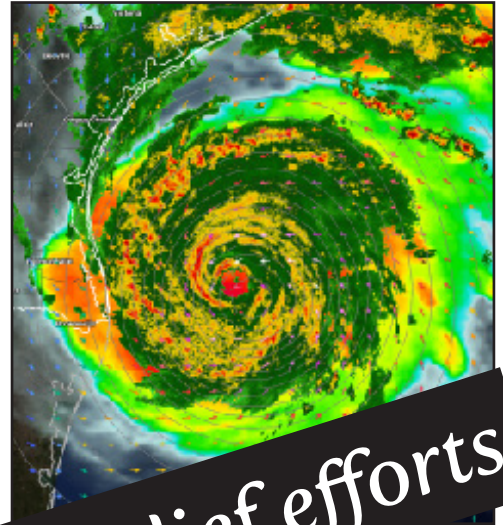
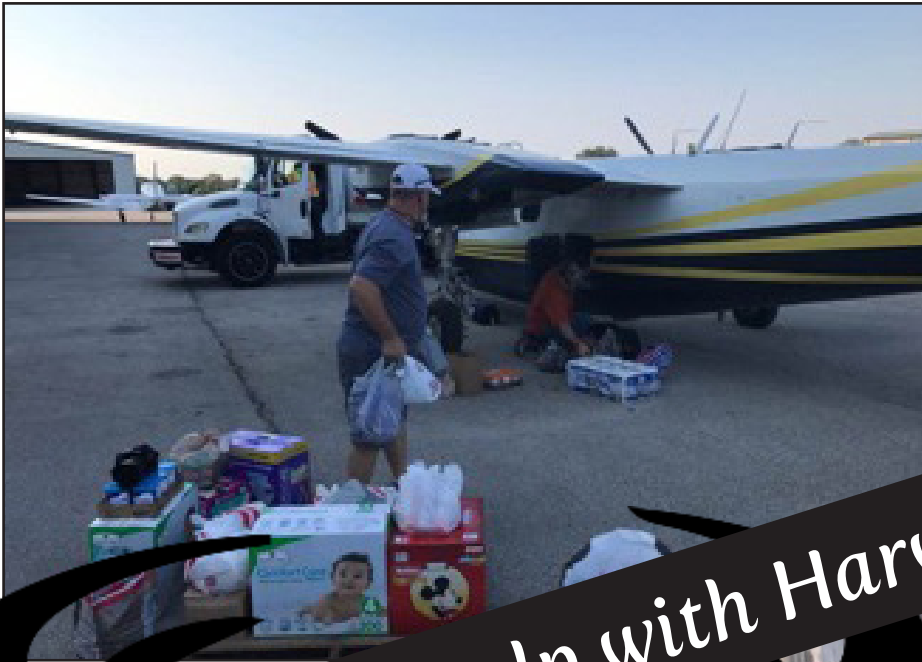




# Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter

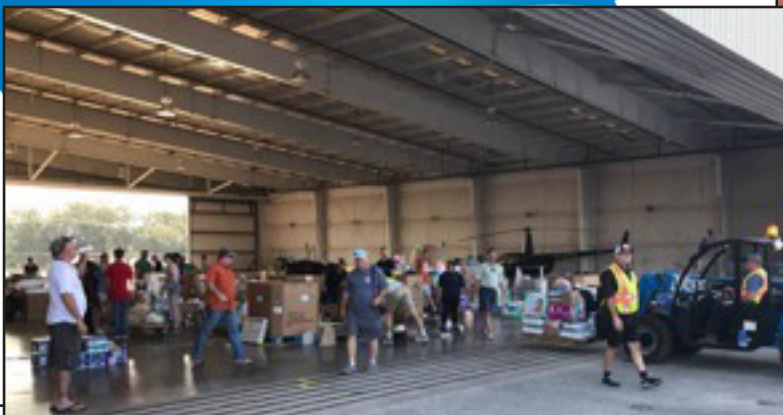
October 2017

Volume 13, Issue 4



Berlin Brats help with Harvey relief efforts

HURRICANE  
HARVEY



Ed Cole '66 from Georgetown, TX (top), has supplies loaded onto his plane for relief runs, and Jim Rich '69 from Mesquite, TX (above), working on a destroyed house in Houston. Left: Volunteers gather to stage supply efforts.

*See more on next pages.*



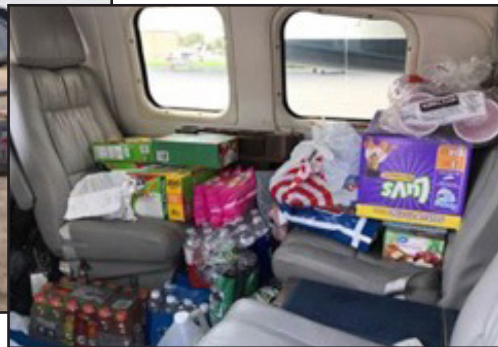
Con't from page 1 -----

## Brats working with military, church, other pilots, and medical volunteers bring aid to victims of hurricane Harvey, help Houston recover and rebuild



Jim Rich '69

It was a long drive and a lot of work but it was very gratifying. I first stopped at the church to donate relief supplies and water. From there I went to the devastated home of Joe Lucas and worked with the other volunteers to rehab Joe's house. Thanks to the great volunteers from 2nd Baptist Church and my coworkers, Bianca and Carrie, from North Texas Team Care Surgery Center in Mesquite, TX.



Ed Cole '66

I've flown a few hurricane relief flights from Georgetown, Texas, down to Beaumont the last couple of days. There's still lots of water and lots of people in need down there. I can't carry more than about 850 pounds of supplies (water, baby formula, diapers, food, etc) per trip, but there are a lot of other airplanes involved in the effort. I'm honored to be a small (very, very small) part of it. It is great to see these airports (including mine in College Station) look like military bases. So many agencies and arms of our military assisting now. It makes you proud to see all the folks, in and out of uniform, pitching in and working long, long days. Americans care.

## Brat experiences prepare us to handle disasters

by Cara (Lewis) Cobb '69

No telling where YOU may have been during Irma, Harvey, Jose, or Maria...

I live in coastal Indian River County, Florida. The days before Hurricane Irma resembled the Christmas season as frantic, Harvey-traumatized shoppers emptied store shelves of water, pet food, Spaghetti-Os, Coca Colas, plywood, nails, flashlights, batteries, and compressors (just to list few). Two weeks prior, I had stacked fifteen gallons of bottled water, cans of Green Giant Hohoho vegetables, refried beans, and Jello Jigglers against a secure interior wall. A new generator with fuel and the protection of two hurricane-seasoned men assured my safe-keeping. We were prepared.

The impending possibility of any catastrophic event reminds me of my days as a military dependent. My mother, an intelligent Hungarian beauty and former Nazi, and my father, a rotund Bronx Jew who rescued my mother from a refugee camp in Bavaria, received me into the world in 1952 at the military hospital in Regensburg.

Military kids are born and then they travel.

In 1959, a mere fourteen years past Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Army sent us to Camp Tokorozawa, Saitama Prefecture, Japan.

There were earthquakes in Japan, lots of them, almost daily. We lived in on-base housing which had previously been Japanese military offices. The explanation of the building's construction to me as a nine-year-old was that the two-story complex was composed of big Lincoln Logs laid together to move with the earth's tremors rather than collapsing. The rooms in individual families' apartments flowed from one end to the other.

My mother conducted earthquake drills during which we three children each had an assigned "job." My job was to go to my bedroom dresser and hold the small shelf housing my elaborate Japanese Geisha doll collection. My mother would cruise through our apartment, calmly collecting my two brothers, me, and our dog. We were to hold on to each others' waists and play "train" .... Then, with Duke the boxer following on his leash, we would parade out of the apartment to the staircase, down to the open foyer to exit. I do not ever recall a moment of fear.

