



Berlin Topples Wall all Over Again to Celebrate Anniversary

Berlin officials are counting on the domino effect as the city celebrates the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall this November. Over 1,000 eight foot tall Styrofoam tiles will be stacked along a 1.2-mile section of the former border between Potsdamer Platz and the iconic Brandenburg Gate and toppled during celebrations on November 9, 2009. While the Berlin Wall stood for 28 years before it came down on November 9, 1989, the dominoes will be set up on November 7th and collapse in about a half hour during the November 9th "Freedom Fest" celebrating the fall of the Wall.

20th ANNIVERSARY of the FALL of the BERLIN WALL

www.mauerfall09.de



Michael Mieth paints a domino tile in Berlin
(© picture-alliance/dpa)

The dominoes are to be decorated by students and young artists in Berlin and around the world with motives relating to the fall of the Berlin Wall. Students can apply to participate by submitting an application including a sketch on the project's Website. Companies can also sponsor dominoes. On May 29, apprentices at a painting contractor and students at the Leibniz Secondary School will kick off the campaign by painting the first tiles, which were sponsored by property developer Michael Weise. About twenty of the dominoes will be decorated by artists in other parts of the world where closed borders and division have been part of everyday life. In May, the Goethe-Institut will ship dominoes to South Korea, Cyprus, Yemen and other countries to be decorated by artists, intellectuals and young people. The General Secretary of the Goethe-Institut, Hans Georg Kopp, said "The 'Traveling Wall' points symbolically to the global realities of isolation and division."

The international dominoes and a selection of the tiles decorated in Germany will be placed on display in Goethe-Instituts in Germany, and all of the dominoes are to be documented in a book.

(***Attendees of "Homecoming 2001" may remember we, the Berlin Brats, did a similar project to compete against other DoDDs school for the "School Spirit Award." Under the creative eye of Cate Speer '85, we built the Berlin Wall out of uniformed cardboard boxes. One side of the wall had "Berlin" stamped on each brick (each box) with the other side of the wall appearing blank. As Homecoming attendees entered the Exhibit Hall.....they were handed a sharpie and asked to "tag" the Wall. Then at the end of our reunion weekend, our Wall, just like the real Wall, was dismantled with attendees each getting to take home "their own tagged piece of the Wall." Needless to say.....our "pro-active Wall" won the competition!!!!



Michael Ferriter '75 Home from Iraq, Awarded the Bronze Star

Photos have been provided by Jerwin Ruazol, CPT, MI Aide de Camp to the Deputy Commanding General for Operations, XVIII Airborne Corps. Below is the Narrative Accompanying the Award for the Bronze Star.

NARRATIVE TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL TO MAJOR GENERAL MICHAEL FERRITER

MAJOR GENERAL MICHAEL FERRITER, UNITED STATES ARMY, DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY EXCEPTIONALLY SUPERIOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE AS THE DEPUTY COMMANDING GENERAL FOR OPERATIONS, MULTI-NATIONAL CORPS-IRAQ, FROM 28 JANUARY 2008 TO 4 APRIL 2009 IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. DURING THIS PERIOD, MAJOR GENERAL FERRITER DISPLAYED OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONALISM AND TALENTED LEADERSHIP IN ADDRESSING HIS DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES WHILE SUPPORTING THE MISSION OF THE XVIII AIRBORNE CORPS IN IRAQ. HE SERVED DILIGENTLY AS THE COMMANDING GENERAL'S LEAD FOR PLANS, OPERATIONS AND INTELLIGENCE FUSION, EFFECTS SYNCHRONIZATION, INFORMATION OPERATIONS, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS, RECONCILIATION, AND COUNTER IED EFFORTS. MAJOR GENERAL FERRITER MANAGED THE CORPS' SONS OF IRAQ PROGRAM; A GROUP OF IRAQI CITIZENS MADE UP OF FORMER INSURGENTS THAT TURNED AGAINST AL-QAIDA IN ORDER TO BRING SECURITY AND STABILITY TO THEIR FAMILIES AND THE COUNTRY OF IRAQ. ALTHOUGH THE SON'S OF IRAQ PROGRAM WAS ORIGINALLY DEVELOPED TO BE A SHORT TERM MEASURE, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF MAJOR GENERAL FERRITER, THE PROGRAM MADE SUCH SIGNIFICANT IMPACT TO SECURITY THAT IT WAS EXTENDED AND GREW TO APPROXIMATELY 99,000 PARTICIPANTS. HIS EFFORTS WERE CRITICAL IN HELPING OBTAIN NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. AS THE LEAD FOR INFORMATION OPERATIONS MAJOR GENERAL FERRITER PROVIDED ESSENTIAL GUIDANCE AND LEADERSHIP THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE BATTLE IN INFORMATION SPACE AND OVERSAW KEY ISSUES AND REVIEWED OVER 5800 PRODUCTS IN SUPPORT OF COUNTER INFORMATION OPERATIONS AGAINST A VIRAL ENEMY. HIS EFFORTS HELPED THE CORPS EDUCATE THE POPULACE AND THWART AL-QAIDA IN IRAQ'S ABILITY TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS AND MAINTAIN ITS BATTALION, THE 504TH BATTLEFIELD SURVEILLANCE BATTALION THE 304TH CIVIL AFFAIRS BRIGADE, TASK FORCE TROY, 7 JOINT CREW COMPOSITE SQUADRON - ONE. HIS LEADERSHIP IN EVERY FACET OF FULL SPECTRUM OPERATIONS WAS DECISIVE IN THE OVERWHELMING SUCCESS OF MULTI-NATIONAL CORPS-IRAQ DURING OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM 08-09. THE DISTINCTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MAJOR GENERAL FERRITER REFLECT GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, THE MULTI-NATIONAL CORPS - IRAQ, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.



Left to Right: Mrs. Jill Biden, Major General Michael Ferriter, Mrs. Margie Ferriter, and Vice President Joe Biden. This photo was taken on April 8th, 2009 in XVIII Airborne Corps Headquarters (Fort Bragg, NC) during a small ceremony in which the Bronze Star was presented to MG Ferriter.



The photo above was taken this past Spring in Northern Iraq, after a Sons of Iraq Meeting. In the front row on the left (wearing the beige suit) is Major General (retired) Muzhir Al-Mawla. He worked very closely with MG Ferriter and is a major contributor to the success of the Sons of Iraq program. MG Ferriter is in the middle and on the far right is Brigadier General James Nixon, the Deputy Commanding General for Operations in the 25th Infantry Division (ID). The 25th ID is currently responsible for Northern Iraq and is also known as Multi-National Division, North.

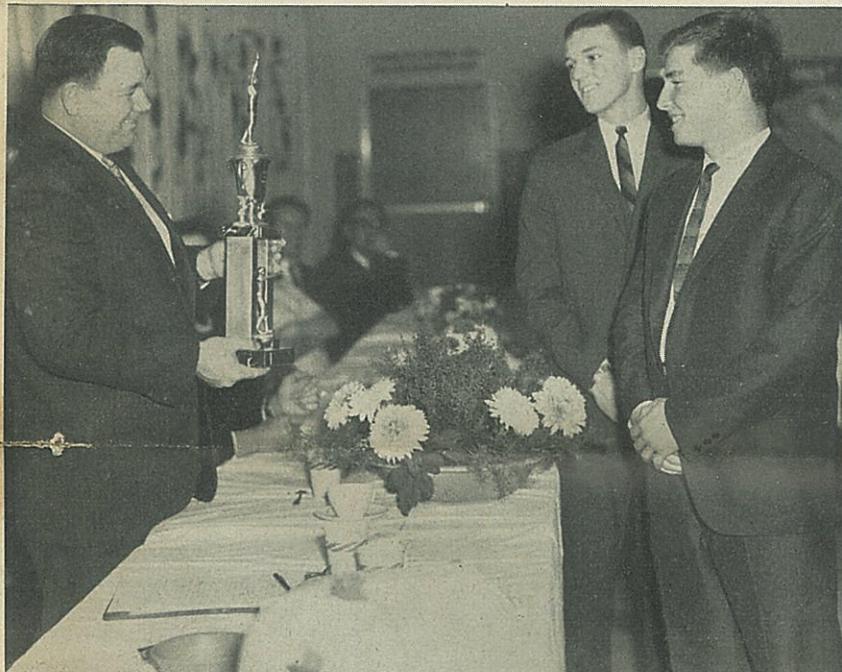


Pope Air Force Base, NC on April 5th, 2009. It was the first time in 15 months that the XVIII Airborne Corps flag was flown on US soil with its commander, signifying a completed mission in Iraq (for XVIII Airborne Corps). The military formation is composed of the XVIII Airborne Corps Command Group and primary staff officers. In the very front is Lieutenant General Lloyd J Austin and behind him from left to right is Major General Michael Ferriter, Major General (at the time Brigadier General) Daniel Allyn, Brigadier General Joseph Carvalho, and Colonel Shawn Mateer.

November 22, 1963 issue of the Tabulator

provided by Toni (Yarbrough) Combs '71

Annual Football Awards Dinner



ACCEPTING the USAREUR Class C Football Championship Trophy, Calvin R. Trice, Thomas A. Roberts High School principal, left, receives the trophy from Lear Von Koch, team captain, left, and Lee Angel, alternate captain. The presentation was made at the annual Football Awards Dinner held at the last Friday. Air Force dependents on the team included: Johnny Booth, John Herbert, Skip Jiru, Kenneth King, Gary Russell, Ernie White, Marlow White, Alan Whiting, and Andrew Younger. (Tabulator photo)

Principal Calvin R. Trice receives USAREUR Class C Trophy from Lear Von Koch '64 and Lee Angel, Class of '64

Oldest German Penny Sells for 34,000 Euros



Coins young and old
(© picture-alliance/dpa)

A tiny silver coin thought to be “the oldest German penny,” the denarius coin was minted between 747 and 751 under King Pippin III of the Franks (714-768) to replace coinage of the ancient Roman Empire and was rediscovered in 1981 in dirt in the western city of Trier. About 5 to 10 of them could buy a horse at the time they were issued. The coin sold at auction in the city of Dortmund on February 9 for 34,000 euros (\$44,000).

