



Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter

January 2016

Volume 12, Issue 1



We're headed to: NEW ORLEANS!!!

THE VOTES ARE IN:

**63% of Membership voted....
(ie: current dues paying Members of the Alumni Association)**

59% for New Orleans and 41% for San Antonio

**Every three years we hold a REUNION and rotate
between the east, mid-country, and west
so that everyone has a chance of being fairly close to the location.
The 2017 cycle - called for middle of the country.
Hence, the Vote was between the two locations listed above.**

Thanks to those who Voted!

Mark your Calendars Now!

June 7-11th, 2017

Save the Date!

**For some of you the location didn't make a difference - since you will attend
the REUNION wherever it's held. It is our bond with "fellow Berlin Brats"
that we ultimately come for....but
perhaps the location is a little extra bonus!**

**We will be announcing the Reunion Hotel in the French Qtr soon so stay tuned.
In the meantime, enjoy some local pictures of New Orleans!**



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Brat Get-Together in Berlin:

Liz Dane '78 found herself headed to "Berlin" over this past Thanksgiving period.... Nov 26th 2015. When a friend living locally was unable to link up with her, and with two days to herself before another friend was flying in..... the Berlin Brats came to the rescue.....

A private message on Facebook went out to Gary Planz '74 who lives in Berlin. (The previous year he had attended his 1st Berlin Brat Reunion with his wife Eveline and was hooked) Gary & Eveline graciously met up with Liz on her arrival. Here are some photos of Liz, Gary and Eveline as they visited the Spandau Chriskindlmarkt.



Liz Dane '78



Eveline (Gary's wife), Gary Planz '74 and Liz Dane



Liz and Eveline at the Spandau Chriskindlmarkt



Ken Magee '88 (L) experiencing good times with fellow Brat, Brian Cooper '88 (R) at WVU Mountaineers game!!! Nov 14, 2015



'83ers Rule in Iceland - James Miller and Renee Verret Nov 2015



Janice & Larry Speer '83 visiting the Memorial Bench for fellow Brat, Liz Wood '85 in NYC Central Park. Liz passed Jan 17, 2013.

Only 44 years!

After nearing 15 years of trying to make contact with Jose Mercer '72.....Jeri receives an email out of the blue.

Jose and Jeri were best friends their sophomore year but then - as can happen - a guy gets in the way. They didn't talk their whole Junior year ('70-'71).....then Jeri leaves Berlin. Jose stays on to graduate at BAHS and eventually marries the Berlin Brat.

Fast forward to 2000....Jeri's living in AZ and hears Jose is too. She reaches out.....but no connection is made.

Then voila Oct 2015 an email from Jose hits Jeri's InBox.

They agree to meet halfway between their 2 locations for lunch. Lunch date was set for Nov 9th....nearly 5 hrs later they paid their lunch tab!!!!

Jose(Mercer) Eccles '72 and
Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72 in Casa Grande, AZ



LOOK AT THE LATEST LEGO EDITION!

....is that Peter Stein '80, our
Brat Communicator,
with the "Berlin Skyline?"

"44 Years later a Lunch Date!"



Judy Belt - FAC '68-'72 and
Harry Smith '72
meet up in Edmond, OK!

How Gary Planz '74 came to be in Tampa, Florida!



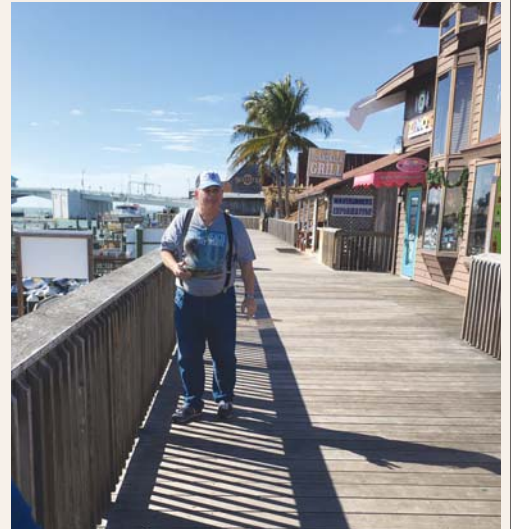
In 2014 Gary's brother Bill (class of '71) told him that the "Berlin Brats" were coming back to Berlin for a REUNION. Gary promptly checked out the Berlin web site and decided to attend. He jumped in with both feet at the Reunion, met just about everybody from every class year and then even worked the "PX/Brat Store" at registration for hours on end, encouraging each Brat who made a purchase to chip in more \$\$\$'s as the excess would go toward the Scholarship Fund! (....and here he was a Newbie!!!)

