



THE 2014 REUNION WAS HELD DURING “25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE WALL!” IN BERLIN!



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Photos by: Peter Stein '84, Reunion photographer

Before we give you full coverage of the Reunion.....let's take a look at a couple regionals held just before the Reunion:

Wurstfest Regional

Nov 8-9, 2014

an annual TX regional -

hosted by:

Ruchia "Roo" (Eargle) Moran '73
(both a Berlin and
Heidelberg Brat)



Left to Right: Bryan Potyk '87, Karen (Sellers) Wilt '80, Terry Hurd-Potyk, unidentified, Angela (Ott) Lamb '80, Billi (Cooper) LeRoy '87, Ruchia "Roo" (Eargle) Moran '73, Frank Vara 'Heidelberg, Who Am I?, Ritch Ridgdill 'Heidelberg, Ellen Raso Bitkower 'Heidelberg, Gregg Bitkower 'Heidelberg



Left to Right:

Bill ? 'Heidelberg', Ruchia "Roo" (Eargle) Moran '73, Sue Spiese 'Heidelberg, Angela (Ott) Lamb '80, Ellen Raso Bitkower 'Heidelberg, Unidentified, Ritch Ridgdill 'Heidelberg, Craig Satterfield, Laura (Coats) Satterfield '71

Scottsdale/Phoenix Regional - Nov 1, 2014 hosted by: Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72



brat haus



Back row: Carl Fenstermacher '73, Diana (Green) Kempton '72, Sharon (Greer) Szakacs '75, Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, Mr. "Ech" Echeveste - FAC '66-'69, Michael Friedrich-No Class, Eric Criag '74, Susan Craig

Front Row: (L to R) Jim Wright '72, Ron Rathnow '71, Chandra Rathnow, Kay Martinez '81, Jochen Friedrich-Mike's brother visiting from Germany.

Not Pictured: Reed Kempton - spouse of Diana and Berta Echeveste-spouse of Mr. Ech.

A Simple Gesture *(by Berlin Brat: Jonathan Trivers '61)*

Leads to Giving on a Big Scale

A Charity Started by a Single Family Helps Distribute Free Groceries to Food Pantries

KRISTI ESSICK

November 30, 2014

Starting a nonprofit in retirement doesn't always require huge amounts of time and money. Jonathan Trivers runs a charity called A Simple Gesture, which has provided 500,000 pounds of free groceries to food pantries in 35 towns in the past three years.



And all it took was a good idea, a bit of organizing and the purchase of a few thousand reusable shopping bags. "We knew there was plenty of food in our community to feed hungry families," says Mr. Trivers, who retired to the Sierra foothills town of Paradise, Calif., in 2007 with his wife, Karen. "But there was just no easy way to get it to them."

'People in the community were energized to help,' says Mr. Trivers.

Why this path? "There are hungry families in every community, and we made it easy for neighbors to help them."

A Simple Gesture is based on a similar program run by the nonprofit Ashland Food Project in Ashland, Ore. Donors keep a reusable grocery bag in their kitchens, adding nonperishable food items such as soup, pasta and beans to the bag whenever they can. Every two months, donors leave the bags on their porches, and volunteers pick them up to deliver to food banks or soup kitchens. In Paradise, 1,700 households have signed up for the program,

which collects about 135,000 pounds of food annually. "By donating nonperishable items to the food pantries, we free the charities up to buy eggs, butter, milk, meat, fruit and vegetables," Mr. Trivers says.

'Can It Be This Simple?' At first, Mr. Trivers and his wife spent several hours a day getting Simple Gesture off the ground. They went door to door asking people to sign up, getting the word out at clubs and church groups, contacting food banks and doing all the pickups themselves. But soon volunteers stepped up. One person offered to build a website. Others volunteered to be drivers. A farm donated an acre of land to the program, adding fresh produce to the bags. "People in the community were energized to help, and now the program almost runs itself," Mr. Trivers says. "As a businessperson used to the complexities of the corporate world, I asked myself, 'Can it really be this simple to help others?' And the answer is: Yes." California to Canada Mr. Trivers spent most of his career in retail, first in merchandising at Sears and later as president of Abbey Carpet Co. There were also stops in Ashland, Ore., as a business professor at Southern Oregon University, and on an island in the Gulf of Mexico near Sarasota, Fla., as a consultant. For their "first retirement," the Triverses bought a 130-year-old farmhouse on 90 acres in Nova Scotia and ran a camp for economically disadvantaged children. They later relocated to California to be closer to their children and grandchildren. "We moved to Paradise to finally 'retire,' but we still felt called to give back," says Mr. Trivers, who plans to keep running A Simple Gesture for many years.

Today, he and his wife spend their time promoting the idea to other small and midsize communities. So far, three dozen towns have jumped on the grocery-bag bandwagon, and the Triverses hope hundreds more will join. "People want to help others," Mr. Trivers says. "And sometimes, all you have to do is ask."

2014 Reunion in BERLIN, GERMANY!

Registration for the 2014 Reunion in Berlin would begin in the Lobby of the Best Western Saturday morning, November 8th.



Class of '72 celebrates turning "60"...as a kick off to the Reunion!

