



Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter

October 2012

Volume 8, Issue 4

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Deb (Brians) Clark '74 in her living room (Oct 2012) with her Berlin Poster. Below is Deb pictured with the same poster in her 1973 bedroom in Berlin.



Deb loves all things Berlin, like all of us Berlin Brats, but I actually heard Michael, her husband say the same at our Oktoberfest in Charlotte. This event is featured on the following two pages. The top photo is her car with I Love Berlin and our BAHS High School decals.



Deb's purse with "all places Berlin" on it!!!



Berlin Brats came to the Werkstadt Garten Station - Bier Garten am Riverwood Drive, Charlotte, NC, October 6th. This was hosted by Deb (Brians) Clark '74 and her husband Michael. Deb's brother

Michael Brians had strung a tarp over the tables to provide shade and protect us from the threat of rain late in the evening. He and his wife Lisa, sons Tyler and Jeremy, daughters, Lindsey and Moni, Deb's mom Christa and friend Nick joined us for a delicious German meal. We hung the Berlin Flag, listened to German music, leafed through yearbooks, and a copy of the memory book the photographer had created from

Oktoberfest

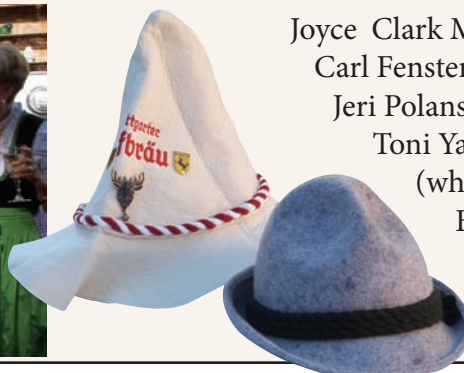


the D.C. reunion in July, raised a stein or two and enjoyed talk of the days we were in Berlin.

The Hosts and their family members wore traditional German attire. Dirndl and Lederhosen, Hofbrau Hats, many with some fascinating pins.



Berlin Brats who came to the Werkstadt Garten Station - Bier Garten were - Gary and Susan Robinson '74, (Susan, Gary's wife has become so much a part of our Brat group, we forget she did not attend school with us. That is how we feel about Susan.) Gary and Susan's neighbors Jean and Bob,



Joyce Clark Mallon '72,
Carl Fenstermacher '73,
Jeri Polansky Glass '72
Toni Yarbrough Combs '71
(who is writing this tale),
Bryan Duckett '84,
and a phone visit
with Ralph Ryan '72



All attendees before saying Aufwiedersehen.

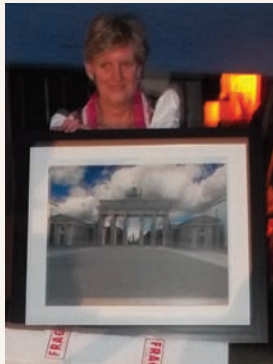


Jeri's Letter Jacket "Rocks" while below Gary Robinson's displays the school location and year he lettered.



Bryan Duckett brought an Oktoberfest sign, apfel strudel, and a package for Deb.

The package, a print of Brandenburg Tor. Deb was delighted having admired the print she delivered for Bryan (to our Silent Auction) at the DC Reunion earlier this year.



Ann, Deb's neighbor joined us a little later in the evening. Ann was an Army wife that had been stationed in Germany. She also had been in Morroco in 1945, when the base was closed and Americans were evacuated from the area. She spoke about scary times. The stories about Morocco seemed as dark and scary as the place seemed in the movie Casablanca.

We missed some of our Brat friends from the previous Oktoberfests and hope they will make next year's gathering. Yes we can now say

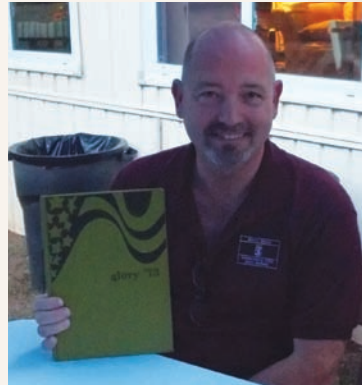
Play it Again Deb!



Gary Robinson '74, Carl Fenstermacher '73, and Joyce Mallon '72 looking at the 2012 Reunion Memory Book.



Mysteries Solved?



OUR MAN

PRIEBE

The yearbook staff wishes to express their appreciation by saying thanks to Mr. Donald Priebe for all the time he has spent helping us and the patience he has shown.

Danke Schön

That '73 Yearbook
What Were They Thinking????

I'm sure you've heard the talk..... "have you seen that.....that green yearbook from '73?" "how could they???" "Were they in their right mind?"

Well, let's set the stage. Our Yearbooks started with the 1946-47 class year when BAHS, then called Thomas A. Roberts (yes the elementary school and high school were one back then) was one of the first five (5) schools to open in Europe after WWII. The '47 and '48 soft bound Yearbooks were called "Gateway" featuring the Brandenburg Gate.....as the "Gateway to Freedom." 1949 was the first year that the Dependents School Division (DSD - the predecessor to DoDDs) published the first multi-school hardback annuals. Entitled "Erinnerungen" (Memories) they included the regional shields of each school's area. If you visit our Berlin Brats site (www.BerlinBrats.org) you will notice the gradual increase year by year as new schools opened in Germany.

In '61 Berlin broke out from the multi-school annual and once again published just "Berlin" editions. However, the same style and same title developed in '49 was carried forward.

Frau Pietsch, our BAHS Art teacher and Yearbook Advisor for over 20 years, kept the same "Erinnerungen" cover, but after the 1972 Silver Anniversary edition and her retirement,

The '73 Yearbook Staff were ready to break FREE!

Well then....this past weekend at the Charlotte Oktoberfest regional hosted by Deb (Brians) Clark '74 the '73 Yearbook was on display.....and so naturally the conversation started all over again....."How ever did they decide on this Cover?" Well, one Carl Fenstermacher '73 was in attendance. Carl, Yearbook photographer for his Junior and Senior Year piped up. "Hey, I was on Yearbook staff.....and wanted this Cover!!!!" Okay then Carl....but "Green"....really???

