



# Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter

July 2017

Volume 13, Issue 3



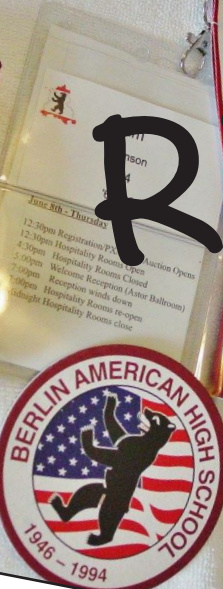
## Berlin Brats 2017

New Orleans, LA

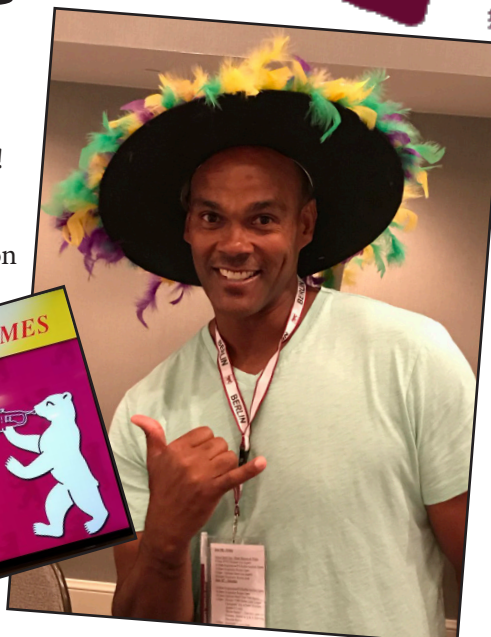
# REUNION



Look for the bears!  
Every two-page  
spread on the Re-  
union has a maroon  
NOLA Bear.



Jester photo from Judi (Bright) Morris '62; we stayed in the Astor Hotel, overlooking Bourbon Street; Class contact Rob Ahrens '87 celebrates their 30th!; Nicole (Clayton) Hutchison '92 made and passed out this beer cozy; Jim Branson '64's welcome package memorabilia; Brat in photo bottom right is Ken Magee '88.





# Welcome, Brats!!!

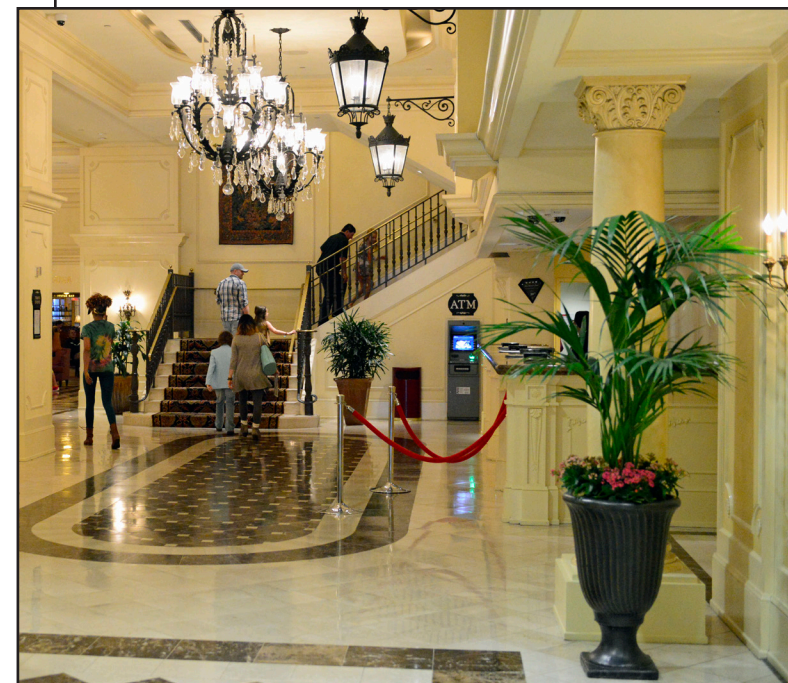
## Reunion begins

June 7th, 'stuffing party';

June 8th, kick-off day!



Center left: Advance volunteers doing assembly of the welcome packages and the name badges, June 7th. Top: Toni (Yarbrough) Combs '71 and Joyce (Clark) Mallon '72 at the Brat store, welcoming everyone on June 8th.