Friday night (Nov 7th), just a short walk from the Reunion hotel in Steglitz, a group of '72ers and some of their closest classmates from other years said goodbye to their "50's" and hello (although kicking and screaming) to their '60's! Afterwards a stuffing party was held back at the hotel until the wee hours of the morning - getting the Welcome Packages, the Memorabilia and Name Badges ready for the 252 attendees.



Back to Front Standing:

Gary Robinson '74, Pat Martel Little '72, Katrin Lindroth Planz '71, Nancy Liepman Van Duzer '72, Jeri Polansky Glass '72, Paul Greer '72, **Sitting:** Toni Yarbrough Combs '71, Joyce (Clark) Mallon '72



Carl Fenstermacher '73 with Katrin Hotzel - FAC '70-'71

Saturday....we begin Registration and our Optional Tours



Berlin Brats waiting in line at entrance of the Underground Tour



Brats riding the S-Bahn to the tour!



As we know Berlin was the nerve center of the Third Reich and therefore one of the main targets for allied bombing during WWII. On this Underground tour we explored one of the few remaining bunkers, as it was left after the war. We learned about the life of the average Berlin citizen during the air-raids that destroyed up to 80% of the city's center. We traveled through twisting passages and rooms, and saw artifacts from the war that have been buried for decades.

Tour 1 – Dark Worlds

<http://berliner-unterwelten.de>



Everyday hundreds of people walk past a green door in the Gesundbrunnen underground railway station, unaware that within lies a subterranean labyrinth full of history just waiting to be experienced.

We did 3 hours on the Classic City Tour.
We saw all the main sights, stopping every
few hundred meters to soak them in!



Hans Fenstermacher '78, wife Janet '78, Lance Srp '88,
daughter Alexis, Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72,
& Carl Fenstermacher '73

Optional Segway Tour - *A great way to see Berlin up close and personal!*



Brats practising before they release us
to the streets of Berlin:



Each grouping of Berlin Brats had a very
knowledgeable native English-speaking guide.



We heard fascinating anecdotes,
took pictures, and discussed Berlin's history.

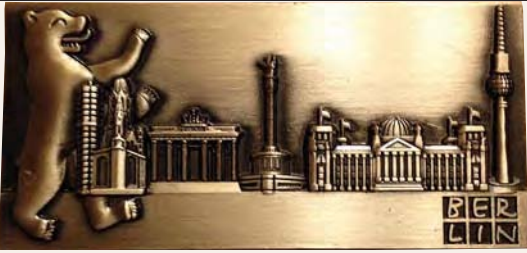


Segwaying the "East Gallery-remnants of the Berlin Wall"



The new mobile
Curry stands on the "walk"



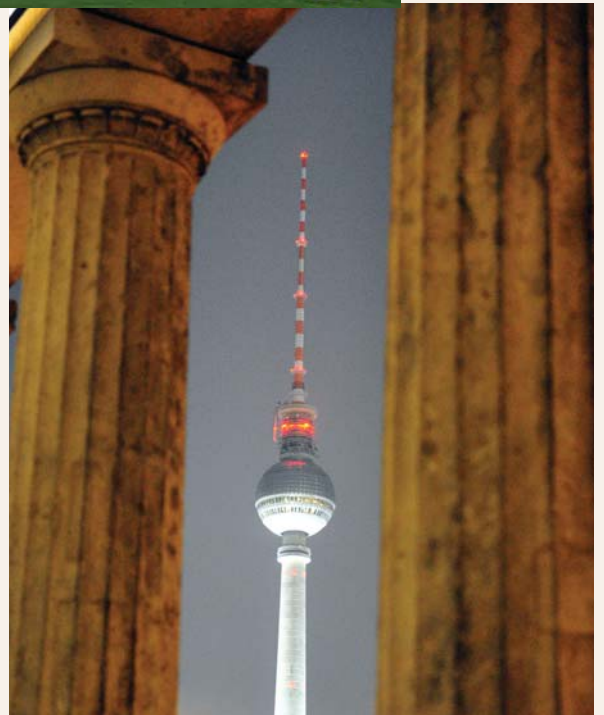


Peter Stein class of '80, our Reunion Photographer, captured all the beloved landmarks.....that we all were familiar with.

The keychain memento, shown left, was received in our Welcome Packages. The same Monuments are etched in relief, as well as the Kaiser Wilhelm Church on the Kurfurstendamm.



Studying a Fodor's Guide of Berlin these Berlin Brats find their way to the Kudamm.





Saturday's Reception:



Mr. Schmolz - FAC (ctr) with Brats



Mr. Bluem - FAC and Peter Stein '80

Oldest Brats and Youngest Brat in attendance:

Back row: Thom Spettel '54 ('47-'48), Marianna (Lieurance) Mounsey '50 ('46-'47), Faith (Auld) Ramsey '94 ('89-'91).
Front Row: Dixie (Huff) Williams '48 ('46-'48)

All Faculty from TAR & BAHS were called on stage where Cate pinned each with a corsage or boutonniere.