Carl has a vague recollection of "suggesting Green"....but before we place all the "Credit or Blame"depending on how you perceive it.....at Carl's feet, lets hear from the entire Senior Yearbook staff, they are: Bonnie Bates, Ellen Morphis, Laurie Calhoun, Judy Sinnard, Mary Firsching, Charles Kelker, Nancy Garrison, Mark Phelps, Pam Rodgers, Rose Mary Vasalech, Jerecia Patterson, Cheryl Lutz, Debbie Maryland and Christie Nestor (according to the Yearbook).

Many of you are active members so let's hear from you....what's your recollection of the standout....stand alone....GREEN?

We're happy to run a follow up in our next issue.....

Mystery II Solved? *Same Page - Means Same Year*

Over the years the Yearbooks pictured our school mascot "the Bear" as white. Then in the mid '70's the Bear is suddenly black. What happened? We're told the white costume just went missing. Well lo & behold '73 seems to be "the Year." Take a look below....both costumes are pictured in the same Year - same Yearbook. SO, can we surmise this is the year the white Bear disappeared?



DOES ITS THING

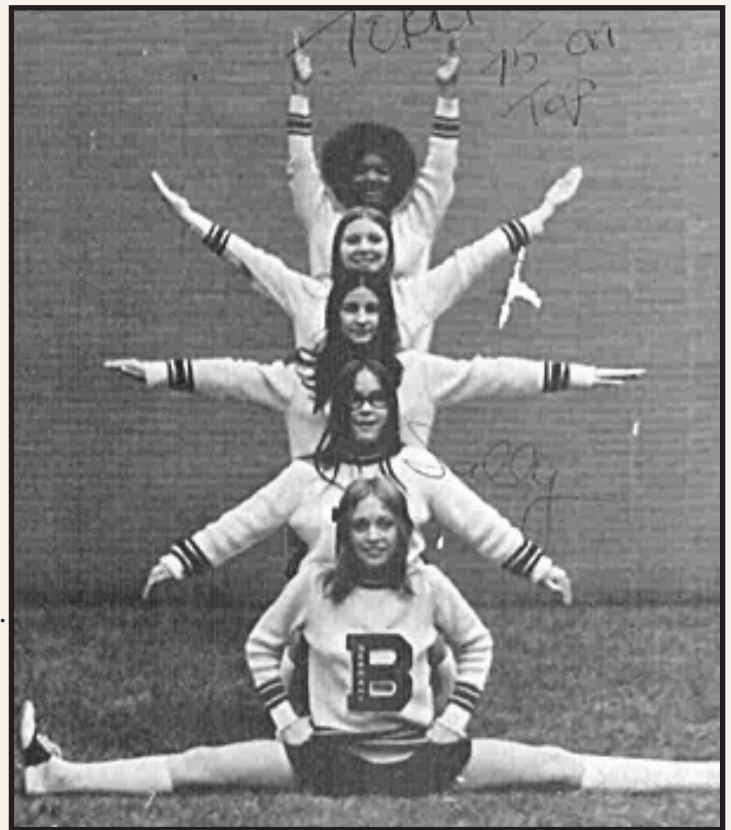


Many Berlin Brats were photographers and they contributed to the Yearbook. Carl was one of the photographers for the '73 Yearbook.

Credits were given on a page in the back of the book. (Shown Below).

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE

School Guard-for letting us in
Cleaning Women-for cleaning up our messes
Faculty-for letting us out of classes and for understanding
Mr. Jung and Mr. Massup-for the use of their typewriters
Mr. Smith-for the exciting bands
Mr. Rosary-for allowing Mike to use India ink
Jerocia, Nancy, Charles, Cheryl, Mark, Mike, Bonnie, Jarolyn, Laurie, Mary, Charlette, Petra, Rose, the Debbie M's-for being faithful workers
Wally Roberts-for picking up the film
William & Kirk-for sponsors and advertisers
Photographers-Carl, Ricky, Kirk, Cheryl, Bonnie, Mark, Bill, and Charles for one picture
Mr. Britton and Packy-for writing the Dedications
Our Sponsor-Mr. Priebe-for passion, understanding and of course his room
Office Staff-for making our announcements and Potato chips
Debbie G-Ellen-Judy for selling yearbooks

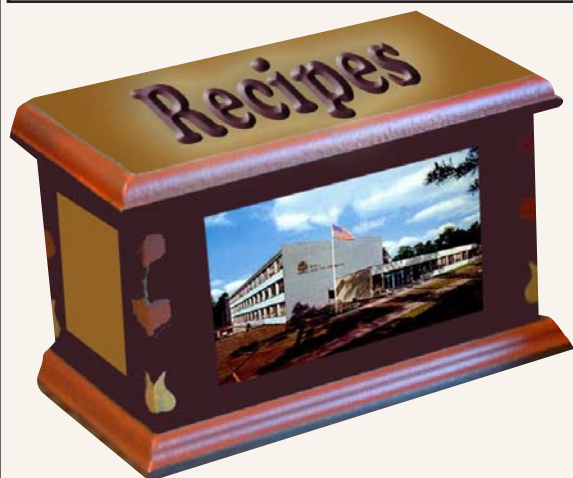


One of Carl's favorite photos: Five Heads Are Better Than One

PHOTO CREDIT

In our last issue.....we grabbed some photos off of Facebook and neglected to "THANK" our Class Contact for '80 & '81 (and mass communicator-at-large) Peter Stein.

We hope he continues to share his great pics with us!!!



BERLIN BRATS COOKBOOK

What better way to share who we are than through the food we have all grown to love!

I have started a project that has a goal date of 2014 for our BERLIN BRAT REUNION, in Berlin Germany.