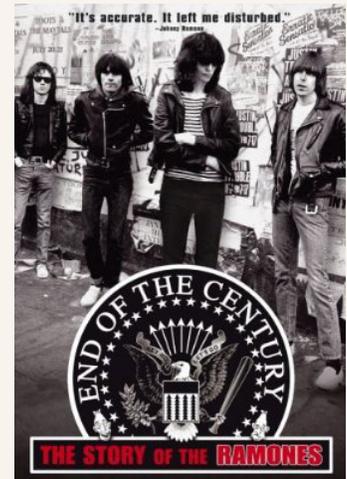
While Roman coins are common, numismatists regard Pippin’s penny as the first specimen of independent coin issues in Germany.

Germany phased out its last pennies, or Pfennige, in 2002 when the euro became legal tender. They were replaced by the tiny, shiny, copper-toned euro cents.

The auction company WAG said the buyer was a private collector in western Germany.

Story submitted by:

John J. Harris '71



What do the Ramones and Berlin American High School have in common?

Douglas Glenn Colvin 1970 better known as Dee Dee Ramone, who was the founding bassist and songwriter of the pioneering punk band the Ramones and was a

Berlin Brat!!!!!!

Here are some excerpts from an article by Jon Pareles in June of 2002.

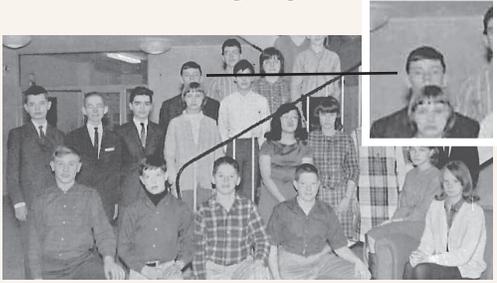
Dee Dee Ramone was the punkiest member of the Ramones, the four-man band begun in 1974 from Queens that defined punk rock. He had a gift for writing the kind of terse, tuneful songs that made the Ramones a worldwide influence on rock. He wrote punk-rock standards including “Teenage Lobotomy” and “Rockaway Beach,” songs that distilled frustration, humor and pleasure into a few words and a few chords. His later songs, like “Poison Heart” and “Too Tough to Die,” grew darker but no less concise. After he left the Ramones in 1989, tired of touring, he continued to write songs for the Ramones, even as he recorded solo albums.

In 2002 the first year they were eligible, the Ramones were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

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Douglas Colvin was born in Fort Lee, Va. His father was in the United States Army, and the family spent time in Korea, Japan and then Germany, where Douglas grew up.

He wrote his autobiography, "Lobotomy," in which he wrote about his Berlin years, **15 years in Berlin according to Wikipedia. We have found a photo** in the 1966 Yearbook when he was in the eighth grade.



From 1976 to 1978 the Ramones turned out four albums -- "Ramones," "Leave Home," "Rocket to Russia" and "Road to Ruin" -- that became punk cornerstones.

**they also did a song called
"Born to Die in Berlin"**

In 1989 Mr. Ramone made a rap album, "Standing in the Spotlight." Soon afterward, he quit the Ramones. He made solo albums for independent labels: "I Hate Freaks Like You" in 1995, "Zonked!!" in 1997 and "Greatest and Latest" in 2000, and he toured on his own. He wrote his autobiography, "Lobotomy," and a novel, "Chelsea Horror Hotel" (2001). Another novel, "Legend of a Rock Star," was published by Thunder's Mouth Press in the fall. On May 4 he performed Ramones songs at the Roseland Ballroom for a BookExpo America party with C. J. Ramone, who replaced him on bass, and Marky Ramone, Tommy Ramone's successor on drums. He was married to Barbara Zampini, from Argentina in 1997.

He also began collaborating with Mr. Vega on paintings in a style they called Minimalist Nihilism; to Mr. Vega's geometric shapes, Mr. Ramone added words and drawings. For their first collaboration, a square divided into black and white rectangles, he drew a "good Dee Dee" and "the other Dee Dee," who had devil's horns.

"He was a demon in angel's disguise," said Danny Fields, the Ramones' first manager. "He was a true rock star."

After initially thinking the "Florian" mentioned below was our very own Florian Weiss from the Allied Museum-and Honorary '71 Brat we learned ...from our Florian:

The Ramones story was quite funny. Definitely and unfortunately, that Florian who's mentioned in the article, is not me. But the location of this small private museum before it was moved in the Berlin Mitte district was only a stone's throw away from my Kreuzberg place.

Ramones inspire Berlin museum

September 15, 2005.

Punk rock pioneers The Ramones continue to garner increasing popularity and accolades in their afterlife.

Not many museums in the world are dedicated entirely to a single rock band but The Ramones can now add that to their list of accomplishments, as such a facility opens in Berlin on Friday.

Drummer Marky Ramone tells Billboard this may not be the last such museum dedicated to the punk legends, either.

"That could be the first of many," he said. "Just because it's in Berlin, it doesn't mean there can't be one in New York, LA or London. It's wonderful - I'm flattered.

"The guy who started the museum in Berlin is a huge Ramones fan.

"His name is Florian. In fact, every time I would come there, he would be at the shows and he must have attended every show we played in Germany."

Over the years, Florian accumulated quite a collection of rare Ramones items, including posters, tour t-shirts and photos.

"[There are] things that I'm amazed that he has," Marky said.

"I wish [late members] Johnny, Joey, and Dee Dee were alive to see this because they would be very flattered like I am."

Although he has yet to view the museum in person, Marky is impressed with the pictures he has seen. "I was amazed at all the effort put into it," he said.

"It takes a lot of work and time, you know? I'm quite sure with all the stuff [Florian] has, he probably had enough for two museums. He really was a big collector."

Marky is working on several of his own projects, including a book called Faith in the Backbeat and a radio show. "It's not a religious book," he said.

"It's just my times with the punk rock scene in New York, [from] my audition with the New York Dolls all the way up to the Ramones' Rock and Roll Hall of Fame [induction]."



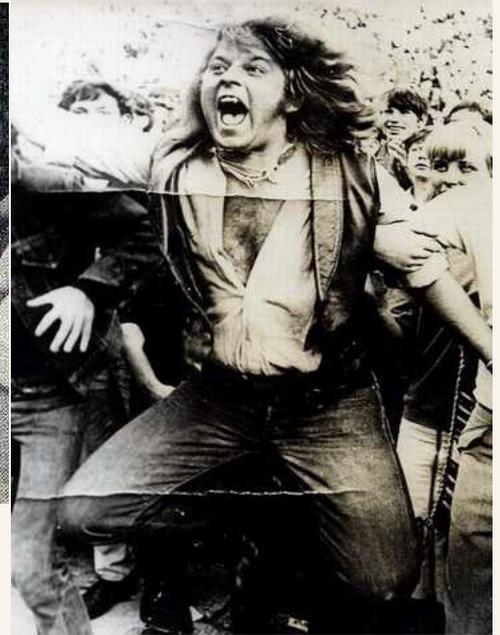
Did you go to the Waldbühne? Rolling Stones concert in '66.....?



Our newest German/Berliner member, Günther Schmidt has sent some photos taken when he went with some of his American Brat friends to the “Waldbühne” an outdoor concert arena, where concerts were held by Bon Jovi, Bob Marley & The Wailers, Depeche Mode, Céline Dion, Linkin Park, Herbert Grönemeyer, Barbra Streisand, R.E.M., Metallica and many others.

At the Rolling Stone concert at the Waldbuhne were:

Cathy Bates '69, Mary Harrison '69, Linda Smith '69, Renee Cooper '69 and possibly Rita Munoz '69.



Waldbühne, the Forest Theatre

The Waldbühne was built by using the glacial river banks of the Berlin Urstromtal. Reproduction of the old theater of Epidaurus (3rd century BC). The theater was then named “Dietrich-Eckart-Bühne” in homage to Dietrich Eckart. Seating for up to 23,000 spectators goes down to a depth of 30 metres (97 ft); in the middle section once stood Adolf Hitler’s box. The surroundings were decorated with statues by Adolf Wamper. During the Olympics, gymnastics competitions and a myriad of cultural programs were staged in the Waldbühne.

Today, it is used as one of Europe’s biggest and most beautiful concert venues. It is claimed that the Waldbühne has one of the best views to the stage worldwide, no matter in which category your seat is located. Since 2009 Waldbühne’s operator is CTS Eventim.

Heard about the Polar Bear Attack in the Berlin Zoo on April 10th? Well, it wasn’t our “Knut!!!”

Not our precious little Knut....

Military Brats Song “A Couple of Lifetimes Ago”

Copyright 2007 Rob Young

Rob Young is a Military Brats Online member and one of his hobbies is song writing.

Check out his song, “A Couple of Lifetimes Ago.”

The song is about Rob’s early years in Japan.

You can also see some of the Grant Heights Military Housing area circa 1964.

First, go to: <http://soundclick.com/share?songid=6496530>

You will get a popup window, then just pick the song title and play the song.

Verse 1

When I was a young boy,
oh man that was long ago...
Lived in a house
built by MacArthur it was north of Tokyo

We played outside in the courtyard,
in the land of the rising sun
a cowboy hat, a plastic badge,
a holster and a gun

Chorus

It was before we had to grow up
way before we played for keeps
we dreamed of new tomorrow’s
as we slowly drift a sleep.

the cherry blossoms bloomed each year
near the Buddha that sat so still
we drove around the country side
with my father behind the wheel

now that feels like
oh it sure do feel like

It feels like a couple of lifetimes ago



Verse 2

My folks they learned some Japanese
it was enough to get us by
my father climbed Mt Fuji,
way up in the sky

Me and my brothers bought some candy
with some Yen kept in this Jar
we went to see a “Hard Day’s Night”
at the drive-in in our car.