Cate Speer '85 & Barbara Cossarini FAC-'67-'69

Cate Speer '85 & Adam Hildenbrand-FAC '69-'94

OUR BOOK PUBLISHED JUST IN TIME FOR THE REUNION!

a collective whew!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83 author,
Michelle Estes '90, and Trisha Lindsey '82 author.

*Cold War Memories: A Retrospective on Living in Berlin,
A City Divided-- Memoirs of U.S. Dependents in Berlin*

“These are our stories..the stories of six ‘generations’ of Berlin Brats over a span of almost fifty years. This book is written, as are most histories, in an effort to hold onto a piece of history long past. And, it is a warning lest we forget how precious freedom is-- freedom is not free. Additionally, we are aware that few people realize that Americans lived in West Berlin, and that fewer still realize that the whole city was over 100 miles inside of Soviet occupied territory. Thus, we lived in an enclave of Capitalism surrounded by Communist East Germany.”
[excerpted from the Introduction to *Cold War Memories*]

Trisha and I spent four years collecting stories via mail, email, websites and social media. We interviewed former students and teachers at reunions and brat gatherings.

At times it was like pulling teeth, but we finally collected enough stories to go forward with publishing the book in time for our goal deadline--Our Reunion at the 25th Anniversary of the Fall of the Wall celebration in Berlin!

Our book was published on October 20th, just in time to order a batch to bring to the reunion in Berlin.

It was the perfect place to launch our book-- against the backdrop of our beloved city, formerly captive, now free.



Cold War Memories is an informative and entertaining history of what life was like in Berlin for US dependents, their teachers and their families from 1946 until 1994. There are first-hand accounts covering the Berlin Air Lift (Col. Gail Halvorsen himself wrote the epilogue), the rise and fall of the Berlin Wall, JFK's visit to Berlin, Ronald Reagan's visits to the Walled City, the 1986 bombing of the La Belle discotheque, close encounters in Communist East Berlin and much more!

These are our stories--some will make you laugh, some will make you cry. Many will intrigue and surprise you. *Cold War Memories* is a compilation work, featuring the stories of 148 contributors, including ten former faculty.

If you would like to purchase a copy of our book (510 pages), it is available at Amazon.com or at our e-store (<https://www.createpace.com/4863523>). One dollar of every book purchased through our e-store will be donated to the Berlin Brats Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.
(please be aware that the Createspace website will require you to fill out a couple of pages in order to place your order)
We know you will enjoy this wonderful compilation of the stories of brats and their teachers!

Sunday - Nov 9th - "Anniversary Day" and a free day in our schedule!



Race Ticket



Warming Up after the Race

Hey there!

Thanks so much for the picture!

In case I didn't tell you all before, this event, shared with you, made a great memory! I can't help but smile when thinking about the day. Yeah, I know, I know.... It was cold and damp. And, the pre race warm up took a little longer than planned - 3 km, in fact. But, what a great validation of our brat upbringing. We took what could have been a miserable morning and turned it into an awesome memory! While trying to keep warm on the pre race warm up, I got to know Kevin Lindroth '75 and Antonio a little better. Antonio? Don't remember him? Well, I thought he was one of us - he was walking with Kevin, right? Leading the pack. But, no, he was just another race participant who had missed the bus connection. But, I learned a lot about him in typical brat fashion. He and his wife, both from Spain, are research scientists working at a Berlin hospital. They moved to the city four years earlier because the economy in Spain was so bad. They will probably have to remain in Berlin with their young daughter, away from their families, for several more years due to the economy. I think he has a new, and hopefully good impression of Americans now. Other conversations with actual members of our group were just as enlightening. Bittersweet and funny - we shared some of the most poignant moments of our lives with each other during those few hours. Thanks again to those of you that were involved in making this opportunity available to us - from finding out about the race, securing the details about registration, actually getting us registered, designing a t-shirt and to getting us to the event! So glad I was there with you!

Kathy Rose Ray '74 (Guest of Billy Jordan '76 and a Brat herself from Misawa HS, Japan)



The Forgetting Game

Private showing of a new documentary.

.....centers around the family of Berlin Brats from the 1960s, was shown at the Reunion!

Brats head downtown for the Anniversary Events

Balloons lined the path the Wall had taken.
These photos were taken
walking from Checkpoint Charlie to Brandenburg Gate.



Above: Stage being set up for performances at the Gate.



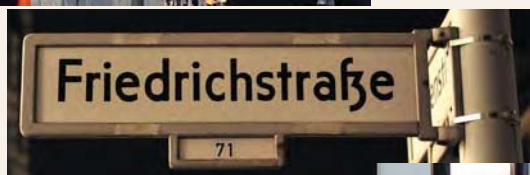
Along the Wall of Terror



Our flag flies atop
the U.S. Embassy.



(U.S. Embassy banner)



100 Wall Stories



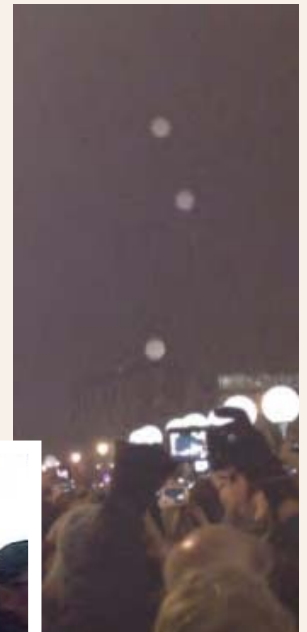
No one intends to build a wall!

