



# Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter

January 2014

Volume 10, Issue 1

## *Christmas, Col. Halvorsen and the Mormon Tabernacle*



### *The Ultimate Christmas Story*

It was on December 23rd, Christmas Eve 2013 that the PBS (NBC) station aired the Christmas Program of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Tom Brokaw was to narrate a story "Christmas from Heaven" The True Story of the Berlin Candy Bomber.

"From Little Things Come Big Things" his father had said to him as he grew up. This encouraged him to divide two pieces of gum into four pieces and hand these out to the children of Berlin he had met along the edge of the airfield. If only I had more to give! The idea came to him to drop his ration of Chocolate from his C54 as he flew over. His buddies also contributed their ration of chocolate and Colonel Halvorsen's idea took wings. Eventually the candy makers donated 18 tons of chocolate bars and private donors 3 more tons. Yes you could say "From Little Things Come Big Things".

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"This is the real spirit of Christmas,  
to give whatever we have no matter how small the gift."

*Tom Brokaw narrates*



It was more than chocolate and gum  
it was a gift of Hope and the gift of Caring.



At the end of the program, parachutes were dropped from the rafters of the Church, as the audience looked up in wonder. Afterwards Tom Brokaw introduced Col Halvorsen and as he left the auditorium children flocked to him. He gathered the children around him and wished everyone a Merry Christmas. *The Col. is 93 years young!*



## Wreaths Across America at Arlington

As fellow Berliners, I thought you would enjoy and understand the sentiment behind this stunning display of thoughtfulness that a couple of Berlin alums were able to show to my wife Brenda, even though Brenda did not attend BAHS and had met Pat Burwell (Class of '63) and Dean Boyd (Class of '62) only once at the Asheville Reunion in 2003.



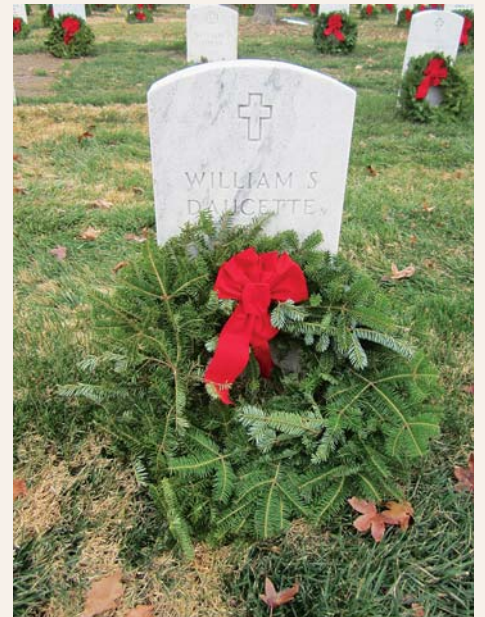
Back in May of this year around Memorial Day, Pat and I had a Facebook conversation about her father being buried at Arlington National Cemetery and we discovered that her father and Brenda's parents, William & June Daucette, are in the same section in Arlington. I'm always intrigued by how many of our Berlin friend's parents are at Arlington and how they sometimes are in very close proximity to one another. We've found several of our friends and their parents are resting very close to Brenda's parents.



Pat and her husband Dean are both volunteers in the "Wreaths Across America" program that lays wreaths on the graves at Arlington National Cemetery each year at Christmas time. On December 14, 2013 the wreaths were laid again and I received a wonderful note with photos attached from Pat on Facebook that evening.

"We had the honor this morning of visiting Brenda's parents' grave. The Wreaths Across America project is such a moving experience. We hope you are both doing well and wish you a very Merry Christmas". Pat and Dean Boyd. Brenda and I were so touched and moved by this totally unexpected gesture. I answered Pat with a sincere thank you and told her how moving the message and the accompanying pictures were for Brenda when I relayed them to her. Here is Pat's reply:

"Thanks so much for your note and we were so happy to honor Brenda's parents with a visit. If you ever get the chance to come on the day of the wreathing you will be so very touched. It is just so moving and we were proud to be there with my sisters to honor those who served. So many different groups including uniformed service members, gray-haired veterans, families with strollers, walkers and wheel chairs, Boy and Girls Scout groups paying tribute in their own way. For the first time, my sisters and I walked through the newest section that has mainly heroes who have been killed in action in Afghanistan and Iraq. It was unforgettable and a true blessing to us. It has always meant so much to me when I couldn't be there to know that someone had stopped by the gravesite of my parents to honor them".



I am so proud to know Pat and Dean Boyd and so happy that they are part of our Berlin family. What a remarkable display of kindness from two of the nicest people that we could ever want to meet and it only shows how blessed we ALL are with the wonderful friends that we have and share in our Berlin family.



Brenda posted a couple of messages with photos on her Facebook page a couple of days later. I think you'll find her comments interesting.

Jim Branson '64

(see below)

Wreaths for the Wreaths Across America program are transported from Harrington, ME through our beautiful hometown of Camden, Maine. It is touching that they pass by homes we occupied as children, stores we shopped in with our parents and streets that 5+ generations walked on.

I am always moved by the generosity of those that give their time to lay wreaths on the graves of our American Heroes at Arlington National Cemetery. This year, the path of the wreaths took them through the familiar streets of my hometown, Camden, ME and at journeys end, into the hands of our friends Dean and Pat Burwell Boyd, who placed the wreath on my parents gravesite . Bless you, Dean and Pat! Once again, it never ceases to amaze me how the lives of my Nelling-Kelley Classmates and our BERLIN friends are so intertwined.

Brenda Daucette Branson

## *Wreaths Across America at Ft. Sam, San Antonio*



Jim,

So thrilled that you took the time to share this with me!  
Dennis Campbell (from BratCon, the radio show) turned me onto Wreaths Across America last year. My brother and I ordered a wreath for my father last year and again this year. He's buried at Ft. Sam National Cemetery in San Antonio.

The Volunteers at Ft. Sam laid the Wreaths on the 15th this year. My mother and I just happened to be driving back from Houston to San Antonio on the 16th so we made a point of stopping by the Cemetery to visit Dad and see the wreaths.



What a sight to behold!  
Rows and rows of white markers with these stunning wreaths for as far as the eye can see. It's a very moving experience.

Bless all the Volunteers nationwide who honor our Veterans at every Veteran's Cemetery across the country.

*Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72*





## *A Lovely Day in the Sun*

By DeeDee Bronaugh

Parent of Tom Dietz '82

It all started out with Facebook! A former football player and lovely cheerleader befriended each other again over the frequency waves of the internet. Some of the readers know them as BRATS Liese Hutchinson '83 and Tom Dietz '82.

After I commented on a picture that was posted on FB showing Tom and some friends in Berlin, Liese and I had our first contact on June 1, 2013. We started messaging to each other. The start of a "distant" friendship across the many miles from Rogers, Arkansas to Key West, Florida was in its infancy.

Plans were in the making to go on a family cruise with Disney cruise line in the month of December. Give me tropical weather anytime, famous words by an old Berliner. The journey would take us to Key West for a day trip. Tom mentioned this to Liese. She responded right away and we looked forward to a small reunion, in the sunny South, between my family and her.