Repeat Chorus

Verse 3

We finally made it back there
oh but the house had disappeared
a public park, a plaque that read
“Grant Heights” housing was here

but I have these photographs
some faded memories
of a place I use to know
that you will never see



70 Years of Blue Note A Merge of Cultures

The fact that jazz, originally an American cultural phenomenon, became more than food for the ears of nightclub visitors seeking entertainment in the thirties was not least the achievement of two Jewish emigrants from Berlin. In 1939, Alfred Lion and Francis Wolff (in photo above) founded Blue Note Records, thereby creating the first jazz label that was independent from racial barriers and the American media lobby – the home of the swinging modern age. This year, it is celebrating its **70th anniversary**.

The aesthetics of the Blue Note label influenced jazz. Together with sound engineer Rudy van Gelder, Alfred Lion created the funky, with-it, sophisticated hard bop sound that was typical of the fifties.



From October 2009 onwards, Wolff’s pictures will be at the center of an exhibition at the Jewish Museum Berlin. Blue Note itself is celebrating the label founded by two Berliners in exile 70 years ago by holding a large number of concerts with the all-star band The Blue Note 7.



Copyright: Goethe-Institut
70 Years of Blue Note

Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra Wins Grammy

The Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra and the Berlin Radio Choir have won the prize for the best choral performance at the 51st Grammy Awards.

They received the award on February 8 in Los Angeles for their interpretation of the Symphony of Psalms by Igor Stravinsky, conducted by Sir Simon Rattle.



The renowned British conductor and the Berlin Philharmonic, which is widely considered Germany’s No. 1 orchestra, mutually inspire each other. The Berlin Philharmonic, under the direction of Sir Simon Rattle since 2002, is regarded as one of the world’s best orchestras (in Berlin it is even regarded as the best in the universe!).

The musicians in the Philharmonic know that being the best orchestra is a curse. It means hard work, every day. But they have no choice. And basically, they wouldn’t have it any other way.

Bear Facts Staff writer 1952 Laurel Coleman now exhibiting photos, documents & other items from her mother's and her Berlin days, says she is excited about being in Berlin and helping the Allied Museum set up the exhibit. It will be open in late April at Tempelhof. We are looking forward to hearing more about this exhibit.

1952



LAUREL COLEMAN
"Miss Branchwater"
Annual Staff, Art Editor 1, 3, Editor 4
School Paper 3, Feature Editor 1
G. A. A. 3, 4; Honor Student 1, 3, 4
Chorus 3, 4; Drama Club 3, 4
Canteen 1, 3
Home State: Tennessee
Pet Peeve: Conceited girls
Ambition:
Foreign correspondent for AP

Laurel also continued her life's work in the field of Journalism, and now lives in Nashville, Tennessee. She is now widowed, has 4 grown children, and 3 grandchildren.

I was enrolled as a student at TAR on its opening day in 1946, and graduated from High School there in 1952. I was valedictorian, I worked on both the annual ("Erinnerungen" - covered all the US Dependent Schools in Germany) and the school paper.

I've just published

two books that relate to my seven years growing up in Berlin:

Marion (Published by Westview, 2008) and

Marion's Child (also Published by Westview, 2008)

You can also find out more about me at:

www.laurelsteinhice.com



You'll also find assorted memories and mention of Berlin in my columns, "Pages of the Past," for Westview newspaper, www.westviewonline.com

Laura also wrote the "Teen Talk" column in the Berlin Observer.

Be sure to read "What Did I learn from Berlin?" on pages 8 and 9

It's like a dream, being able to reconnect with Berlin Brats, after all these years thanks for staying in touch.

Laurel (Coleman) Steinhice '52



**GATEWAY
STAFF**

First row:
Mrs. Jane Dodge, adviser,
Barbara Garnet, Mitzi Neville,
Ronnie Egan, Diann Smith,
Ann Worrell,
Sitting, Laurel Coleman, editor.
Second row:
Betsy Mathewson, Lilla Lyon,
Talmadge Gilliam, Jim Bender,
Bill Garnet, Bob Partain,
Don Gray.

**BEAR-FACTS
STAFF**

Sitting, Ann Worrell, editor,
Standing, Jeannine Smoot,
Mitzi Neville, Barbara Garnet,
Nancy Worrell, Tonia Dolosik,
Mary Lou Moore,
Miss Mary Gregory, adviser,
Betsy Mathewson, Laurel Coleman,
Second row: Bonnie Egan, Lilla
Lyon, Bill Garnet, Bill Daley, Dennis
Dix.



Hello from Victoria, British Columbia, Canada!

I am a journalist and author originally from New York State, and now doing research on postwar Berlin, specially the American Occupation and the lives of the dependents who lived there during the time period of 1945-46-47.

My family lived in Berlin in 1946-47, and my father was an attorney working for the Alien Property Custodian Mission to the Office of Military Government of the United States (OMGUS). While there, my mother wrote over 100 letters home, full of description and fascinating details of what life there was like at that point, and I am hoping to use her letters as the focus of a book, or a series of articles, on this time period as seen from the perspective of a young mother and wife trying to raise her sons in the unsettling days of 1946-47 in the devastated city of Berlin.

One of my hopes is to locate others who lived there then, and I'm hoping you may be able to connect me with BRAT Alumni from that period, and hopefully even their parents, so I can expand and build on my mother's memories by linking them to the stories of others there at that time. I'm particularly interested in locating women who may have been part of the Berlin American Women's Club or the German-American women's clubs, or who may have worked with Marjorie Clay (Gen. Lucius Clay's wife) in assisting the German children and hospitals with their needs during this time period. I feel the significant role of the American women in helping to rebuild the social fabric of Berlin is a particularly important story of that time period which is seldom recognized.

Thank you for any assistance you can give me, and if there are Alumni groups of the US families themselves who lived in Berlin in the 1950s, I'd love to hear about them. I'm quite excited to find the Berlin Brats high school alums so well organized, and have a feeling you may be able to help me, and to lead me to other helpful people and organizations.

With many thanks,

Star Weiss

Victoria, British Columbia CANADA

Ph: 250-478-9565

starweiss@shaw.ca

www.starweiss.ca

Author of Havens in a Hectic World: Finding Sacred Places

WHAT DID I LEARN FROM BERLIN?

by Laurel Coleman Steinhice

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steinhice@earthlink.net
www.laurelsteinhice.com

Living in Berlin for seven years (1946 – 1953) had an enormous impact on my life. In those days very few Americans of modest means traveled extensively, or lived abroad. Being one of them was, in and of itself, a big deal.

When I first went to Berlin as a child of ten, in late September of 1946, I had no real idea of what to expect – except that I would be seeing my mother again, for the first time in more than two years. We had last said goodbye in 1944, just before she went to London to work for the United States Office of War Information, during World War II. When the war was over, she then went to Berlin as a civilian attached to the Office of Military Government, U.S. (OMGUS), as a member of Gen. Lucius D. Clay's staff. I was accompanied by my grandmother, when we joined our "sponsor", as her "dependents", among the first American families brought into Germany after the war.

What would await me in Berlin? I didn't know. The Germans had only lately been fighting against us, and like most Americans of that day and time, I still thought of them as our enemies. Even the Orientation lectures on shipboard, as we traveled on the U.S.S. Goethals toward Bremerhaven, stressed the whole war-oriented mindset. We had to be careful, lest the Germans try to harm us. At the same time, we were expected to remember that we were the victors and they the vanquished, and not let them intimidate us or try to push us around. Our nation was counting on us.

What kind of a world were we sailing into? We didn't know ... except that it was clearly going to be unlike our own familiar backyards in Florida or Tennessee.

The Germans were a mystery to us – and we thought of them as a menace, as well. I think I halfway expected to see SS stormtroopers in full uniform or Gestapo agents who would try to "arrest" us on any flimsy pretext, like those I'd seen in the movies. Instead, when the time came, I saw old men and boys, and women and children pretty much "just like me" – except that they were poor and hungry. The destruction of their homes and places of business stretched out before us, in miles and miles of absolute rubble. What a mess! The war had ridden roughshod over them, and stripped their city bare.

My heart went out to them. Anyone with a shred of decency was touched by their all-too-obvious state of desperation, and my mother and I did our best to help as many as we could, as often as we could. The third American member of our household, Grandma Tulcie, loved playing 'Lady Bountiful' to German children, by handing out chocolate and chewing gum – but I have to admit that when it came to her attitude toward the Berliners as a whole, she was pretty much the sort of unreconstructed, xenophobic, provincial and self-righteous ugly American who took pleasure in seeing the Germans brought low.

My mother and I weren't proud of Grandma's attitude, and the way she kept trying to point out, one comment at a time, that the Germans 'had it coming', because they had offended against God. (She was the kind of Christian who tended to look on anything that offended her as an offense against God.) Still, I'm sure there were a lot of Americans in those days who were as bad as Grandma – and worse.

They were in the minority, thankfully, and most of us tried to find ways to help people. We wrote letters home to our American schools and churches and asked them to send what they could spare – things like outgrown clothes in all sizes, and hard candy to give the children. Beyond that, the destitute people around us could use anything, and it hadn't taken me long to understand that they were people ... just ordinary people, like us, but in a really bad situation.

At the Thomas A. Roberts American Dependents School of Berlin, two of my fellow fifth-grade girls and I decided we wanted to do a large-scale project, to have hard candy sent for Berlin's children, from young American donors, through their schools. US students and schools would collect and ship the candy overseas, to German schools who would receive and distribute it to their students. We chose hard candy because it was plentiful, cheap, non-perishable, took up very little space in shipping – and made an immediate impact on the recipient. It was the sweet taste of hope.

Our mothers supported the idea, in principle, and we made an appointment with the local American Red Cross representative to go to her office at Harnack House and talk about how this could be set up.

To our dismay and disgust, however, she shot our idea down, right off the bat. "Candy?" she sniffed, derisively. "That's not good for them; you want them to rot their teeth? Better get people to send them vitamin pills, instead. Or collect money for the Red Cross, and we'll use it in the relief effort that's already in place."