Top: Lobby stairs of the Astor Hotel, with Brats ascending. Center: view of Bourbon Street from hotel. Top right: Registration table opens. Above: Nami Huggins '88 and Joyce (Riddick) Perkins '66 welcome Brats in their Mardi hats. Left: Silent auction and raffle tables open.



# Early '60s classes go back in time with pre-Reun Luncheon, and dancing with the '40s-

by Doris (Barth) Bourne '66

The tour of the WWII Museum was above and beyond my preconceived expectations. However, the luncheon in the Stage Door Canteen at the Museum, with the Vic-Tones performing songs from the World War II era, was "the cat's meow," as my parents' generation would say.

I sat there mesmerized by not only their performance, but the songs brought back so many memories of my mom and dad. My parents played the '40s music all the time on our Grundig, which was a cabinet with a radio, record player, and a reel-to-reel tape recorder. Oh, how I used to love sitting there watching them dance to the songs of the '40s.

Jeri and I also had our dancing debut when the Vic-Tones came into the audience and selected women to dance with. It was hilarious and I loved every minute of it!

At the end of the Vic-Tones' performance, they played, "I'll Be Seeing You." Oh, my.....the tears started flowing, as that was my mom and dad's favorite song. The words actually can be used for us BRATS because we were always saying goodbye to our friends and loved ones.

Right: Donna (Berry) Bull-  
ock '65 and Pamela (Bright)  
Nemeth '65 pose with the trio  
after the show.

Below and right: Doris dancing and  
laughing with one of the Vic-Tones.



## nion event era Vic-Tones

Wednesday, June 7th



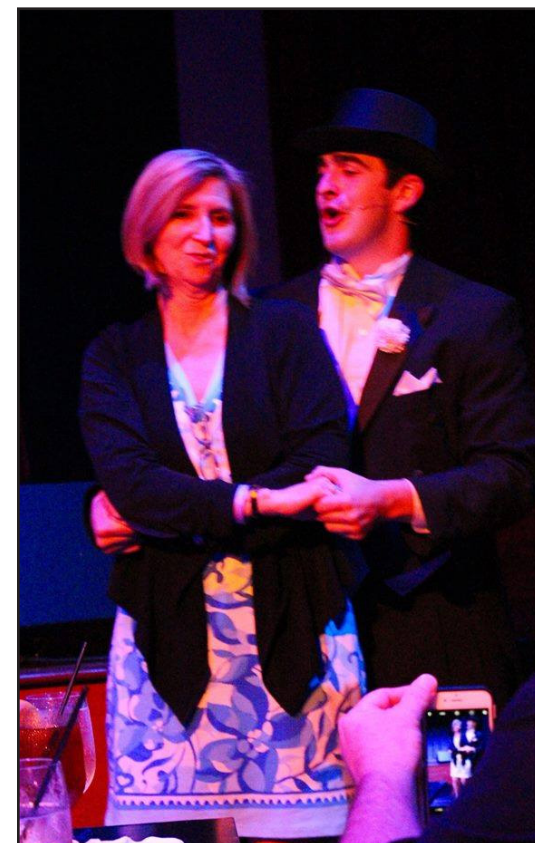
*I'll be seeing you  
In all the old familiar places  
That this heart of mine embraces  
All day and through.*

*In that small café;  
The park across the way;  
The children's carousel;  
The chestnut trees;  
The wishing well.*

*I'll be seeing you,  
In every lovely summer's  
day,  
In everything that's light and  
gay;  
I'll always think of you that  
way.*

*I'll find you in the morning  
sun,  
And when the night is new.  
I'll be looking at the moon  
But I'll be seeing you.*

Top photos: The Vic-Tones  
performing two numbers.  
Bottom photos: Jeri (Polan-  
sky) Glass '72 enjoying her  
dance with a Vic-Tone.  
Photos from Doris (Barth)  
Bourne '66.