Gary informed the reunion was one of the most meaningful and most moving experience ever for him. Being able to reconnect with old friends and classmates after 40 plus years!

During the reunion Gary and Gary Robinson '73 had such a good time that Gary R. told Gary P. that if he and his wife were ever able to make it to Florida they were welcome to stay with them. So after exchanging a few emails (since Nov 2014) they were able to work out a time that worked for everyone.

After not being in the States for 42 years Gary Planz came to Florida, traveling to Tampa, Florida from Flughafen Berlin Tegel (TXL), January 1 at 11:40pm · Berlin, Germany - **to escape the Berlin winter!**

Unfortunately Gary's wife, Eveline, (who also attended the 2014 Reunion) was not able to join Gary on this FL trip, but since she had such a good time at the reunion with everyone making her feel so welcome, she encouraged him to make the trip on his own.



Hopefully Gary R. and his wife Susan will make it back to Berlin and Gary P. & Eveline will be able to show them around his city!!!

Right : Gary brought a bit of Berlin to Tampa from the Spandau Christkindlmarkt

Gary P. spent a week in the Tampa Bay area, going to the beach and soaking up the Florida sun!



WURSTFEST 6-8 November, 2015 - New Braunfels, Texas

**Annual event
w/Berlin &
Heidelberg Brats**



Berlin Brats are:

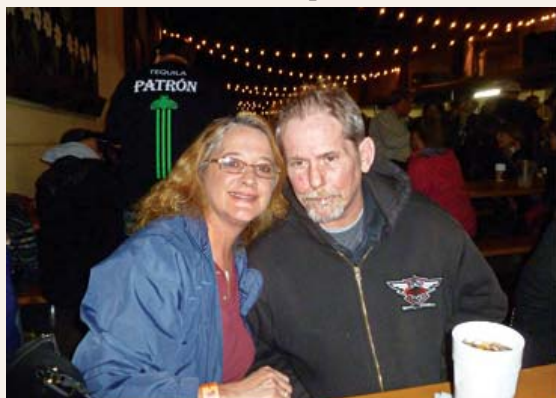
Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83, Ivan Lowe, Ruchia "Roo" (Eargle) Moran '73, Julie Langley '77, Mark Bans '83, Mark Woods '76, Karen (Sellers) Wilt '80



Front Row: Yoshika '83 and Tamara (Murdock) Cooper '88
Back: Julie '79, Karen '80, Mark W. '76, Roo '73, Mark B. '83
and a HB brat '83 (in baseball cap)



Karen Sellers and Roo



Nancy (Robinson) Ware '81 and husband



Wurstfest 2015 (Mark Woods and the gals)

Early 60's Classes - Reunion in San Francisco, CA Oct 2015

At the Golden Gate Bridge



Back Row: Janet (Bozarth) Silver '66, Lee Angel '64 and his guest Jo Ann Truxton, Lee Ewing '61, Meg Griffin, Dottie Ewing, Jim Griffin '61, Ada Lopez '63, Mike Cleveland '61, Joyce (Riddick) Perkins '66, Linda (Counselman) Golembiewski '63, John Whitney Snodgrass '66, Cathy (Wildermuth) Mangino '61, Doreen (Maloney) Anderson '65, Joe McCabe '65 **Kneeling - Left to Right:** Lear Von Koch '64, Jeanette "Jan" (Gonzales) White '63, Glen Dunwoody '65, Magda (Gonzales) Miley '66, Maggie (Ellithorpe) MacPherson '63, Phil Lear '63, Jim Stewart '65
Sitting - Left to Right: Phyllis (Park) Saarinen '61, Jerry Branson '62

Early 60's at Villa Andretti Winery



Donald MacPherson spouse, Mike Jiru '63, Gail (Rybaltowski) Karppinen '63, Lear Von Koch '64, Nancy (Deane) Kreidler '64, Maggie (Ellithorpe) MacPherson '63, & Mike Cleveland '61 at Powell & Market!