So we went back to writing letters home to our relatives, asking them to try to get something started in their schools and churches. Some packages were indeed sent over, to us personally or routed through the McNair and Andrews Barracks Chaplain's offices, but the children-to-children project we had dreamed up never really came together.

(Now that I think of it, that unsympathetic, bossy Red Cross woman reminded me a lot of my grandmother. I didn't like her attitude.)

By the Spring of 1948, we had adapted to our new surroundings and felt at home in Berlin. We had a backyard garden like our “Victory Garden” in Nashville or the kitchen garden at my grandparents’ farm on Signal Mountain, near Chattanooga. The seeds had been sent from America – I have no idea where one could have gotten garden seeds, in Berlin – and the harvest was bountiful, with plenty to share with those around us. Our garden was heavily planted with fruit trees and berry bushes, as well. On a broader scale, things were definitely improving in the Western Sectors of Berlin. Our governments (that is, the US, British and French) issued food rations to the German population that were more generous than the wartime ones they’d been scraping by on, for years – and Germans who worked for Americans got an extra ration. Like most others in our position, we fed our employees from our own rations, and that in turn allowed them to send their own provisions home to their families. Things were still tough in the Russian Sector and Russian Zone, though, and even the Western Sectors were due for a major setback that summer: the Berlin Blockade.

It’s the stuff of history, now. When the Russians shut down rail and highway traffic in and out of West Berlin, through their Zone of Occupation, they meant to drive us out. We never saw our Russian friends, anymore. The comradely days of ‘Allies fighting together in a war of liberation’ were officially over ... and so were the days of our seeing the Germans (and especially the Berliners) as our enemies. Our suspicions – and our fears – now shifted to focus on the Soviets, and we wondered what would come of their aggressive behavior toward us.

The Airlift is what came of it. Without stopping to talk things over or ask the White House and/or Congress for permission, Generals Frank Howley (Commander of the Berlin Sector U.S. Garrison) and Lucius D. Clay (Military Governor of Germany, U.S.) got together with their French and British colleagues and started re-supplying West Berlin by air. By the time President Truman found out what was going on, it was already happening.

I remember living in the American Enclave of Berlin, during the Blockade and Airlift. There are some things one does not forget. We were isolated ... short on everything ... a cold, dark island surrounded by a Red sea of hostile Soviet forces, just waiting for us to turn tail and leave ... and somehow, in spite of the fact that Americans weren’t quite as stringently pinched for necessities as the Germans in our Sector were, we were Berliners.

There was a bonding. We were in it together.

It wasn’t just a set of pretty phrases, about hands-across-the-sea or international cooperation: we felt it.

I guess there’s nothing quite like a common threat, to draw people together. We “American Berliners” learned how strong and resilient the “German Berliners” could be. For the most part they sacrificed without complaint, and proved themselves hard-working and resourceful. We had become Allies. We stood together for freedom ... for hope ... and for the spirit of new beginning.

At the same time, Berlin’s German citizenry had a chance to experience more deeply those qualities that we, as Americans, British and French Allies held dear: compassion, generosity, and a willingness to share their sacrifices in defense of freedom. It wasn’t just about geopolitics, or even justice: the Airlift was about people. Early on, someone gave it the nickname “Operation Vittles” – and when the flight crews added a person-to-person touch by dropping “candybombs” to the children on the rubble heaps below, watching the planes fly in and out, they naturally called it “Operation Little Vittles”.

I respect and admire “The Candybomber”, Gail Halvorsen, who started “Little Vittles”. And I have to envy him a bit, as well, in that my own small candy-for-the-Berlin-kids dream never got off the ground, and his flew high. Our nation never had a better crew of ambassadors than Halvorsen and those who followed in his footsteps.

So, after all these years, what did I learn from Berlin?

So much!

I learned the difference between governments and people ... the ways in which people are alike in their ordinary lives and needs, even if their governments have differences.

I’d like to think I was on the first wave of world-outreach for my country, finding out firsthand what people of all nations have in common as human beings, despite the ways in which other countries and their customs may be unlike our own. The Postwar occupation governments of Germany and Japan were broadening for America. As more and more of our military forces and their families lived abroad, we were pulled out of our isolation and into a global-concept future as it unfolded around us. I’m proud to have been a part of that.

I learned, too, the deeper truth of that old saying, “home is where the heart is.” I love my country, and my Tennessee home. Yet in my heart, Berlin is the home of my youth. That very special city left an indelible imprint on my sense of self-identity and there are ways in which I will always think of myself as a “Berliner”, as I was during the Blockade and Airlift. I have seen the best of Germany – and I have also seen America at her best.

No matter how greatly things have changed, and no matter what geopolitical climates have come and gone since those days, I will always think of Berlin as beautiful, creative, courageous, resilient, open-hearted and united, as we were then.

I will always love my fellow Berliners ... and Berlin, the heimat (hometown) of my heart.

Stephen Mansfield 1976



Stephen was recently featured on a TV panel talking about President Obama's comment:

that"we aren't a Christian Nation anymore."

Visit Stephen's personal website at: www.mansfieldgroup.com

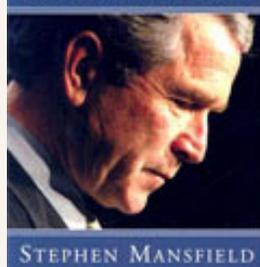
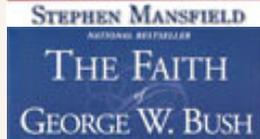
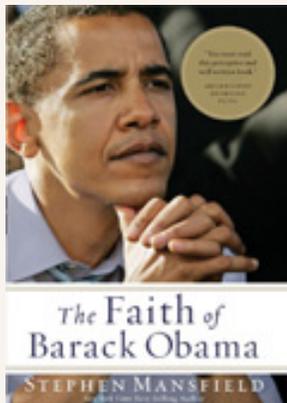
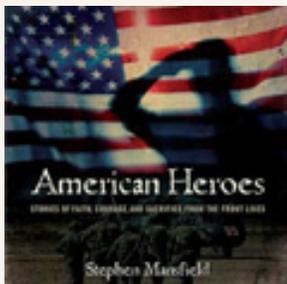
Or check out his books:

"The Faith of the American Soldier"

"American Heroes"

"The Faith of Barack Obama"

"The Faith of George W. Bush"
spent months on the New York Times bestseller list.



Stephen Mansfield is a New York Times bestselling author and a popular speaker who is becoming one of the nation's most respected voices on religion and American culture.

Stephen was born in 1958 and grew up largely in Europe due to his father's career as an officer in the United States Army. After a youth filled with sports, travel, and mischief, Stephen was recruited to play college football but turned down the opportunity when a religious conversion moved him to attend a Christian college.

He earned a Bachelor's degree in history and philosophy and then moved to Texas where he pastored a church, completed two Master's degrees, hosted a radio show and began acquiring a reputation as a popular speaker of both depth and humor. He moved to Tennessee in 1991 where he again pastored a church, did relief work among the Kurds in Northern Iraq, served as a political consultant, and completed a doctorate.

It was during this time that he also launched the writing career for which he has become internationally known. His first book on Winston Churchill was a Gold Medallion Award Finalist. He also wrote widely-acclaimed biographies of Booker T. Washington and George Whitefield as well as a number of other books on history and leadership. In 1997, the Governor of Tennessee commissioned Mansfield to write the official history of religion in Tennessee for that state's bicentennial.

In 2002, Stephen left the pastorate after twenty fruitful years to write and lecture full-time. Not long afterward, he wrote *The Faith of George W. Bush*, which spent many weeks on the New York Times bestseller list.

Mansfield followed this successful venture with *The Faith of the American Soldier*. To research this story of religion on the modern battlefield, Stephen was embedded with U.S. troops in Iraq at the beginning of 2005. His experience at the frontlines and his research on faith among soldiers forms the core of this important book which has been used in military academies around the world.

Stephen has also written a widely-praised book on the new Pope entitled *Benedict XVI: His Life and Mission*. Mansfield is a Protestant with deep respect for the legacy of John Paul II and he sought to explore how Joseph Ratzinger might fulfill this legacy in the years to come. Publishers Weekly has called the book "an inviting study of a new world leader."

Mansfield's latest work is *The Faith of Barack Obama*, intended as an objective look at Obama's religious life and the controversies that have surrounded it. Stephen believes that just as the archetypal American story of faith five years ago belonged to George W. Bush, now it is Obama's religious journey that captures many of the religious trends shaping American culture. The book reflects Mansfield's ability to compassionately describe theological and political views that are not necessarily his own, an ability he movingly demonstrated in his book on the life and views of Pope Benedict XVI.

Beyond his writing career, Stephen has founded The Mansfield Group, a successful consulting and communications firm, as well as Chartwell Literary Group, a firm that creates and manages literary projects. In recent years, Stephen has also become a widely-popular speaker, known for his rowdy humor, his deep faith and his ability to inspire audiences with tales from great lives of the past.

He lives in downtown Nashville, Tennessee, with his beloved wife, Beverly, just blocks from the beautiful Nashville library and the state capitol.

CLASS RINGS! Want one? Need one?

We've just made contact with the "Balfour International rep" in Germany who handles DoDDs school.

She is Karen Burbach and this is what she has said about replacing a class ring or a letter jacket.

Berlin closed just as I took over the Balfour territory in Germany. We did supply rings and letter jackets for the school. I see from the notes in my file that the school mascot was the bear and the colors were crimson and white.

Although tooling has changed since the school closed it would be absolutely no problem to make class rings and letter jackets with a backdated yeardate. While the school wouldn't appear on our website (www.balfour.com) it would be possible to view all of the current ring styles and prices by choosing any of the current DoDD schools.

Please feel free to distribute my information below to any of your Alumni interested in replacing lost rings and/or letter jackets. I keep all of the "closed" schools information on file so that we can do this.

Should you have any questions, or if I can be of service in any way, please don't hesitate to contact me. I see from your website you have a reunion coming up! Best of luck with that--I'm sure a great time will be had by all.