It is 15 June 1961; some 300 journalists are attending an international press conference in East Berlin in the “House of Ministries.” As Chairman of the State Council of East Germany, Walter Ulbricht welcomes the Soviet proposals for a peace agreement and demands that the political situation in West Berlin be neutralized. He also demands that the West Germans close the refugee camp in West Berlin: the stream of migrants leaving the GDR through West Berlin remains unabated, with almost twenty thousand “voting with their feet” every month. The journalist Annamarie Doherr of the Frankfurter Rundschau asks: “So does the formation of a ‘Free City’ mean, in your opinion, that the state border will be erected at the Brandenburg Gate (...)?”

Ulbricht replies: “I understand your question like this: that there are people in West Germany who want to see us mobilize the builders of the Capital of the GDR to construct a wall. I am not aware that any such plan exists, (...) No one intends to build a wall!” By protesting too much, Ulbricht has in fact just revealed his plan. At this point in time, however, no one has noticed, and no one followed up on his comment. Two months later the Berlin Wall is reality.

Releasing the Balloons - Our Monumental Moment

Joyce (Clark) Mallon '72, John Latham '67 and myself, Toni (Yarbrough) Combs '71 stood in front of the S Bahn Station at Potsdamer Platz, in front of Starbucks. As we were standing on Potsdamer Platz, waiting for the balloons to be released into the air, we talked with one of the Balloon Patrons. He told us that the release would begin at 7:20 outward from Brandenburg Gate and they were to be timed 3 seconds between each balloon so as to appear as a wave. Each balloon had at least one message attached to it.



releasing the Balloons on Potsdamer Platz. Still photo from the video I took.

Joyce (Clark) Mallon '72

John Latham '67

Toni (Yarbrough) Combs '71



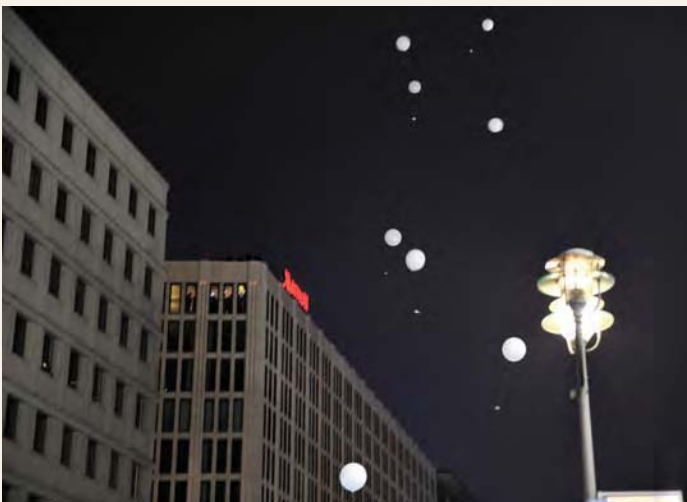
Lichtgrenze Photo by Peter Stein '80



Potsdamer Platz Balloons



Kristy, Marnie and Julie
at Checkpoint Charlie



Releasing Balloons



East Side Gallery Balloons

Monday - We toured BAHS, the Chapel at BB, and the Allied Museum



Image of Wilma Rudolph on screen



Heading into Wilma-Rudolph-Oberschule



Our choir robes were hanging in the cafeteria windows at our Q & A



Faculty on the panel at the Q & A



Bleachers and gym floor



Food Line in the cafeteria



Inside one of the classrooms

A Visit to Thomas A. Roberts

Katrin (Lindroth) Planz '71

On our school color day I had the good fortune to escort the older classes to the TAR school. Part of it is now the Quentin Blake Europe School (Quentin Blake is, among other things, the creator of the droll illustrations for the Roald Dahl children's books), a public bilingual elementary school. We were welcomed there by Heidi Klotz, an American who met and married a German, stayed in Berlin and now teaches at the school. It was her wish to expose us to her classes and vice versa, and that was a truly rewarding experience. For me at any rate. Being surrounded by these inquisitive little people speaking in quite good English and asking questions about the war (as old as we looked to them they of course thought of us as belonging to our parents' generation). Heidi mentioned that she would be interested in a regular exchange with us in which the kids can send us their questions. I think this would be really neat and who knows -- it may also lead to keeping tales of the American presence in Berlin alive a little longer. You can find further info about the school at their website: www.quentin-blake-europe-school.de.

Remembering Liz Wood '85 at the School:



Jenni (Hewitt) Shaw '85 releases locks of Liz's hair at BAHS, the last destination, fulfilling a wish of Elizabeth's.