Plans fell through for December (maybe I was only dreaming of this cruise). However, my husband felt sorry that my big, anticipated journey to the Bahamas would not materialize. We decided to raid the "piggy bank" and go for it in November, from Galveston, TX with stops in Key West, Castaway Island and Nassau, Bahamas.

Two seniors, Mickey and Minnie and a few other goofy characters is fun in the making. Liese excitedly offered to work as "Julie the Tour Director" for a day. What a trooper!

Jim, my husband, was stationed at the Key West Naval Air Station and Cudjoe Key in 1968, before being assigned to Berlin. He wanted to go down memory lane with Liese and me. Our ship anchored in Navy port in Key West. We climbed aboard a shuttle – map in hand, smile on face, excitement building. Liese waited and spotted us on the bus as we arrived at Mallory Square. It was like "old girlfriends" meeting after a long absence.

"Julie the Tour Director" drove us to see the sights of Key West and the places Jim remembered from long ago. It happened to be, just like a trip back to Berlin, places one lived, worked at and loved, were no longer there. After so much sightseeing, our very knowledgeable tour director, my husband and I were hungry. It is hard to believe that anybody would be hungry stepping off a cruise ship. We decided to go to Alonzo's Lobster House. Liese's mentioned that this is her favorite restaurant by the water. Jay, Liese's husband, joined us for some tasty seafood. He arrived on a scooter, the best transportation in the most southern place in the United States. We reminisced about Berlin and laughed a lot.

Our lovely visit came too early to an end. Jay went back to work, and Liese suggested walking along Duval Street to maybe catch the Veterans parade scheduled for later in the afternoon. Last but not least, Liese had to share with us her favorite frozen custard place and we were treated with a frozen delight. Sad to say, our time ran away – no more time for the parade, another landmark or even a piece of the famous Key Lime pie.

We walked back to the shuttle and sadly said our good-byes. This is just a temporary farewell because Liese, Jay, Jim and I will meet again. The BRATS are such a close knit group where strangers become good friends.





We all met at the Beer Garden in Helen on Friday at noon. We shopped and drank beer until around 4, then we headed up to the Cabin, just a short distance from downtown Helen.

We brought food for a cookout and lots of beer so it wasn't surprising that everyone wanted to stay in and enjoy the awesome cabin! The cabin was equipped with a hot tub, a pool table and a huge fire pit. It was a beautiful weekend in Helen so we all sat around the fire looking out over the village. Several of us had our motorcycles, so Saturday morning we went for a ride. (Jim and Tina followed us in their car). The corn maze was closed from too much rain but we had a great time just riding through the mountains. Then we all went to lunch at a great German place with good beer and food. There was a craft fair in town so we all walked around town and looked at all the shops and had a great time.

Saturday night everyone wanted to just stay in again, so we sat around the fire and ate more wurst! The hot tub was then calling our names. Some of the guys played pool, but mostly we relaxed and spent time visiting. Sunday we all went to the winery and mill then we all met at Bass Pro (north of Atlanta) to meet up with Richard Jernigan '79 to give him his yearbook. I had gotten it signed for him back in '79 and kept it all these years. Sadly, over the years the book was partially burned from our fire and beaten up and weathered from a tornado but he was still thrilled to receive it with all the messages from his fellow Brats.

It was a very fun relaxing weekend and everyone wants to do it again next year, so I will be booking the cabin again soon. We are looking at the first weekend of Oktoberfest next year so we can go to the parade and beer fest.



Kim Graves '78



Hosts: Diane (Dino Allen) Westrom-Mock '79 and husband Mike Mock

## Oktoberfest Regional in Helen, GA



Enjoying the company of Brats and the view



Jim Liptak '77 and Jim (Jammer) McLean '78



Jim (Jammer) McLean '78 and wife Betsy

Also in attendance but not pictured: Dave Barton '78



Dino and Tina (Rash) Liptak '77



## Oktoberfest Regional in Washington, DC

We came from.....

Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina,  
Maryland, Virginia, New Hampshire and the city  
of Washington D.C. to the Old Europe Restaurant  
in Georgetown.

The decor was Old World, there was an abundant  
variety of German sausages, red cabbage and kartoffeln.



Glen Dunwoody '65 and wife Myra



John Latham '67 and wife Cecelia



Jerry Harms '70 and wife Janet



Chris Stern '71 and his wife Karin



Larry Stull '72 and wife Rosie



Michael Clark, Deb (Brians) Clark '74  
and their daughter Jan



Marvin Lindroth '75 and his wife Ximena  
and  
Debbie (Olsen) Grover '73 and her husband



Linda Robinson Tally '73 sits at entrance  
welcoming attendees. Across from her is her husband and sitting at dinner are her children.



'80s were represented by the Sams sisters,  
Kathy Sams '81 wearing her letter jacket,  
and Mina (Buenviaje) Tice '83



Left: Larry Stull's niece  
and Chris, the nephew of  
Joyce (Clark) Mallon '72.



Mina (Buenviaje) Tice '83  
and her son Thomas.





Front Row L to R:

Joyce (Clark) Mallon '72, Larry Stull '72,  
Kathy (Sams) Berch '81, Susan (Sams) O'Neill '85

2nd Row:

Mina (Buenviaje) Tice '83, Linda (Robinson) Talley '73,  
Toni (Yarbrough) Combs '71,  
Kathy (Sweeney) Folk '72, John Latham '67,  
Marvin Lindroth '75

3rd Row and Back Rows:

Jerry Harms '70, Deb (Brians) Clark '74, Jim Sweeney '78,  
Debbie (Olsen) Grover '73,  
Glen Dunwoody '65, Chris Stern '71,  
Sharon (Sams) Sopp '82

*Not pictured...Marcia Wiss '65*

## '71ers Link Up!



*Mel and Laura*

My wife and I  
are still "moving in,"  
and yes Tom – she is much nicer  
than I am (an inside funny)!

Wiedersehen!

Mel De Vilbiss '71

Driving home from a small gathering of my West Point classmates after an Army victory on the 28th at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas, I took a small detour to visit with a BAHS classmate (Class of '71) I had not seen since the end of our sophomore year.

It was really enjoyable to visit with Laura (Coats) Satterfield and meet her husband after connecting on the BAHS Facebook page almost two years earlier. I did get a chance to visit with Laura's younger sister Cathy '73, at the 2012 reunion, but there's something special seeing a classmate after all these years.

I stayed much longer than I thought I would, but could have stayed even longer and still had more to talk about. After lunch, a visit with the corvettes (note Laura's engine), and reminiscing it was time to get home, especially since I had another three hours of driving.



*Laura and husband Craig*

I'm loving our new home and new home state of Texas but more so now that I have reestablished connections with long lost friends.





Most of the Berlin Brats Early 60's classmates can tell you when Jim Branson '64 "found" them. For me it was in the winter of 1999. I had never thought I would attend a high school reunion, as there was no home town to return to.

In fact, when I got married in 1967, the San Francisco Chronicle listed me as from APO, NY, NY, and my husband from Elk Grove Village, IL as I had given my parent's address as my permanent address, APO 742, NY, NY, when I filled out the papers for the marriage license.