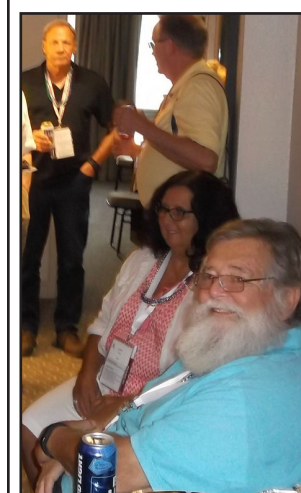
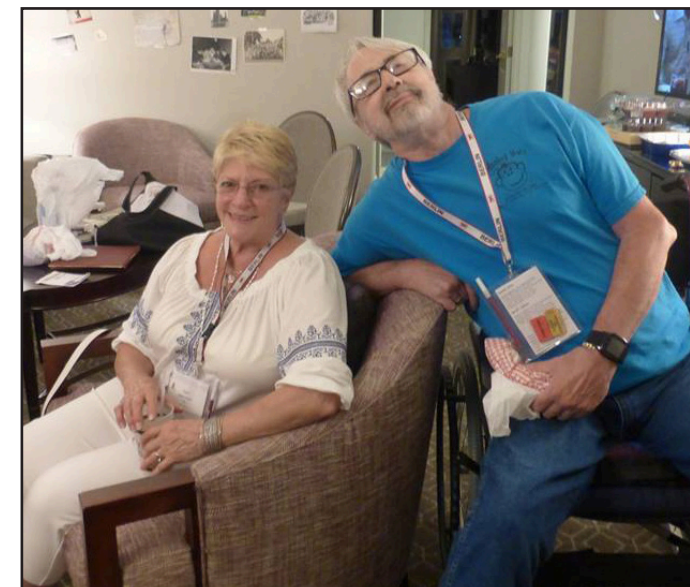


# Hospitality suites:

## Reconnecting and reminiscing with Brats



'50s  
& '60s  
'70s





# Reconnecting and reminiscing with Brats



Middle right: Class of '92 celebrates their 25th anniversary



# Opening reception Thursday night



Top left: Class of '77 celebrates their 40th!  
Top right: Everyone got beaded. Far left: Gary and Susan Robinson '74. Left: Beaders. Bottom left: Class of '87 celebrates its 30th! Bottom right: Class of '67 celebrates its 50th!





# Plantation tours

Not one, but two historic sites: *Oak Alley* and *Laura: A Creole Plantation*. Louisiana's most famous plantations. Oak Alley Plantation has a tunnel of 28 oak trees that frame the plantation as you approach and was built in 1839, facing the Mississippi. Laura is a 200+ year old sugarcane/Creole plantation with a rich history of the four women that ran it.

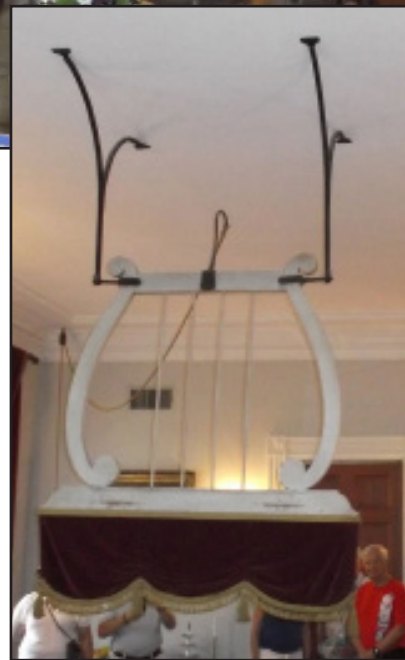
## Tour anecdotes

by Judi (Bright) Morris '62

### Oak Alley Plantation

Some of the employees at the Oak Alley were dressed in traditional 1800s clothing, which we thought helped to set the ambiance of the era.

The most unique thing in the Oak Alley tour that was unexpected and fascinating was an item used in the main dining room that hung over the huge dining table – a “Shoo-Fly.” It seemed to be a decoration at first, shaped as a music symbol, made of wood with a piece of velvet cloth attached to the bottom. Its purpose was to shoo insects away from the diners. (It probably also acted as a fan.) It was operated by a slave/servant who stood in the corner and pulled a rope that caused back-and-forth motion.



Top right and inset: Brats observing the formal dining room and “Shoo-Fly” at Oak Alley plantation. Bottom left: Brats walking through the 28-tree tunnel at the plantation. Bottom right: Judi looking at period clothes.



### Laura: A Creole Plantation

Our tour guide was a young man, first name Al, who was very knowledgeable about Louisiana plantations and their workings because he was descended from Acadians who worked them. The Laura Plantation was considered a Creole plantation because of the style and colors. It was painted using bright colors like red, yellow, and green. According to Al, plantation buildings that were not considered Creole were generally white, gray, or slate-colored.