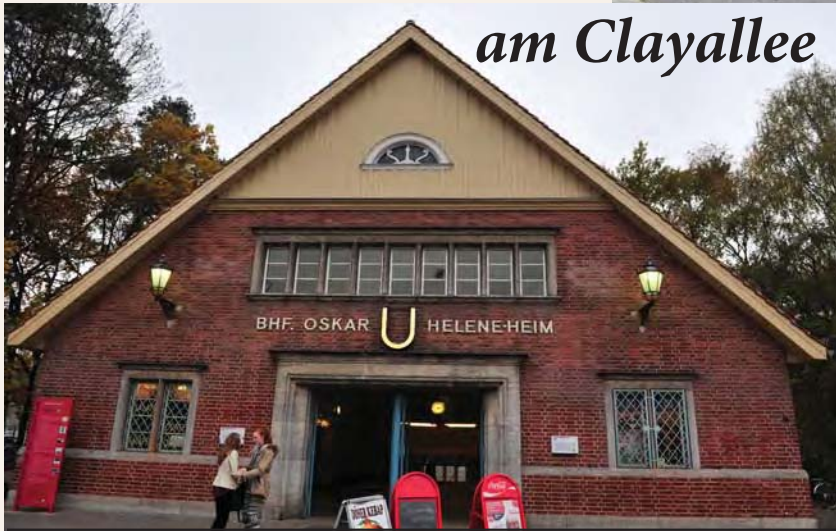


Cate Speer '85 reads tribute





Oskar Heleneheim am Clayallee



Chapel at BB am Huttenweg





Jeri and Cate at Allied Museum



Visit to Allied Museum

There was a special exhibit about Tempelhof open to Berlin Brats on Monday at noon.



Rob Ahrens '87 and his peeps!



Members of '86 & '87 show us their stuff!



Are those "Bears" on someone's Nails?!



Thanks to Lance Srp '88 and Marnie (Nelson) Sizemore '87 for some of their photos!

Class Photos were taken prior to the Banquet. Early '70's hung for a group picture as well (above).

View more at: www.BerlinBrats.org

Monday Night Banquet



Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72,
President of our Alumni Association,
opens the banquet ceremonies.

Wall Sections made by Bryan Duckett '84 were the Banquet table decorations. A lucky Brat at each table managed to leave with one!



"Troop 46 - The Outpost of Freedom" posted our Colors!

Introduced by Eagle Scout - Sam McCuskey '71, many a Berlin Brat were part of this historic troop during their day.

Below is the Thank You note we received from the Scoutmaster, the Scouts and their historian Vanessa for the honor of posting and for our donation to their ongoing good works.

Visit Troop #46 on Facebook at:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/96212026723/>



Color Guard Performed by Troop 46

Dear Berlin Brats,

Thank you inviting Boy Scout Troop 46 to participate in your flag ceremony. We are always honored to have the opportunity to serve. Thank you also for the 100 Euro donation to our troop. It will help greatly fund our programming.

Sincerely,

Sam McCuskey
Ted [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
Katharine [unclear] [unclear]
Vanessa A. Haze



Scout Memorabilia available for purchase

SURPRISE GUEST SPEAKER

Berlin American High School Reunion
Berlin, November 10, 2014
DCM Jim Melville

Maj Gen (USAF) Frederick “Rick” Martin, class of ’77; Teachers and friends of the Berlin American High School, It’s a privilege and a real pleasure to join you this evening for the reunion of the Alumni Association from the former Berlin American High School.

I have a great fondness and appreciation for the DoDDS system. My late uncle was a DoDDS administrator in Germany for over 30 years. My sister taught in a DoDDS school in Karlsruhe and I have a cousin who teaches in one in Bahrain. Most particularly, though, my son Daniel graduated from DoDDS London Central High School, Class of 2006.



Sadly, like the Berlin American School, LCHS closed its doors a few years ago as well, as the U.S. military presence in Europe drew down.

Or not so sadly, for these closures reflect the great success of U.S. policy to promote a Europe whole, free and at peace.

The Cold War is over, but we can never forget the sacrifice that our men and women in uniform made – and continue to make – to protect our freedom. Every soldier or airman who served in Berlin can be proud of the role he or she played in bringing an end to the Cold War. I’m sure it’s no coincidence that you chose this very special weekend for your reunion here.

As all of you know and some of you witnessed personally, on this day 25 years ago, the Berlin Wall was open. The evening before, beginning at the Bornholmerstrasse Crossing, East German citizens demanded the right to cross over into West Berlin. It was an historic moment. Authoritarian regimes were beginning to crumble; and after weeks of massive and peaceful protests, the East German government bowed to popular will and allowed people to travel freely across the border that had divided West and East Germany: a border over which more than 200 East Germans had lost their lives in the search for freedom.

Through the long and dangerous years of the Cold War, American troops stood firmly by the German people and their quest for reunification. The U.S. Military’s Command in Berlin existed from 1945 to 1994. During that time thousands of soldiers and airmen served as members of one of the most prestigious units in the U.S. Military. Over time, the Berlin command was known by several different names. No matter

by what name it was called, however, the members of the Berlin Brigade – soldiers, airmen and their families – were the face of the United States Military, and the face of the United States to the people of Berlin. They stood steadfast with their German friends to face the forces of an oppressive regime and to keep the citizens of Berlin free.