At Tomlinson Junior High in Lawton, OK, on November 22, 1963, the school principal's voice interrupted our raucous lunch period to announce in sobs that our President had been assassinated in Dallas. Texas and Oklahoma went into lock-down mode; no one could leave or enter either state. We were bused home to Ft. Sill and found our military dads gone, already ordered to full alert pending a possible Cuban air attack. My mother continued our normal household routines, never verbally



Above: Tank drill, show of strength, outside the RTO in Berlin, 1968. Bottom left: Cara's family attired in kimonos in Japan, 1960.

acknowledging my father's absence at the dinner table. I do not ever recall a moment of fear.

I attended my senior year at BAHS. My father was the NCOIC of the RTO (Rail Transportation Office) which gave us special travel accommodations on the duty train through the East sector into Frankfurt. We knew that, should East Germany, supported by the Soviet Union, choose to march into West Berlin, they would gain occupancy of the small western stronghold. That looming doom was never a reality; even so, we were rehearsed in evacuation procedure. I do not ever recall a moment of fear.

I believe my military upbringing, strongly reinforced with my mother's wisdom, prepared me for life experiences which might seem daunting, terrifying, overwhelming, exhausting, physically draining, anguishing, or just plain too hard to others. Panic leads to random acts of idiocy which place lives in peril. Preparation, practice, patience, and prayer eliminate fear, teach purpose, and protect lives.

As I write this article, there are two more hurricanes sailing the near Atlantic, Jose and Maria. We are prepared to boldly face them or to thankfully wave them on.



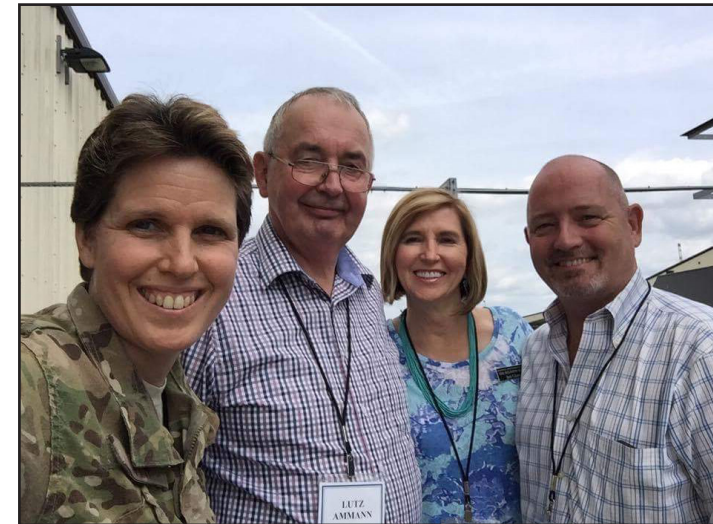


# San Antonio regional

The Biergarten on the San Antonio Riverwalk, Sunday October 8th ... celebrating Oktoberfest!



Top photo, left side: Barb and Rick Martin '77, Russ and Vicki (Hine) Metcalf '75, Ginny and Paul Polansky '79. Standing at back: Honorary Berlin Brat Diana (Bock) DuPree-Nurnberg '75 and Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72. Right side: Sandy McCuskey '73, Denise and Pat Clyburn '73, and Steve and Kaye (Stewart) Crawford '62.



## Brats connect in England

July 2017

... at RAF Mildenhall, England, to be exact

Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72 and Carl Fenstermacher '73 connected with Michelle Estes '90 at her base!

Jeri (& Carl) just happened to be running a military reunion that wanted to visit their old base. AND guess whose squadron it happened to be?!?! That whole 3-degrees of separation again!

Top left: Michelle Estes '90, Lutz Amnan (our tour operator on the Polish leg of our post reunion trip in Berlin 2014 and used again on this military trip), Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, and Carl Fenstermacher '73. Michelle did Poland with us in '14.....so in addition to us uniting with Michelle it was a reunion for Lutz and Michelle, too.

Other photos: Michelle, Jeri, Carl, and Michelle's partner Laurie Conrad....now retired LtCol who has been at our Reunions as well. So all five of us reconnected.

Had a fabulous time on Michelle's active duty turf!!!



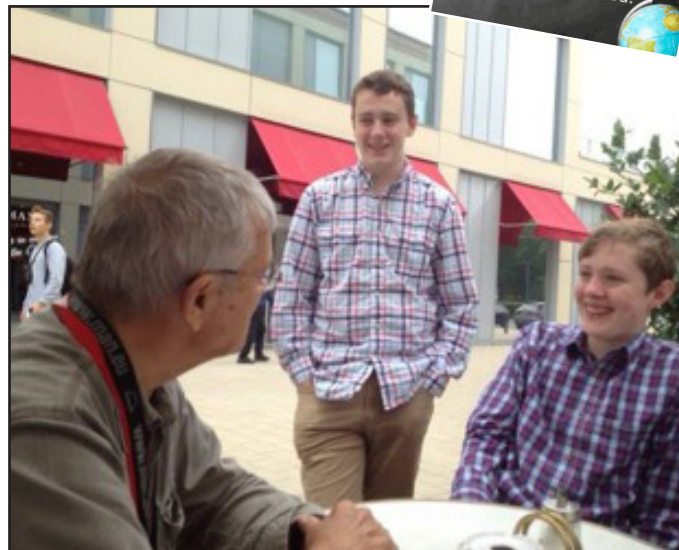


# BRAT GET-TOGETHERS

Reconnecting with respected teacher benefits a new generation

Berlin

The influence of a  
good teacher  
can never be erased.



Left: Kate Murphy Scrivener '88 with Charles Bluem FAC '69-'94 (Karen's husband Frank, taking the photo). Right: At the old (unrecognizable) Truman Plaza, Mr. Bluem dispenses sage advice to their sons. He obviously has not lost his touch!

## Old friends hit a few

July 2017 in San Antonio



Rick Martin '77 and Pat Clyburn '73 playing golf

## Connecting in Heidelberg

Gary Planz '74 and Frank Dansey '74  
traveled to Heidelberg in April.



# BRAT GET-TOGETHERS

## Having a blast in Tallahassee

It may not be NOLA, but it's a Brat reunion! Had a fabulous time catching up with Lisa today. Haven't seen her in 32 years, but that's really 'yesterday' in Brat years!

-- Malissa



Lisa (Beague) Carey '85 and Malissa (Murray) Ladd '85 reunite  
4 June 2017.

New  
York  
City



25 August 2017

Rob Ahrens '87 and Vince Lingner '82

Rob in town on the occasion of Vince's wedding. Congrats, Vince!



# Behind the scenes of the NATO HQ Wall sections

*One man helped take down the Wall, now puts portions of it back up again after decades*

## “Brimming with history”

Frank Kukuk from the federal agency THW helped dismantle the Berlin Wall in the early 1990s. Now he has re-erected two pieces of the Wall in Brussels, in front of the new NATO headquarters.

In April 2017, Kukuk, a volunteer at the Technisches Hilfswerk (German Federal Agency for Technical Relief, THW) in the Berlin Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf branch office, installed two segments of the Berlin Wall in front of the new NATO headquarters



*brue.diplo.de - NATO Headquarter Brussels*

in Brussels together with four colleagues. Kukuk, born in 1958, talks about his exciting job of installing the monument – and why he already transported sections of the Wall in the early 1990s.

“I was three years old when the Wall

was built. I grew up in West Berlin, in the Charlottenburg district. We saw the Wall as restrictive, of course, but somehow it was also normal; that was simply our world. It was different for the older generation; they had had the freedom to travel and had known an undivided city.

## “Very proud to be there”

I wouldn't have thought that almost 30 years after the Wall came down I would come into contact with it once again, through the

THW. But in mid-March 2017 we got a request from the Federal Foreign Office to transport two sections of the Wall from Berlin to Brussels and to

install them in front of the new NATO headquarters. Our branch office didn't have a crane to lift the heavy blocks, so we had to borrow one from the Berlin Reinickendorf branch.

We collected the sections from a concrete company that had bought lots of pieces of the Wall cheaply after

## NATO leaders dedicate

*excerpted from article by Angela Charlton (AP) 28 May 2017*

Ahead of the meeting of the NATO leaders 25 May 2017, German Chancellor Angela Merkel dedicated the Berlin Wall Memorial at NATO's new headquarters in Brussels. Addressing Allied leaders, Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said the memorial showed “NATO will always defend the values on which our Alliance is founded.”