Regards,

Karen Burbach-Barker

Contact:

Karen Burbach-Barker

Balfour International

Tel: +44 1608 662040

Fax: +44 1608 664428

Karen@balfourinternational.com

<http://www.balfourinternational.com>



We thank Kathy (Sweeney) Folk '72 for providing a photo of her ring so that we can see the style that was used.

We would like someone to send a photo of the style used by the graduating guys of BAHS.

Homepage URL: <http://Berlin High School Early 60s on Facebook>

The Early '60's site on MSN is now closed.
Jim Branson, Class Contact '64 and the Early '60's site administrator has informed he has started a new page for the early 60's to communicate on ~ on FACEBOOK.

If you attended Thomas A. Roberts or Berlin (American) High School from 1959 through 1965 you are invited to join.
Send Jim a request at: jbranson01@hotmail.com

Berlin Brats Reunion Scholarship Award!!

We are excited to announce the first EVER Berlin Brats Reunion Scholarship Award!! This scholarship is a new venture for the Alumni Association and is intended to further the success of the Berlin Brat lineage. In light of these tough economic times, many Brats and their dependents are focusing on education and improving their skill sets so when the economy starts to rebound and jobs are more plentiful they will be on the top of "To Hire" lists or graduating at the tops of their college classes.

The proceeds from the Silent Auction and Raffle, held during the reunion, will fund these awards. Announcements of the scholarship award winners will be announced July 11, 2009 in Scottsdale/Phoenix at the Reunion's Saturday Night Dinner Dance. Award winners or their sponsoring Berlin Brat or faculty member must be present at the reunion for acceptance.

There are two documents, which can be found on the website at <http://www.berlinbrats.org/main.htm> The first is the information form and the second is the scholarship application. The information form explains those who are eligible, restrictions and deadlines. If you or somebody you know is interested, please complete the application form and submit it by the deadline. If you should have problems reading these documents, please email berlinbrats.scholarship@gmail.com.

Any questions can be sent to berlinbrats.scholarship@gmail.com which will be sent to the three-member evaluation committee. This committee is comprised of Class Contacts from the 60's, 70's and 80's. Members can answer questions prior to application submission and will be evaluating all applications submitted by the deadline.

We hope you are as excited as we are to have this opportunity and we look forward to hearing how you or one of yours can best use the award!

Until then....

The Berlin Brats Reunion Scholarship Committee:

Jim Branson '64

Billy Jordan '76

Jennifer (Hewitt) Shaw '85-chairperson



ELIGIBILITY

- A Berlin Brat and their dependents (children, grandchildren or spouse)
- A faculty (teacher or administration) member and their dependents (children, grandchildren or spouse)

The sponsoring and named Berlin Brat named must be registered and attend the 2009 Reunion in Scottsdale/Phoenix, AZ from July 9-12, 2009. For reunion registration information, please see www.berlinbrats.org or contact Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72 at berlinbrats@gmail.com. What does a potential recipient look like?

PROFILE OF A CANDIDATE

- A Berlin Brat who is pursuing a postsecondary educational degree and has been accepted to a fully accredited college, university or technical/vocational educational institution.
- A descendent of a Berlin Brat (child or grandchild) who is pursuing a postsecondary educational degree and has been accepted to a fully accredited college, university or technical/vocational educational institution.
- A spouse of a Berlin Brat who is pursuing a postsecondary educational degree and has been accepted to a fully accredited college, university or technical/vocational educational institution.
- A faculty member who is pursuing a postsecondary educational degree and has been accepted to a fully accredited college, university or technical/vocational educational institution.
- A descendent of a faculty member (child or grandchild) who is pursuing a postsecondary educational degree and has been accepted to a fully accredited college, university or technical/vocational educational institution.
- A spouse of a faculty member who is pursuing a postsecondary educational degree and has been accepted to a fully accredited college, university or technical/vocational educational institution.
- A Berlin Brat/faculty member or spouse who is pursuing a higher set of training or certification in their career field.

THE BERLIN BRATS REUNION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

We estimate a minimum of three \$500.00 scholarships, based on our proceeds from the Silent Auction/Raffle at the 2009 Reunion, will be awarded. Winners will be announced at the Saturday night dinner at the reunion.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS AND RESTRICTIONS

Scholarship awards are restricted for use to assist awardees with their tuition, fees, room & board, and/or text books.

Scholarship awards are one time awards, and are non-renewable and non-transferable.

Email any questions you may have regarding the scholarship, eligibility, or the application itself to berlinbrats.scholarship@gmail.com.

BERLIN BRATS REUNION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

SECTION 1: APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Fill out the application form completely.
- 2) Attach a current resume or official school transcript.
- 3) Attach enrollment verification received from Awardees educational institution. Please note, the Berlin Brats cannot request enrollment verification.
- 4) Attach two letters of recommendation; one must be from a supervisor, faculty member, coach or other individual knowledgeable with applicants' qualifications. Family members are ineligible to write letters of recommendation.
- 5) Mail completed application with all attachments to:
Berlin Brats Scholarship Committee, 2309 Camryns Crossing, Panama City, FL 32405.
Applications must be postmarked by June 15, 2009. You may also email all entries to berlinbrats.scholarship@gmail.com.
- 6) Ensure your Berlin Brat is registered and attends the 2009 Reunion.

SECTION 2: DISCLOSURE INFORMATION AND AGREEMENT

I hereby confirm that I am a Berlin Brat and that _____ (qualified applicant name) meets the eligibility requirements for The Berlin Brats Reunion Scholarship Award listed below. _____

_____ (Berlin Brat's Full Name to include Maiden) (Class of ?) (Yrs in Berlin ie: '80-'84)

By submitting this application, I am authorizing, The Berlin Brats Alumni Association, and any of its Scholarship Committee Members, to verify any and/or all information provided on the application.

In addition, the Scholarship Committee may disclose any and/or all information submitted on the application to a third party as deemed necessary, for purpose of facilitating the application process. This may be done with or without first obtaining permission.

I understand that should the qualified applicant become an Awardee, The Berlin Brats Alumni Association, will reserve all rights and privileges to display my name and the Awardee name, testimonial, and/or photo or image likeness on their website and Newsletter or in any manner the Berlin Brats Alumni Association deems necessary. I/we understanding all essays, testimonials, photos, etc. submitted to The Berlin Brats Alumni Association, will not be returned, but shall remain the sole and exclusive property of The Berlin Brats Alumni Association. I/We understand that The Berlin Brats Reunion Scholarship Award is available only to the Awardee if the Berlin Brat or faculty member is present at the 2009 Reunion.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature, if applicable: _____

Applicants Signature: _____

Date Submitted: _____

SECTION 3: PERSONAL APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name: _____ Address: _____

_____ City: _____ State: _____ Country: _____

Postal Code: _____ Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Best Time to Reach Applicant: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Gender: [] Male [] Female

Career Field of Interest: _____

SECTION 4: ESSAY

The following answers may be submitted via separate and clearly marked attachments.

- 1) In 500 words or less, clearly explain how this scholarship will assist you in achieving your educational goals. Essays MUST be typed or written neatly and submitted with completed application form.
- 2) If selected, what type of educational program would you attend? Please provide specific dates, locations, and expenses.
- 3) List what education you have to date.
- 4) Explain what a "Berlin Brat" means to you.
- 5) Explain your philanthropic views and your contributions to your community.
- 6) Is there anything that you would like to share with the committee?

German Information Center Annual Essay Contest for American Kids!

“Subject: the Berlin Wall”

Feb 25, 2009

Winners of the GIC 2009 essay contest will receive prizes including amazon.com gift certificates.

The German Information Center USA is proud to support the essay contest for the fourth year. Once again this year, the winning student and his/ her teacher in each age category will receive an amazon.com gift certificate. Honorable mentions will receive Germany.info prizes. The two essay topics are:

2009 marks the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. It was erected in 1961 by the communist regime of East Germany, separating Germany’s capital and its citizens for 28 years until November 9, 1989. People from the eastern part were no longer allowed to travel to the western sections. Imagine what it would be like if your hometown or neighborhood were to be suddenly divided overnight by a wall, meaning you were cut off from your friends and relatives and not able to travel. What would your life feel like? How would things be different? Would anything remain the same?

Climate change and environmental policy are large issues that will affect our future. Germany and the United States have created the Transatlantic Climate Bridge to cooperate on climate and environmental policy in order to better exchange ideas and knowledge on those issues. Which topics, inventions or ideas should the two countries focus on for the Transatlantic Climate Bridge? Do you have any great ideas you can bring to the table? Here’s your chance to have your say!

The German Information Center USA fulfills the public diplomacy mission of the German Embassy in Washington, D.C. To encourage American students to get to know modern Germany, the GIC provides classroom materials to educators in the United States.

The purpose of the essay contest is to familiarize students with today’s Germany. In addition, the contest offers students and their teachers an opportunity to discuss traditional and modern German culture, language and society. Please visit their website for more information.

A Scholarship to Berlin you say?

Do you have kids or grandkids interested in politics?

Are you interested in politics? Would you like to gain insight into the workings of German democracy? Every year, 120 young people from 28 countries have the opportunity to take part in the International Parliamentary Scholarship (IPS) program in Berlin.

IPS offers recent graduates an internship in the office of a Member of the Bundestag, the German parliament. Combined with a supplementary academic program organized by Berlin’s three universities and the fun of being together with people from other nations, a unique experience awaits you in the German capital.

What the Bundestag expects of you:

Interest in politics
Excellent knowledge of German
College degree (B.A., B.S.)
U.S. citizenship
Born after March 1, 1980

What you can expect:

Monthly stipend of € 450.00
Free accommodations
Health, accident, and liability insurance
Reimbursement of your travel expenses to and from Berlin
Applications must be submitted by June 30, 2009.

For more information visit: http://www.bundestag.de/internat/internat_austausch/ips/index.html

From No Man's Land to Nature Preserve – The Inner German Border

A border post marks where one Germany ended and another began.