Jim and his wife Brenda (Stuttgart '64) are wizards when it comes to searching for someone on the internet. Through their efforts, we have been reunited with many of our Berlin classmates whom we'd "lost" for over 40 years. My first Berlin Brats Reunion was in 2003 in Asheville. I had no idea what it would be like as I had heard horror stories from friends who had attended theirs. I included it as a stop on our drive around the United States in our new Alaskan Camper. I didn't sign up for the activities on the last day as I was sure I would have had enough after the first two days. Was I ever wrong! Reconnecting with so many long, lost friends was the highlight of our three month trip. My former classmates were such a great group of people, and the years since Berlin melted away as we immediately started up where we left off. Since then I have attended all the Berlin Brats Reunions - Berlin in 2006, Scottsdale in 2009 and D.C. in 2012. In addition, this rekindling of friendships has resulted in a number of mini reunions as I continue to seek out occasions to get together with my former high school classmates.

Since 2000,  
my husband Donald and I  
have gotten together with  
Chuck Hewins '63  
and his wife, Linda  
in California, Wyoming and  
Florida. ....



9-18-05 Chuck Hewins '63 and his wife Linda at their home at Star Valley Ranch, near Tayne, WY.



2-27-09 Maggie and Phil Skiing at Deer Valley

..... We have been skiing with Phil Lear '63 and his wife Doreen in Utah; they have visited us in California, and they joined us in Peru in 2012 for a 23 day trip.



Phil Lear '63 Preparing to be Carried to the Trailhead of the Inca Trail

## Many Mini-Get Togethers!

By: Maggie (Ellithorpe) MacPherson '63

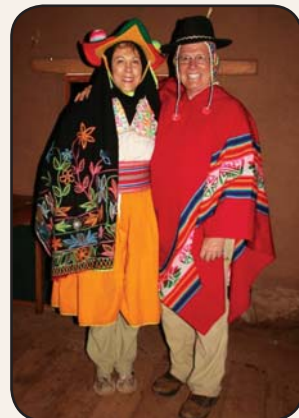


2-15-07 Maggie Ellithorpe MacPherson '63 and Phil Lear '63 Above the Olympic Luge Course Near SLC



Donald MacPherson, Doreen and Phill Lear '63 and Maggie Ellithorpe MacPherson at a Valentine's Dinner in SLC 2-15-07

Unfortunately, their trip was cut short when Phil fell the second day of our Inca Trail trek and had to be carried back to the trailhead (11 hours over a 13,776 foot pass) on a litter made and carried by our local porters. As I put his broken leg in a splint before his journey, I told him we were finally even - he had defeated me our senior year for president of the student council.



Doreen and Phil Lear '63 in Peru.





In 2008, I met Sherry (Golder) Kulig '62, Kaye (Stewart) Crawford '62, and Ada Lopez '63 in Ruidoso, New Mexico (see article in July 2008 Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter).

Kaye, Ada and I had already reunited at previous Brats Reunions, but it was the first time we'd seen Sherry since 1962. It was an amazing weekend! When Sherry's husband passed away very suddenly, Kaye, Mikel and I drove from San Antonio to her home in San Angelo for her birthday in March of 2009.

Celebrating Sherry Golder Kulig's '62 Birthday at Her Home in San Angelo, TX Flanked by Her Two Daughters, Kaye Stewart Crawford '62, Mikel Fisher '64 and her sister Mary Noel.



Donald and Maggie Ellithorpe MacPherson '63 and Carolyn Knott Alderette '61 Out to Dinner in San Antonio

While in San Antonio, I had dinner with my BAHS mentor Carolyn Knot '61. I arrived in Berlin the summer of 1960 as a sophomore. Carolyn lived in the Major's Quarters around the corner from me, and she took me under her wing before the school year started. Thanks to her support, Sherry (Golder) Kulig, and I tried out for cheerleading and made it, ensuring us many rides to away games on the Duty Train – and countless memories...

Neil Clark '64 had spent time with us in San Francisco when he was in the area for business. Donald and I visited his brother Mark '65 and his wife in Washington in 2005 on our way to Canada.

Neil returned to San Francisco last year and Donald and I met with Horst Breuer '64, Mike Jiru '63, Gail (Rybaltowski) Karppinen '63 and Jane (Lynchenheim) Pitts '64 at a German restaurant.



Jane Lychenheim '64, Mike Jiru, '63, Gail Rybaltowski Karppinen '63, Donald and Maggie Ellithorpe MacPherson '63, Horst Breuer '64 and Neil Clark '64



Berlin Brats Neil Clark and Mike Jiru



Berlin High School Classmates Mark '66 and Dave Clark '65 and Maggie at Mark's Home in Port Townsend, WA



7-18-12 Donald, Bob Sabolyk '64 and his wife Pamela and Maggie in New Orleans

Also last year, after the DC Reunion, Donald and I continued our trip around the country on Amtrak. In New Orleans we spent two days with Bob Sabolyk '64 and his wife Pamela. We were treated to a very personal visit complete with Pamela's "to die for" gumbo.





4-12-13 Sherry (Golder) Kulig '62, Kaye Stewart Crawford '62 and Maggie Ellithorpe MacPherson '63 in San Francisco



At the DC reunion Kaye and Sherry and I made plans for them to come to San Francisco the following April, and this spring we had a wonderful mini-reunion shared at times with Horst Breuer '64, Mike Jiru '63, and Gail (Rybaltowski) Karppinen '63. We decided during that visit that we would meet in New Braunfels, Texas for the November 2013 Wurstfest.

On November first, Kaye Stewart her new husband Steve Tunnell (who has accompanied Kaye to the Reunions in Scottsdale and D.C.), picked us up at the San Antonio airport.

They had decided two weeks before to get married which called for lots of toasts.

## Congratulations Kaye and Steve Tunnell



Maggie Ellithorpe MacPherson '63, Gail Rybaltowski Karppinen '63, Mike Jiru '63, Kaye Stewart Crawford '62 and Sherry Golder Kulig '62 at Maggie's.

Mike Jiru and Gail (Rybaltowski) Karppinen, who have been together since the D.C. Reunion, (I can now add "cupid" to my resume) joined us at Mikel Fisher's '64 home for a delicious Mexican dinner prepared by Mikel.

What followed was a very special evening of great food, great company and hours of laughter, reminiscing and catching up.

The following day we continued celebrating. We were joined by Jim Palmer '64 and his wife Margie and Whitney Snodgrass '65 and his wife Donna at Kaye's in the afternoon for a curry wurst feast. Kaye knew that they wouldn't have this Berlin treat at the Wurstfest and that it was a big part of our Berlin gastronomic memory (check out the recipe in the recipe book at the next reunion). She also knew it would be the only time that day that we would not have to shout to be heard.



Jim Palmer '64, Maggie Ellithorpe MacPherson '63, Whitney Snodgrass '66, Kaye Stewart '62, Mike Jiru '63 and Gail Rybaltowski Karppinen '63

I had been given t-shirts with a Berlin Bear decal from a friend, Peter Beck, who had had them made for a family reunion. When there were some left over, he knew I could find some eager Berlin Brats to wear them.