Banquet Night: Who are those 2 - '70's crashing?

L to R: Carl Fenstermacher '73, Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, Jerry Branson '62, wife Shari, Brenda Branson (Stuttgart Brat & spouse of), Jim Branson '64, Lee (Santa) Angel '64 and his girlfriend JoAnn Truxton.



Socializing on the patio!!!!

Reunion Cake



Rita Post spouse of Tom, Tom Post '64, Jim Palmer '64 and wife Marjie enjoying libations and the Hotel's patio!

1st Regional of 2016

HOSTED BY GERMANDELI.COM and
SPONSORED BY: OVERSEAS BRATS



THE BERLIN BRATS SHOW UP IN FORCE-LARGEST SCHOOL IN ATTENDANCE!!!!



30 Berlin Brats at the GermanDeli regional Jan 2016



Shannon Teasley '88 and Valerie Robbins '89



Tammy, Jeri and Ron



Yoshika Loftin Lowe '83



GermanDeli meal



Valerie Robbins '89 & Shannon Teasley '88 - best friends since the age of 14 and met at the Commissary no less!



The Brats Jan 2016





All 90 Attendees of the German Deli - Overseas Brats Gathering January 2016

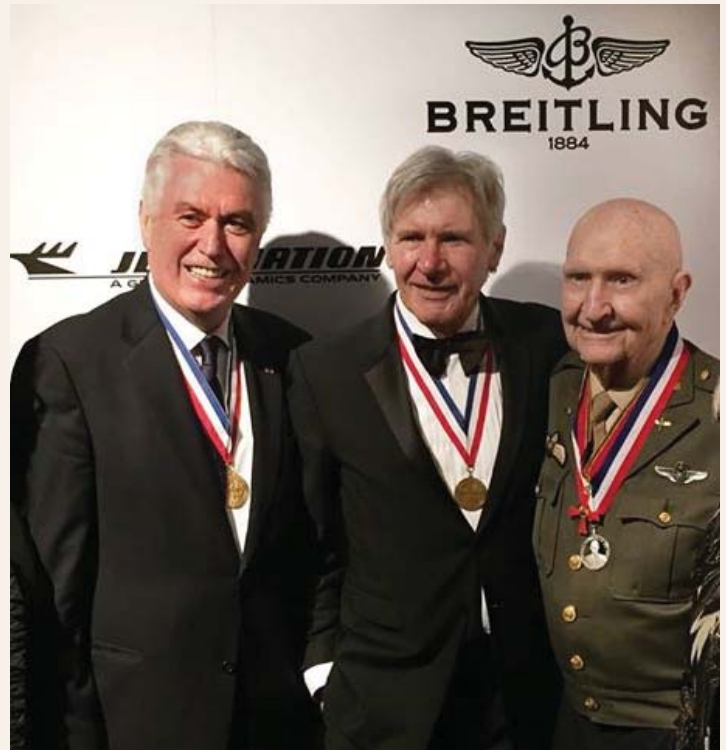
COL HALVORSEN - THE CANDY BOMBER - AGE 95 IS HONORED

SALT LAKE CITY -

The force was at work last weekend when Harrison Ford, President Dieter F. Uchtdorf and Candy Bomber Gail Halvorsen posed together for a photo that is blowing up Facebook. President Uchtdorf, second counselor in the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, posted the photo to his Facebook page, Wed, Jan 27th, 2016. Col. Gail Halvorsen — commonly known as the Candy Bomber — was presented with the “Kiddie Hawk Children’s Award” last weekend as Halvorsen was honored by Living Legends of Aviation.