That is a BERLIN BRAT COOKBOOK which I hope all generations of Berlin Brats will contribute to.

This book is going to have 2 sections, one for recipes from all over the world, your favorite recipe whatever that may be and the Second section will be for your favorite GERMAN recipe.

Some things to include with each recipe that you submit are:

1. The RECIPE of course....

a. Dishes from Around the World

- a.i. 1. Appetizers
- a.ii. 2. Salad Dishes
- a.iii. 3. Soups and Stews
- a.iv. 4. Main Dishes
- a.v. 5. Vegetables
- a.vi. 6. Deserts
- a.vii. 7. Drinks



b. German Foods

- b.i. 1. Appetizers
- b.ii. 2. Salad Dishes
- b.iii. 3. Soups and Stews
- b.iv. 4. Main Dishes
- b.v. 5. Vegetables
- b.vi. 6. Deserts
- b.vii. 7. Drinks



2. A story, paragraph or a few lines, to go with the recipe, like where did the recipe come from, who gave it to you, why you like it so much and does it remind you of something or someone special from your past... tell the recipe's story.

3. Any Picture of Berlin that you may have that you would like to share with everyone, to include a Berlin picture of you and your friends and or anything associated with Berlin or a copy of your Berlin High School Picture. Try to keep the Pictures on BERLIN.

4. You must include your Berlin Brat Class Year.

We are also looking for Class sponsors, all these folks will have to do is to get people in your class/ decade (ie. 40's, 50's, 60's 70's, 80's or 90's) to submit recipes, the stories, etc.....

The final thing about this project...all proceeds will go to one of two good causes:

1. The Berlin Scholarship fund to be awarded while we are in Berlin.

2. A monetary gift to be presented to BAHS & TAR while we are in Berlin.

A small committee of Berlin Brats will be assisting with this project...to include Deb (Brians) Clark '74, Susan Robinson (spouse of Gary Robinson '74) and Carol Jiru '64. We are looking for a '80's Brat who has a passion for cooking, food or editing who would also like to serve on this project.

Let us hear from you!!!

Start sending in "Your Recipes," pics and stories to:

Warren Knarr '77 at CConnors11@cox.net



Photo from Best German Restaurants in the United States on 2012 web site.



A double-decker bus which operated on the streets of Berlin from 1965 to 1978 has been brought back to life as a fantastic mobile kiosk, or Kjosk. Kjosk not only sells the traditional fare of coffee, sweets, beer and pretzels, but creates an impromptu meeting space, parked in amongst shabby, laid-back gardens. Created by Rosmarie Köckenberger, Kjosk is located in the leafy and fashionable neighborhood of Kreuzberg, where it provides a host of other amenities, including board games and lego sets to play with while relaxing on the upper deck of the bus.

Read more: 1970s Double-Decker Bus in Berlin Transformed Into Mobile Kiosk. Rosmarie Kockenberger's mobile kiosk in Berlin Kjosk – Inhabitat - Sustainable Design Innovation, Eco Architecture, Green Building <http://www.inhabitat.com>



<http://www.starspangledbannerchallenge.com/>

Lead singer of the band Madison Rising is a Navy Brat. On YouTube there is a good rendition by the band of the Star Spangled Banner and a challenge to have millions of likes before the election in November.



Jeri was in Dayton, OH recently....running a Military Vet Reunion....and had the opportunity to LINK UP with newly minted 2012 Berlin Brat Scholarship Recipient - Wendy Stiver '90!

NEW BERLIN BRAT FOUND WHILE JERI WORKING A MILITARY VET REUNION IN SAVANNAH, GEORGIA!!!

From the Class of '50 no less!!!!

Jeri walked into the Hospitality Suite to check on her Military Vet group....and overheard the gentlemen next to her mention "BERLIN."

Well of course, she had to jump in....

Lo and behold his wife: Marjorie "Dixie" (Huff) Williams '48 attended the 1st year at Berlin American High School!

She's class of '50.....(pictured to the right)....

but attended the 1946-47 school year.

Now how's that for 3 degrees of separation?!!!!



Inducted into the "Gathering of Eagles" _____

HONORED AS AN EAGLE 2012

Colonel Gail Halvorsen, the man known as "Uncle Wiggle Wings" and the "Candy Bomber," began his military career as an aviation cadet in 1943. After earning his wings, he served as a transport and ferry pilot in the south Atlantic. When the Soviets blockaded Berlin in 1948, he was one of many transport pilots who helped sustain a 13-month airlift into Tempelhof Airport. He returned to the United States in 1949 to attend the University of Florida.

After graduating with a master's degree in engineering, he was assigned to the Wright Air Development Center as an engineer and program manager in cargo aircraft weapons systems. He was later assigned to the Air Force Ballistic Missile Division where he worked on the engineering development of space boosters for manned spacecraft, including the Dyna-Soar. He also played a key role in the development of the Titan III launch vehicle and worked on development plans for advanced manned and reusable spacecraft, on space policy and procedures, and on the project for developing the manned orbital laboratory.

On his final assignment, Colonel Halvorsen returned to Berlin where he served as Commander of Tempelhof Air Base and Air Force representative in Berlin.



Col. Gail S. Halvorsen (ret), talks while on the 2012 Gathering of Eagles panel at the Air Command and Staff College Wood auditorium on Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., June 8, 2012. The Gathering of Eagles is an annual ceremony hosted by the Air Command and Staff College where aviators are honored for their contributions to aviation history. (Photo by Bud Hancock)

The first official Gathering of Eagles (then known as "Great Moments in Aviation History") was held in 1982 when a small faculty and student group was chartered to develop an aviation heritage program. This initial cadre designed a program encouraging the study of aviation history and the contributions of aviation pioneers. Fifteen distinguished aviators were invited to share their unique personal experiences through a series of teaching interviews and social events with members of the class. These legendary figures were a diverse group from many nations and services.