After slavery was abolished, Al said there was not much change for the plantation workers. They still were required to live in the previous slave quarters on the property. Each slave cabin was occupied by two families as duplex units sharing a central double fireplace. Near each cabin was a vegetable garden plus a chicken coop and/or pigpen. They raised some of their own food but had to acquire everything else they needed through the “company store,” on credit, at higher-than-reasonable prices. The company store kept a running total of the items purchased; and when they were paid their yearly wages, the items they had purchased during the year were deducted from the amount they were owed. Because most were illiterate and unschooled, they had to accept that the accounting of debts was correct, and it generally left the workers in a continuing debt to the

plantation.

Al's family lived and worked on the plantation until the 1970s and Al's grandfather rose to the rank of overseer. His grandfather's wife had been one of the servants and a kind of companion for one of the daughters. As a result of this relationship, she was able to acquire enough education to become literate and understand accounting principles. With her knowledge of accounting, she helped her husband keep their own records of work and owed credit. When she compared their records to those of the plantation, she discovered that the owners had been under-paying and over-charging her husband and the other workers for a very long time. With this knowledge, they were able to contest the situation, resolve their debts, become free, and live a relatively comfortable life afterward.

Al said he became a plantation guide because he felt compelled to tell the story of his family and the little-known, outside Louisiana, story of the Creole history within their plantations.



Above: Brats on the Laura plantation tour listening to Al as he describes the colors of a Creole plantation. Bottom: George Anderson (hubby), Mike Cleveland '61 and wife Liz, and Doreen (Maloney) Anderson '65 in the Louisiana countryside.



# N'AWLINS GHOST TOUR



The early '70s classes broke into their own little group for the Ghost Tour ... here they are before they head out!

"The ghostly effects of that tour still haunt me."  
-- Tammy (Peoples) Iverson '73

"So many ghosts.....I have nightmares now!"  
-- Pat (Martel) Little '72

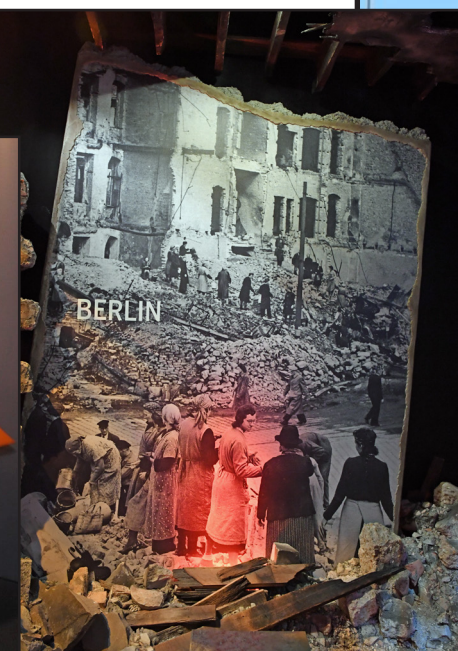
"Had a great time.  
How about that ghost  
tour!?"  
-- Glenn Goltz '72



## WWII

## MUSEUM TOUR

The Museum features an exhibit called "The Road to Berlin," and the restaurant is "The American Sector."





# Berlin Brats take a Swamp Tour

by Larry Speer '83

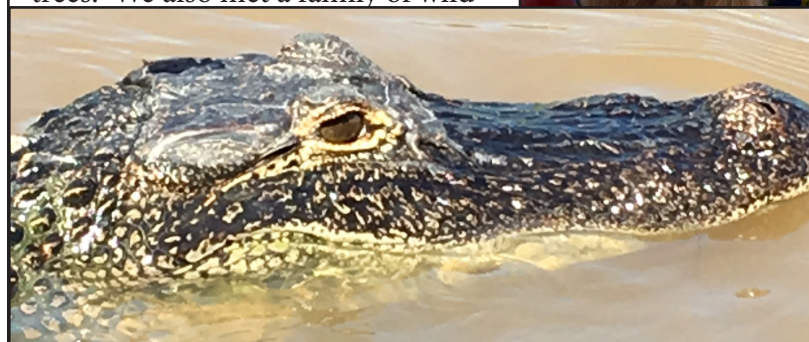
On June 8, 2017, some intrepid Berlin Brats went on a tour of a Louisiana swamp. Despite the known dangers of meeting alligators and other creatures, Brats filled sold-out tour buses and rode to the outskirts of New Orleans for an adventure with Cajun Encounters. We put on sunscreen and insect repellent before boarding the flatbed boats. Our tour guide gave us some important rules: stay seated and keep your body parts inside the boat!