*Col. Halvorsen is the father
of two Berlin Brats:
Marilyn ‘73 & Bob ‘75.*

*He was Commander of the 7350th Air Base Group
at Templehof in ‘74.*





CIRCE OLSON WOESSNER: Writer focuses on military families

- Home Front Salute kafbncucleus.com
(The Official Newspaper of Kirtland AFB, NM)
- Nov 26, 2015

As a full-time federal employee and military wife, mother and daughter, I had more than enough on my plate when, in 2011, I came up with the idea to start a museum dedicated to military families — to all generations and branches. The idea came to me without warning. At that time, my son was deployed to Iraq, and as I watched the evening news Middle East footage, I hoped he was doing OK and would come back to us safe and sound. It occurred to me that around the world, mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, children and friends, were worrying about their loved ones serving in harm's way and we all had this in common.

Generations upon generations of military families have experienced the warring emotions of love, pride and fear during their service member's career — many of them masking their inner terror by outwardly putting on a brave façade — all the while keeping the “home fires burning.” It dawned on me there must be a museum, somewhere, dedicated to military families ... So like everyone living in the 21st century, I Googled it. I couldn't find anything! There are military museums with a wing or exhibit highlighting the family, but I didn't see anything as inclusive as I envisioned. Right then, I called my then-82-year-old father. “Dad,” I said, “we are going to start a museum!” Now, the “**Museum of the American Military Family**” is a reality, located atop Bataan Military Academy Charter School in Albuquerque.

The museum has a special collections library with several hundred books, videos, DVDs and CDs created by military family members. It has hundreds of folios of first-hand accounts of military family life dating back to World War II. MAMF has had three major exhibits: “Sacrifice & Service: the American Military Family,” hosted at the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History and seen by 17,600 visitors from Memorial Day through Labor Day 2014; “Schooling with Uncle Sam,” in the Albuquerque Special Collections Library last July and August; and our mini exhibit “Perspectives,” currently at the University of New Mexico Veterans Resource Center. We have hosted dozens of film and spoken-word programs throughout the greater Albuquerque Metro Area. As an Army wife and mother and an “overseas brat,” my whole life has been influenced by the military. I was born in France on Evreux Air Base and lived in Germany until age 18. My husband and I were stationed on seven posts and bases in the states and overseas before settling in Albuquerque. Our oldest son went to boot camp at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, where he'd lived in second and third grade. Our youngest son can't visit the home on Kirtland Air Force Base where he lived during middle school. Our house on Stockton Loop was torn down years ago. The college where my husband and I met, the University of Maryland in Munich, Germany, has been closed for decades. This “rootlessness” is another aspect of military family life that gives us our cultural identity and common bonds.

This column will cover a variety of subjects from the perspective of the military family. It will cover museum events, interviews with family members and topics of interest. I will peruse our archives to share first-hand accounts from earlier generations, dig through our Operation Footlocker exhibits to highlight treasured artifacts and share some of my favorite books from our library.

For more information about MAMF, please visit our website: militaryfamilymuseum.org.

To suggest column topics, I can be reached at militaryfamilymuseum@comcast.net.

(Circe Olson Woessner is the executive director of the Museum of the American Military Family & Learning Center. The museum collects and preserves the stories of military families of all branches and generations to preserve their heritage, record its evolution and share their experiences. Her column appears on the fourth Thursday of the month in the Home Front Salute, Kirtland AFB's official paper.)

MAMF was the “Brat Cause of 2014” at the Overseas Brats Gathering.

Wall Siting in Dallas, TX



2 Berlin Wall sections spotted at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas, TX by Eugene, OR - Convention Sales Manager- Juanita Metzler.

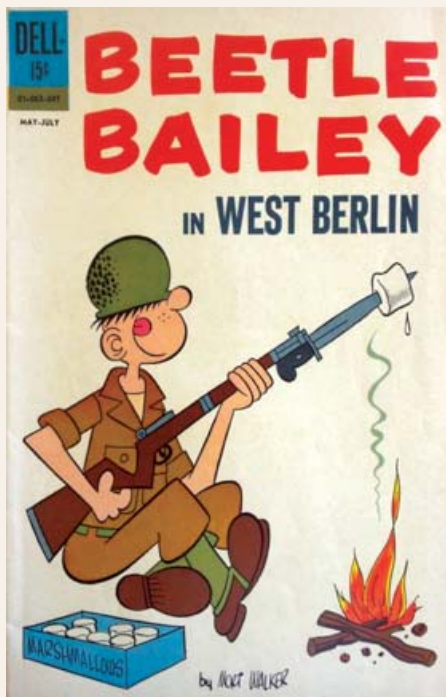
(The Anatole is home to more than 1,000 Fine Art pieces throughout the hotel).