The first "Eagles" -- George Vaughn, Leigh Wade, Jimmy Doolittle, Curtis LeMay, George Gay, Joe Foss, John Mitchell, "Chuck" Yeager, Paul Tibbets, "Gabby" Gabreski, Robin Olds, Mike Novosel, "Pete" Knight and Neil Armstrong spanned aviation history from World War I to the Space Age. The Eagles who followed included legendary figures "Pappy" Boyington, Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., "Robbie" Risner, George Bush, John Glenn, Joe Engle, Jeremiah Denton, and "Bud" Day.



**AFFIRMING YOUR PAST
PRESERVING YOUR PRESENT
LOOKING TO YOUR FUTURE**

OVERSEAS BRATS Homecoming 2013

On the beach at Daytona Beach,
Plaza Resort & Spa, Daytona Beach, Florida
August 8-11, 2013

Calling ALL BRATS - Homecoming is the big event for all schools, all years,
to come together under one umbrella, ie: Overseas Brats (OSB),
to celebrate our uniqueness together! Held every 3 years...."the Homecoming"
(different from the annual Gathering) next year will be on the Beach!!! Can't beat that! A Beach location.

Early Registration is now through February 15, 2013 for \$145.00

Check out the OSB website for further details at:

http://www.overseasbrats.com/OVERSEAS_BRATS_Homecoming_2013.htm

Several Alumni Associations hold their Reunions at this tri-annual event.
If you attended more than one school...this event is especially designed for YOU!
Meet your friends from various schools at one mega-event.

Posted by Overseas Brats President, Joe Condrill:

Special anniversary in Brathood - Today is one of those 'mile stones' in our heritage.

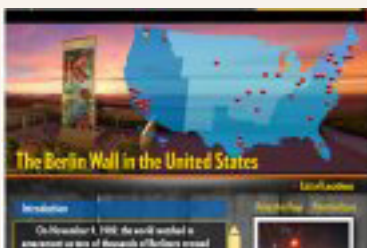
On October 14, 1946, schools for the children of U.S. military personnel stationed in France and Germany opened. This included high schools in Munich, Nurnberg, Frankfurt, Berlin (all closed between 1992-1995), and Heidelberg (closing at the end of this school year) and a host of elementary schools. On May 4, 1946, the Department of Defense had authorized these schools to be opened and the hiring of educators.

A couple interesting side notes:

*On a number of occasions in the 1940s, teachers disembarking from ships in Bremerhaven would be surprised to be welcomed to Europe by General of the Army Eisenhower!

*The elementary school in Paris was in a former bordello!

*Funding for the schools initially came from profits from the sales at the post/base liquor stores. The saying was, "Have a drink and send your kids to school!"



Berlin Wall in the United States - Interactive Map <http://www.germany.info>
What happened to the 96-mile ring of concrete that once surrounded West Berlin?
Some pieces are in Germany, but many also found their way abroad, including over
50 complete segments in the United States.
Browse our interactive map to see where they are.

Also for locations in the world, visit the BBC site listed below:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/talking_point/8344662.stm



G.I. DISCO

Did you go dancing in a GI club?

The Allied Museum, situated in Berlin's Zehlendorf district, is calling upon all music enthusiasts and clubbers to share their experiences in clubs and bars predominately frequented by soldiers of the three western Allies, France, the United Kingdom and the United States between 1945 and 1994 in West Berlin and West Germany.

In 2013 the Allied Museum will be showing an exhibition with the current working title "From GI Jive to GI Disco". This exhibition will explain how a vibrant music and club scene was established in and around garrisons such as Berlin. From the very beginning of the occupation period, music introduced by British, French and American soldiers had made a major impact upon German music and youth culture. Music for that matter became a means of bonding and made enemies become friends. Furthermore, music, for many, helped to feel being away from home easier.

For this project, the Allied Museum has joined forces with two Berlin based DJs, Kalle Kuts and Daniel W. Best. Spending their teenage years in West Berlin and Stuttgart both were influenced by the sound played in GI clubs such as *Maddox* in Stuttgart or *Silverwings* and *Talk of the Town* in Berlin. Going back to the roots of their DJing career, they are successfully touring Europe as *G.I. Disco*, reviving disco, soul, funk, house and hip hop tunes from the 1970s and 80s.

The Allied Museum is kindly asking you to share your memories of the Allied club and music culture in Germany. This could have been as early as the 1940s and as late as the early 1990s. If you can contribute to this exhibition please contact us. In addition, we would be pleased to receive items related to this subject such as clothing and fashion, entry tickets, matchboxes, photos, records, tapes, instruments etc.

For further questions and further information please contact Florian Pauls by telephone +49 (0)30 81 81 99 84 or via e-mail Pauls@alliiertenmuseum.de

The Allied Museum is looking forward to your contribution!

Did you meet JFK in BERLIN?

Calling all brats. I am working on a display and TV documentary on the 50th anniversary of the visit of President John F. Kennedy to Germany, in June of 1963. We are looking for individuals that took photos, slides, 8mm film, etc. of the visit to Berlin, Hanau, Wiesbaden or Frankfurt. Naturally of special interest would be to find someone from Berlin High School, who was there, who can recall an interesting story or provide some kind of material.

