

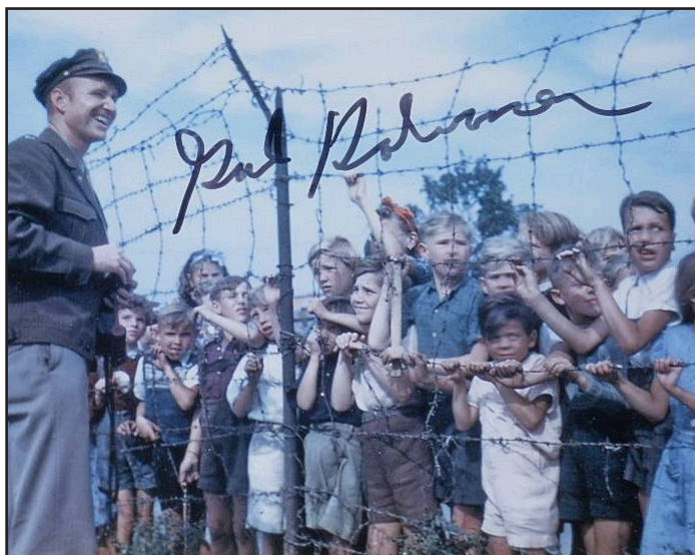


Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter

October 2018

Volume 14, Issue 4

70-98



70-98: This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift, AND the famous “Candy Bomber,” Col. Gail Halvorsen, turned 98 in October!

Top row, L to R: Col H with airlift plane, a C-54; and many decades earlier with the Berlin children. A lot has changed; those kids survived the blockade and have grand-children now. But that smile is still the same!

Berlin Brats will be touring a “flying museum” C-54 at the Charlotte regional in November. The tour will be conducted by the President of the Berlin Airlift Historical Foundation.

Middle row: At the dedication of the Gail S Halvorsen Schule in Berlin, 2013; and in his Class A uniform. Bottom right: Col Halvorsen loading his parachutes of chocolate bars onto the C-54 “flying museum.”



Class of '67 celebrates 50+1

The Class of 1967 held its 50th + 1 anniversary reunion in the Washington, DC/Arlington, VA, area, October 12-14, 2018. The seven-teen in attendance included spouses, friends, and one faculty member, Mickey (Cash) Durazzo FAC '63-'64.

The Friday night kick-off was a Moroccan dinner hosted by Don Drach and his wife, Ludy. Saturday night, Beth Jones, her husband, Don, and her sisters, Kathy, Sally, and Diana, hosted an affair featuring chili, homemade guacamole, and corn-bread. Sunday there was a lunch with a variety of German meats, bread, cheeses, and, of course, BEER, hosted by Cherry Wyman and her husband, Phil.

A special thanks to Phil, who spent several hours at the German Deli selecting all of the food. Jerry D'Amore, who lives in California, was in town for a wedding and joined us at lunch on Sunday.

Mickey (Cash) Durazzo may be 90 years old but she can still party with the best of us!

A sad note: George Gilmore '67 had planned to attend but his brother, Chis Gilmore '68, passed away after a 13-year battle with cancer.

At all three events, the conversation was non-stop, sharing memories and learning what everyone has been up to since we last saw each other in 2007. It is always good to be in the company of the people who shared a unique experience with you.



Top: back row, l to r: Cherry Wyman, John Latham, Don Drach, Jerry D'Amore. Front row: Beth Jones, Kathy Jones, Mickey (Cash) Durazzo FAC '63-'64. The Jones sisters are wearing their "Homecoming" polo shirts from the 2006 BB Reunion in Berlin. Middle: Joy Wyman and Beth Jones enjoy a laugh. Bottom left: "Miss Cash," beloved 9th-grade teacher, and Jerry D'Amore. Bottom right: Sally Jones, Don Perovich, Kathy Jones, Don Drach, Cherry Wyman, John Latham.



Steelers pay tribute to one of our own



The Steelers' Salute to Heroes features a local military hometown hero at each game during the first break of the 3rd quarter. The hero they paid tribute to during the Steelers vs. Falcons game October 7th was our own (recently retired) COL Frank Davis '87. He served 27 years and was deployed six times to Iraq, Afghanistan, and other regions. It was awesome, and the crowd was great during and after the game!

Announcer: "Please welcome U.S. Army Colonel Frank Davis to the field. Served 27 years, highly decorated with three Bronze Stars. Now in the greatest battle of his life....shortly after returning from Iraq last year, he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma cancer. Please stand in support of this great hero!"



Congrats!



Jan (Gonzalez) White '63 and hubby Tom celebrated 50 years of marriage in August!