The Chancellor and NATO Secretary-General unveiled two sections of the Berlin Wall that divided the German city until 1989, in the ceremony. Merkel, who was born in the former



*Image copyright Bundesregierung/Steins*

it had been dismantled to mark the boundary of its premises. First they were preserved and then we loaded them very carefully, protecting them with anti-slip mats and straps. After all, each section weighs 2.7 tonnes – and is brimming with history.

My colleague had inspected the site in front of the new NATO headquarters in advance and packed four brooms just in case. And indeed, the path to the grassy area was pretty overgrown; lots of trees with lots of thick branches. Our lorry is almost four metres high and 2.50 m wide; quite a monster. We used the brooms to

## Berlin Wall memorial

East Germany, said the wall that divided the country impacted her life for many years. She said she had learned that it's “not walls that will be successful, but open societies that are built on common values.”

The pieces, standing together, form a monument about two meters high (6.5 feet) by more than two meters wide. One is painted with an eye and the graffiti “Gorby sees all” – a reference to then-Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and police states of the Cold War era.

The monument symbolizes efforts to end the disunity in Europe – and serves as an example of how walls can damage and divide.

press the branches to the sides so that nothing got broken – I think that left a lasting impression at NATO.

I joined the THW in 1981, out of curiosity. My two brothers were involved and I asked them: What do you do there? They said: Why don't you come and see? That's how I joined; 36 years ago (as of 19 May 2017). There were far fewer operations back then; we were still in the middle of the Cold War and everything was oriented purely on civil protection and not on cooperation with the emergency response authorities. I joined the rescue group as a driver.



In the early 1990s, after the Wall came down, the THW was requested to help the East German border troops dismantle the border fortifications. I worked with five or six others on dismantling the Wall in Berlin's Wannsee district. I can't say whether or not we were happy to be talking to the border troops; we didn't know one another – they were complete strangers to us. But I was very proud to be there as the Wall was taken away. We drove there with our dump trucks, they loaded the pieces of the Wall onto them and then they came to Michendorf with us, south of Potsdam. The region was totally foreign to us; we hadn't been allowed to go there for decades.

## “Some pieces had hoses still connected”

The sections of the Wall looked perfectly normal, grey and made of very hard reinforced concrete, but weren't painted as nicely as other segments. On the western side of the Wall some properties had been built directly onto it – the owners had used it as a rear wall for their garages; after all, you have to use every square metre of space. But our task was to get rid of it all. When the Wall was demolished, some pieces

had garden hoses and other things still hanging from them and we were able to look directly into the open garages. The owners of the houses were no doubt less amused.

The sections of the Berlin Wall we have now installed are impressive. One bears the letters “Gorb” – I think it once stood close to the Brandenburg Gate. I never go to look at the remains of the Wall in Berlin; you just don't do that if you are from Berlin yourself. I've been to the Eiffel Tower in Paris, had my picture taken – but the Parisians don't do that either. It is simply different if you are a tourist or if you live in the city. It is far better living here without the Wall. But now we



seem to be coming full circle.”

The THW is Germany's voluntary civil protection organization. It is in the Federal Ministry of the Interior. It has some 1,200 full-time staff and more than 80,000

volunteers, roughly half of whom are fully-qualified members of the task force. The THW and NATO are closely linked via civil-military cooperation in the area of humanitarian aid. For this reason, the THW was asked to install two sections of the Berlin Wall in front of the new NATO headquarters in Brussels in the context of the mutual assistance programme.

*Excerpted from article at [www.deutschland.de/en/topic/politics/brimming-with-history](http://www.deutschland.de/en/topic/politics/brimming-with-history)*



## Berlin Brats' Wall panel, former BAHS teacher, and husband aid middle-school student to prepare for National History Day competitions

In February 2017, the Association of Overseas High Schools (AOSHS) Archive received a message from the curator at the Museum of World Treasures requesting assistance from AOSHS to help a local middle school student prepare her project for this year's National History Day (NHD).

The largest NHD program is the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest at the University of Maryland at College Park, which encourages more than half a million students around the world to conduct historical research on a topic of their choice. Students enter these projects at the local and affiliate levels, with top students advancing to the Behring national-level competition.

This academic year's theme was, "Taking a Stand in History," and a seventh-grade student named Vy was doing her subject on the Berlin Wall. As part of her research, she contacted the Museum in Wichita, KS, the current home of AOSHS's panel of the Berlin Wall (purchased by the Berlin Brats Alumni Association). She was asking to visit the Museum, see the Wall panel, and speak with people who had information about the Wall and its history.

AOSHS's Archive manager, Ron Harrison, and his wife,

Glenna, lived in Berlin, and Glenna taught at Berlin American High School. Both were active in working to get the Wall panel to Wichita, and they agreed to



Above: Berlin Brats portion of the Wall. Left: Vy's thank-you note. Bottom: Glenna and Ron Harrison.

Dear Ron Harrison and Glenna Harrison,  
I'm not sure if you remember me, but I interviewed you at the Museum of World Treasures a few months before. I extremely appreciate you doing that! As a result of the information that you provided me, I placed first at my regional and state competition. So, I am now on my way to nationals! All of this would not have been possible if it weren't for you guys!

-warmest regards,  
Vy N.

Thank you again and again!

meet with Vy at the museum with a packet of information, including the story of our portion of the Wall (written by Berlin Brat Rob Ahrens '87), the specifications for our Wall panel, photographs of the panel's delivery from Maryland to Wichita, and video clips of Glenna's meeting with the Wichita City Council on the day the city proclaimed November 9, 2012, as "World Freedom Day" in honor of the addition of our portion of

the Berlin Wall.

In May, Ron and Glenna received a card in the mail from Vy, thanking them once again for their assistance, and informing them that she had won both the regional and state competitions and was now moving on to the final national competition! GO VY! And thank you, Ron and Glenna!

AOSHS is a repository for all closed overseas American schools worldwide, and the AOSHS Archive also provides research materials by way of records, books, photographs, and upon occasion, speaking engagements, and the loan of materials for exhibits at the Museum of World Treasures, both in Wichita, KS.



## Digging the waves in Charleston

Rob Ahrens '87 & Holly Touchstone (Rob's fiancée) visit Jill (DeBerry) Bonds '87 and hubby in Charleston, SC - Aug 5th, 2017.



BRAT GET-TOGETHERS

## Brat ties hold true everywhere

Our Berlin roots are STRONG! Two Berlin Brats and Army O-6 Colonels, Frank Davis and Ryan Dillon, currently in Baghdad, Iraq, linking up through the power of Facebook for the first time!

#berlinbrats4ever — July 28, 2017



Magda (Gonzalez) Miley '66 visiting Chuck Hewins '63 in WY, July 23, 2017

We had a great visit with Chuck and Linda in their beautiful home in Wyoming, where Chuck cooked some delicious elk burgers.

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# Saved from demolition, Rosa Parks's house gets a second life in Berlin

Excerpts from NY Times article by Sally McGrane  
May 2, 2017

submitted by Peter Stein '80

BERLIN — As twilight fell over Wedding, a working-class Berlin neighborhood, the curtained window panes of a small, dilapidated-looking backyard house began to glow. Yellow light spilled through the cracks in the wooden facade. Children playing next door looked up as the house started to vibrate with musical notes and otherworldly feedback.

Then came the strong, clear voice of the American civil rights icon Rosa Parks. She was talking about Montgomery, Ala., and her refusal to give up her seat in the front of a bus. The house, where Ms. Parks lived, once sat in Detroit, and belonged to Ms. Parks's brother. But after it was threatened with demolition, the house was moved to Berlin, where it was opened to the public in early April.

Inside, Ryan Mendoza, a Berlin-based American artist, has been putting on half-hour-long sound performances, including excerpts from a 1957 radio interview with Ms. Parks conducted in this very building. "It's my job to keep the house alive," Mr. Mendoza explained.