11-1-13 Dinner at Mikel's Home in San Antonio





Peter was born in Berlin in 1935 and fled in February of 1939. His father had walked to the front of a huge line of Jews trying to get exit visas at the district headquarters and presented the card he had received when he was awarded his Iron Cross in WWI. The SS officer read the card, saluted him and instructed his personnel to immediately issue three exit visas. Peter retired from the US Marine Corp as a Colonel in March of 1978.



After stuffing ourselves, we headed to the New Braunfels Wurstfest which has been going on for 53 years. It runs for 10 days and is attended by about 200,000 people.

This has to be one of the most German celebrations outside of Germany! The beer was cold and tasty and wurst and other German treats were everywhere. Synchronicity hit us at the entrance when we encountered a couple with t-shirts they'd bought on a recent visit to Berlin. We all felt right at home! We shared a few pitchers of Das Kline Zeit, listening to a great ump-pa-pa band. Some of us even danced to a polka, which is not very easy when most of the others on the dance floor were doing the Texas two-step. Later we headed over to Das Grosse Zeit to squeeze

into a packed tent of revelers singing, screaming and dancing to the music of Grammy nominated musician and producer Alex Meixner. You know you're in Texas when the musicians are dressed in lederhosen and wearing Mexican hats. A great time was had by all, and we almost felt young again...



Maggie



Whitney Snodgrass '66 and wife Donna



Jim Palmer '64 and his wife Margie

Jim Branson and all his sleuthing efforts have provided me with the chance to reconnect with so many classmates who shared a very special time of my life. I am so fortunate to have rediscovered a bond that gets stronger and stronger at each Reunion and mini-reunions.

As an old song goes, "...was lost but now I'm found..." Thank you Jim Branson!



## DANCING WITH OUR HEROES



<http://dancingwithourheroes.com/portfolio/cate-speer/>

Partnered with Professional Dancer – Tobi Von Dein



**Today** *I Talk as a Veteran  
I Walk as a Veteran  
I Drive as a Veteran  
Now I Dance as a Veteran.....*

Cate Speer '85 (& our webBrat) spoke for Veterans on November 11th as a Veteran in Meriden, CT. She served in the US Army as an OH-58D helicopter mechanic/crewchief in South Korea and then Saudi Arabia and Iraq during Desert Shield/Storm.

Having had extensive therapy from back injuries (not military related) she has a passion for fellow veterans recovering from injuries from War. Helping to raise funds for a Fisher House in New Haven, Connecticut, she participated in a Dancing with Our Heroes Fund Raiser in conjunction with Fred Astaire Studios on November 10th on the eve of Veterans Day.

The Fisher House is a place for families to stay while their loved ones are undergoing treatments in a medical facility.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kaw0Nf0AtKE>



A video of her performance has been uploaded to YouTube. Also her speech on November 11th, 2013.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F67AeK-YZa8>

## Just One Gift *An account of the dedication of Liz's bench in Central Park*

It was a beautiful Fall day in Central Park, New York City and the Eve of the New York Marathon, that the dedication of Elizabeth Wood's bench took place. Blessing the bench and speaking at the dedication was Father Hank who was joined by family and friends of Liz. He (Father Hank) had everyone think of one gift that anyone sitting on the bench would experience in their life as they came to sit on the bench in the Park. That gift, expressed in just one word. Here are a few that were spoken aloud.



### Dedication of Liz's Bench in Central Park

Link to Video of the service in Central Park can be found on our Memorial Page for Elizabeth Wood class of '85.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBHWnDvFT5A>

### *Love, Contentment, Serenity, Comfort, Compassion, Generosity*

Hope was given that this would be a place of Life, Happiness and Peace, a place to restore the soul for those who would come to sit on the Bench.

Elizabeth had the wish to have her ashes left in three places, Central Park - Berlin - Hawaii. There were no ashes but her family saved three locks of her hair for each place. After Father Hank blessed the locks with holy water, her wishes were completed in Central Park. A photo of her finishing her race in the New York Marathon, and a Plaque has been attached to her bench.

*Below are the words on the Plaque.*

*There She Raced, There She Gazed,  
There She Swooned, There She Loved,  
and Here Her Heart Dwells Still.*







In addition to a Yearbook we had our own Beer Stein!



The names of the Class of '89 appear on the Stein in three Rows.

*The Class of '89 (my class) was the last class to graduate from BAHS prior to the fall of the Wall.*

Row 1

Clarence Alston Jr.  
Lori Barnett  
Cillia Batchelor  
Stacey Batson  
James Bender  
John Brady  
Keith Brown  
Kenneth Brubaker  
Patrick Buckwald  
Natasha Bunnell  
Roberta Burden  
Anne Carey  
Stephanie Carney  
Tey Carson  
Shannon Cashwell  
James Conway  
Keri Cutting  
Kasandra Daniel  
Christy Davis  
Lavanya Doddamani  
Carolyn Donelson  
Michelle Doxey  
Chip Duet  
Dale Duet  
Nicole Elliott  
Amy Ellis  
Allison Elwood  
Kenneth Emerson  
Ashley English

Row 2

Anthony Fergus  
Eric Fitzpatrick  
Jon Fleckenstein  
Thaddeus Freeman  
Jennifer Fullerton  
Deqa Geilani  
Gary Giger  
John Gizey  
Deo Gromley  
Michael Haddock  
Gregory Hall  
Joseph Hammond  
Cherif Hanafi  
Kevin Hanson  
Elizabeth Hardaway  
Ron Hawthorne  
Denise Hipskind  
Angela Horton  
Candice Howard  
Gregory Hubbell  
Hilton Huff, Jr.  
Maria Iranzo  
Christopher Jillson  
Dietrich Knapp  
David Koppenhaver  
Satoko Kume  
Kelley Lilly  
Lacie Mabe  
Christopher Marvin  
Earl McDonald, III

Row 3

Donaji McWhorter  
Tomarah Mosconi  
Randee Nelson  
Kimberly Newcomer  
Patrick O'Leary  
Carroll Pearson  
Robin Pearson  
Michelle Perez  
Sammy Perez  
Walter Perry  
Tanya Price  
Eldred Ramtahal  
Richard Rapp  
James Rejzek  
Christopher Rice  
Willie Robinson, Jr.  
Ni'Dari Rosenau  
Fred Sagar, III  
Michael Staal  
Kara Talbot  
Cindy Thomas  
Gregory Turk  
Rachel Vasquez  
Jimmy Verive  
Anjelia Walker  
Marty Watson  
Jeffrey Wyatt  
Guldehen Yogurtca  
Kaan Yurdakul

I spent a total of 19 years of my life in Germany. Of those 19 years, the 4 years I spent in Berlin, were the best years of my life. Although we were inside the Berlin Wall (Iron Curtain), we had more freedom than we ever had in the states growing up, if this makes sense. We all had a common bond that brought us there, our parents and their service to our country. This bond made us who we are today. Some went on to join the military themselves and others married soldiers and carried on the traditions and values that our parents instilled in us. Our homes were temporary. When we made friends they were friends for life. Being a military brat was something special, something to be proud of, but to call ourselves a Berlin Brat meant we were family.