In July 1945, when the U.S. Army came to Berlin, it was necessary to re-train battle-hardened soldiers in the techniques of civil police duties to cope with the problem of maintaining order in a war-torn city. During the winter of 1945-46, U.S. forces faced the practical problems of keeping two million Berliners in the Western Sectors of a destroyed city, alive. Under the U.S. Military Government, the soldiers of the Brigade went to work and quickly restored basic services that set the conditions for rebuilding this city. In 1948 the Soviets imposed the Berlin Blockade and attempted to starve Berlin into surrender. For 15 months, Berlin was supplied by air by Allied forces, for as General Clay made clear, and I quote: “When Berlin falls, Western Germany will be next. If we withdraw our position in Berlin, Europe is threatened.”

On the 13th of August 1961, the government of the German Democratic Republic sealed the crossing points between the Soviet Sector and West Berlin. Twenty-eight miles of barbed-wire and barriers went up across the city and construction of the Berlin Wall began. Three days later, President John F. Kennedy ordered the reinforcement of the Brigade. He ordered that the reinforcement be accomplished in a way that would convince the Soviet Union that the United States had no intention of backing down from its commitment to a free Berlin.

Due in large part to their professionalism, in an incredibly short time, the United States evolved from a conqueror of Berlin to the city’s protector. The same thing occurred in the broader relationship with West Germany. We became committed to the economic recovery and political rehabilitation of this country. It was crucial that the Federal Republic, beginning with Berlin, not slip behind what Winston Churchill was the first to call “the iron curtain.” Here in Berlin, the Soviet and Western approaches were on daily display. For both the soldiers who served here at the frontier of the Cold War and Berliners, the contrasts between communism and capitalism, authoritarianism and freedom, were visible and palpable. And alongside other Western allies – and also Germany, we worked together to maintain the peace. This, too, is part of the story of Berlin. From 1945 to 1994, when the Four Power military occupation of the city formally ended, over 200,000 Berliners had worked alongside Allied soldiers

as civilian employees. The relationships they formed with American soldiers and their families represent a special chapter of the German-American partnership. By definition, when we read history, it is from a distance. In terms of the dramatic history that Germans – and in particular, Berliners – share with Americans, it would be impossible to manufacture today the same emotional sense of commitment that developed during the long years of the Cold War. We can, however, find ways to promote a 21st century trans-Atlantic relationship.

For the soldiers and airmen of the Berlin Brigade – your parents (and some of you as well) -- Berlin was more than a posting – it came to be home. And many, like some of the veterans and family members here today, liked it so much they decided to stay in Berlin to build their own families. Of those who returned to the United States, many still maintain contact with their extended Berlin Brigade family. The bonds that the soldiers and airmen of the Berlin Brigade formed over the course of the almost fifty years here, with one another and with the citizens of Berlin, are unique. They are symbolic of the very special connection that so many Americans have with Berlin – myself included.

In many respects, my wife Joanna and I have a lot in common with you and your families. Our first foreign service post was here in Berlin, and our children were born here during that tour. In fact, right here in Steglitz, at the U.S. Army Hospital. They each still proudly have their plaques as Honorary Members of the Berlin Brigade. So we too are a family of Berliners.

Also like many of you, our family, has served in other countries around the world.

But no matter where we have lived – abroad or at home in the States – we have carried with us our experience in Germany. We've stayed in touch with friends made during our tour here, and we know what a joy it is to reconnect – in particular, here in a reunited Berlin. My assignment was to our Embassy to the German Democratic Republic. So we lived on the other side of the Wall, on Leipzigerstrasse, about 3 blocks from Checkpoint Charlie.

We were here when President Reagan visited Berlin in 1987. I was on the press riser directly in front of President Reagan when he called on President Gorbachev to tear down the Wall that divided this city; In hindsight, we all know the cracks in the Wall were already there, but they were still hidden. We were proud to serve our country. And we were proud, as you all are, to be part of the larger story that began in July 1945 when President Truman came to Berlin. He presided over the raising of the Stars and Stripes at the U.S. headquarters building, now our Consulate, on Clayallee.

President Truman stated then his hope that one day Berlin would be part of what he called a better world, a peaceful world, a world in which all the people will have an opportunity to enjoy the good things in life. And he held true to that commitment throughout the months of the Soviet Blockade and the Berlin Airlift.

Subsequent America Presidents showed the same measure of resolve – as did your parents, and you as well, the personnel and families of the American military under the command of these Presidents. And as the history of this era has shown, with all the many reminders we were given over this weekend, yours was a job well done.

So last night, as I was waiting to send my balloon aloft from Ebertstrasse, right next to the Brandenburg Gate in front of our Embassy – I was the Balloonpate for Balloon #2,229 I remembered going to Alexanderplatz on August 13, 1986 for Erich Honecker and his Politburo's celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the construction of the "Antifascist Protection Barrier." And I marveled at all the incredible changes that have taken place since then. But this was the work of generations and it's a result of the tireless effort that your parents and their parents – and our allies, friends and partners – particularly and most importantly – our German friends – put into the effort and struggle. Many of us have tried to do our part as well, as we continue to do in what is still a dangerous world. But we can and should celebrate our successes, too.

