

Who or what is actually to be found behind the name "Ladies' Circle" and who are these lifelong friends? Well, the name "Ladies' Circle"-- or "Ladies' Get-togethers," as we called ourselves more than 20 years ago-- grew out of the desire of some of the ladies in the local German Evangelical Church congregation to meet once a month to explore Washington's sights, visit museums, or sometimes just get together for a chat. It was meant to be a community activity, as shown in an early photo (1998 or 1999) of the ladies with Pastor Wolf-Barnett, but with the addition of other ladies from the Washington area, the circle expanded very quickly.

Was it just the shared activities that attracted the ladies over the years and still keeps them coming together today? Certainly, but not only. Several ladies knew and still know each other from the time when their children went to the German School almost 50 years ago. Others did not have children in the school, but helped and still help with handicrafts for the Christmas market, went to pottery sessions for a long time or attended the popular concerts and lectures at the school. Some of the original teachers were and still are members. The children of the older ladies had gone to the German School when kindergarten children and some elementary school classes still had to be distributed among various church rooms and a convent (now the Bolger Center) because of a lack of space at the Logan Drive building.

The Logan Drive building was cramped and lacked so much. Teachers and parents had to fight for every advantageous change, for every improvement, for every new

acquisition. The parents of the kindergarten children (there was no preschool yet) had to fight to get their children, who had been in kindergarten for two years, into the first grade. There were just too many children, too many new applications for a place in first grade. In the end, Germany relented and three parallel classes were allowed. In and around Washington, one soon heard the warning to "immediately register a child for kindergarten at the German School

each other, shared ideas, became friends and " suddenly" - after more than 13 years of years of their children's schooling - realized that since their children had graduated from high school, they would not be seeing each other as often. In addition to the great program offered by the Ladies Circle, the get-togethers of the school-age friends was also a reason to belong to the Ladies Circle.

We have also been fortunate in past years to have as members ladies who have been or still are museum guides at various museums, such as the National Building Museum, the Hillwood Estate Museum, and the Kreeger Museum. The museum lecture by one of our ladies (and former GISW teacher) on Buddhism or the lecture at the "Bureau of Engraving and Printing" on "The

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