As we cruised out to the open water, alligators swam right up to the boat. It was not because they wanted their picture taken. The boat captain fed them hot dog pieces on a stick! He assured me they were not thumbs, as I first thought. The treats worked quite well and allowed us to get some close-up shots.

At one point, there were as many as seven or eight alligators swimming in a group, and some were sunning themselves out on fallen trees. We also met a family of wild



Critter photos from Larry Speer '83.



ricane Katrina still to this day; a stark reminder that Mother Nature

boar playing and feeding among the trees and shallow muck. Our guide mentioned how destructive they can be to the local environment.

As we navigated the river and smaller tributaries, we could see evidence of the destruction of hur-

always wins.

We wrapped up the tour with all fingers and toes intact and returned to the French Quarter to rest up for the rest of a fantastic weekend. What a great way to start the 2017 Reunion!



## No New Orleans trip is complete without a **MARDI GRAS TOUR!**

by Sheantina (Grice) Naylor '85

The Mardi Gras World Tour was extremely awesome. Starting off, some of us dressed up in costumes and took pictures. Then the history of Mardi Gras was presented, and yes, The King Cake was served afterwards. Sad-to-say, no one had the baby in their slice.

We learned the process of making the props for the

floats; even saw employees sanding and painting them while we were guided throughout the 300,000 square foot warehouse. Many designs are developed each year because they never reuse the previous ones.

After taking thousands of pictures, it was time to indulge in some NOLA lunch (jambalaya, sandwiches, salad, and desserts). Everything provided was great.



Float and bead photos from Sheantina (Grice) Naylor '85. Top right: Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72 and Mike Cleveland '61 trying on the Mardi Gras costumes.





# 1960 Little League champs in the house

## Remembering baseball with the boys

by Doris (Barth) Bourne '66

I loved being at the Reunion and seeing everyone, but best of all I loved sitting down with Ed Cole and conjuring up memories with him. He and I were in the same 6th & 7th grade class together in Berlin. I used to play baseball with all the guys during recess. It tickled me when Ed actually started remembering "a girl who was really athletic and played baseball with us during recess"! And then I told him that had been me. Haha! I was so sad I couldn't be in Little League but it was back in the day when girls couldn't join.

I was so proud when these guys, as the Little League All Star Team, won the European Championship. Many of them were in my 6th grade class. You can't imagine how it felt to be able to play on their team during recess when girls were not allowed to play Little League. But apparently, the guys felt I was good enough to play with them during their recess games.

Even as a 6th/7th grader I was so excited for them when they were able to go to Williamsport in the summer of 1960 for the Championship. In my mind, I was there with them.



"Little League World Series Berlin Brats! Meeting these guys is a huge highlight for me."

-- Larry Speer '83



Team photo below:

First Row: Pat Williams, Tim Harrison, Bruce Hampton, Ray Williams, Charles Spannare. 2nd Row: Duke Dubia, Hal Ingle, Bruce Jager, Jim Ingle, Mike Glaser. 3rd Row: Coach Don Thompson, Al Bradley, Ed Cole, John Reale, Ralph Freeman, Coach Bob Meese.

1960 European Little League Champions



During the Reunion, Ed Cole '66, Pat Williams '65, and John Reale '65 spoke about their Championship experiences.

## A bit of Berlin in NOLA

"Passed by "Checkpoint Charlie Club" on our way to Frenchmen Street, which we were told was the equivalent of Bourbon Street for the locals. It did not disappoint. It provided the authentic New Orleans experience that we were looking for and was a highlight of our trip."

-- Larry McCarthy '83



## Silent auction and raffle

This Reunion we had our most exclusive item ever donated! A limited edition "Berlin Airlift Ring." Donated by: Mr. Curtis Carter, father of Betty Carter '72.

The ring is heavy silver with an onyx top. On top of the onyx is a small plane made of gold. The ring is

serialized with General Curtis Lemay's (known as the Father of the Strategic Air Command) slogan, "We can fly anything, any time, any where." The ring is serial number 113. Gifts from the German Government, the Candy Bomber, Col. Gail Halvorsen has ring #3. It is believed that ring #1 went to General Lemay and #2 to General Tunner, who was brought in to run the operation out of Frankfurt.