I think it would be really neat to find a "Brat" that we can include in a display or TV documentary. Any assistance you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Contact: Dr. John Provan '74
from K-town
at johnprovan@gmx.net

HEADQUARTERS
BERLIN BRIGADE
APO 742, US Forces

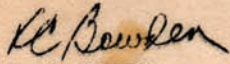
AEBAB-CS 22 June 1963

SUBJECT: Visit of the President on 26 June 1963

TO: Dependents of Civilian and Military Personnel

1. As you are probably aware of by now, the President of the United States is visiting Berlin next Wednesday, 26 June 1963. Included in his itinerary is a stop on Clayallee at 1605 hours, where he will drive by troops in formation and give a short address to the American community.
2. To accommodate the American community, the small island in the middle of Clayallee opposite the Outpost Theater will be reserved for senior civilian and military personnel and their wives. The area between this island and the Outpost Theater and to either side of the island will be a special US spectator area, which will require a card for admittance. A total of 2,000 cards have been distributed to major units and agencies for further distribution to individuals. The middle island to the north and south of these spectator areas, between Hutten Weg and Am Schulerheim, will be reserved also for US spectators. Admission to this area will be by identification card. That portion of the middle island lying opposite the block between Meisen Strasse and Auf dem Grat will be reserved for US children, to assure them of a good vantage point and to facilitate parents finding their children after the President departs.
3. It is desired that all US spectators arrive by 1530 hours. ~~It also is desired that US spectators walk to the site or use~~ military bus transportation to minimize the parking problems that will result from too many privately owned vehicles in the area.
4. Bus transportation will be provided for personnel living in the Pueckler, Sundgauer, and Baseler housing areas and for those living on the German economy. Schedules will be set up so to have the buses reach the site by 1530 hours. See the Daily Bulletin for announcements on the schedules and routes.
5. The parking lot by the Outpost Theater will be reserved for senior civilian and military personnel, members of the press, and buses. The parking area in front and in the rear of the main shopping center will be reserved for USAREUR registered vehicles on a first-come basis.
6. A sketch of the visit area in the immediate vicinity of the Outpost Theater is shown on reverse.

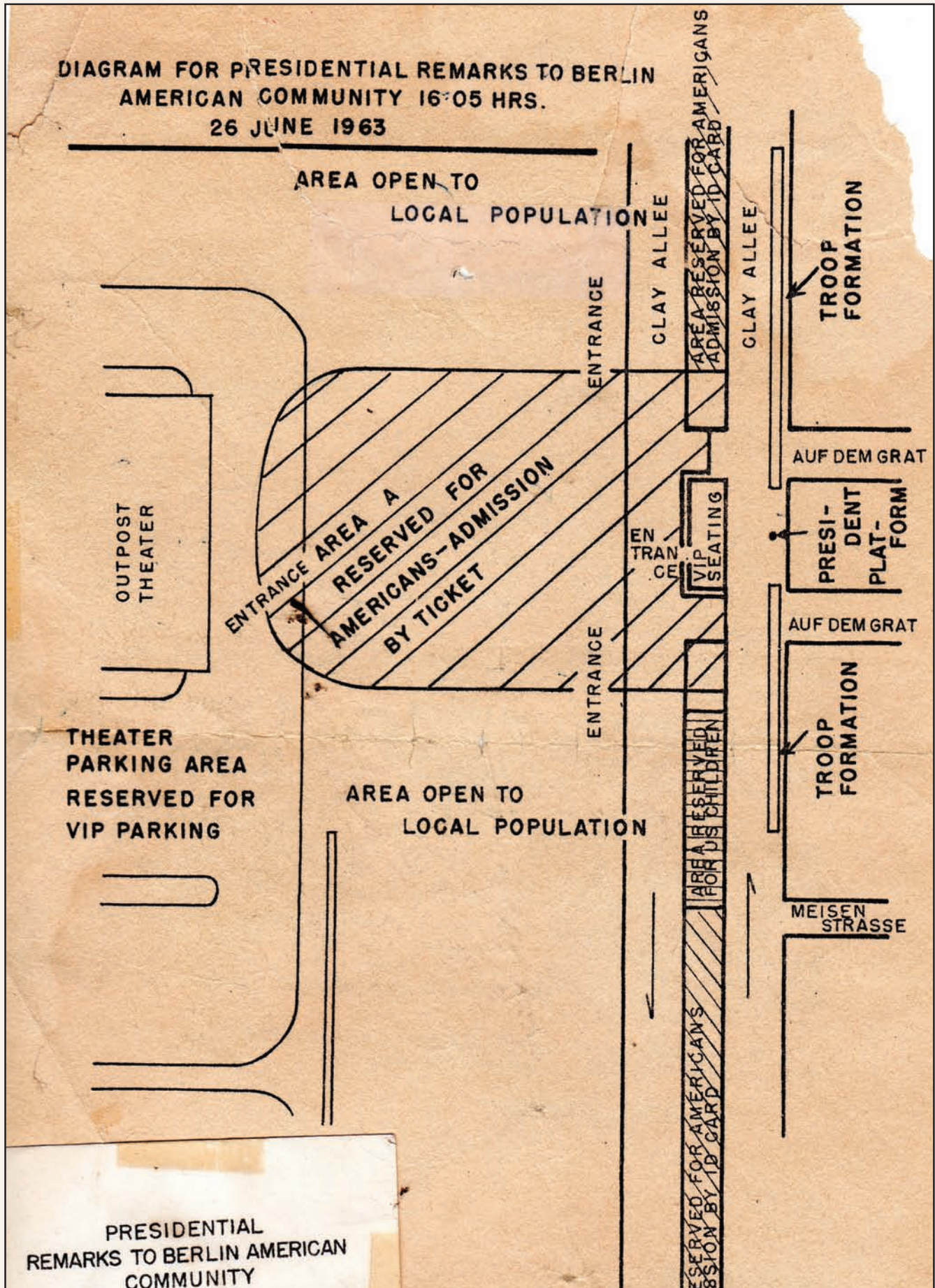
FOR THE COMMANDER:


 K. C. BOWDEN
 1st Lt, AGC
 Asst Adj Gen

1 Incl
as

DISTRIBUTION:
1 - each family sponsor

In response to John Provan's request above for materials or interesting stories about JFK's visitation to Berlin in 1963, Maggie (Ellithorpe) McPherson '63 went looking and pulled out these papers for John. Remarks to the Berlin American Community, and dependents of Civilian and Military Personnel.





Berlin Brats Regional
Tampa, FL area
Come Join Us!