When President Kennedy came to Berlin in 1963, he specifically said "All free men, wherever they may live, are citizens of Berlin" before going on to his more famous statement "as a free man, I take great pride in the words, Ich bin ein Berliner." By the force of those words and the very real presence of the United States in Berlin, for almost fifty years, we stood by our promise. And for us, the opportunity to come back to a united, prosperous, peaceful Berlin has been a gift.

For those of you who are returning to Berlin, and for those of you who for whom Germany is your home, that's what I see when I look at all of you – a strong relationship with a foundation in the past and the present, but also the dynamic potential of a hopeful future.

I hope you've had a wonderful reunion, and thanks for letting me share a part of it.

James D. Melville, Jr.
Embassy of the United States of America
Deputy Chief of Mission



3 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED AT THIS YEAR'S REUNION!

A highlight of this year's Reunion Banquet in Berlin, Germany was the presentation of the Berlin Brats Reunion Scholarship Awards. These awards represented the third round of awards for the Berlin Brats Alumni Association and were deemed by those in attendance to be a raging success. The intent of the scholarships is to further the success of the Berlin lineage.

Scholarship applications were emailed to the class contacts and posted on the Berlin Brats Website (www.berlinbrats.org) and on the Berlin Brats Alumni Association Facebook page this past summer. The intent of the awards is to award a minimum of (3) \$500 awards to be made available to the following persons:
A Berlin Brat and/or their dependents (children, grandchildren or spouse) and/or a faculty (teacher or administration) member and/or their dependents (children, grandchildren or spouse)



Application forms were completed and submitted one month prior to the reunion to the three-person Berlin Brats Scholarship Committee (berlinbrats.scholarship@gmail.com). This committee consisted of Michelle Estes ('90), John Latham ('67) and Jenni (Hewitt) Shaw ('85). In an attempt to make the evaluation process as objective as possible, the committee reviewed each application package in its entirety multiple times and rated each package against an exhaustive set of evaluative criteria. Follow-up questions were submitted to the candidates if necessary and three outstanding packages rose to the top. There was however, one package that stood out from the rest and this package was awarded a larger portion of the scholarship total.

Specifically for the Berlin Reunion awards, we offered scholarships based on the generosity and private contributions of our alumni and faculty instead of the Silent Auction and Raffle used for the previous two offerings and for the first time the sponsoring Brat did not have to attend the reunion. So a great big thank you to you, our alumni, faculty and friends for this amazing effort!

We were fortunate enough to have a past winner in attendance at the banquet, Ms. Heidi Martin. Heidi was able to spend some time sharing what it meant for her to receive the scholarship honors in 2012 and how much she enjoys being part of the elite community of awardees.

This year we received our highest number of packages. From individual reviews to a committee review and ranking we were able to bubble up three candidates that really impressed us.

The following students received the three Berlin Brats Reunion Scholarship Awards.

Gretchen Krenning, daughter of Dawn (Abel) Hayes '87 and stepdaughter of Robert Hayes '85

Gretchen is working towards her degree in American Sign Language and working with the deaf. She has real life experiences in working with the deaf and really impressed the committee with her analogy of the Berlin Brat community to those she has studied and worked with in the deaf community. I know "the deaf community" grows very close to its own kind as they can empathize with each other. There is a big difference in empathy and sympathy. These communities know what it's like to be them and reach the deepest levels of understanding, communicating and connection. Being a military brat herself she knows what that means but being a Berlin Brat is not just a label but an honor and you can see it in those who claim it.

Gretchen put forth a lot of effort into pulling together an impressive package and the committee commends her for that. For her outstanding application package, Gretchen received \$2,000 from the Berlin Brats Alumni Association Reunion Scholarship Award. Gretchen received her award following the Berlin Reunion.

Anastasia Lowe, daughter of Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83 and sister of Nathan Lowe, 2009 Scholarship Recipient in Phoenix.

Anastasia's package was the "extras" package...her extras came in the form of giving back. Not only does she have a 4.0 GPA and is on track to graduate early this recipient is the daughter of a Berlin Brat graduate from the early 1980s and she attributes her hard work and dedication to her mother, which is not surprising when you look at her mother's own achievements.

This recipient spends her summers volunteering with a Houston based non-profit soccer training and summer camp program for 5-8 year olds called Sports Quest Training. Her favorite sessions are working with the inner city camps. In addition, she has led sports camps in Ecuador and Chile. What stood out was something this recipient said in her application: "I've learned that just like math and music, sports are universal and bring people together regardless of language, faith or experience". For me, those words epitomized the qualities of a Berlin Brat.

It has been an honor to watch Anastasia over the last few years interviewing Berlin Brats and capturing their stories for an upcoming documentary. For her exceptional application package, Anastasia received \$1,500 from the Berlin Brats Alumni Association Reunion Scholarship Award. Anastasia was in attendance to receive her award.



Michelle Estes '90 presents to Anastasia

Monica (Moni) Brians, daughter of Michael Brians '78 and niece of Deb (Brians) Clark '74

Monica is currently a Freshman discovering who she is and discovering her passions and desires. She is one of four family members currently in school. She is very active in her church and in her community with SAFE Animal Haven. She found her true niche as a volleyball player where her team won the state championship. Reflecting back on that experience she states she learned what is like to be confident and humble; what it is like to be talented and gracious; what it is like to be a champion and a competitor; what it is like to fight and persevere; what it is like to be a teammate and something greater than myself.