Walls, security fences, and automatic shooting mechanisms defined the inner German border that split the land into two for decades. Nonetheless, it has been crystal clear since reunification that these borderlines are not only a blemish in German history – but also an extraordinary jewel of nature. Along the erstwhile no man's land, nature unfolded freely like nowhere else. Now, the border zone is home to a unique nature preserve – the Green Belt.

Spring is the mating season. The green frog gladly climbs up a schrub and croaks as loudly as he can, in a bid to woo a female. Due to the fact that all male frogs have the same intention, there is a deafening concert on balmy evenings. This natural spectacle is a seldom occurrence in Germany. The rate at which small bodies of water in which the tree frog lives are disappearing is on the rise, and the small tree frog is currently threatened with extinction.



However, near the erstwhile German-German border, for instance in the Rhön or on the Eichsfeld, one can hear the tree frogs yet again. Numerous animal and plant species have discovered a new home in the no man's land.

The establishment of the GDR in 1949 drew a borderline through the middle of Germany and due to the mounting East-West conflict culminated in the construction of the Berlin Wall and the expansion of this border into a high security zone. Metal fencing and barbed wire, motor-vehicle-inhibiting trenches and minefields divided the German people, and many lost their lives while trying to escape before the Wall came down in 1989.

With the Wall gone, friends of nature discovered the paradise that had evolved along the borderline. The 870 mile and 160 - 660 foot wide green strip was left intact throughout the years and endangered animal species sought sanctuary and almost extinct plant species gained root.

The Green Belt Project

The Werra river in Thuringia was once a heavily guarded section of the German-German border. Scientists have registered a surprising diversity of species of more than 600 plants, among them 120 endangered, and some 40 dragonfly species there. Scientists recognised the invaluable worth of the biodiversity and established the Green Belt Project to protect it. The old borderline stretches from Travemünde on the Baltic Sea to the Czech border near Hof in Bavaria and traverses the diverse landscapes of Germany. Bush- and woodland landscapes are part of it, as are moorland and swamps.

At the point where the border patrol cut the vegetation so as to get a better view of fleeing refugees, meadow-like biotopes have materialized, where rare grasshoppers- and butterflies live. Because the marshland near the border was never drained and never artificially fertilized, rare native orchid species like the lady's slipper are flourishing.



Conservation and Politics

“Experience the Green Belt” is the name of the largest project to protect and develop the former border area for recreation and eco-tourism. The Ecker River in the Harz Mountains, which straddle the former border between Lower Saxony and Saxony Anhalt, flowed in the shadow of the Iron Curtain.

A Belt For Europe

In 2003, an initiative to extend the Green Belt along the former Iron Curtain and throughout Europe was developed. Along a course of over 5,200 miles from the Barents in the north to the Black Sea in the south, a European Green Belt would pass through 25 countries.

Twenty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Europe is working together to preserve nature in the space that once divided it.



**“Kip Taylor’s (‘81) Bench”
at the newly opened
Pentagon Memorial.....**



1943 · Hilda E. Taylor
1963 · LTC Kip P. Taylor, USA

We claim this ground in remembrance
of the events of September 11, 2001.
To honor the 184 people whose lives were
lost, their families, and all who sacrifice
that we may live in freedom.
We will never forget.



Sunny Schwentner '62 (Kubasaki Brat)
and Jeri on Kip's Bench



Have you heard about the “Tear Drop Memorial?”

A 100-foot September 11th sculpture that was donated by the Russian people?

Most haven't....but it's located at The Peninsula in Bayonne Harbor,
New Jersey. The monument is the centerpiece of a two-acre park along the
Bayonne waterfront opposite lower Manhattan where the World Trade Center
Towers stood. It is in view of both the Statue of Liberty and Ground Zero.
A gift from the people of Russia.....it's a “monument to the struggle against
world terrorism.”

by artist Zurab Tsereteeii.



The walkway is made of stones.

Names of the persons killed on September 11th are inscribed on
the base like the Vietnam Memorial wall.

Leipzig to Get Own German Unity Monument



Peace and candles: Leipzig January 1990
(© picture-alliance/dpa)

The German government has agreed to set up a monument to celebrate German unity and freedom in the eastern city of Leipzig where peaceful demonstrations in 1989 helped bring down communism.

German Culture Minister Bernd Neumann said on January 29 that the government had reached agreement with representatives of the southeastern state of Saxony to set up a memorial to mark German unity and freedom in Leipzig by 2014 as the country gears up to mark 20 years of the fall of the Berlin Wall in 2009.

“We want to take shared responsibility to honor the outstanding contribution of the citizens of East Germany in the peaceful revolution of 1989,” Neumann said after the meeting in Berlin.

The federal government will put up 5 million euros (\$6.58 million) to fund the memorial, the minister said.

Leipzig’s role in helping bring down the East German Communist regime is well-documented. The so-called Monday demonstrations saw some 70,000 people take to the streets on October 9, 1989 with the famous chants of “We are the people.”

The Monday demonstrations proved to be a turning point in the peaceful revolution against the East German rulers, encouraging more protests and hastening the opening of the country.

Neumann said the monument was designed to give the non-violent demonstrations in Leipzig “an own face” and highlight the civil courage of the citizens of the city in fighting a repressive system.

Border crossings between the eastern and western parts of Berlin were opened on November 9, 1989, when jubilant crowds of revelers greeted each other on both sides of the Berlin Wall, a symbol of Cold War division that had cut the city in half for 28 years.

Untouched East Germany flat found

The Soviet bloc state of East Germany existed for about 40 years. A flat apparently untouched since before the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 has been discovered in the German city of Leipzig, German media report. An architect who renovates buildings in eastern Germany unlocked the door last week and was shocked to find himself in a veritable East German time warp.

It appears the inhabitant of the humble flat fled in a hurry and shrivelled bread rolls still lay in a string bag. Grocery brands from the Socialist state filled the kitchen. “When we opened the door we felt like Howard Carter when he found the grave of Tutankhamun,” Mark Aretz told the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper. “Everything was a mess but it was like a historic treasure trove, a portal into an age long gone.” A wall calendar showed August 1988 and an empty bottle of Vita Cola, Marella margarine, Juwel cigarettes and a bottle of Kristall vodka were in the kitchen. Plastic crockery and aluminium cutlery completed the picture of a bygone state. The only foreign product to be found was a West German bottle of deodorant. A zinc bath stood upright against a wardrobe. There was no toilet in the flat - the occupant used one on the landing. According to Mr Aretz, documents and letters in the flat suggest the occupant was a man aged 24 who was in trouble with the East German authorities, and who left in a hurry some time before the Wall came down in November 1989.

The flat has since been developed, the architect has told the BBC.

Article submitted by: Karlsruhe Brat, Chris Kyrios '75

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Germany Tops International Opinion Poll

Germany is the most popular country in the world, according to a BBC survey. Conducted by international pollster Globescan, it questioned over 13,000 people in 21 countries on their attitudes towards other countries. For the second year in a row, the same poll found that Germany has an excellent image beyond its own borders: A total of 61 percent of respondents perceived Germany's influence in the world as positive. That's up five percent from the previous year.



A reason to smile (© picture-alliance/dpa)

By Janet Farley

Reprinted from MOAA publication

Homefront — The Gift of Being a Military Child

Across the services, wherever we are stationed, we take time this month to recognize the unsung hero in our world who lives this often-complicated life by chance — not choice — and who makes daily sacrifices in support of the greater military family.

We honor the military child.

They live their lives in the shadows of their parents, on the sidelines of the big game called life. They're issued passports at birth, ID cards at 10 years old, and keys to our hearts the second we know of their existence.

They've said goodbye to one or even both of their parents more times than they can remember, each time not knowing when or if they will ever see them again.

They change schools on the average of six to nine times between kindergarten and high school graduation and best friends way too many times to count.

No matter their age or how glamorous the next "home" sounds, there are tears, fears, and painful adjustments to be made with each move. And yet, each time, the tears are brushed aside, the fears allayed, and the adjustments somehow made over and over again with a remarkable resilience not often found in those so young to this world.

Maybe you can appreciate the whole dynamic from a parental perspective, or perhaps you are a veteran brat who experienced the military brat lifestyle yourself. But either way, anyone who has had to explain "why" to anyone old enough to ask understands the deal all too well. This way of life, despite continual efforts to make it better, is not an easy one. Those without a real understanding of it often are left confused and dazed.

During the month of April, we have an opportunity to remind ourselves of how lucky we are to have our military children in our lives right now because, sadly, they won't stay there forever.

Indeed, they grow up and they go on to live their own lives, making their own headlines and choices. Many look back to the lessons learned in their military childhoods to guide them along the way.

Take Carrie for example, an Army brat near and dear to my heart who to me will always be a feisty 10 year old intent on devising new ways in which to terrorize her younger, rambunctious brother.

Her dad was our unit commander many years ago. Our families became and still remain good friends. I recently interviewed her mother for an article about the challenges facing military children, and Carrie had to put in her two cents as well.

She agreed that growing up as a military brat wasn't always easy and that school challenges became especially difficult during her high school years. She spoke of the pain of saying goodbye to friends and the challenges that came with starting over again and again at new schools and making new friends.

A couple days after our conversation, however, I received a follow-up email from her. She was adamant that I knew, despite the challenges, that she wouldn't have had it any other way. She was extremely proud to be a military child; proud of not only her father's faithful service but her whole family's service as well. She was happy that she was given the opportunity to travel the world, live in different countries, and meet people from all walks of life. She credited who she was today to those experiences.

Carrie is all grown up now, to the dismay and delight of her now-retired military parents. She lives far away from anywhere she called home while growing up as a military child. She now works in a world she is comfortable in, serving our country as a social worker with the wounded warrior program. She isn't my child, but I am very proud of her anyhow.

I'm certain you have a Carrie in your life. Maybe she is only 10 years old and struggling with fifth grade fractions. Maybe he is 17 and trying to figure out where he wants to go to college next year. Perhaps she is mercifully only 7 years old and still considers you the center of the universe.