We were not only experiencing history by living in a place once run by Adolf Hilter but we were living that history. Some of us got to listen to Pres. Ronald Reagan give his famous "Mr. Gorbachev, Tear down this Wall" speech, and some of us lived to tell the tale of the La Belle discotheque bombing on April 5, 1986, or the Explosion of the Nuclear Power Plant, Chernobyl, on April 26, 1986. We got to take school trips to England, Spain and Russia and we lived in places only most people dream of visiting. We were apart of history in the making.

Submitted by: Stacey (Batson) Fillmore '89  
'85-'89 at BAHS



**Only 280 days to the 2014 Reunion!**

**8-11 Nov 2014  
+4 day trip to Kraków, Poland  
BERLIN JUBILEE  
25th Anniversary of the  
Fall of the Wall**

**Specific Hotel Instructions posted on our site.**

**FAQ posted on our site.**

**Things to Do posted on our site.**

**RSVP List posted on our site.**

**Get your Name added by emailing:**

**[webBrat@BerlinBrats.org](mailto:webBrat@BerlinBrats.org)**

## **Berlin Brats 2014**



**The Fall of the Wall  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**



## **LOOKING FOR EAGLE SCOUTS**

Are you in Eagle Scout from your scouting days in Berlin?

Either from Troop 46 or 152?

Do you know of anyone who was?

If so, please drop us a line at: [BerlinBrats@gmail.com](mailto:BerlinBrats@gmail.com)

Or call Jeri (Polansky) Glass at [\(623\)764-1105](tel:6237641105) asap!



## *Activities for the 25th Anniversary Fall of the Wall*

*Sent by: German Embassy, Washington, DC*

In the fall of 2014, the fall of the Wall marks the 25th anniversary. As in 2009, Berlin will stand on that day in the center of global attention. Opportunity and task to which "Berlin Day, World History," wrote to remember.

"When the Berlin Wall fell 25 years ago the images from the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin were posted around the world. For Germany and the world that was an important event and an obligation for the future. In 2014, we will mark this anniversary in the German capital and use the opportunity in the recent city history to remember in an atmosphere of dignity," said the mayor of Berlin, Klaus Wowereit.

Due to the power of the anniversary and in continuation of the 20th Anniversary of the Wall in 2009 and the remembrance of the 50th Anniversary of the Wall's construction in 2011, numerous partners and multi-agency events and projects are planned. Thematically, the connected memory of the Peaceful Revolution of 1989 with the fall of the Wall has tied November 9th as "a symbol of hope for a world without walls."

The events will make clear that freedom is the highest good and that democracy is far from self-evident, but needs defending daily. Following the very successful comprehensive celebration year 2009, we will focus in 2014 on the actions and events of the fall, "explains Moritz van Dülmen, Managing Director of Culture Berlin GmbH, which is responsible for the coordination and implementation of events.

The high point in the fall will be the weekend of November 9th with a planned symbolic wall installation in the form of a light border of illuminated and helium-filled balloons. These are to be staged (within the S- Bahn ring) for the entire weekend on the former inner-city course of the Wall.

This approximately twelve kilometers long light installation at the 25th Anniversary will convey impressive and spectacular images of the enormous scale of the division of the city. Hundreds of thousands of Berliners and Berlin guests can stroll along the course of the Wall and remember or become aware of the intensity and magnitude of the division that existed for so long.

The total project is in conjunction with Kulturprojekte Berlin GmbH, the Berlin Wall Foundation and the Robert Havemann Society as well as other partners and institutions. Light installation is the brainchild of Christopher Bauder and Marc Bauder.



©Christopher Bauder Mauerfall 2014



### *25th Anniversary Fall of the Wall*

9 November 2014 will mark the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. To honour this major anniversary, a series of special events and museum exhibitions are planned to take place throughout the city, focusing on the division of Germany and Berlin, the Cold War, and the peaceful revolution leading to reunification.

One of the main highlights will be happening on the weekend around 9th November: Along the former course of the Berlin Wall a new temporary Berlin Wall will be built with thousands of white balloons. It is going to run right through the city centre and it will be illuminated. If the weather is good enough this Wall can even be seen from outer space. Visitors to Berlin have many choices to experience the history of the Wall and what it meant to the city and the people of Berlin. These include a GPS-guided walking tour on the trail of the Berlin Wall, guided or self-guided bicycle tours on the Wall path, visits to underground Berlin, former watch towers, Wall memorials, The GDR Museum, or a drive into the East of the city in an original GDR Trabant car.

Various locations, autumn 2014, [www.kulturprojekte-berlin.de/en/home.html](http://www.kulturprojekte-berlin.de/en/home.html)



## UPDATE ON “BRATCON” *the live radio show.....*



by: Dennis Campbell  
Creator and Host  
Heidelberg Brat '75

Most of you know, I do not post very often. However, as 2013 comes to a close I wanted to share a few observations and thoughts with you. Despite the fact that the BRATCON Radio broadcast has been off the air since December 2011, I am humbled to note that in 2013 there has been a steady flow of new members to this forum. Seems like an average of 4-6 requests a week for joining. I want to thank Lee Newton and George Cherepes for assisting with the administration of the page, connecting new members, as well as preventing spammers and solicitations from eroding the purpose of this forum.

I'm often asked (weekly) when I might be able to flip the switch and get the show back on the air. Today, I just don't have an answer to that. I have purposely avoided any solicitation through this forum, but I assure you I have reached out to some of the larger companies that have natural connections to the military and BRAT audience. I have not yet persuaded a viable sponsor. In one case I received a "form" letter (in follow-up to my correspondence) asking me to refrain from contacting senior executives in the future, and if they wished to discuss my product or service, someone would be in touch with me. This was from a well known, and high profile company that has significant military families/veterans/active duty customer base. Go figure....

I will say that some have also suggested that the show expand the format to broaden the audience beyond the BRAT focus and include veterans, spouses, active duty guest segments and topics relevant to them. This may be the key to getting some sponsorship traction. I have (in the last year) formulated some thoughts on how to integrate and expand the show's format as suggested. I'd enjoy hearing your thoughts as members of this forum and the core audience for which I created the radio broadcast. BTW, don't forget to tell your friends that all of the shows are archived on the show's website at [www.bratcon.com](http://www.bratcon.com) and can be listened to at NO charge. Others have also suggested that we consider a pre-recorded podcast, which can be done far cheaper than a live weekly show. You can pre-arrange callers to the taped podcast which adds some "punch" but frankly, I really think the live show was exciting for the core audience and not knowing who would call and where the conversation would lead, was/is a key aspect of the show's value and quality. Of course, each live show, becomes a podcast available to those that weren't able to tune in for the live segment. At the end of the day, when we find the necessary sponsorship, I believe a live weekly show is our best path/option to growing the audience.

Until then, I wish each of you a blessed and enjoyable journey in the new year. Make it count!!!



Cate '85 & Jeri '72  
on the Radio show  
Dec 2010



Dennis, Cate and Jeri

Brugs, DC  
BRATCON  
[www.bratcon.com](http://www.bratcon.com)

If the landscape of advertising commitments should change in the future, we will be quick to re-ignite.