For her poignant application package, Monica received \$1,500 from the Berlin Brats Alumni Association Reunion Scholarship Award. Her award was received by her Aunt Deb in Berlin.

The Berlin Brats Scholarship Committee would like to thank all the applicants for their efforts and we wish each of them success in their future educational endeavors.

by: Jenni (Hewitt) Shaw '85, Scholarship Chair

Hello Berlin Brats Scholarship Committee!

First of all..Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families. Just wanted to send a pic to you to show you Moni's scholarship award was safely delivered. She was thrilled and we are all so proud of her.

Thanks again for bestowing this award to Moni...she will do you proud, as they say here in the south.

Deb (Brians) Clark '74



Monica Brians receiving her Scholarship from her Aunt Deb after the 2014 Reunion

The next round of Scholarship Awards will be at our Summer 2017 reunion so please look for Scholarship Application packages on the website, Facebook page and/or from your class contact February 2017 for the next round of awards.

If you would like to get involved with the Scholarship Committee, we would love to have you on the team. We are currently looking for someone with experience in helping the Berlin Brats Alumni Association Reunion Scholarship obtain 501-c status. If you have or know someone who has experience with setting up this type of tax entity, please contact Jeri Glass (berlinbrats@gmail.com).



In an effort to continue to grow the program and make a difference to our community, we currently have a need for a Scholarship Fund Campaign Manager. This person will setup and execute online crowdfunding campaigns, personal donations and an online or onsite silent auction prior or during the reunion. This is a great way to be part of this amazing "Pay It Forward" initiative and invest in our Berlin Brats community. So, if health, financial, family or other things prohibit you from attending the reunion, please consider this a means to being involved! Please contact Jeri Glass (BerlinBrats@gmail.com).

If you are interested in including the Berlin Brats Alumni Association Scholarship in your estate planning, please contact Jeri Glass (BerlinBrats@gmail.com).

If you have any questions about the scholarships themselves, please contact the committee at BerlinBrats.scholarship@gmail.com.

Some Brats head to Krakow, Poland on Tuesday morning....



As we checked out Berlin Wall souvenirs were given to us by the Hotel



The Bus from a Hotel Room in Wroclaw



Brats walking the streets in Wroclaw, Poland



At the Salt Mine



Locks on the Bridge



Polish Paper



Dinner restaurant Wroclaw, Poland



Polish Menu

1st known "Military Brat" Statue.....is unveiled at West Point! *from: West Point Newsletter - December 11, 2014*

A bronze, life-sized statue titled, "Good-bye," was unveiled at the West Point Schools entrance Nov. 12 to commemorate both Veterans Day and November as the Month of the Military Child. In 2012, the estate of retired Col. Thomas J. Wells, U.S. Military Academy Class of 1928, donated \$30,000 to the children of West Point Schools. More than 100 West Point Middle School students and their art teacher, Gary Jacketti, worked for two years on the statue of a Soldier and his daughter saying goodbye, capturing the dedication to the role of the military family in the mission of the U.S. Army.

PHOTOS BY KATHY EASTWOOD/PV



Entitled: Good-bye



The statue's location is fitting as West Point has had a "Brat" school since 1821, less than 20 years after the Academy was founded. Watch and listen to BG John Thomson a "Brat" himself at the unveiling - makes you exceptionally proud to be a Brat!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4su9SPhrgLA&feature=youtu.be>

Next Reunion: Summer of 2017 when we rotate to mid-country USA

Pen us in your calendar now!!!

Upcoming Events:

4 Apr 2015 6:30pm
Bavarian Grill Brat Dinner
Plano, Texas

Hosted by Roo '73.

Oct 1-4, 2015
OSB Annual Gathering
Portland, OR

Hosted by: Overseas Brats

Homecoming 2016

Colorado Springs, CO
ALL SCHOOLS REUNION
Held Every 3 years!
Aug 4-7, 2016
Hosted by: Overseas Brats

6-11 Jul 2015
Jamaica 2015 Cruise
Miami, FL depart/arrive

Hosted by Gloria '91

16 Aug 2015
Washington D.C.
Details to follow

Hosted by Jeri '72

26 Sep 2015
Oktoberfest - 6th Annual
Charlotte, NC
More details to follow

Hosted by
Deb (Brians) Clark '74

Contact Information:

Berlin Brats Alumni Association
41910 N. Crooked Stick Road
Anthem, AZ 85086
623•764•1105 tele

BerlinBrats@gmail.com

Director: Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72
www.berlinbrats.org

Find us on Facebook:
"Berlin Brats Alumni Association"
(the official Fan Page site)

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

WebBrat: Cate Speer '85
WebBrat@BerlinBrats.org

Newsletter Brat:
Toni (Yarbrough) Combs '71
traecombs@gmail.com

Early 60's Site

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

American Overseas School Historical Society

Contact: Gayle Vaughn Wiles - President
Email: gayle.aoshs@gmail.com
Website: www.aoshs.org

Overseas Brats

Joe Condrill, President
Email: joeosbpres@sbcglobal.net
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