When: Saturday, November 17th, 2012

Time: Noon till..... **Cost:** \$20 per person

Where: 2354 Lanai Ave, Belleair Bluffs, FL 33770
tel: 813-727-1452

Gary Robinson '74 and his wife Susan (whom many of you have met at the last several Reunions) are graciously hosting this “Oktoberfest” at their home. Cost includes a full German meal and beverages! Bring only your pictures, yearbooks and memories!!!

PLEASE RSVP BY: November 10th

to

BerlinBrats@gmail.com



Dresden and Berlin Given Top Billing for Preserving Their Buildings

Sept 25, 2012

“Vergangenheitsbewältigung” – one of those epically great German words that speaks directly to German culture both present and future. It means, roughly, “coming to terms with one’s past” and throughout Germany it is a pertinent phrase – as there is a lot of past to “come to terms with,” considering centuries of development, innovation, repression, war, genocide, separation and reconciliation. When asked which city is doing its best to preserve the physical markers of German history, Dresden came away with first place in the nationwide survey of citizens. The study, published Tuesday by the Allensbach Institute under commission of the real estate company Pantera AG, indicated that the Saxon capital had best preserved its historic buildings.

Dresden was the seat of the independent Saxon kings, who ruled over a prosperous region from the duchy’s beginnings in the Holy Roman Empire to the end of World War I. Then, as the cultural landmark nicknamed the “Florence on the Elbe,” Dresden was decimated by Allied bombs in the final months of the Second World War. The city was of no military significance and many critics of the bombing have reasoned that it was carried out solely to break the Germans’ spirit. Dresden, which then became a major center of industry under the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), has emerged from the GDR era a prosperous center of high-tech achievement. It has undertaken enormous urban renewal and reconstruction programs, completely reconstructing the historic city center and, most notably, the baroque masterpiece church called the “Frauenkirche.”

Berlin was able to reach second place in the historic-preservation survey. “Over the last few years Berlin has done an astonishing lot in preserving its historic structures,” said Pantera CEO Michael Ries, in speaking of the city that has gone through enormous reconstruction since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

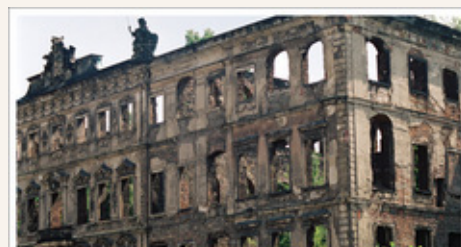
Leipzig rounded out the top three, rising in the rankings this year from its previous fifth-place finish. Hamburg was able to climb one spot to sixth place, while Frankfurt and Stuttgart held their 2006 spots at eight and nine, respectively. Munich, Cologne and Nuremberg fell to places four, five and seven, respectively; Düsseldorf also lost standing, finishing tenth of 10.



Dresden, Frauenkirche
(© Federal Foreign Office)



Dresden, Taschenberg Palace
(© Federal Foreign Office)



Berlin, Potsdamer Platz
(© Federal Foreign Office)

***AS WE CONTEMPLATE RETURNING TO
BERLIN FOR THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FALL OF THE WALL IN 2014....
LET'S LOOK BACK ON THE
CELEBRATIONS FOR THE 20TH:***

On 25 December 1989, Leonard Bernstein gave a concert in Berlin celebrating the end of the Wall, including Beethoven's 9th symphony (Ode to Joy) with the word "Joy" (Freude) changed to "Freedom" (Freiheit) in the lyrics sung. The orchestra and choir were drawn from both East and West Germany, as well as the United Kingdom, France, the Soviet Union, and the United States.

Roger Waters performed the Pink Floyd album *The Wall* just north of Potsdamer Platz on 21 July 1990, with guests including Bon Jovi, Scorpions, Bryan Adams, Sinéad O'Connor, Thomas Dolby, Joni Mitchell, Marianne Faithfull, Levon Helm, Rick Danko and Van Morrison. David Hasselhoff performed his song "Looking for Freedom", which was very popular in Germany at that time, standing on the Berlin Wall. Crosby, Stills & Nash performed the song "Chippin' Away" from Graham Nash's 1986 solo album *Innocent Eyes* atop the Wall.

20th Anniversary celebrations

On 9 November 2009, Berlin celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall with a "Festival of Freedom" with dignitaries from around the world in attendance for an evening celebration around the Brandenburg Gate. A high point was when over 1,000 colorfully designed foam domino tiles, each over 8 feet (2.4 m) tall, that were stacked along the former route of the Wall in the city center were toppled in stages, converging in front of the Brandenburg Gate.

A Berlin Twitter Wall was set up to allow Twitter users to post messages commemorating the 20th anniversary. The Chinese government quickly shut down access to the Twitter Wall after masses of Chinese users began using it to protest the Great Firewall of China. In the United States, the German Embassy coordinated a public diplomacy campaign with the motto "Freedom Without Walls", to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall. The campaign was focused on promoting awareness of the Fall of the Berlin Wall among current college students. Students at over 30

universities participated in "Freedom Without Walls" events in late 2009. First place winner of the Freedom Without Walls Speaking Contest Robert Cannon received a free trip to Berlin in 2010.

An international project called Mauerreise (Journey of the Wall) took place in various countries. Twenty symbolic wall bricks were sent from Berlin starting in May 2009. Their destination: Korea, Cyprus, Yemen and other places where everyday life is characterised by division and border experience. In these places, the bricks will become a blank canvas for artists, intellectuals and young people to tackle the {Wall} phenomenon.

To commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall, Twinity reconstructed a true-to-scale section of the Wall in virtual Berlin. The MTV Europe Music Awards, on 5 November, had U2 and Tokio Hotel perform songs dedicated to, and about the Berlin Wall. U2 performed at the Brandenburg Gate, and Tokio Hotel performed "World Behind My Wall".

Palestinians in the town of Kalandia, West Bank pulled down parts of the Israeli West Bank barrier, in a demonstration marking the 20th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall.