O-S Moving on up

submitted by Tamara Dunham '90

For those who attended the 2012 Reunion in DC/Northern Virginia and saw the promotion ceremony of Michelle Estes '90 from Maj to LtCol with Maj General Rick Martin '77 presiding..... note that Michelle was recently promoted to full Colonel on October 1st



Mini-reunion in Charlotte

An All-Brats Area reunion took place in Charlotte, NC, June 28th-July 1st. Berlin family from '85-'93 came together for a great weekend!

Brats play golf for veterans and earn medals



"It was much fun and the weather turned out good. It was, however, a little somber. As you may be aware, the Ft Sam Golf Course is right next to the Ft Sam National Cemetery. During play, we clearly heard the volley of 21-gun salutes for what were probably five veterans' funerals. Somewhat sad." -- Pat Clyburn '73



Wreaths Across America (San Antonio Chapter) is this year's Overseas Brats Cause. WAA is a non-profit organization that works to remember America's fallen veterans, honor those who serve, and teach the value of freedom. Throughout the year, they engage in fundraising and educational events, and in December, they place "memorial wreaths" at graves in Arlington Cemetery and other U.S. cemeteries across the country. Their goal is to cover every vet's grave.

One of the events this year was a golf classic at Ft Sam Houston, in San Antonio. **The Berlin Brats fielded a team for this classic -- which won 3rd place!!**

Top right: Berlin team gets their medals and recognition. Left to right, WAA volunteer; Rick Martin '77; Denise Clyburn, a stateside AF Brat, and spouse of Pat Clyburn '73; honorary Brat, Dino.

Middle: Pat Clyburn '73, wife Denise (a stateside AF Brat), Diana (Bock) DuPree, Nurnberg '75 (OSB board member and WAA volunteer), Rick Martin '77, and honorary Brat Dino.

Bottom left: Diana and Rick post-ceremony.

Bottom right: Denise, Dino, Diana, Rick, and Pat.

Rick: "Event was a success! We avoided rain!"

Really????

That pavement looks pretty wet!

BRAT GET-TOGETHERS



GENERATIONS CONNECT

Spent the last two days with these two beautiful friends having fun, great conversations, and lots of laughter! Love these two!

I'm also amazed that of all the colleges in the entire country, our daughters are now both going to the same school!

-- Kendra (Payne) Morgan '80, August 25

Photo on left: Karen Reilly '80, far left, her mom Barbara, and Kendra. Right: Karen and Kendra.



Revisiting Berlin

Kenny Morphis '77 linked up with Rick Kuhlbars '78 during a visit to Berlin in August.

Here they are, having lunch at an outdoor café in the former AAFES gas station area.



Brats in the Haus

Toni (Yarbrough) Combs '71, her brother-in-law Bob Combs; Mike Brians, spouse, Deb (Brians) Clark '74; and Joyce (Clark) Mallon '72.



BRAT GET-TOGETHERS

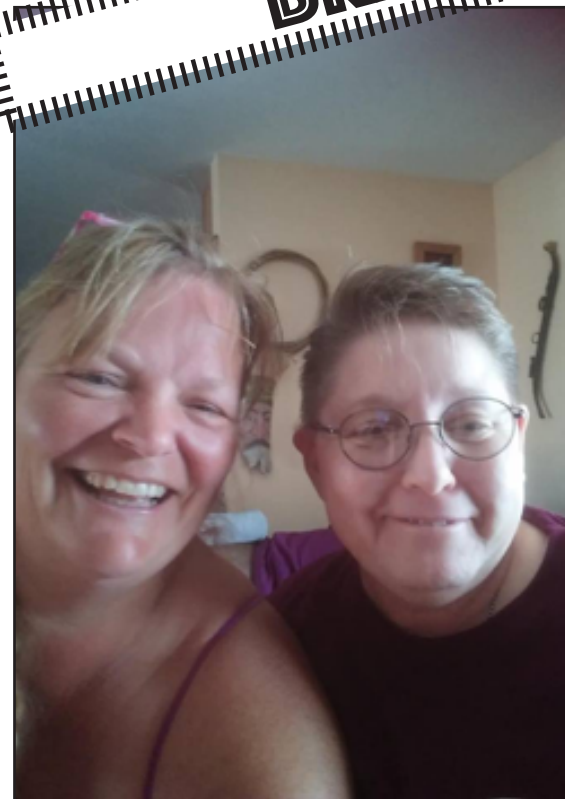
Cruisin'

Mike Haddock '89 and Ken Magee '88 on a Norfolk, VA, dinner cruise celebrating Mike's wife's birthday (Trevorlyn Haddock) in August.