Once she saw the inscription on this section she had to take pictures and send them to us! Look closely: "Berlin Bears 1990" - Now who wrote that?????

If in Dallas – stop in and check them out!!!!

NOSTALGIA



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These are some of the worst cars of the 20th century.

You don't want to drive them; you probably don't even want to know anything about them. They're terrible. And yet! We're going to ask you 20 questions about them. It's probably more noble if you get a bunch of these questions wrong....



"The Trabantor the Trabi to us!"

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE AT:

[HTTP://AUTO.HOWSTUFFWORKS.COM/WORST-CARS-OF-THE-20TH-CENTURY-QUIZ.HTM?MKCPGN=I600000071&UTM_SOURCE=FACEBOOK.COM&UTM_](http://auto.howstuffworks.com/worst-cars-of-the-20th-century-quiz.htm?MKCPGN=I600000071&UTM_SOURCE=FACEBOOK.COM&UTM_MEDIUM=SOCIAL&UTM_CAMPAIGN=HSWACCOUNT)

[MEDIUM=SOCIAL&UTM_CAMPAIGN=HSWACCOUNT](http://auto.howstuffworks.com/worst-cars-of-the-20th-century-quiz.htm?MKCPGN=I600000071&UTM_SOURCE=FACEBOOK.COM&UTM_MEDIUM=SOCIAL&UTM_CAMPAIGN=HSWACCOUNT)

November 28, 2015

With Rich History And Tax Breaks, Berlin Lures American Filmmakers

SORAYA SARHADDI NELSON



A scene from The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2 takes place in the fictional capital city Panem, which was filmed in Berlin. Murray Close/Lionsgate

Berlin is a favorite with many top American filmmakers and actors, and chances are you've seen landmarks from the German capital in movies — even when you didn't expect it. Take *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 2*. The film's fictional capital, Panem, was partly filmed at Tempelhof. This one-time airport was the focal point of a humanitarian airlift in 1948 and 1949 that helped break the Soviet blockade of West Berlin.

One of the German capital's biggest Hollywood fans is Tom Hanks. He first came to Berlin four years ago when filming *Cloud Atlas*, and has been back many times since. "I have been in the deserts of Morocco, I've been on the islands of Fiji, I've been in Moscow, London, Paris, Florence. I've been in some very glamorous world capitals," he tells NPR. "But the affection I have for Berlin is much deeper than anywhere else." Hanks, who lived in Berlin last year during the filming of *Bridge of Spies*, says he's fascinated by the city's complex history, especially its frontline status during the Cold War between the Soviet Bloc and the West. "The Cold War aspect of Berlin is something I grew up with," he says. "It was in the news, it was part of our social studies." But Berliners themselves are also appealing, Hanks says. There's "the most fabulous conversation to be had in your average coffee house or hotel lobby or cinema at 2 o'clock in the morning, as you are lining up to see an old movie that everyone else in the neighborhood is showing up to see as well."



Tom Hanks, whose dramatic thriller *Bridge of Spies* was partially filmed at Berlin's now-defunct Tempelhof airport, is one of the German city's biggest fans from Hollywood. "The affection I have for Berlin is much deeper than anywhere else," he tells NPR.

Jaap Buitendijk/DreamWorks Pictures

Such enthusiasm for Berlin, and Germany in general, from Hollywood A-listers is something the government has tried to nurture since 2008, says *Die Welt* newspaper's veteran film critic Hanns-Georg Rodek.