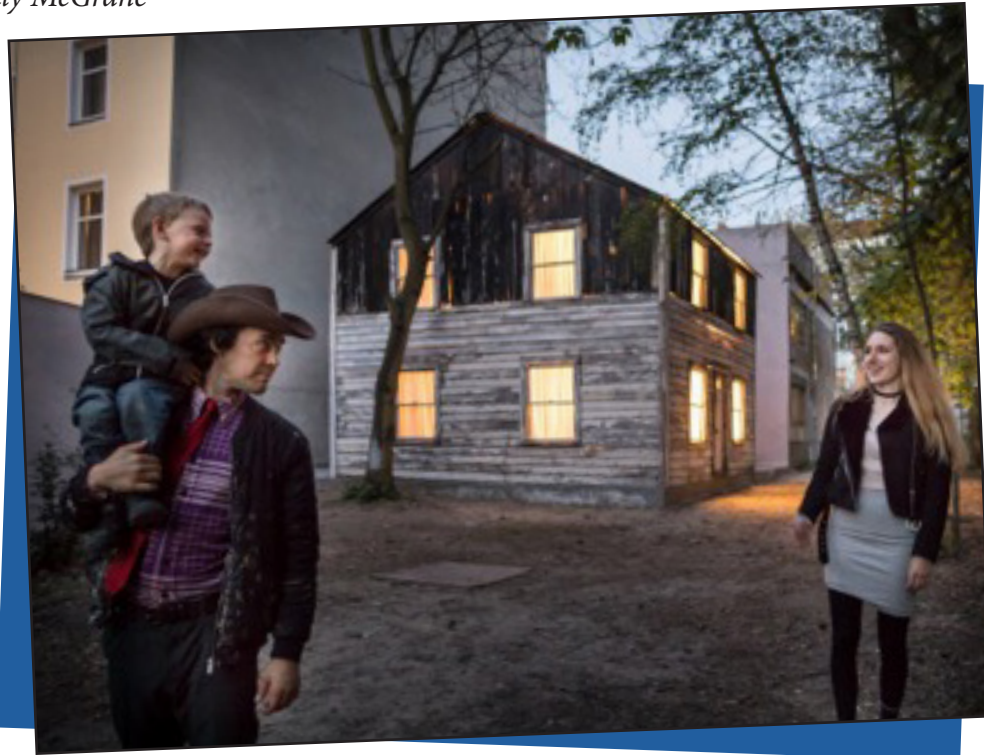
He added, "I try to make it loud enough to annoy the neighbors, but not too much."

So far, the neighbors do not seem to be annoyed. On the contrary, Berlin has embraced the little house from Detroit, which Ms. Parks moved to in 1957, and lived in with her brother's large family after fleeing death threats and employment problems in the South.

The house's unlikely second life in Mr. Mendoza's garden in Berlin has captured the city's imagination, making front-page news and, for some, symbolizing Germany's changing role in the world.

The project came about last year, when Rhea McCauley, Ms. Parks's niece, met Mr. Mendoza in Detroit. As part of an art project that explored his own sense of home, as well as the American subprime mortgage crisis, Mr. Mendoza successfully transported an abandoned house from Detroit to Europe, winning the trust of Detroit community members along the way. Ms. McCauley told him she had managed to buy back the family house for \$500, but she could not find anyone interested in saving it from demolition.

Mr. Mendoza, who makes his living as a fine-arts



Ryan Mendoza, an American artist, with his son and his wife, Fabia, in front of Rosa Parks's house in Berlin. The neighbors have embraced the little house from Detroit. Photo by Gordon Welters for The New York Times.

painter, agreed to help. He raised a little over \$100,000 by selling some of his paintings, and set out for Detroit. There, he worked with a local team to take apart the house, which had fallen into extreme disrepair.

He then shipped the wooden exterior to Berlin, where he spent the winter painstakingly rebuilding it, mostly alone, by hand. "It was an act of love," he said.

That the house had to be shipped to Berlin to be saved is extraordinary, said Daniel Geary, a professor of American history at Trinity College Dublin, given that, "in general, in the U.S., with public heroes, there is an attempt to preserve anywhere they lived."

Mr. Geary said that to him, the neglect of a house like this one

speaks to a contemporary American unwillingness to deal with racism's legacy.

"People like to remember Rosa Parks for one moment, when she wouldn't stand up on a bus," he said. "They don't really want to grapple with the rest of her life. The death threats, the fact that she had to leave Alabama and go to Detroit. It's a more complicated story with a less happy ending. She suffered for her decision."

For many here, Germany provides a strong counterexample when it comes to approaching painful aspects of a nation's past.

"With our history, we have so many years of guilt and a culture of practicing not forgetting," said Deike Diening, a journalist for Berlin's *Tagesspiegel* newspaper, who wrote about the project. "Now, it might be a healing process to be able to turn it around, to give refuge to others. It feels good."

"I'm proud to have the house here," said Mr. Mendoza's wife, Fabia, who grew up in Berlin and has made a documentary about the project. The couple, who have a young son, live in a small, white cube-shaped house right next to the newly erected clapboard one. They hope that their garden will ultimately be a temporary haven and that the house will eventually find a more permanent home.

For now, Ms. McCauley, Ms. Parks's niece, is very happy the house is in Germany, tucked away behind a 1960s-era apartment building. Traveling to Berlin for the

unveiling on April 8, Ms. McCauley was impressed with what she described as the outpouring of love she encountered. "I was amazed to find more knowledge of Auntie Rosa's legacy there than here," she said.

Ms. McCauley was also pleased with Mr. Mendoza's decision to leave the facade in the condition he found it.

"This house has been through everything," she said. "I'm glad it's not painted nicely, with flowers and a

picket fence. We're not talking about a fairy tale, there's no Hansel and Gretel here. We're talking about a lady who sacrificed so much, who suffered."

Mr. Mendoza has listed a series of opening hours — during which the couple welcome the public to their garden, often with live music and an open mike — on his website.

However, some 50 people ring their bell each day, Mr. Mendoza said. If the couple are at home, they usually let them in.

"We're getting a little worried," he said with a laugh. "But it's O.K. This was an act of love, and we want to start a discussion."

The house is partly visible from the street, so people can get a glimpse of it even if the Men-



The house in Detroit that Rosa Parks lived in for a time. It was her brother's house, and had fallen into extreme disrepair by the time Ryan Mendoza purchased it. Photo by Fabia Mendoza.

dozas are not at home. Visitors are not allowed inside the house, for insurance reasons, but also as a sign of respect. "This house was abandoned, people came inside," Mr. Mendoza said. "I want it to have its dignity." On a recent Saturday, a dozen visitors dropped in. "It's surreal that it's here," said Norberto Romero, a photographer who lives in the neighborhood.

The visitors were silent, as they considered the transplanted house's peeling paint and battered wooden boards. "Berlin is definitely the right place for this house," Dennis Lumme said after a moment. "Every meter you walk is full of memory."

Full article at <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/02/world/europe/rosa-parks-house-berlin.html>, reprinted in the Berlin Journal.



Rosa Parks riding on a Montgomery Area Transit System bus. Her refusal to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Ala., resulted in a boycott that lasted more than a year. Photo from Daily

Advertiser, via Associated Press.



## Peace in the Park

Honorary Brat Dorothy Vogt and Bryan Duckett '84 visiting Liz Wood '85's memorial bench in Central Park, NYC  
-- Aug 26, 2017.



## Reminiscing with Coach Pepoy -- August 2017



Mel De Vilbiss '71 spent a good portion of a day reminiscing with the Pepoys. This included the story about the first time Mel realized Coach had a girlfriend, as Mel and his girlfriend passed the couple hand-in-hand ... less than three months before Coach got married in 1970.

Inga (Mrs. Pepoy) insisted on lunch and eventually dinner, as the stories continued on.

Niña, class of '90 and their oldest daughter, joined them for dinner (homemade pizza).

Unfortunately Mel finally had to leave to get back to Baltimore for his return to Houston the next day.



**BRAT GET-TOGETHERS**



## Slainté

Anthony Sims '87 and Rob Ahrens '87 camping in the Catskill Mountains of Maryland ... toasting Pete Murphy '84.