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Jocelyne (von Arx) von Strong '85 visits Kelly Meister '84 in Havasu City, Arizona, July 2018.

Ampelmann: Berlin's cult traffic light that became a symbol of a unified Germany



Go find Berlin's giant *Ampelmann*

Berliners and visitors alike love the *Ampelmann* - that cute, cult figure in a hat you'll see on many of the city's pedestrian traffic lights (and in countless souvenir shops, besides).

But here's a mega-sized version you won't find elsewhere: a jolly green giant near Potsdamer Platz.

The 3.5 metre character is closely based on the original traffic signal, and was created by artist Ottmar Hörl as part of an exhibition celebrating 25 years of German reunification.

Yet despite the fact that he's Berlin's largest *Ampelmann* - and located, too, on one of the city's busiest tourist trails - the figure isn't exactly easy to spot.

Slightly isolated in the middle of a railed-off lawn just outside the Hessische Landesvertretung (Offices of the district of Hessen), you'll need to keep a sharp eye out for him as you pass. Just make sure you mind the traffic while you're at it.

Hessische Landesvertretung:
In den Ministergärten 5, 10117
Berlin



Ampelmann, the new ambassador for Berlin

"The Economist" editor Jeffrey Cliff has triggered a national media hype – approving and disapproving – with his ten-page report "Cool Germany." The article, which is probably one of the few that is read by a large number of decision-makers on all continents, shapes the image of the Republic.

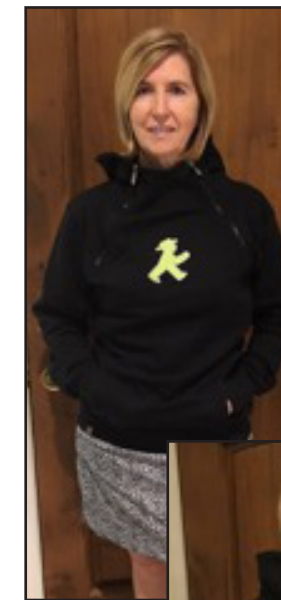
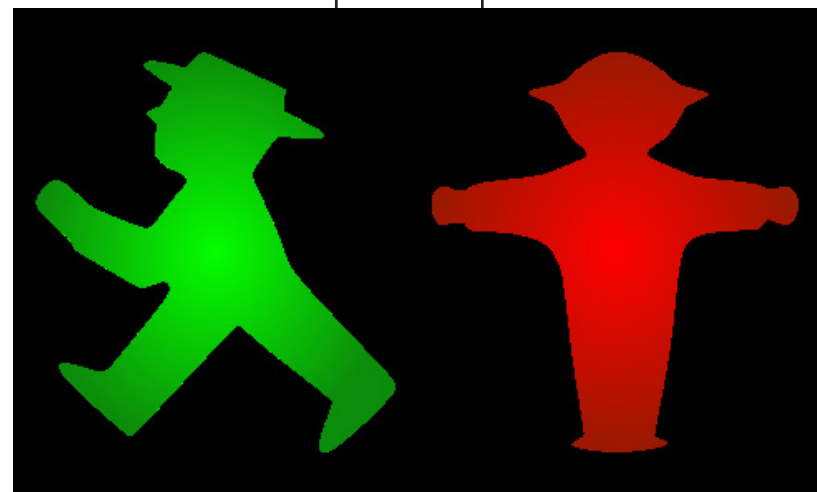
"Germany is reinventing itself. The country is becoming more open, more informal, more hip," Cliff praises, drawing parallels to the East German traffic-light man. "As a traffic sign of the former GDR, the traffic-light man has also undergone a reinvention. He has escaped his dictatorial roots and became a crazy, hip icon for a modern Berlin and the whole united country."

But it's not only the British who celebrate the little green man as ambassador of the Berlin spirit. The Berlin traffic-light man represents a cult and has enjoyed an increasing popularity

all over the world for decades. Berliners and visitors see it as a symbol of modern, cosmopolitan, and multicultural Berlin.

A symbol that will also set an example on the other side of the world in the future. In a distance of 8.910 km away from its place of origin -Berlin, district councillor Ephraim Gothe officially handed over the first German traffic-light system to the mayor of Bunkyo (Tokyo), Mr. Nari-sawa, on April 14th, 2018, as part of the city partnership between Berlin-Mitte and Tokyo.

The official donation celebrates the friendship between the two cities and focuses on an important aspect of cooperation: road safety in Tokyo. This aspect is to be made more attractive and "more European." "The traffic light is the ambassador of peaceful coalescence and the city of Berlin," proudly announced the Mitte District Office.