## ***Collection of our artifacts to Germany museum(s) to remember our presence in Germany.***

I'm John Provan. I'm an Overseas Brat who graduated from Kaiserslautern HS/Germany in 1974. Afterwards I remained in Germany and now live just outside of Frankfurt, in Kelkheim. As a historian with a PhD, I am fulfilling a unique 'calling,' if you will that may interest many of you.

With the departure of so many American soldiers and the closing of installations in Germany, since the fall of the Wall, I am witnessing an age come to an end, one that most Brats from Germany, still remember well. Fact is, as these installations close, they leave nothing behind for the Germans: of what we did, who we were, or why. It is really unbelievable, but material from the Berlin Airlift, the Kinderlifts, GYA, AFRC, charity Christmas parties, Contact clubs, Operation Provide Promise and so much more, is simply tossed in the trash.

For the past 20 years I have been 'cleaning out' the various Kasernes and Air Bases, as best I can, keeping the documents, photos, films, etc., that are left behind, by retrieving them before they hit the trash can. Materials that should have gone to various archives in the U.S., but didn't. Amongst all this material are some 300,000 negatives and photos, some 8,000 recordings from AFN, not to mention a complete set of the Stars and Stripes newspaper from 1942 to 1990, hardbound; operational manuals, unit signs, telephone books, 16mm films, and so on. All items that tell the story of U.S. Forces in Germany, Austria and France, as well as things we Brats experienced.

This material is kept in three warehouses and has been inventoried, for the most part, so that it can be made useful to students and museums.

Although this is a privately run undertaking and has been inventoried, I intend to see that it ends up in a German Museum, capable of maintaining it. In question is the Allied Museum in Berlin, the "House der Geschichte" in Bonn (something like the Museum of American History in DC); or in the City of Heidelberg. Wherever this collection may end up, it will provide the best possible and most complete story of our presence in Germany for future generations.

Therefore, if any Brat has items or photos they believe are part of this story and are interested and willing to share them, please get in contact with me. I am continually searching to fill in the blanks. I greatly appreciate any help I can get. Thanks!

John Provan  
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65779 Kelkheim  
GERMANY  
Tel: 01149 (0) 6195 61350  
Email: Johnprovan@gmx.net



## ***As we remember Martin Luther King this month... Berlin has it's own remembrance.....1964***

*by: Nicole Glass, editor This Week in Germany*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is a household name in the United States, a symbol of the Civil Rights movement and the fight against inequality. But his influence extends far beyond US borders: also in Germany, King left a lasting impression after visiting both sides of Berlin in the 1960's. As the long weekend encroaches, let's take a moment to reflect on his monumental trip to the divided city.

In 1964, Willy Brandt - West Berlin's mayor at the time - invited King to speak at a ceremony memorializing the slain president, President John F. Kennedy. Later that day in the Waldbühne amphitheater, King brought a message of hope to a crowd of 20,000 people. During that same trip, King was moved by the death of a man who had tried to cross the Berlin Wall to escape to the West.

The man had been shot by the guards and died shortly thereafter from his wounds. Although King was told only to speak to the West, he defiantly crossed through Checkpoint Charlie to give his speech to the other side. His words carried even greater weight in the East, where 2,000 people eagerly crowded into St. Mary's Church to hear his message.

"There is no East, no West, no North, no South, but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole, wide world," King said on that day. With that message in mind, let us remember a man who brought inspiration to both Americans and Germans alike, touching the hearts of those who lacked rights on both sides of the Atlantic.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. visited the Berlin Wall at Bernauer Strasse during his trip to the divided city in September 1964.



(©picture-alliance/akg-images)

### **Tracing an Untold Story: Dr. Martin Luther King's Visit to Cold War Berlin**

#### **East or West - God's Children**

"Here in Berlin, one cannot help being aware that you are the hub around which turns the wheel of history. For just as we are proving to be the testing ground of races living together in spite of their differences, you are testing the possibility of co-existence for the two ideologies which now compete for world dominance. If ever there were a people who should be constantly sensitive to their destiny, the people of Berlin, East and West, should be they."

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Sermon at the Waldbühne, Berlin, September 13, 1964**

During his brief visit to East Berlin in 1964, Martin Luther King, Jr. gave a sermon here in the Protestant St. Marienkirche.

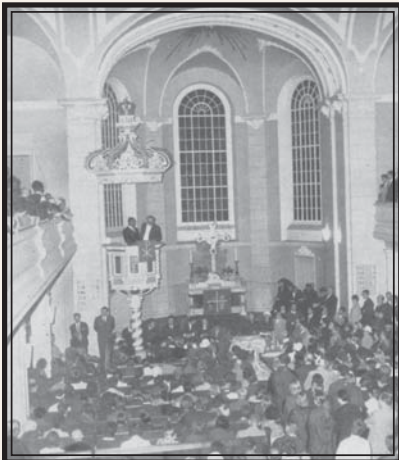


Photo: Siegfried Krüger



Photo © Hyde Flippo

Most spectacularly, even without a passport, King managed to cross the border at Checkpoint Charlie into East Berlin, where he preached to an enthusiastic crowd in the overflowing St. Mary's Church at Alexander Square about the struggle for civil rights in his own country, bringing greetings from the "Christian brothers and sisters" both from the United States and West Berlin.

Since so many (especially young) people came to see Dr. King, he had to hold another service in the nearby Sophia Church for almost 2,000 people. Afterwards, he met with students from Humboldt University and church officials before returning to the sector of the city controlled by the Western Allies.



We learned that “Sergeant Earl Albers” who was responsible for starting the “German Youth Activities” (GYA) program to post-war Berlin had passed away. The Week in Germany had this about his part in establishing the GYA program. - <http://www.germany.info>

## Sergeant Albers Remembered for Bringing Friendship, Structure to Youths in Post-War Berlin

By establishing the German Youth Activities program in post-war Berlin, Sgt. Earl Albers not only taught German youth how to play baseball but also how to practice democracy. Born in 1920, Albers grew up a farm boy in a Nebraska town with German heritage. He came to Germany in April 1946 as a member of the 3110th Signal Service Battalion in Berlin. One day during a walk through the ruined city, he passed by a playground where a group of German youths were playing soccer with a bundle of rags for a ball. For Albers those kids were not defeated enemies but further victims of the Nazi regime. Using the German he learned growing up, Albers made friends with them, brought them a real soccer ball and also started teaching them how to play baseball, though his contact with the German youths was against military rules. But General Lucius D. Clay, at that time Deputy Military Governor of the American occupation zone, instead of punishing him, put Albers in charge of establishing the German Youth Activities program.

On October 27, 1946, the first club house opened its elegant doors - the doors of a confiscated villa in Stubenrauchstraße in Berlin-Zehlendorf. (We wonder if our first AYA opened at the same time?) The 27-year-old Sergeant Albers created and supervised a program that included sports and music clubs, offered sewing courses and writing in a youth magazine. However, it was more than moments of joy and distraction that Albers offered the young participants. For the children who had undergone the Nazis’ brainwashing into unquestioning obedience, it became a living lesson in how democracy works. They could run for elected leadership posts in the organization, and Albers told the children not to blindly accept what they were told as fact, but to look behind the curtain. Knowing about the Germans’ atrocities and still perceiving the children’s innocence, he was a shining example of the morals he taught.