## Former BAHS Student Council President provides strategic direction for National Military Strategy

Major General Richard D. Clarke '80 has assumed the position of Vice Director for Strategic Plans and Policy, J5, Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. In this position, he provides strategic direction, policy guidance, and planning focus to develop and execute the National Military Strategy. Through the Director, Strategic Plans and Policy, he enables the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to provide military advice to the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the National Security Council.

MG Clarke was born in Stuttgart, Germany, and raised in an Army family. He was commissioned into the Infantry in 1984 upon graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point, beginning his career as a rifle platoon leader with 1st Battalion, 48th Infantry 3rd Armored Division.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from West Point, a Master of Business Administration from Benedictine College, and is a graduate of the National War College where he earned a master's degree in Security and Strategic Studies.

MG Clarke has led soldiers at all levels in Airborne, Ranger, and Mechanized and Light Infantry units in five different divisions, the 173rd Airborne Brigade, and the 75th Ranger Regiment in the United States, Europe, Iraq, and Afghanistan. MG Clarke spent six years in the 75th Ranger Regiment as a company commander from 1994 to 1996, battalion commander from 2004 to 2006, and regimental commander from 2007 to 2009. He also served as commander of 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division from 2002 to 2004. His most recent assignments include serving as the Director of Operations, Joint Special Operations Command, from 2009 to 2011; Deputy Commanding General for Operations, 10th Mountain Division, from 2011 to 2013; the 74th Commandant of Cadets, United States Military Academy at West Point, from

2013 to 2014; and the 48th active duty commander of the 82nd Airborne Division until coming to the Joint Chiefs.

MG Clarke's deployments while serving in the aforementioned positions include Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Joint Guardian in Macedonia, three deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, four deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and one deployment as the commander of the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command – Operation Inherent Resolve.

MG Clarke has come a long way since his days as BAHS Student Council President and member of the cross-country team, but those are not the only aspects of his Berlin days

he hasn't left behind: he's also married to Berlin Brat Suzanne Stovall '79. The couple have two children, Madeleine and Will.



Photo from <https://www.jcs.mil>



MG Clarke, while Division Commander of the 82nd Airborne Brigade, stopped by, unheralded and unexpected, to do PT with his troops one morning in April 2016. Photo by SSGT Javier Orona.

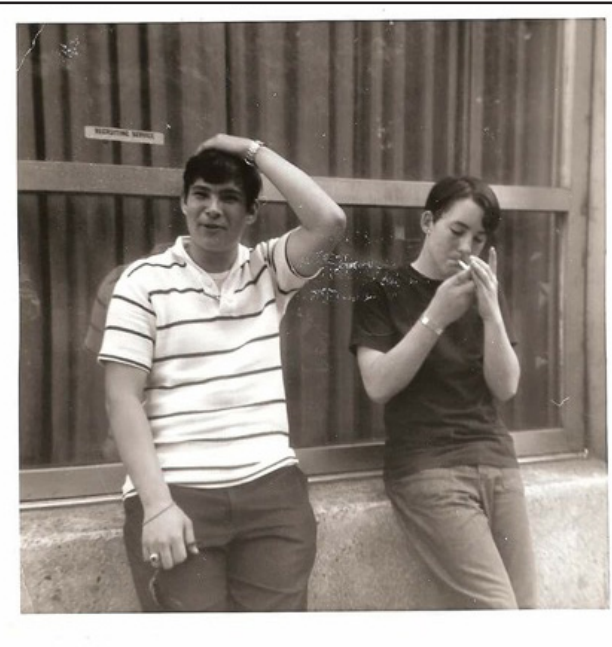




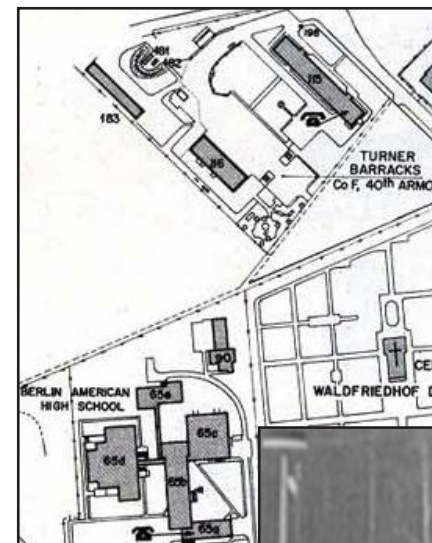
# Throwback photos

Top: Carla (Lewis) Cobb '69's father shopping in East Berlin in 1968. Note the line to receive rationed food (cheese line).

Center: Gary Planz '74 behind BAHS in 1971 with Mike Foster '74 (who passed away in 1990).



Bottom left: Senior Powder Puff Team, October 1984, at BAHS — with Kelly A. Willa, Ellen Fritz, Laura Keller, Lonnie Spikes, Jenni (Hewitt) Shaw, Kim McNally, Michelle Doty Quest, Sheantina Grice, Laura (Jacoby) Mitchler, Sonya (McKnight) Bryant, and Crissy Smothers (all class of '85) in Berlin, Germany. Bottom right: JFK's visit to West Berlin as drawn in June 1963 by Mike Friedrich '79.



Memory shared by Paul Markey '77.



2 Watertown Daily Times, Saturday, March 2, 1974

## Soldier Steals Tank; Bizarre Chase Follows

BERLIN (UPI) — An American soldier stole a tank from his armored unit today and led military police on a wild. Keystone Cops chase through Berlin, crossing twice into Communist territory patrolled by startled East German border guards.

Authorities said the soldier stole the tank from Turner Barracks before dawn and rumbled through the city's darkened streets for more than an hour before U.S. military police finally took him into custody in handcuffs.

West Berlin police said the heavy M60 tank did no damage as it roared through Berlin at 30 miles an hour with U.S. and local

authorities in pursuit. Police cars raced ahead to warn early morning motorists to keep out of the way. Authorities said the soldier crossed briefly into Communist territory at Checkpoint Charlie by the Berlin Wall and at the highway checkpoint separating East and West Germany.

West Berlin authorities reported "great excitement" as the tank approached East German border guards, but there were no shots fired during the two crossings.

West Berlin police said the unidentified soldier, dressed in civilian clothes, was believed to be drunk. An American spokesman said he did not know the

soldier's motive and the incident was under investigation.

The soldier first drove to Checkpoint Charlie, crossed the border and then rumbled up to an East German watchtower before turning back into West Berlin.

The soldier then drove the tank to the highway checkpoint, approached the startled East German guards and then turned back into West Berlin.

Authorities, in their initial reports about the tank theft, did not say how U.S. military police finally managed to stop the vehicle and take the soldier into custody.

### Warning

BERLIN (UPI) — An American soldier stole a 50-ton Patton tank from his armored unit today and went on a wild, 30-mile drive through West Berlin to two East German border checkpoints.

While East German and Russian soldiers looked on, the soldier swung his tank turret with its 105mm cannon around threateningly several times, West German customs police said.

But there was no shooting and the soldier, identified by a U.S. Army spokesman as Spec. William A. Thompson Jr., 22, of Columbus, Ga., surrendered to his commanding officer, Capt. Thomas Grace, of Kimball, Neb., on East German territory.

Grace was given permission by Russian and East German authorities to drive up in a jeep, talk to the soldier and lead him away in handcuffs.

"We do not know his motives," the American spokesman said. "We are investigating the incident."

The soldier gave himself up 70 minutes after he broke through a locked gate at Turner Barracks, home of Company FFF of the 40th Armored Regiment near American headquarters.

"There was no evidence that he was under the influence of drugs or alcohol," the American spokesman said.

American-Russian cooperation averted an incident at the Drewitz Highway checkpoint manned by both Russian and East Germans at the Berlin end of the super-highway to the West.

The Russians allowed Capt. Grace, accompanied by the American provost marshals, another officer and a tank driver, to enter East Germany to talk to the soldier and return the tank to West Berlin.

The soldier raced the stolen tank through West Berlin at 46 miles per hour to Checkpoint Charlie at the wall.

