant experience in contemporary German society.



By cooperating with JHU in project conception and funding, the German program at **Catholic University** held a roundtable discussion with Ali Çan as well, organized by Amanda Sheffer.



Organized by Julie Koser and colleagues at the **University of Maryland, College Park**, the Germanic Studies Department held a weeks-long program on "[Bauhaus in Transnational Perspective](#)"

Learn more about the German programs at our area universities!

- [Catholic University](#)
- [Georgetown University](#)
- [George Washington University](#)
- [Johns Hopkins University](#)
- [Towson University](#)
- [University of Maryland, Baltimore County](#)
- [University of Maryland, College Park](#)



Pass this newsletter on! Recruit a new member!



## Chapter Officers & Directors

**Term: June 2019—June 2021**

### Chapter Officers

*President:* Deborah McGee Mifflin, Johns Hopkins University

*Vice President:* Annette Budzinski-Luftig, Towson University

*Secretary:* Cerue Diggs, Laurel High School

*Treasurer:* Jody Christophe, McDonogh School

*Testing Chair:* Susanne Sutton, University of Maryland at Baltimore County

### Board Members

Mohamed Esa, McDaniel College

Cora Hofstetter, North County High School

Kerstin Hopkins, German Language Courses, German International School, Washington, DC

Marilyn Murphy, DeMatha Catholic High School for Boys

Amy Rill, Howard High School

### Leadership Positions Available

We are always looking for teachers to serve on the Chapter Board. We have both focused positions (Newsletter Editor, Membership Chair, for example), as well as At-Large positions.

We conduct most of our meetings online with one or two face-to-face meetings per year, usually in conjunction with an event.

If you would like to serve on the Board, please contact the president, Deborah Mifflin, [mifflind@jhu.edu](mailto:mifflind@jhu.edu).