Children in Berlin had many needs after the war, and the German Youth Activities program attempted to meet some of them. Here an unidentified US officer walks with children in 1948.

Soon the program was expanded. More soldiers were assigned to participate and further clubs were created around Berlin and elsewhere. With an \$87,000 grant from First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, Albers and his team were able to hold a Christmas dinner for about 10,000 children. After he left Germany in 1951, Albers and some of his grateful “German kids” stayed in contact. He visited his former club members in Berlin in the 1960s and again in the 1990s. For his exceptional contributions, Earl Albers was honored with the German-American Friendship Award, bestowed by the German Consulate General in Los Angeles in 2009.

“Sergeant Albers,” as he was always called by his German club members, died at age 92 on July 23rd in Silver Springs, Maryland. In the presence of family members and close friends and under bright sunshine, Earl Edwin Albers was interred with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. The military chaplain praised his various military merits and highlighted the close relationship to Germany that Albers maintained throughout his life. While the US Army paid tribute to his honorable 29-year military service, including missions in Germany after WWII and in Vietnam, Germans are remembering him as a grand pioneer of the German-American friendship in the post-war years. Representatives of the German Embassy had the opportunity to offer their condolences at the ceremony.





## No Sweat, No Candy

*Harder is better.™*

Madonna has opened up the first Hard Candy Fitness Club in Berlin, Germany at our former Truman Plaza on Clayallee, the former US Army site, this past September (2013). With the slogan 'Harder Is Better,' Berlin's Hard Candy Fitness Club will offer several programs of the highest quality inspired by Madonna's personalized and innovative Addicted to Sweat workouts. The gym has been designed in line with Madonna's vision for luxurious surroundings where members can enjoy a unique exercise experience. Madonna, along with her personal trainer Nicole Winhoffer, have pioneered world class, highly effective workouts that are also fun and entertaining. Madonna, who has visited Berlin several times, is inspired by the city's dynamism and creativity. These qualities make the German capital a perfect fit for Hard Candy Fitness.



The new Hard Candy Fitness Club takes exercise to a whole new level, and aims to help its members achieve peak physical and mental fitness. The workouts incorporate dance elements choreographed by Nicole Winhoffer, as well as high-intensity exercise moves. Madonna and her personal trainer have worked together to create various types of workouts, and the same motto applies to all of them - No Sweat, No Candy. Only those who train hard achieve their goals and can treat themselves to a reward at the end. That says a lot about how effective the training is and the kind of impressive results that can be achieved.

photo of Madonna from: <http://gagadaily.com>  
inside the Berlin Facility

<http://www.hardcandyfitness.de>

*Maybe you might want to check out this facility this November while attending the Reunion?*



Fellow Berliner David Bowie has released a new song, both the song and the video are all about Berlin. Bowie lived in Berlin on Hauptstr. in Schoeneberg.

The video is set in what could be an artists' studio in Berlin, where Bowie lived from 1976, showing moving black-and-white footage of the city from the 1970s on a screen. It opens with a shot of a large diamond and an empty picture frame lying on the floor, before moving into a studio containing a mishmash of items, possibly from Bowie's own life or apartment in Berlin.

The footage on the screen and references in the lyrics include the Berlin Wall and mention of the Bösebrücke, the first border crossing that opened when the Wall fell on 9 November 1989; 20,000 East Germans crossed over during the first hour the border was unofficially opened, wondering whether it was safe. The lyrics read: "twenty thousand people / Cross Bösebrücke / Fingers are crossed / just in case." Other reference points in the video and song are the Brandenburg Gate; the Dschungel nightclub; the Fernsehturm, or television tower; KaDeWe, the department store; graffiti from Kunsthaus Tacheles, an art centre; Nürnberger Straße; Potsdamer Platz railway station; the Reichstag, where the Bundestag sits; the Siegessäule, or Victory Column; and the auto repair shop below the apartment in which Bowie lived.

*article about video was found on wikipedia*



The movie "Just a Gigolo" was found on this site: <http://climateerinvest.blogspot.com>

It's difficult to find a Bowie performance more abjectly forgotten—and yet so wonderfully bizarre—than the Weimar-set 1978 black comedy Just a Gigolo. Perhaps, you ponder, it was just a cameo? Nope, he's the star and the rest of the cast is filled out by—get this—Kim Novak, David Hemmings, Curt Jurgens, and Marlene Dietrich (in her last film role). It's also alleged to have been the most expensive film made in Germany until that date. Still not ringing any bells? You're not alone.



## *Nine Life-Changing German Inventions That You Can't Live Without:*

We all know the reputation for German engineering, but some of these things are downright genius. Bavarian Purity Law, anyone?

posted by a COMMUNITY MEMBER on GermanyinUSA

### 1. *The X-Ray Machine*

Wilhelm Röntgen developed Röntgen rays, which led to the X-ray machine. Infinitely useful: both for medicinal purposes, and for recovering lost items!

### 2. *Acetylsalicylic Acid*

more commonly known as Aspirin. Aside from its medicinal purposes, Aspirin can be used for cleaning, beautifying and many other things. Felix Hoffmann isolated acetylsalicylic acid while working for Bayer in 1897.



### 3. *Gummy Bears*

Hans Riegel created gummy bears, and his son, Hans Riegel Jr., went on to build a gummy empire: Haribo. Hans Riegel Jr. passed away earlier this year, but his gummy empire lives on.



### 4. *Bavarian Purity Law*

Water, barley, hops: a life changing combination. While you may be able to live without German beer, who would want to?

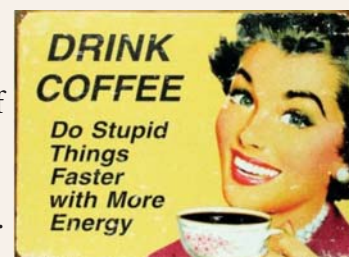


### 5. *Fanta*

The original recipe for Fanta was developed in Germany by Coca Cola Germany. It was later exported across the world.

### 6. *Coffee Filters*

In 1908 Melitta Bentz decided she wanted all of the caffeine without the harsh bitter flavor, and the coffee filter was born.



### 7. *The Permanent Wave*

That's right, the PERM was invented by a German! Basically, the 80's couldn't have existed without Germany's help:



### 8. *Adhesive Tape*

Adhesive tape was patented in 1901 by Oscar Troplowitz for Beiersdorf AG. He gave it the charming name, "Leukoplast" which means sticking plaster. He never could have imagined the wonderful ways that tape is used today.

### 9. *MPEG-2 Audio Layer III (MP3)*

German audio engineer Karlheinz Brandenburg developed MP3 technology in the early 1990's, first at University of Erlangen-Nuremberg then at the Fraunhofer Institute. Fun Fact: the first MP3 song was "Tom's Diner" by Suzanne Vega. MP3 technology allows you to listen to whatever, whenever.