Whoever the military children are in your life, hold them closely not only this month, but each and every day. Teach them. Guide them. Honor them, for they will live what they've learned as military children. Finally, be thankful for them, for their greatest gift to us is the fact that they are in our lives at all — and that makes us very lucky.

About the Author: Janet Farley is author of *The Military Spouse's Complete Guide to Career Success* (Impact Publications, 2007) and *The Military-to-Civilian Career Transition Guide* (Jist, 2004). Visit her Web site at www.janetfarley.com.

Berlin's Restored Neues Museum Handed Over to City Officials

City officials took charge of Berlin's historic Neues Museum on March 5 after more than a decade of painstaking restoration work by British architect David Chipperfield.

The renovation of the 1855 building, which was badly damaged in World War II air raids, is the latest step in a marathon project to revive the German capital's neoclassical Museum Island complex.

When it opens to the public on October 16, the Neues Museum will house Berlin's famous Egyptian collection, including the bust of Queen Nefertiti, as it did before the war.

"I reluctantly hand over the keys after 11 years of hard work," said Chipperfield, who won the 233 million euro (\$290 million) commission to remodel the museum in 1997.

The building, which had remained derelict since the war, is the third of the five museums to have been restored to its former glory on the Museum Island, a UNESCO cultural heritage site.

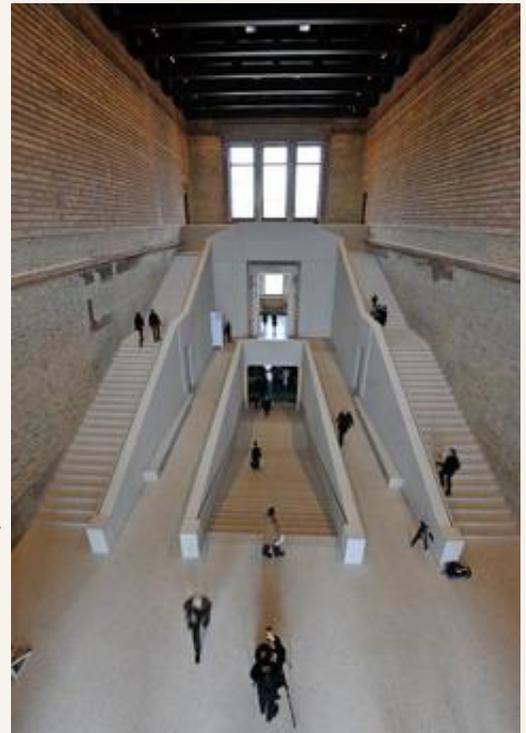
The Alte Nationalgalerie was renovated in 2001 and work on the Bode Museum was completed five years later. The Pergamon Museum and the Altes Museum are due to be restored by 2026.

German Transport Minister Wolfgang Tiefensee said the government had invested 1 billion euros in the Museum Island in what he called the biggest construction project in the country.

The Neues Museum was designed by Friedrich August Stüler, a disciple of Prussian architect Karl-Friedrich Schinkel, to expand the adjoining Altes Museum.

Built between 1843 and 1855, it was one of the most ambitious building projects in Prussia when it opened in 1859.

Plans to reconstruct the museum, severely damaged by bombing in 1943 and 1945, did not emerge until the 1980s, when a new foundation was finally laid for the building, characterized by a great staircase hall winding its way through all three storeys of the building.



The new Neues Museum
(© picture-alliance/dpa)

Website that has every front page paper in the World including the Stars & Stripes.



"Every Newspaper of the World"



"Today's Front Pages"

UNBELIEVABLE SITE

One of the most interesting sites I have ever seen.

Just put your mouse on a city anywhere in the world and the newspaper headlines pop up...

Double click and the page gets larger...Then you can either read the pdf version or click through to the paper itself in the upper right corner.

<http://www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/flash/>

Also, if you look at the European papers, click on Griesheim, Germany (mid-country left side) and The Stars & Stripes (European edition) will pop up. Site changes everyday with the publication of new editions of the paper.

http://www.newseum.org/virtualtour/video.aspx?item=virtual_tour&style=k

Submitted by: Paola (Meimaris) Blank '79

Berlin's Tempelhof Airport to Host 40th Anniversary Woodstock Concert

Berlin's Tempelhof airport will host a concert to mark the 40th anniversary of the legendary Woodstock music festival on August 22-23.

Festival organizers expect between 200,000 to 300,000 visitors to turn up to listen to the bands, many of whom played at the original festival in August 1969.

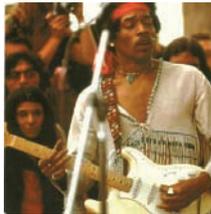
The event in Berlin will take place simultaneously with a concert at the original Woodstock location in upstate New York. Woodstock founder Michael Lang is involved once again. The 65-year-old music producer is working with PR company Media Consulta, who have been tasked with promoting the event in Germany.

According to a statement on their Website, the airport will serve as the "the ultimate concert location." The original festival, organized as an anti-establishment protest against the Vietnam War, has achieved absolute cult status, not least through a series of documentary films and Jimi Hendrix's famous version of the American national anthem. Festival organizers had expected around 50,000 visitors, but nearly half a million people descended on the farmland in upstate New York.

The 1969 Woodstock bands that are expected in Berlin include Santana, Joe Cocker, The Who, Neil Young & Crazy Horse and The Grateful Dead.



Woodstock 1969
(© picture-alliance/dpa)



Berlin Brat triathloners: Cate Speer '85, Liz Wood '85, Vince Lingner '82..... how about taking these gals & guys on??

Thomas Dold from Stuttgart Wins Race Up the Empire State Building

Australian Suzy Walsham claimed the woman's title for the third year in a row and Thomas Dold of Germany won his fourth consecutive men's crown on Tuesday in the 32nd annual Empire State Building Run-Up.

The 24-year-old German dashed up 1,576 steps to the mammoth Manhattan skyscraper's observation deck on the 86th floor in 10 minutes and 7 seconds, about two seconds faster than his time last year.

Walsham, a 35-year-old Australian who lives in Singapore, reached the top in 13 minutes and 26 seconds for her third win in a row - despite taking a tough tumble at the start of the race.

She managed the feat after being pushed to the side and hitting the marble doorway at the stairs' entrance, bruising her face and knee and being stepped on by several other runners, said the race's organizers, the New York Road Runners. She was then still able to pass 19 other runners.

Dold, from Stuttgart, even managed to beat his previous year's time by one second. He told the local TV broadcaster NY 1 that the run doesn't get any easier by practicing.

"The Empire State building is always hard. But it is really great to show the people what I train for," he said.



It was the fourth win in a row for Dold, putting him one victory shy of the record for consecutive wins. Dold's friend and training partner Matthias Jahn from Langenbieber in Germany's central Hesse state claimed the fifth spot in 11 minutes and 24 seconds.

Altogether 300 runners from 17 countries competed in the race. It is considered one of the most spectacular stair races in the world, not least because of the big group start.

The Autobahn and Bratwurst Coming Soon to a PC Near You ...

Two new websites about a couple of Germany's favorite things have caught the attention of the media this week: Bratwurst.tv and German-Autobahn.tv invite visitors to find out all about German sausages and the famous no-speed-limit highways with a mixture of texts and videos.

Andre Zalbertus, a media entrepreneur from Cologne, launched the two websites. Bratwurst.tv explains the history of the sausage, but is unfortunately lacking videos of the meaty product.

German-Autobahn.tv, however, makes up for the lack of films on the sausage site, as it has plenty of clips from different stretches of the German Autobahn. Both websites were created in a tongue-and-cheek manner, with the Autobahn videos going all out to confirm clichés, as they all boast cheesy traditional German music soundtracks.

The website outlines the history of the Autobahn and confirms Germany's premier highway status in the world, as it points out that Germany has among the highest density of highways in the world.

For foreigners wanting to see what driving in Germany is like, the videos offer an interesting glimpse. But like driving, it can quickly get boring.

Source: Young Germany
German-Autobahn.tv
Brawurst.tv



People do drive fast on the autobahn, though some speed limits do exist. (© picture-alliance/dpa)



Finding Out About the Average German

Moderators from public broadcaster ARD from a 2005 show that explored what is "typically German" hanging out in front of the German Bundestag, or parliament, building with some German stuff.



The average German wakes up at 6:18 a.m., eats an egg every third day and drinks 9,119 liters (2,409 gallons) of beer in a lifetime.

A TV program titled "The average German - this is how we really are" that aired on April 7 and presented images depicting an average day in an absolutely average German family.

The show, which aired on the channel Kabel 1, revealed plenty of facts for viewers to compare: Nearly 90 percent of Germans watch TV daily, amounting to an average of 208 minutes per day.

The average German goes away on vacation for seven days per year and goes to bed at 11:02 p.m. An average German causes 1.6 tons of electronic waste and uses an average of one toilet role per week. In fact, the average German spends six months on the toilet in his/her lifetime.

An average German is 171 cm (5.6 feet) and weighs 74.6 kilograms (165 pounds). He/she spends 26 minutes in the bathroom per day and uses 1.13 million liters (0.3 million gallons) of water in his/her lifetime. During that time he/she will drink 77,000 cups of coffee and 5,192 slices of bread. The average working German will have 1,452 euros per month to spend on all the coffee.

Furthermore, an average German family has 89.3 square meters of living space, while the average German woman owns 314 pairs of shoes in a lifetime. Women get married at an average age of 29.4, whereas men wait a little longer before they tie the knot at 32.4 years of age.

For anyone who has ever stood in line while shopping in Germany, it will come as no surprise to hear that the average German also spends one year and six months of his/her life shopping.

The Berliner Bear

by Renee S. Hills, New York
Member of the
"Berliner Bärenfreunde e.
V."