Berlin Brat newbie, Steve Husar '78, won the Silent

Auction bid on the ring. We later learned it was to be a "75th birthday gift" for his father. His father Tom was stationed in Berlin from '73-'77 and worked at "The Hill" (Teufelsberg). His mother worked at the U.S. Army Hospital, and his sister, Kelli, was class of '82.

Below is Steve presenting the ring to Dad on his day.

"I wanted to give my father something special to add to his Berlin memories and thought this ring was such a unique piece of history. Knowing the proceeds will go to help kids with scholarships made it more special."

"Dad is a man of few words but it did bring tears to his eyes."

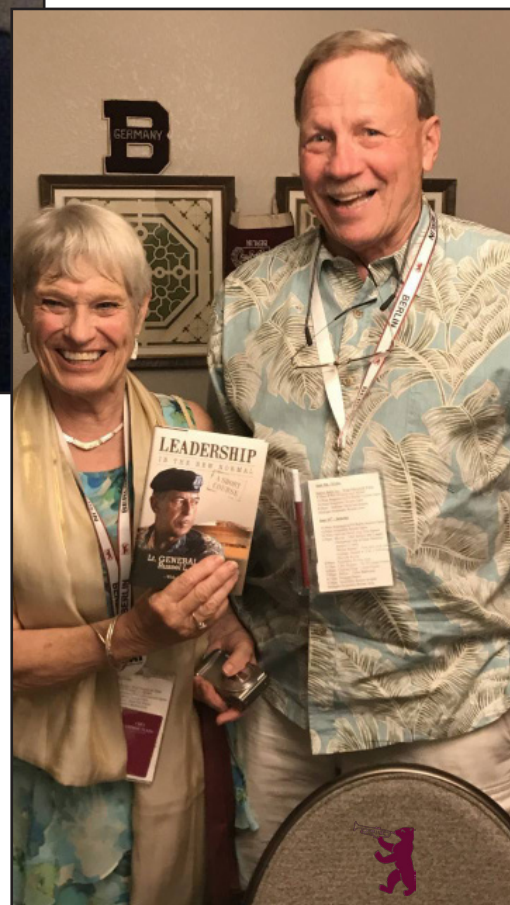




# The Banquet, with guest speaker General Russel L. Honoré



Top photo: General Honoré. Top right: General Honoré with General Rick Martin '77 (Retired), and speaking during the banquet. Middle: Rick Martin '77, Tammy (Peoples) Iverson '73 and hubby Ron, and General Honoré reconnecting during the Reunion. Bottom right: Maggie (Ellithorpe) MacPherson '63 and Mike Jiru '63 with a copy of one of the General's recent books.