-- From Desert Sun newspaper, 2 March 1974

# Throwback news



# Traveling museum-in-a-plane keeps the life-saving Berlin Airlift alive for future generations

by Deb Brians Clark, '74  
Plane photos by Bryan Duckett '84;  
people photos by Deb

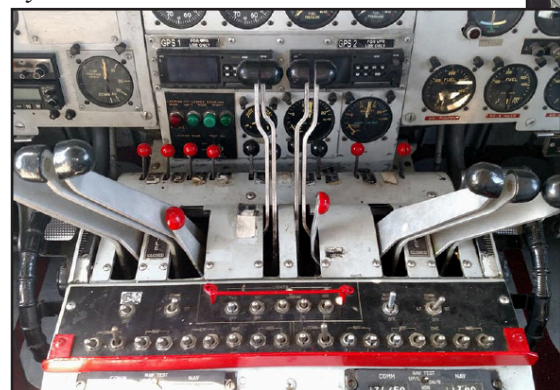
On September 28th, my husband and I attended a tour of the flying museum, *The Spirit of Freedom*, a C-54 transport plane used in the Berlin Airlift, at their show in Concord, NC.

As we walked out on the tarmac, we were greeted by a member of the flight crew named Timothy Chopp. I asked him what his role was with the C-54, and he said, "I am just the dumb driver"! What an incredibly humble man, and the understatement of the year! Tim Chopp is not only the pilot of the *Spirit of Freedom*, he owns it. He is a very religious man and credits prayer and God with putting this plane in his path.

Tim is the founder and president of the Berlin Airlift Historical Foundation (BAHF), and was honored in 2011 with the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, presented by Ambassador Klaus Scharioth. Tim was recognized for his passionate commitment to preserving the legacy of the Berlin Airlift for future generations -- one of the greatest humanitarian relief efforts in history, saving more than two million Berliners from starvation and communist rule. And here is Tim's story:

When Tim was six years old, he was looking at a circa 1960s *Life* magazine that had several pictures of the C-54 planes used in the Airlift. He loved planes, and even spent hours as a child building model airplanes. He told me he knew as a child he would own a plane one day, and it would be a C-54.

What is remarkable about this is that out of the 330 C-54s used in the Airlift, only three planes are left today, and the *Spirit of Freedom* is one of them.



The plane's mascot, aviator bear "Bear-Lynn."



Above: Tim Chopp, owner of the *Spirit of Freedom*, and Deb Brians Clark '74 in front of the plane. Right: Crew of the *Spirit of Freedom* (Tim Chopp 2nd from left).

In the late 1980s, he heard the owner of a C-54 was interested in selling his aircraft as he had to pay off a debt. The owner, Carl Millard of Millardair, used the C-54, then called the Skytrader, to carry auto parts between Toronto and Detroit until 1990. Tim contacted Millard, and when he



toured the plane, he walked to the back of it, stopped, and prayed. Millard wanted \$150,000 for the plane and Tim did not have that kind of money. Known for his persistence and excellent negotiating skills, Tim convinced Millard to take a down payment of \$10,000, of which Tim had to borrow \$7,000, and made \$1,000 monthly payments until there was a \$50,000 balance which would then be paid in one lump sum. This allowed Tim some time to come up with the funds, and his Berlin Airlift Historical Foundation finally acquired the plane on December 22, 1992.

The *Spirit of Freedom* was restored to become a flying museum and a memorial dedicated to the Berlin Airlift. Her mascot is a teddy bear in aviator attire, named "Bear-Lynn." During the spring and summer months, the *Spirit of Freedom* is part of air shows and events throughout the US to continue to educate the public about the Airlift and its importance in history.

While Tim and I were talking, I mentioned I was a Berlin Brat, attended the same school with Col. Gail Halvorsen's children, and shared one class with his daughter, Marilyn. Col. Halvorsen, known as the famous "Candy Bomber," "Uncle Wiggly Wings," "The Raisin Bomber," and "The

Chocolate Uncle" (whew!) during his Airlift days, is honored with a wonderful display in the *Spirit of Freedom* museum.

Next thing I knew, Tim grabbed his cell phone, and called the famous Candy Bomber himself! He said, "Gail, you are not going to believe this, but I have someone who went to school with Marilyn!" Tim handed me the phone and I told Col. Halvorsen that I remember Marilyn as such a sweet gal, and he said, "She still is!" We both cracked up! I also asked him if he remembered me calling in to the BratCon radio show, where I had an opportunity to speak to him before, and he said he did remember!

While I was pinching myself during this conversation, talking to a man who changed the lives of so many German children with his candy parachutes over Berlin, Operation Little Vittles, I once again had the opportunity to thank him, on behalf of my family, native Berliners, who say they would have starved without the help of the Americans and the Airlift. So, thank you again, Col. Halvorsen, for all you and your crew did, and also a big thank you to Tim Chopp, who is keeping the story alive with the touring *Spirit of Freedom*.

I called my friend and fellow Berlin Brat, Bryan Duckett '84, to ask his help with this article. We both toured the plane in Concord, but at different times due to our previous commitments. I found out Bryan attended a reception in honor of the pilots and crew of the Berlin Airlift, most of whom were in their 90s.

When I invited Bryan out to lunch

(we both live in Charlotte, NC), to discuss this article, he shared some great detail from the reception! Bryan said that what struck him most was the humility of the pilots.

They said, "Hey, we just flew the planes." They credit the Germans for helping with the loading and unloading of planes, which landed every three minutes at Templehof Airport.

The Berlin Airlift was credited with the first use of radar for landing in foggy conditions. Ground crew would rely on the radar and give voice commands to the pilots on how to land (gear down, flaps down, bank right, bank left), as

they could not see.

Bryan found out that the Americans were primarily responsible for transporting flour and coal. At the end of any flight, the crew would be "dusty"; either black from coal or white from the flour! A few years ago, a dismantled C-54 used during the Airlift had 400 pounds of coal dust discovered in her body.

Bryan had a "three degrees of a Berlin Brat" moment at the reception: he found out 31 Americans lost their lives in the Berlin Airlift (crashes), one of whom was 1st



LT Charles H. King. Bryan realized the street he lived on in the Berlin Düppel housing area, Charles H. King Straße, was named after a pilot in the Airlift!

I encourage everyone to check out the BAHF website at [www.spiritoffreedom.org](http://www.spiritoffreedom.org) and attend one of their regional shows. It is an opportunity to teach your family about a great humanitarian event where people pulled together to make a difference and changed history.





# The German schoolboy jailed for writing

by Abby d'Arcy

BBC World Service, Berlin

17 September 2017

It was the last day of the summer holidays. For 18-year-old Karl-Heinz Borchardt that should have meant an afternoon on a windswept Baltic beach with his girlfriend, or a few hours spent trying to catch the latest pop songs on his portable radio.

Instead his childhood came to a sudden end.

His mother hurried into his room unusually early and told him to get dressed. Five uniformed agents were waiting downstairs.

Borchardt bought himself time. "I needed time to think," he says. "It could have been for any number of reasons."

Insisting he needed a wash, he started to fling sheets of incriminating texts out of the window. He couldn't know that the secret police already had all the evidence they needed.

It was two years earlier, in September 1968, that Borchardt had written his first letter.

It wasn't easy to keep anything hidden in the cramped two-room flat Borchardt shared with his family in Greifswald, a small town on Germany's northern coastline.

So as he sat down to write at the living room table he covered the sheet of paper with his homework whenever someone poked their head round the door.

The radio sat to his left and Borchardt was glued to the crackly foreign broadcasts coming out of Prague, where Soviet guns and tanks had rolled in to crush an attempt to introduce liberal reforms.

"To the staff of Radio London's German service!" he wrote.

"I have only just started listening to your programme, 'Letters without signatures', but I like it a lot, since it airs opinions you don't find in our media.

I am 16 years old. I will write to you regularly, mainly about young people and their views on world affairs. In my view, the west did not intervene strongly enough in Czechoslovakia. Does a country which fought so hard for its freedom have to carry on marching to the tune of the Soviets?