"The German culture minister said we must get big productions in order that German filmmakers can learn their craft, actually," he says. "So you can get a percentage of your film's budget [from the government] if you do it in Germany." And American film and TV companies keep coming. Besides *Bridge of Spies* and the latest *Hunger Games*, the current season of the Showtime series *Homeland* recently wrapped up production in Berlin. A new spy series for American TV by Epix called *Berlin Station* is shooting at Studio Babelsberg now. The 103-year-old studio, which features Nazi-era architecture and sprawls over 40 acres on the outskirts of Berlin, is legendary among cinema buffs. Studio spokesman Eike Wolf says the concept for the V for Vendetta mask was created here, as was the countdown eventually used by NASA to launch spaceships. The countdown first appeared in the 1929 German movie *Woman in the Moon*, Wolf says.

The studio grounds are chock-full of bits and pieces of Hollywood and TV productions, like the V for Vendetta mask and a Styrofoam recreation of part of the Berlin Wall. Studio Babelsberg "is the full-service company for these film projects," Wolf says. "We do location scouting, get all permissions. We take care of film funding, accounting, all the insurances. We set up the crew, we do set construction with our art department, so a film producer can get everything."

But film critic Rodek says neither the studio nor the German government should rest on their laurels if they want to keep attracting American moviemakers.

"The problems for Berlin are not the technical capabilities, but the working costs," he says.

Filming in Eastern Europe, for example, is far cheaper than in Germany. And Great Britain subsidizes a quarter of the costs of movie productions shot there, which is a lot more than the roughly \$11 million maximum per film provided to American productions filmed in Germany, Rodek says.

Hanks has another suggestion: "If you want to attract the big motion pictures to your local film industry, the best thing you could do is probably build five or six

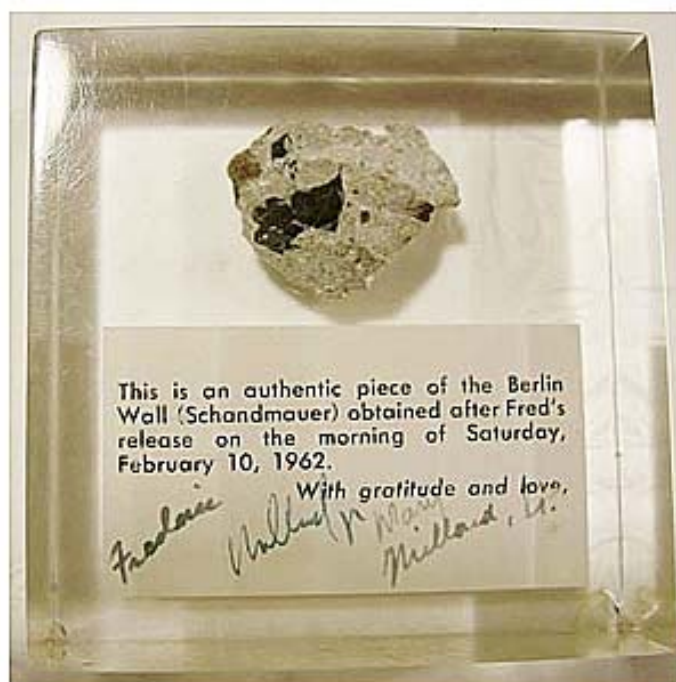
very large, state-of-the-art sound stages that motion pictures can move into for their duration."

Wolf says he agrees in theory, but that in reality, it's a costly proposition the studio can't afford without more big movie projects. Nor does Wolf believe sound stages can lure filmmakers away from the generous tax incentives and other funding provided in other countries.

He says the studio is among those lobbying the German government to become more competitive.

"If we want to set up a really good film industry here in Germany," Wolf says, "these subsidies must be so attractive that the American films are coming to Germany."

Recognize this????



Bridges of Spies – Tom Hank movie – Oct 2015

Follow up by Toby West '61 and Jerry Branson '62

This deserves a repeat post of it's own. It was a gift to me and Jerry Branson from the family of Frederic Pryor, who also crossed the "bridge of spies" just before his more famous compatriot. Jerry and I gathered the "wall" that went into these acrylic mementos and each got one. Sadly, mine was stolen years later, but I now have this picture. Thanks Jerry. It was quite a time for two teenagers in Berlin..... I am ever grateful for my ten years there. *Toby*



"25th Anniversary of the Fall of the Wall" carries on in Peter Stein '80's Command Center, ie: his office.