# Alberta Barlow FAC '69-'92 turns 83!

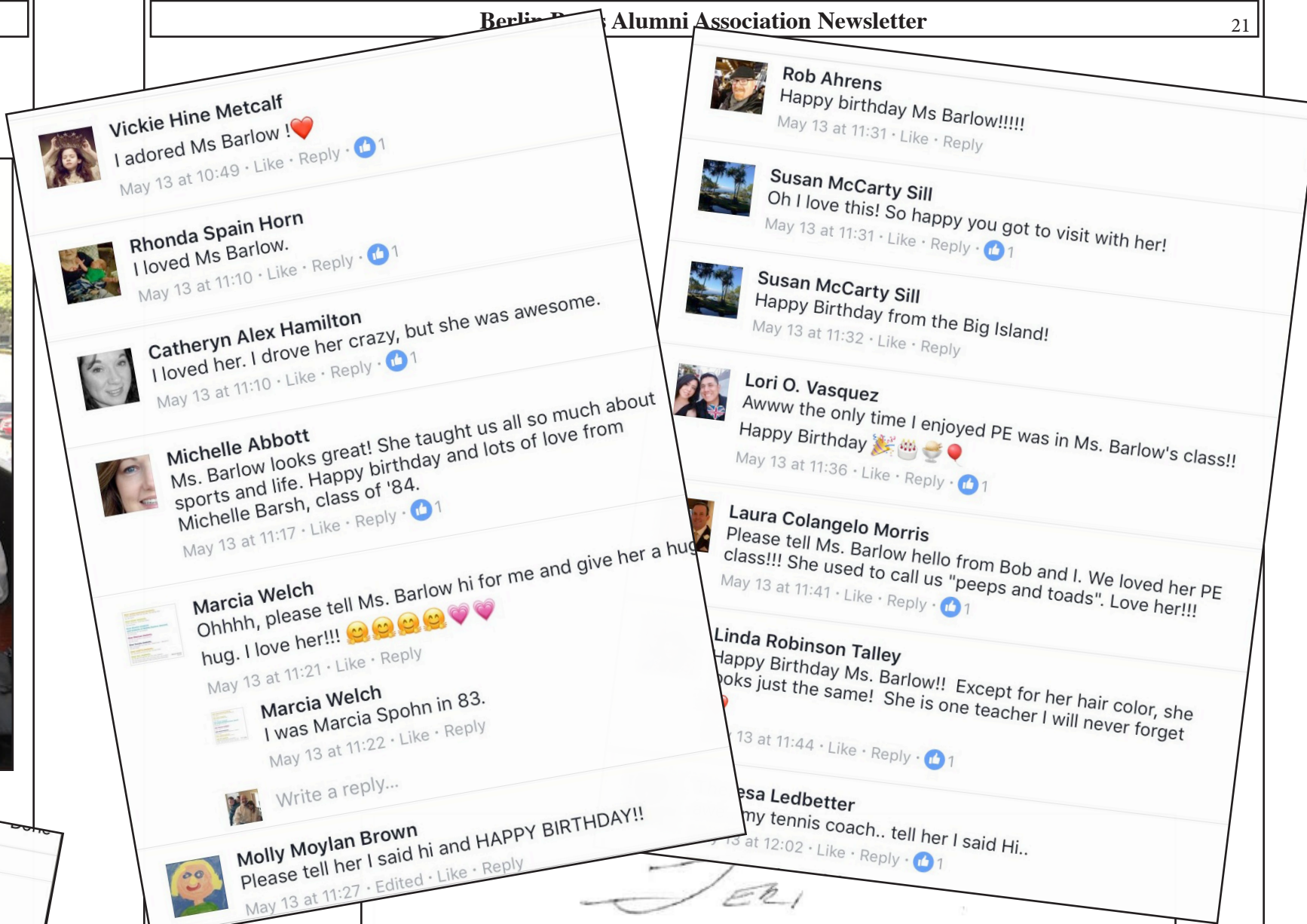
Receives love, hugs, and best wishes from former students who remember her fondly

Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72 and Carl Fenstermacher '73 were visiting Hawaii in May, and called Ms. Barlow, the girls' P.E. teacher from '69-'92 (boys were added later), to see if they could meet her for lunch.

To their surprise, they found it was her 83rd birthday, so they celebrated with her and a friend of hers!

Jeri posted it on her FB page and copied the 88+ comments to send her by regular mail (she doesn't do email).

Ms. Barlow was thrilled beyond measure with the wishes and notes from her former students.



Jeri,  
THANKS!  
Hope you have a great time at the reunion! Wish I could be there, but no such luck. It was great seeing you and Carl. I still can't get over the packet of comments you cooked up! I really love it & will for as long as I live. Bye for now.  
Ms. B

THANKS!  
Hope you have a great time at the reunion! Wish I could be there but no such luck. It was great seeing you and Carl. I still can't get over the packet of comments you cooked up! I really love it & will for as long as I live. Bye for now.  
Mrs. B



# Peter G. Murphy '84

Nov 26, 1965 -  
June 22, 2017



Memorial service July 15, 2017, followed by celebration of his life in true Pete style at Samuel Beckett's Irish Restaurant and Pub



Photos  
by Kelly  
(Murphy)  
Waymire  
'83, Cate  
Speer  
'85 and  
Kimberly  
Keravuori  
'85.



Pete graced us at every Reunion (except this year's) and many regionals. Ever a larger-than-life presence, we miss him deeply.

Brats turned out *en masse* to pay respect, remember good times with Pete, and lift one last glass in his name.