--Warm regards from a schoolboy"

(original letter pictured to right)

Borchardt signed off with a code-name, and addressed the envelope to a Rolf Degner at Kantstrasse 45, West Berlin.

Borchardt didn't know Rolf Degner, he probably didn't even exist. But this was the address he had noted down at the end of the BBC's latest transmission of the programme on its German service.

Listening to a foreign broadcaster



Karl-Heinz Borchardt after his release

Image copyright Borchardt

was a crime in communist East Germany, let alone writing to one.

Yet Borchardt didn't see any personal risk. He believed he was shielded by anonymity. How could they possibly find him?

He dropped the letter in his local postbox.

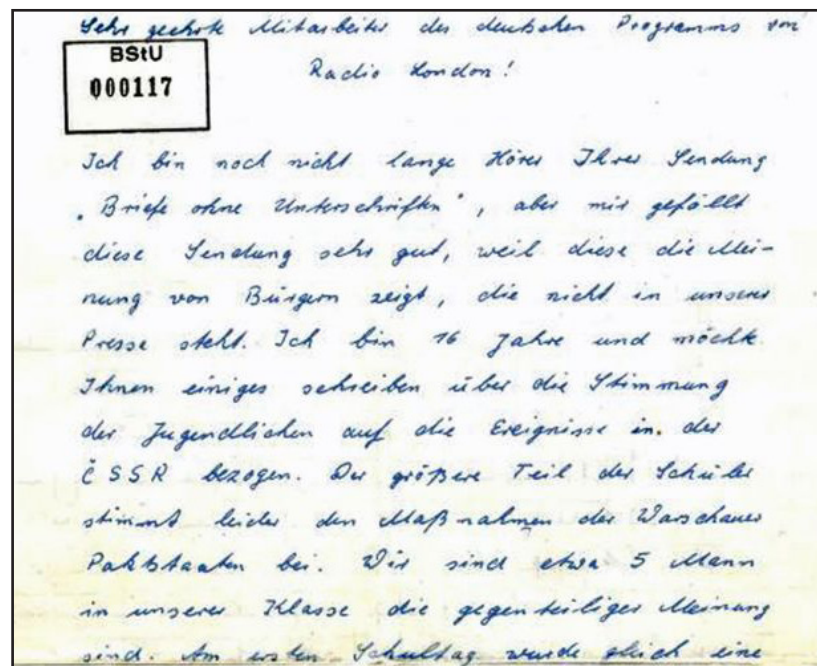
Kantstrasse 45 was in central Berlin but it was still a pile of post-war rubble.

The BBC arranged with the West Berlin post office to divert all the letters with this address to a private postbox. These were delivered to the BBC's West Berlin office and then on to Bush House in London.

The London-based presenter of "Letters without Signatures," Austin Harrison, announced different postal addresses every few weeks at the end of the show and East German listeners wrote in their thousands, filling the

weekly programme with 20 minutes of anonymous and uncensored letters from people behind the Wall.

Of course the Stasi were listening in too, immediately alerting the post offices to the new addresses so that the letters could be filtered out and passed on to them.



Images copyright BTSU unless otherwise noted

# to the BBC from behind the Wall

But the programme was broadcast on a Friday night and it took a little while for the message to get through to all the regional branches, giving the early correspondents a better chance of getting their post to the desired West Berlin address.

Others handed their letters to West Berlin visitors to smuggle back over the border.

Much to the ire of the East German regime, the BBC programme gave an extraordinary insight into the physical and emotional lives of a cross-section of GDR society for more than 25 years.

"It was like coming up for air," says Borchardt - a form of release for a young, curious mind locked in the suffocating atmosphere of the communist state.

"Freedom of speech didn't exist in East Germany, so they did a detour via London," says Susanne Schädlich, herself a child of the GDR and the author of *Briefe ohne Unterschrift* (German for Letters without Signatures), a detailed analysis of the BBC programme.

"I felt like I was unearthing treasures," says Schädlich. "The letters are authentic and unfiltered. The writers knew there was no censorship here and they spoke from their hearts."

Many wrote in desperation, appealing to the outside world not to be forgotten as the Berlin Wall was going up.

Others grumbled about shortages of butter, onions, and soap and then offered creative substitutes.

There was widespread despondency and the fear of being trapped in a repeating cycle of history.

"We're being held in a huge concentration camp. There's no escape. We vote for who we're told to. We're simply a herd of cattle which must obey."

(Anonymous letter)

Teachers wrote in, as did farmers, doctors, shopkeepers, even soldiers. An astonishing number of disillusioned children also put pen to paper.

"We're being educated in lies. I can't tell truth and lies apart any more. The whole world is dishonest. Politics is just a lying contest. What's the point of life?"

(Anonymous letter)

In its own way, the programme offered a small piece of democracy, crafting debate between the opposing views of its varied listeners.

"Some people wrote practically weekly," says Günter Burkart, right-hand man to the presenter, who recalls many years of fascinating work with a group of brilliant and eccentric characters.

Austin Harrison was the only presenter on the show for its 25-year run and he developed a real bond with his listeners, Burkart remembers.

"He thought it was very important that it was always him, that they always wrote to Harrison.

"He talked about 'us'. The family. He and his listeners. It was quite fantastic."

Burkart kept the letters under lock and key in the London office, fearful of spies.

Austin Harrison

The Stasi not only viewed the BBC as an enemy broadcaster, they specifically saw this programme as a form of psychological warfare aimed to destabilise the regime and incite resistance. They were convinced Harrison was an undercover spy, wooing agents in East Germany.

In the end it was the letter writers they really knuckled down on, and the Stasi were extraordinarily fastidious in their pursuit.

They took saliva samples from the licked envelopes to identify blood groups which they cross-checked with doctor's records. They traced fingerprints on the paper, sourced the ink and collated an extensive archive of handwriting samples.

It was his handwriting that caught out Borchardt.

"It just seemed like an ordinary piece of homework," he says, when the pupils in his class were asked to write an essay describing themselves and their later goals in life.

"The thing is, my father thought I had such terrible handwriting he wanted my sister to write it up for me. He nearly got his way."

Con't on page 23 -----



Susanne Schädlich

Image copyright Schädlich



The "Letters without Signatures" team in the studio



# Teenager redefines military 'Brat,' connects kids to their vagabond lifestyle through business

## Brat Stamps: Brag about where kids have lived

by Nicole Grigg  
Feb 20, 2017

TAMPA, Fla. - At fifteen years old, a girl that now calls Tampa home is up for a national military innovation award through Operation Homefront.

Maddie Shick is proud to call herself a "Military Brat," but she's taken the phrase and turned it into a different meaning.

"I kind of changed the acronym, to brave, resilient, adventurous traveler. Because that's what we are; we're brave and we're resilient," she said.

Shick is the daughter of a major in the United States Army and has lived in nearly a dozen different states because of her father's military career.

"I have lived in California, Georgia three times, I've lived in Washington, Germany, Louisiana, Alaska, and now Florida," she said.

She's letting each state she's called home be part of a story -- Brat Stamps.

Shick started a sticker stamp collection to begin documenting the various military bases she's lived at. She then took the designs a step further and started making them for other military children across the world.

The fifteen-year-old now has a website with

dozens of different stamps that represent different bases and branches of the military for kids to purchase. Each stamp runs from \$0.75 to \$3.00.

"They put them on their snow boards, water bottles," said Shick.

The purpose is for other kids to be proud of where they're going and to have something to brag about in each new state.

Shick is now up for the Operation Homefront Military Innovation award presented by Booz Allen Hamilton.

Each winner will receive \$10,000 to use toward their innovations.

Shick's website is at <https://www.bratstamps.com>.



## Innovation award for military children

Lisa Sales loves her job. A Booz Allen Hamilton cybersecurity program manager and strategic communications consultant to defense and intel clients by day, she has a passion for applying her expertise to transform lives in her community. Most recently, that meant helping 17-year-old Elizabeth O'Brien, the first-ever winner of the Innovation Award for Military Children.