The International Spy Museum in Washington DC hosted a Trabant car rally where 20 Trabants gathered in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall. Rides were raffled every half hour and a Trabant crashed through a Berlin Wall mock up. The Trabant was the East German people's car that many used to leave DDR after the collapse.

The Allied Museum in the Dahlem district of Berlin hosted a number of events to mark the Twentieth Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall. The museum held a Special Exhibition entitled "Wall Patrol – The Western Powers and the Berlin Wall 1961–1990" which focused on the daily patrols deployed by the Western powers to observe the situation along the Berlin Wall and the fortifications on the GDR border. A sheet of "Americans in Berlin" Commemorative Cinderella stamps designed by T.H.E. Hill, the author of *Voices Under Berlin*, was presented to the Museum by David Guerra, Berlin veteran and webmaster of the site www.berlinbrigade.com. The stamps splendidly illustrate that even twenty years on, veterans of service in Berlin still regard their service there as one of the high points of their lives.

22 YEARS AGO - ON OCTOBER 3RD:

On October 3 the Day of German Unity (Tag der Deutschen Einheit), which commemorates the anniversary of German unification in 1990, is celebrated as an annual holiday in Germany. This year the German government will host a big party in Munich to which everyone is invited.

Following the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989, German unity was achieved in less than a year, on October 3, 1990, thanks in no small part to the steadfast support of the United States via the international "Two Plus Four" process that paved the way for German unity. Goodbye surveillance, hello 'Ostalgie'

What life under the constant threat of centrally administered surveillance might have been like for a lot of folks in the former East Germany is illustrated for instance by the 2007 Oscar-winning German film "The Lives of Others" (Das Leben der Anderen).

Yet some East Germans still feel a fond sense of "Ostalgie" (East-algia), if only because the oppressive East German regime was something people lived through together.

The hit 2003 film "Goodbye Lenin!" and the 1999 comedy "Sonnenallee" tap into this sense of "ostalgie" sentimentality for the former East Germany. Among the few beloved East German products still around today are a popular brand of sparkling wine called "Rotkäppchen" and an über-cute little TV puppet dude called "Das Sandmännchen," who replaced his (less cute) West German counterpart on a national children's program.

October 3 - a "fresh" date in German history

Despite such lingering "ostalgie" feelings among some East Germans, no one would want to bring back a past when people risked their lives to flee westwards across the East German border, which was monitored 24/7 by armed guards in watchtowers with shoot-to-kill orders. Even amid the mounting pressure from brave East German citizens who took to the streets in protest of their repressive government, it still seemed surreal when the opening of the border was announced to the world on November 9, 1989. Given its weirdly coincidental 20th-century legacy of highlighting some of Germany's finest as well as darkest hours, this date was however NOT chosen to commemorate German unity. October 3, by contrast, is a "fresh" date in German history. It conveniently provided an exciting new "clean slate" appropriate to such a remarkable rebirth.

Five of Germany's 16 states are, incidentally, often still referred to as the "new" states (neue Bundesländer): Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania; Brandenburg; Saxony-Anhalt; Saxony; and Thuringia.

Unity in diversity, or metropolis wow!

So clearly all Germans have a lot to be thankful for on October 3. And we can all be grateful to be able to visit the myriad beautiful places in the former "East Germany," many of which have been renovated to new glory since German unification, including Dresden, Leipzig, and Magdeburg, as well as Berlin, Germany's vibrant capital and glittering cultural lodestar.

You can retrace the steps of Martin Luther in Wittenberg and Eisleben or revisit the Bauhaus in Dessau and Weimar. You can hike the hills of "Saxon Switzerland," paddle across pristine lakes, or dive into the shimmering Baltic Sea - all within the parameters of Germany's five "new" federal states!

A "latecomer's advantage" and targeted investments also means these states boast state-of-the-art fiber optic networks, new technologies and industries, such as Saxony's famous "solar valley," a powerhouse of the global photovoltaic sector.

Day of Unity reminds us all how precious freedom is.

The upshot: While the "blooming landscapes" the former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl promised 22 years ago on the eve of unification may have needed some fertilizing at first in the form of subsidies from the "old" federal states ("alte" Bundesländer), progress has clearly been made and most Germans would for obvious reasons not want to turn back time to the pre-1990, Cold War era.

The Day of German Unity serves to remind us all how precious freedom and democracy are in a globalized and often precariously unstable world.

Karen Carstens

Editor, The Week in Germany

(With our upcoming 2014 Reunion.....we'll be able to check out the "blooming landscapes" and that fertilizing Chancellor Kohl spoke of in 1990!!!!)

Holiday Traditions of Germany

“Froehliche Weihnachten”

According to legend, on Christmas Eve in Germany rivers turn to wine, animals speak to each other, tree blossoms bear fruit, mountains open up to reveal precious gems, and church bells can be heard ringing from the bottom of the sea. Of course, only the pure in heart can witness this Christmas magic. All others must content themselves with traditional German celebrating, of which there is plenty. As a matter of fact, there is so much celebrating that it has to begin on December 6th, St. Nicholas Day.



As in many other European countries, on the eve of Dec. 6th children place a shoe or boot by the fireplace. During the night, St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children, hops from house to house carrying a book of sins in which all of the misdeeds of the children are written. If they have been good, he fills the shoe or boot with delicious holiday edibles. If they have not been good, their shoe is filled with twigs.

December 21st, supposedly the shortest day (longest night) of the year, is dubbed St. Thomas Day. In parts of the Sauerland, whoever wakes up late or arrives late to work on that day is issued the title “Thomas Donkey.” They are given a cardboard donkey and are the subject of numerous jokes throughout the day. But this gentle abuse ends deliciously with round, iced currant buns called “**Thomasplitzchen**.”