***Sláinte, Pete!***

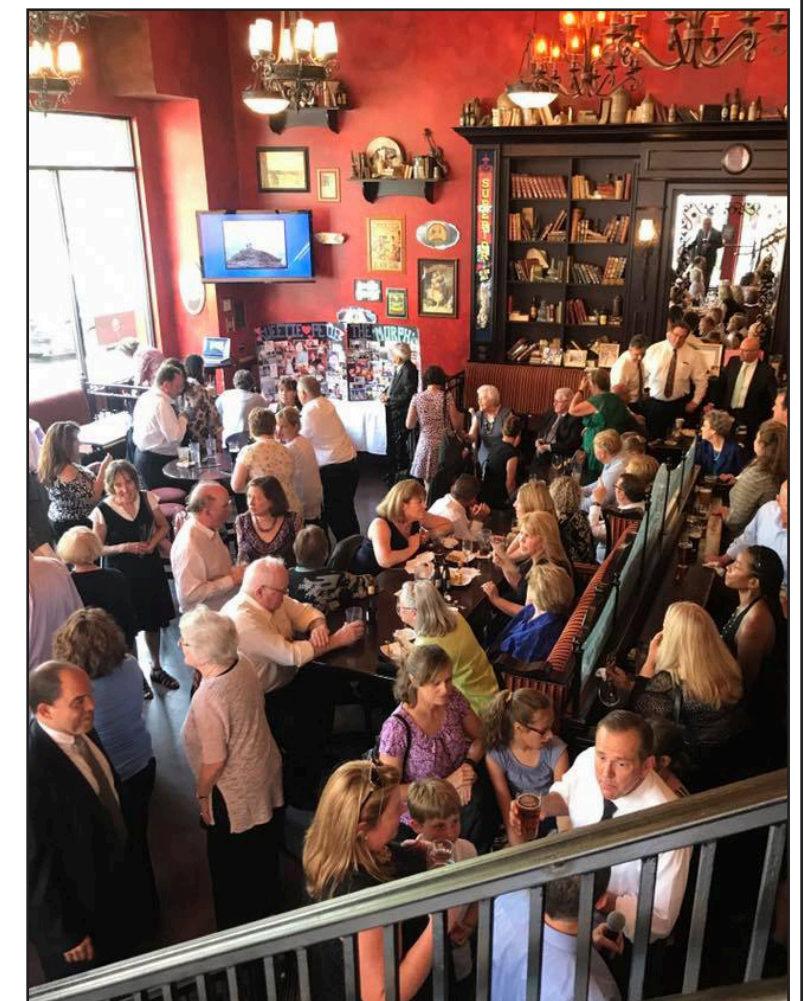
You will always be with us.



Left: Pete's parents listen to stories about Pete told by his siblings, many Brats, and others from all stages of his life.



No friendship can cross the path of our destiny  
without  
leaving some mark on it forever.  
With our deepest sympathy, Trisha Foshage,  
Chris Moss, Mike Moss, Ralph DeGruy  
Berlin Brats



One room of the pub, with guests still remaining closer to the end. The pub was packed with friends and family to wish Pete on his way.



# Three students win Berlin Brat scholarships

At the Reunion in New Orleans, the Berlin Brats Alumni Association awarded scholarships to three of the students who applied as children of Berlin Brats. The winners were (pictured from left to right, below):

**Thalia Butts**, daughter of Toni (Hassell) Butts '80,  
**Hailey Ladd**, daughter of Malissa (Murray) Ladd '85,  
 and  
**Taylor Neal**, daughter of Anne (Carey) Neal '89.



## Upcoming Events

21-24 September 2017

Overseas Brats Gathering  
 Hunstville, AL  
 For more info:  
[www.overseasbrats.com](http://www.overseasbrats.com)

**NEXT REUNION 2020 AS  
 WE ROTATE WEST!**

### 2017 REGIONALS

8 October 2017

Berlin Brats luncheon  
 San Antonio Riverwalk  
 More details to follow.  
 Save the date!

## Contact Information



**Berlin Brats Alumni Association**  
 Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, Director

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 email: [BerlinBrats@gmail.com](mailto:BerlinBrats@gmail.com)  
 website: [www.berlinbrats.org](http://www.berlinbrats.org)



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**"Berlin Brats Alumni Association"**  
 (the official fan page site)

**"Berlin American High School (BAHS)"**  
 (an open group chat page)



**"NEW"**  
 follow us on Twitter

Newsletter Brat: Kimberly Keravuori '85

### Early '60s Site

By invitation only  
 Contact Jim Branson '64  
[jbranson01@hotmail.com](mailto:jbranson01@hotmail.com)

### American Overseas School Historical Society

Gayle Vaughn Wiles, President  
 email: [overseasschools@aoshs.org](mailto:overseasschools@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)

### Communication Brat:

Peter Stein '80  
[pstein80@msn.com](mailto:pstein80@msn.com)

### WebBrat:

Cate Speer '85  
 Carl Fenstermacher '73