Are they going to rename Hauptstrasse in Schoeneberg into David-Bowie-Strasse?

Hauptstraße symbolisch in “David-Bowie-Straße” umbenannt

MORGENPOST.DE|BY LORENZ VOSSEN

Bowie lived on Hauptstrasse from '76-'79 and wrote 3 albums while living in Berlin.

Before the end of 1976, Bowie's interest in the burgeoning German music scene, as well as his drug addiction, prompted him to move to West Berlin to clean up and revitalise his career. There he was often seen riding a bicycle between his apartment on Hauptstraße in Schöneberg and Hansa Tonstudio, the recording studio he used, located on Köthener Straße in Kreuzberg, near the Berlin Wall. While working with Brian Eno and sharing an apartment with Iggy Pop, he began to focus on minimalist, ambient music for the first of three albums, co-produced with Tony Visconti, that became known as his Berlin Trilogy.



Dec 18, 2015 Berlin Church Hopes “Star Wars” Awakens Service-Goers

By Tanya Jones, Senior Editor, German Embassy Washington

Where else but in Berlin? A Christian congregation in the capital city has found a way to use the excitement surrounding the release of the new “Star Wars” movie to bring people through the doors of the sanctuary. The Lutheran congregation, Evangelische Kirchengemeinde Am Weinberg, will hold a “Star Wars” service on Sunday, December 20, the final Advent Sunday, in the Zionskirche (Zions Church) in Berlin Mitte.



Why, you ask. Well, according to a church announcement, organizers have found parallels to Biblical messages in the film. In a decisive scene in “Star Wars Episode VI – Return of the Jedi,” (1983) the Emperor tries to compel Luke Skywalker to forsake his Jedi oath and join the “Dark Side.” But, explains, theologian and Star Wars expert Lucas Ludewig, Skywalker resists with the words, “Never. I’ll never turn to the Dark Side.” Ludewig and his colleague, Ulrike Garve, both pastors in training, came up with the idea for the service after talking about the Biblical messages they saw in the series. Skywalker’s declaration, for example, parallels with Romans 12:21: “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

“We wanted to illustrate these analogies to those who come to the service,” Garve said in the announcement from the Lutheran church district for Mitte. The service was interspersed with film scenes, as well as organ music inspired by “Star Wars” music. Service attendees who came in costume or brought accessories were able to take part in a drawing for tickets to the latest film, “Star Wars: The Force Awakens.”

The Zionskirche was an important meeting place for opposition groups in East Berlin. During the 1930s, Lutheran pastor and Nazi-resistor Dietrich Bonhoeffer worked here.

Do you remember where Germany was divided?

On the 25th anniversary of reunification we drove 5000 kilometers from east to west and north to south, right across Germany. 25 years of unity, 25 locations - each tells something else about the country and people.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE VISIT

<http://einheitsreise.morgenpost.de/>

Descriptions of each area are featured w/short videos

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Berlin Brat stories from the beginning
'46 to the end '94

Just \$24.99 with \$1 of each book sold
going to the BB Scholarship Fund

"Berlin Horizontal"

-----the newest & laziest way to now see
Berlin (Nov 2015)



Upcoming Events:

Stay Tuned:

Possible Houston area regional
Coming: April 3rd, 2016

Homecoming 2016

Colorado Springs, CO
ALL SCHOOLS REUNION

Held Every 3 years!

Aug 4-7, 2016

Hosted by: Overseas Brats

Next Reunion

June 7th-11th, 2017

New Orleans

Mark your Calendars now!

Hotel Booking Page
will go LIVE by late
Summer 2016

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

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

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WebBrat@BerlinBrats.org



"NEW"

Follow us on Twitter
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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: [overseasschools](mailto:overseasschools@aoshs.org)

@aoshs.org

Website: www.aoshs.org

Overseas Brats

Joe Condrill, President

Email: joeosbpres@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.overseasbrats.com