This is all preliminary to the excitement of Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve, called **Heiligabend**, is the day that final decorations are put on the tree and families gather to share presents. Prior to the evening feast, is the presentation of the tree. The Christmas tree, as we know it, originated in Germany. It has a mysterious magic for the young because they are not allowed to see it until Christmas Eve. While the children are occupied with another room (usually by Father) Mother brings out the Christmas tree and decorates it with apples, candy, nuts, cookies, cars, trains, angels, tinsel, family treasures and candles or lights. The presents are placed under the tree. Somewhere, close to the bright display are laid brilliantly decorated plates for each family member, loaded with fruits, nuts, marzipan, chocolate and biscuits. When all is ready a bell is rung as a signal for the children to enter this Christmas fantasy room. Carols are sung, sometimes sparklers are lit, the Christmas story is read and gifts are opened.



“**Dickbauch**” means “fat stomach” and is a name given to the Christmas Eve because of the tradition that those who do not eat well on Christmas Eve will be haunted by demons during the night. So the opportunity is given to enjoy dishes such as suckling pig, “reisbrei” (a sweet cinnamon), white sausage, macaroni salad, and many regional dishes.

Christmas Day brings with it a banquet of plump roast goose, “Christstollen” (long loaves of bread bursting with nuts, raisins, citron and dried fruit), “**Lebkuchen**” (spice bars), marzipan, and “**Dresden Stollen**” (a moist, heavy bread filled with fruit).

Of Special Note...

The custom of trimming and lighting a Christmas tree had its origin in pre-Christian Germany, the tree symbolizing the Garden of Eden. It was called the “Paradise Baum,” or tree of Paradise. Gradually, the custom of decorating the tree with cookies, fruit and eventually candles evolved. Other countries soon adapted the custom. Charles Dickens called it “The Pretty German Toy.”

A Brat Night Before Christmas

By: Deb "Brians" Clark

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the Haus,
Not a creature was stirring, not even the Maus.
The Biersteins were lined up on the mantle with care,
In hopes that good lager would soon be there.
The kids were partying in the front yard, and us Brats nestled snug in our beds,
had visions of the next BAHS reunion dancing in our heads.
And Mama with her nightsweats, and I with my CPAP,
Had just settled in for a long winter's nap.

When out on the lawn there rose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Assuming the racket was coming from the kids' bash.
When what to my wondering eyes did I see, I declare!
But a double-decker bus and a Berlin Bear!

The Bear was the driver, so jolly and quick,
I thought, must be a co-worker of old St. Nick.
He yelled, "To Ku'dam, to Dahlem, to Potsdam, and Kreuzberg,
To Zehlendorf, Teltow, Lankwitz and Schoeneberg,
To BAHS and TAR, and to Outpost Theater, too,
And then off to the AYA and Ubahnhof Zoo.
So much to do on this festive night,
Guided by only one bright red headlight.
We're off to drop gifts of chocolate, bread, wurst, wine and beer,
And take you back to a time in Berlin that brought you much cheer."

A bundle of treats he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.
His crown, how it sparkled, and his eyes twinkled, too,
And I wondered how he'd get that Bus down my flue.
He parked it so carefully on top of the roof,
And I ran downstairs, and then suddenly.....poof!

My living room was filled with German gifts, beer and treats,
And I saw all my BAHS friends sitting comfortably in their seats.
Astonished, I asked the Bear how he knew all my friends.
He said, "The Berlin Bear knows all, and magic he sends,
To remind you of what's important, and perhaps make amends.
For those who were too busy to call, write or email,
The friendships from BAHS will stay strong and won't fail.
He looked at us all and in his reflection, he said,
"You have what we call, The Berlin Brat Connection."

The old Bear was right, as we partied into the night,
We agreed we'd all keep in touch, and with all our might,
Promised we'd keep the Berlin 2014 Reunion in our sight.

And suddenly with a nod, up the chimney he rose;
He sprang in the Bus, with a leaky radiator hose.
But that bus fired up, and before he drove out of sight,
We heard him say, "Frohe Weinachten to all, and to all a good night!"



This is the Quilt Wally Roberts '73
"made sure" he won
from the Silent Auction.
Hopefully visions of the next
BAHS reunion in Berlin in 2014
are dancing in his head.

www.opi.com

"Once again, the hottest accessory of the season is nail colour," says Suzi Weiss-Fischmann, OPI VP & Artistic Director, "and the shades in the Germany collection are no exception. Each classic colour imparts elegance with an edge—taking your fall wardrobe to a whole new level of fashion!"

The Elegant Side of Edgy



Germany Collection

The new fall colors in "Nail Polish" this year are called the "Germany Collection" with such names as:

My Very First Knockwurst
Don't Pretzel My Buttons
Berlin There Done That
Don't Talk Bach to Me
Schnapps Out of It!
Deutsch You Want Me Baby?
Danke-Shiny Red
Suzi & the 7 Dusseldorfs
Every Month is Oktoberfest!

Germany Collection by OPI, inspired by what fashion editors are calling "Europe's hottest new fashion metropolis," the Germany Collection by OPI embraces the classical elegance as well as the avant-garde that is modern Berlin. Burgundy (the season's gorgeous and undisputed "new black") and red appear in variations from dark to light - German-icure by OPI, Danke-Shiny Red, Schnapps Out of It! and Deutsch You Want Me Baby? Much like the world-renown street art and vibrant swirls of graffiti that pop against the walls of Berlin's historic buildings, brilliant sapphire (Unfor-greta-bly Blue), red-violet (Suzi & the 7 Dusseldorfs), deep aubergine (Every Month is Oktoberfest), sultry black olive (Nein! Nein! Nein! OK Fine!) and an on-trend, electric-lime yellow (Don't Talk Bach to Me), contrast beautifully with our creamy, urban-chic neutrals in honey beige (Don't Pretzel My Buttons), nude rose (My Very First Knockwurst) and light taupe (Berlin There Done That).

Upcoming Events:

Berlin Brats Regional
Tampa, FL
Sat. Nov. 17, 2012

Hosted By:
Gary and Susan Robinson '74
Contact: BerlinBrats@gmail.com
by November 10th
See Flyer pg. 14

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Thanks!



Next Reunion

BERLIN 2014

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