Once you enter the cosmopolitan city of Berlin, the bear will always be with you. In his official capacity he adorns the flag and is shown on all escutcheons and the city seal. In an unofficial capacity you will find him on postcards, souvenirs, as a stuffed toy and in many comic strips. You will also find the heraldic animal of the German Capital in the name of enterprises or on labels of goods produced in Berlin. Should you enter Berlin via the Autobahn, the so-called "Zehlendorfer Kleeblatt" (formerly controlpoint Drei-linden), you will see Renée Sintenis model of the bear standing on a pedestal to greet you. Of course in Berlin's famous animal gardens, the Zoo and Tierpark Friedrichsfelde, many friendly bears can be seen. But the traditional place for the Berliner Bear is the bear pit in the Koellnische Park, near the Maerkisches Museum, first established in 1939. Our Berliner Bear now has a respectable age of 720 years. He first appeared on a guild letter from the furriers in the year 1280. Actually in that city seal he is not a single figure, but rather a pair, one to the left and one to the right of the Margrave's eagle. The Berliners and their bear had to fight many battles for their ultimate freedom. From 1415 to 1918 the Hohenzollern Dynasty ruled the formerly independent town of Berlin. In 1442 Elector Friedrich II, known as "Irontooth" (so-called because he never yielded what he once got his teeth into), asserted his Hohenzollern authority over Berlin, abolishing many privileges and forcing Berlin to sever ties with the Hanseatic League. He marked his victory over the city by forcing the Berliners to adopt a humiliating coat of arms. The bear was dropped on all fours with a chain collar and on his back was perched the heraldic eagle of the Hohenzollern. In 1875, the Berliner Magistrate decided to free the Berliner Bear from his humbling chain collar. When the revolution of 1918 broke out, the German Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated and the eagle was banished from the inner city emblem and change within the inner city took place. Much work was needed to form a new community called Greater Berlin which incorporated eight cities, 59 village communities and 27 estate districts. It was obvious that this new community needed a new coat of arms. Since 1920 the bear has stood alone in the escutcheon as symbol of the new municipality. Why did the forefathers of Berlin choose the bear as a symbol for their city seal? Among several theories this explanation sounds most plausible: There is a strong possibility that bears still lived in Berlin at the time the seal was adopted and this feared beast of prey was a suitable insignia for the city. Since the middle ages the bear has been a very popular heraldic figure.

Berlin has seen many changes since it was founded (app. 1180, officially 1237) - but one thing remains intact - **the Berliner Bear.**

Germany's Cutest Export

After German reunification in 1990 the days of most tried and true East German consumer goods and entertainment staples were numbered as they were rapidly usurped by well-marketed West German wares.

Only a few eastern superstars managed to buck this trend, including a popular sparkling wine called Rotkäppchen, an adorable little traffic light crosswalk dude known as the Ampelmännchen, and perhaps East Germany's most übercute export of all - the Sandmännchen, or Little Sandman.



Since 1959, the short but sweet Unser Sandmännchen (Our Little Sandman) program has helped tired tots head off to bed in the early evening, providing a welcome ritual for their equally tired parents too, namely as a reason to pack the kids off to bed! (As in: "So you know it's definitely time for bed after the Sandmännchen appears on TV.")



Sandmännchen inventor Behrendt created Germany's oldest and most enduring television figure based on the fairytale The Sandman by Hans Christian Anderson, and filmed the East German show in the Berlin district of Mahlsdorf on October 20, 1989 - shortly before the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989. The Sandmännchen is one of the few "eastern imports" to have not only survived but thrived in unified Germany. The East German Sandmännchen - with his simple round eyes and more streamlined design - was just a heck of a whole lot cuter than his western counterpart.

The Sandmännchen has in any case achieved a kind of cult status among eastern Germans who grew up with him, as well as with western Germans who have grown to love this adorable little puppet going about his business amid quaint little props and with puppet friends. He is definitely Germany's most popular televised bedtime buddy for children.

The Sandmännchen was featured in the poignant 2003 international German hit film Good Bye Lenin!, starring Daniel Brühl as a young man in eastern Berlin shortly after the fall of the Wall who keeps trying to convince his ailing mother nothing has changed.

In honor of the Sandmännchen's 50th birthday and 50th anniversary on television, he will moreover soon be coming to major movie theaters across Germany. A new children's film called Das Sandmännchen und der verlorene Traumsand (The Little Sandman and the Lost Sand of Dreams) is due to be released in 2009. It tells the tale of how "the sand of dreams" is stolen by an evil nightmare and must be reclaimed by the sandman.

The Sandmännchen has been bidding children in many other countries a good night for years, including Israel and Sweden. He was also picked up by the Arabic Aljazeera network in fall 2006. To find out just how international the Sandmännchen is, tune in to the Sandmannlied (Sandman Song) on his website, where it can be heard in Hebrew, Swedish and Norwegian, among other languages.

Submitted by: John Hubbard '86
johnnyhub@centurytel.net

This was forwarded to me by Erika DeVries (Class of '88).. Pretty cool!!
 Pass it on!!!!

Erika deVries
<http://www.ErikasWonderlands.net>

Subject: **Baked in Berlin Newsletter No. 1**

Greetings to all you baked and half-baked friends,

Believe it or not, Baked in Berlin is about to begin production.

It all began at Truman Plaza, the throbbing, pulsating heart of Berlin's American sector. If you ever were lucky enough to shop at the Commissary or Foodland, you'll remember that good American white bread you could get only there - that nice and squishy soft kind, with plenty of vitamins and nutrients. Mmm, mmh good! Damn it, we just can't get that good American bread over here anymore. Some of you might recall that the bread was sold in plastic bags emblazoned with the Berlin Brigade crest and the logo "Baked in Berlin". Well, after the Americans pulled out, a few of these plastic bags were blowing around the abandoned parking lot, between tumbleweed and Burger King wrappers. Baked as I was, I grabbed a few of those bags, knowing full well that one day they would be born again and filled with new content.

Fast forward, more than ten years later: The idea is now ready to be launched. Some things just take time to get fully baked. I know many of you have been waiting for a Baked in Berlin t-shirt for ages, and I thank you for your patience. The wait will soon be over.

We're going to start with shirts and go from there. Biking caps (shout out to Svennie), boxer shorts and panties... If it's bakeable, we will bake it. As we're about to place orders for our first batch of shirts, this mail is meant as a kind of survey to find out how many people might want a shirt, and what colors and sizes are most desirable.

With an introductory offer of just under 30 euros, the shirts might cost slightly more than your average global textile retailer, and that's because of Baked in Berlin's mission: our shirts are manufactured locally - in Germany that is (so far we've had no luck in finding t-shirts actually sewn in Berlin) - and printed in Berlin. And besides, your purchase goes toward supporting a start-up that's been a long time in coming. So don't hesitate, come and get 'em while they're hot.

We will start with two basic designs.

1. A "new school" baked logo, front and center, or smaller on the chest:
2. A variation of the o.g. Baked in Berlin bread bag:

These, especially the second set, aren't necessarily the final designs, but they're pretty close. The t-shirts will most likely come in the colors you see here, sizes small to large. Longsleeve shirts will also be available, as will girlie t's (sizes XS to M). After this first run, there will be more designs to follow.

baked in (adj.): built in or into a process, a system, a deal, a financial exchange, etc. (www.doubletongued.org)



So what I want to know is: Who will be wanting one, or maybe more, and what colors and sizes will you need? Your feedback will help us get the right shirts to you. If you're in the states and want them sent to you, shipping will be somewhere in the neighborhood of 6 euros, unless we find someone to hand deliver the goods. By late Spring or early Summer, the shirts should be ready to wear.

So fret not my friends, the bakery will soon be open for business.

A whole lotta Berlin love to each and every one of you.

Peter

PETER RIGNEY
 BAKED IN BERLIN

c/o Monobeat
 Kreuzberg Str. 37-38
 10965 Berlin

Tel: +49 (0)30 / 89564485
 Cell: +49 (0)176 / 700 863 27
 Fax: +49 (0)30 / 69564675

BE PART OF THE FRONT LINE!

Get to meet ALL our Reunion attendees by:

VOLUNTEERING TO PULL A 2-HR SHIFT ON THE WELCOME TABLE
OR OUR PX!!!

As Alumni arrive they check in with the "Welcome Table" to receive their Welcome Package & Name Badges then browse our PX where we'll be selling our merchandise and memorabilia.

BE THE FIRST TO SEE, MEET, & GREET ALL THE BERLIN BRATS!!!!

Volunteers will be needed Thurs, Fri & Saturday daytime.

Interested attendees should
Email:

Joyce (Clark) Mallon '72 at jjmall@aol.com
....our Reunion chair for the "Welcome Table."

Exact day(s) and shift times will be assigned closer to the event.
Although one can certainly turn in a requested time NOW!

Festival of Lights Coming in October



Bekannte Berliner Wahrzeichen wie das Brandenburger Tor, der Funkturm, der Berliner Dom oder der Fernsehturm werden mit Licht, Projektionen und Feuerwerk in Szene gesetzt. http://www.morgenpost.de/berlin/article955393/Berlin_leuchtet.html to view a slideshow of last October's Festival of Lights.

Upcoming Events:

- 9-12 July 2009** 2009 BERLIN Brats Reunion
Scottsdale, AZ
Contact: www.BerlinBrats.org
- 6-8 Nov 2009** New Braunfels, Texas
The WurstFest
Contact: Roo Moran '73
for more details.
roo-n-tim73@suddenlink.net

Contact Information:

**American Overseas School
Historical Society**
Contact: Jan Mohr, President
email: overseasschools@aoshs.org
Website: www.aoshs.org

Overseas Brats
Joe Condrill, President
Email: joeosbpres@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.overseasbrats.com

Contacts:

Berlin Brats Alumni Association
41630 N. Rolling Green Way
Anthem, AZ 85086
623•764•1105 tele
623•551•1398 fax
BerlinBrats@gmail.com
WebBrat@gmail.com
www.berlinbrats.org

Newsletter Brat:

traecombs@gmail.com

Early 60's Site

By invitation only
Contact: Jim Branson '64
jbranson01@hotmail.com
for an invite

Brat Attack

A Berlin Chat Room
By Invitation Only
Contact: Janine Fisher at
guitarlady61@yahoo.com