Elizabeth started volunteering at a young age. When she was 14, she noticed that some disabled kids at Fort Bragg didn't have accommodations at their base housing to meet their needs. Insurance didn't cover it and families couldn't afford it. With the help of Military Missions in Action (MMIA), she established the Military

Child Access Assistance & Development Program (MCAADP)—at age 14—and created a 5K hike to raise funds to build accessibility ramps.

Elizabeth is just one of many military kids who create innovative solutions to address challenges in their communities. A stuffed bear that kids can hold while having an MRI to make the scans less scary, community gardens grown and harvested by kids and proceeds donated to shelters, solutions for the global water crisis—these ideas were conceived and put in motion by children from military families.

They have the vision and passion to not only see the problem, but do something about it. In late 2015, Booz Allen, together with longtime not-

for-profit partner Operation Homefront, created the Booz Allen Hamilton Innovation Award for Military Children, to be given to a military child who has created an innovative community program or non-profit. The award is part of the larger Military Child of the Year (MCOY) Awards, recognizing outstanding military children of all branches.

Most military children move eight times before they graduate high school. That means they rarely get opportunities to be recognized for their achievements or build a community of supporters for scholarships and other college-readiness opportunities.

Nominees' projects are judged on impact, scalability and of course, innovation.

## Letters without Signatures ----- con't from page 21

As ordered, the school passed the essays on to a Stasi agent. Documents show a painstaking analysis of every curve and stroke of Borchardt's pen, comparing it to the intercepted letters from the anonymous schoolboy.

Borchardt wrote to the BBC three more times and with each letter he revealed bolder political convictions.

Dear Mr. Harrison!

*I am 17 years old, I grew up in this country (...) but don't think it's fun, always having to say the opposite of what you think. (...)*

*My honest opinion is that only violence will help us. (...) If Hitler had been overthrown by the people, millions of lives would have been saved.*

*Warm regards, a schoolboy.*

Six months later, he was alone in the car with the Stasi. Not a word was spoken.

On arrival at Rostock Stasi prison, he was stripped and searched and put in isolation.

"I was still thinking, I need to get to school tomorrow," he says. "It took me a while to understand what was going on."

Alone in his cell, Borchardt had endless hours to fill. He counted the squares on his blanket, made chess moves in his head, recited maths tables and poetry. Soon he started to long for the interrogations.

After eight months he was convicted for "attempted subversive activities" in conjunction with an enemy broadcaster.

He was sentenced to two years in a youth prison in Dessau.

"You should be happy to live under socialism," were the words of welcome from a young officer as he arrived at the prison.

"Under the Nazis we'd have had you up in smoke a long time ago."

Those words have stuck in his head. The identification with the Nazis.

"The Stasi terminated biographies," says Susanne Schädlich, also drawing links with the methods and terminology of the Third Reich. "The way they went after people, for example, and shut them up."

And so it was for Borchardt.

School and university were replaced by the daily violence and hard physical labour typical of a GDR youth prison.

He was put on a production line, assembling gas appliances. Safety regulations were unheard of and none of the prisoners really knew how the machines worked.

"I saw bits of machinery flying through the air, fast as a gunshot," he says. "I was lucky, but there were a lot of injuries."

Towards the end of his sentence, Borchardt was offered a golden ticket to West Germany. Brokered by Amnesty International, the West German government had agreed to buy his freedom.

But he refused the offer.

He so desperately wanted to get back to his family and friends, he went on a hunger strike. The GDR relented and he was allowed to stay.

"There have been moments when I've regretted that," he says now.

"I overestimated a lot of my friends. When I was walking around town, they would look right through me. They feared for their future, most of them were at university."

Yet his family welcomed him back and he tuned into all the old Western stations he had missed inside. The Stasi hadn't stifled the rebel in him.

Then quite abruptly, in 1974, "Letters without Signatures" was taken off the air by the BBC.

The number of letters had reduced, according to former producer Günter Burkart.

Maybe because more were intercepted by the Stasi, but he suggests the foreign office may have had a hand in it.

"Perhaps it was thought with diplomatic relations coming up and recognition of the GDR, it was time to end it," he says.

For many listeners it was a bitter disappointment. The letters kept coming.

"I could just cry. Where is the England which in recent history fought so honourably and bravely against suppression, slavery and injustice? Good night. It feels like 1939 all over again. The lights went out for years."

(Anonymous letter)

With the end of the show Borchardt stopped listening to the BBC altogether.

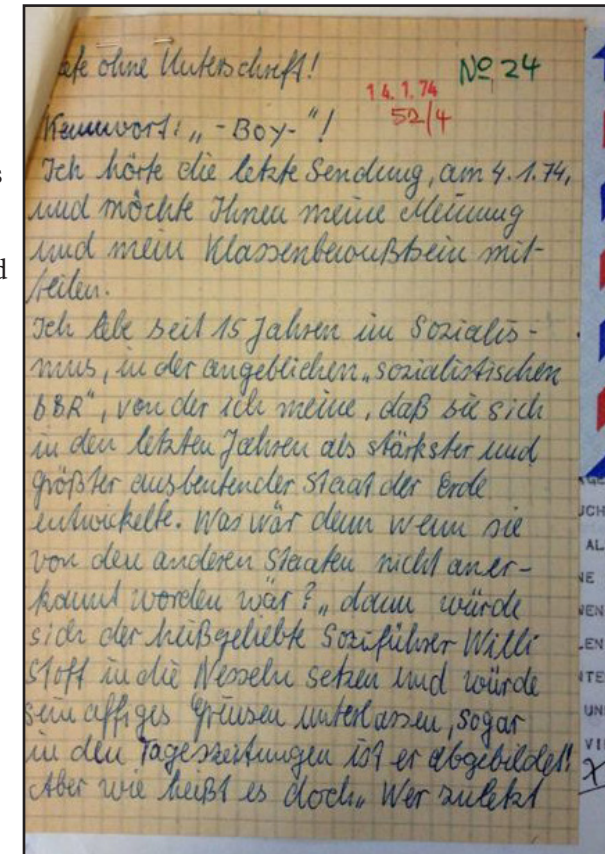
For the next 15 years he worked as an electronics engineer, and against all the odds

studied and got a PhD in East German literature.

Still, he could only get a low-status university job. He was a glorified ticket-seller, he says.

It was only after the collapse of communism and the reunification of Germany in 1989 that he was able to start working as an academic at the University of Greifswald.

He is still lecturing in German literature there today.





# Berlin's manhole covers take on a new life of fashion

*It all began in Berlin!!*

Raubdruckerin pirate printers bring attention to Berlin's overlooked manhole covers by using the existing template as a graphic stamp.

The German-based collective began this project in Berlin, and now applies eco-friendly ink to the surface of grids, vents, and other public utilities and urban features in various cities to highlight the unique patterns contained within each structure. Bags, t-shirts, and other items of clothing are printed directly from the inked items on the street, creating edgy, unconventional souvenirs.

This Berlin Mitte "textile poster" (in photo) is printed directly on the Berliner Wasserbetriebe manhole cover featuring the most popular landmarks of Berlin -- including the Fernsehturm, the Gedächtniskirche, and the Brandenburg Gate.

This project will change the way you see city streets!!! Find prints from your favorite city at <https://raubdruckerin.de/>. T-shirts, hoodies, gym bags, and tote bags can be had!



## Upcoming Events

### Dallas area

GermanDeli.com-  
hosted regional  
27 January 2018

*times to follow*

### Fort Worth, TX

Overseas Brats Gathering  
Aug 23-26, 2018  
Hosted by: Overseas Brats

## Next Reunion

*we head "west"*

2018

location scouting year

2019

we vote

2020

**REUNION!**

(location determined by vote)

## Contact Information



### Berlin Brats Alumni Association

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Find us on Facebook@  
"Berlin Brats Alumni Association"  
(the official fan page site)

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



"NEW"  
follow us on Twitter  
@BerlinBrats

Newsletter Brat: Kimberly Keravuori '85

### Early '60s Site

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

### American Overseas School Historical Society

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website: [www.aoshs.org](http://www.aoshs.org)

### Overseas Brats

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