## *25 Signs You Grew Up As A Military Brat*

1. What is a “grocery store”? It is, and forever will be, the Commissary.
2. People ask you where you’re from and you don’t even try to explain.  
“Nowhere. Everywhere. I don’t know.”
3. The clothes your parents bought you from the PX made you look like you were a time traveler. But it didn’t matter because all the other kids on base wore the Exact Same Thing.
4. Every school mascot you ever had was The Eagles, The Screaming Eagles, or some variation on that theme. By the time you graduated you’d been to 15 different schools, so you appreciated the continuity.
5. The first song other than the National Anthem you learned all the words to was a pretty hilarious and inappropriate cadence call.
6. Being 10 minutes early for an appointment means you’re late.
7. You judge people who don’t know the phonetic alphabet. C is for cookie? C is for Charlie.
8. You’re freakishly good at bowling. And have an unhealthy knowledge of the AAFES Snack Bar menu.
9. Anyone older than you is “Ma’am” or “Sir”.
10. When you lived overseas, your non-military friends were constantly asking if they could have things mailed to your APO/FPO address. AA, AE, and AP are states, y’all.  
Domestic shipping rates apply.
11. You’ve had a regulation haircut and/or GI (birth control) glasses. And you looked freakin’ sexy.
12. Your parent was called into their commanding officer’s office for reasons that included you being a troublemaker at school.
13. You’ve taken a few flights that involved sitting in jump seats, wearing your winter jacket at all times, and Humvees in the cargo hold. Carry-ons in the military include armored vehicles.
14. The phrases “O-dark-thirty” and “fourteen hundred hours” make perfect sense to you.  
Getting up at 0800 constitutes sleeping in.
15. AFN commercials will forever be the gold standard in campy public service announcements.
16. You’ve eaten a major holiday meal in a mess hall. Rite of passage.
17. You always had some MRE’s around the house. In case of nuclear apocalypse. Or camping trips.
18. Your dad has activated level 99 combat mode in response to a loud noise that turned out to be harmless. Always not embarrassing at all when he destroys your water bottle because he thought it was a tear gas canister.
19. You blew up your favorite electronic device by forgetting to use a 110/220 converter.
20. You came back to the States after being overseas for a few years and didn’t understand ANY of the cultural references.
21. You immediately dropped whatever you were doing at 1700 each day for taps.
22. You freaked out when you turned 20 because it suddenly meant you only had your military ID and base privileges for one more year. You may have strongly considered enlisting just because of it.
23. You’ve ever had to explain to your non-military friends that you just found out you’re moving.  
Next week. You’re also the most efficient packer you know.
24. Life is not always easy or fair...
25. But you are tough, adaptable, good at making friends, and wouldn’t trade your childhood for anything in the world.

***Brats uber alles!!!***



# Tränenpalast (Palace of Tears)

Stories of divided Germany



© Stiftung Haus der Geschichte der BRD

Leave-taking and longing, hope and despair, joy and fear — the building constructed in 1962 at Berlin's Friedrichstraße station is tied to a broad spectrum of personal emotions and experiences. Until 1990, the departure hall built under East Germany's SED regime was a border crossing from the GDR to West Berlin. Berliners soon dubbed this modern steel-and-glass construction, the scene of so many painful farewells, the "Palace of Tears".

The "Palace of Tears" reopened in September 2012 by the Foundation Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland with the permanent exhibition "Border experience. Everyday life in divided Germany." Original material, films and interviews with contemporary witnesses documents the effects of the border in Germany's everyday life.

<http://www.visitberlin.de/en/spot/traenenpalast-palace-of-tears>

## *Dad's new I Pad*

This is what happens when someone gives a tech gift to a senior. A young lady visits her father. She asks him how he liked his Christmas present. It is in German.....but no words are needed for this.

A picture is worth a thousand words.....

<http://www.snotr.com/video/8965/>

KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
VISIT  
BERLIN

## *22 Reasons you need to move to Berlin:*

[http://www.buzzfeed.com/  
antwaunsargent/things-  
berlin-does-better-than-new-york](http://www.buzzfeed.com/antwaunsargent/things-berlin-does-better-than-new-york)

Little Shiva was born in Berlin on July 1st, and made her public debut in September. The Persian leopard is ultra rare - there are only around 100 or so in captivity worldwide. This little lady seems to have a bit of an attitude...



**Take a look at this:**

[http://www.buzzfeed.com/  
germanyinusa/in-honor-of-  
munichas-new-polar-bear-  
twins-here-fr91](http://www.buzzfeed.com/germanyinusa/in-honor-of-munichas-new-polar-bear-twins-here-fr91)

Be sure and watch the Baby Rhino video!

Here's a video of the Baby Polar Bear Twins just born at the Munich Zoo! Remember the Knut craze????

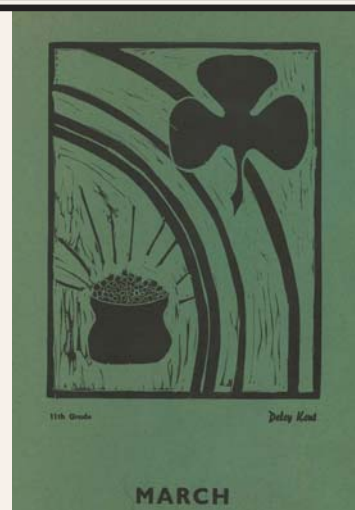
[http://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=fIw44hsLNok](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fIw44hsLNok)

Best BRAT commercial ever!!

One Minute...  
Not a word spoken,  
and none needed.

[https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=uoABty\\_zE00](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uoABty_zE00)





Just added to our "Scrapbook Page" on the web: The 1970 School Calendar.  
 Artwork for each month provided by different Berlin Brats.  
 Check out this and other goodies that have been posted!

*"Why Germans Don't Have Spelling Bees!!!!"*



### Upcoming Events:

August 2014  
 Regional  
 Colorado Springs, CO  
 Hosted by Jeri '72.

.....  
 Nov 2014  
 November 2014 WurstFest  
 New Braunfels, Texas  
 The WurstFest  
 Hosted by Roo '73.

### SHARE YOUR STORIES

Be part of the  
 Berlin Brats Book Project  
[www.bratsoverseas.com](http://www.bratsoverseas.com)

Submit to:  
[bratsoverseas@yahoo.com](mailto:bratsoverseas@yahoo.com)  
 Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83 &  
 Trisha Lindsey '82

Thanks!



### Next Reunion

# BERLIN 2014

WebBrat: Cate Speer '85  
[WebBrat@BerlinBrats.org](mailto:WebBrat@BerlinBrats.org)

### Contact Information:

#### American Overseas School Historical Society

Contact: Tina Calo, President  
 email: [tcalo@aoshs.org](mailto:tcalo@aoshs.org)  
 Website: [www.aoshs.org](http://www.aoshs.org)

#### Overseas Brats

Joe Condrill, President  
 Email: [joeosbpres@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joeosbpres@sbcglobal.net)  
 Website: [www.overseasbrats.com](http://www.overseasbrats.com)

#### Berlin Brats Alumni Association

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#### Early 60's Site

By invitation only  
 Contact: Jim Branson '64  
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 for an invite

#### Find us on Facebook:

"Berlin Brats Alumni Association"  
 (the official Fan Page site)

"Berlin American High School (BAHS)"  
 (an Open Group chat page)