Further facts

- Berlin's green and red *Ampelmann* figures are one of very few ex-GDR emblems to have survived reunification.
- Originally encountered only in Berlin's former eastern districts, they proved so popular that since 2005 they've been installed throughout the city.
- Created by psychologist Karl Peglau, the *Ampelmännchen* first appeared on the streets of East Berlin in 1961. Now adopted as an unofficial city emblem, they feature on countless souvenirs and even have their very own stores.
- Shop the cult store: <http://www.ampelmannshop.com>.

Above right: Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72 models an *Ampelmann* hoodie, front and back. Above left: *The Economist* cover on the new ambassador for Berlin. Above middle: donating the traffic symbol to Tokyo in April. Above: Souvenir *Ampelmann* items in a Berlin store. Far top left: Berlin's giant *Ampelmann* walking across the city grass. Photo by Hessische Landesvertretung.



Therowback photos

Twenty-two high school graduates receive scholarships



KNOWLEDGE POWER – Seventeen of 20 Berlin American High School scholarship winners strike a thoughtful pose. Front row: (left to right) Mary Price, Dianna Keller, Kim Graves, Pedra Meeks, Linda Brinniger; 2d row: Mark Krabel, Gina Strickland, Caroline Hotchkiss, Kellie Sellers; 3rd row: Kathy Haury, Shana Keller, Shirley Rabasa, Rosethell Williams; Top row: Dana Fisher, Michael Moschman, Patrick Rhysburger, and Kevin Payos. Not pictured are Mark Engbreitson, Darlene Morris and Deborah Weidman. John F. Kennedy High School graduates Patricia Streeter and Brian Branagan also received scholarships.

Twenty graduates of Berlin American High School and two graduates from John F. Kennedy High School have been awarded scholarships of various amounts by the Berlin American Scholarship Committee.

In addition, two BAHS seniors have received appointments to U.S. military schools.

Fredrick Martin will enter the freshman class of the United States Air Force Academy later this month, and Joseph McClain will attend the United States Naval Preparatory School.

The Berlin Scholarship Committee, chaired by Tonia Ballard, is composed of organizations in the local community. Among the organizations contributing scholarships were the Berlin American Women's Club, the Berlin American High School PTSA, the Army NCO Wives Club, the Tempelhof Officers' Wives Club, the Tempelhof NCO-Airmen's Wives Club, Latinos Unidos en Berlin and Local 3352 of the Overseas Federation of Teachers.

The presentations were made during special awards ceremonies at the high schools.

Top photo: Opening Burger King at Clayallee. Truman Plaza was a large shopping mall along Clayallee in Berlin-Dahlem, where the PX, Commissary, cafeteria, shoppette, bank, and a number of other shops operated for the military community. In 1986, a Burger King branch opened there with the slogan "a little bit of home." The photo above comes from the negative stocks of the U.S. Army Berlin Brigade, which the Museum is currently digitizing. Bottom photo: From the Berlin Observer, 1977.

Hurricane Michael relief efforts help Tyndall AFB personnel

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all Brats and their families affected by the recent Hurricanes. It's come to our attention that 600 military families have to find new housing after Tyndall AFB was severely hit. Read on: 100 Percent of Tyndall AFB housing is unlivable! <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2018/10/12/100-percent-tyndall-housing-unlivable-after-hurricane-slams-base.html#.W8K3tKijTSE.email>

The fastest and easiest way to help from a distance is with a monetary donation of any amount. Please visit www.afew.us/help to give today. The following items are being collected locally based on current needs: Nonperishable packaged food items, bottled water, toiletries, hygiene items, baby wipes, boxes, coolers, bug spray.

Did You Know?

Many of you are probably familiar with waking up on a Sunday morning to an empty fridge and not being able to buy food because all the grocery stores are closed. But have you ever wondered how Germany's strict hours came to be?

Germany is renowned for having some of the strictest laws for opening hours in Europe, much to the frustration of many modern shoppers. Not only are the majority of shops closed throughout Germany on Sundays, but during the week they often shut earlier in the evening than in most other countries. Certainly far more restrictive than the U.S.

After the first country-wide laws on opening hours were set out in 1900, by 1919 it was illegal for shops to open on Sundays and, on weekdays, shops could be open only from 7am to 7pm. The reasoning behind this was not only religious, as in certain faiths the Sabbath is considered a day of rest and a day to honour God, but also to take the interests of workers into consideration.

Making it a legal requirement for people to have a day off on Sundays meant people were guaranteed a day to relax at home and to avoid a 7-day work week. Because of this, the concept of a *Ruhetag* (resting day) is held dear to many Germans.

Having a chilled Sunday is also pretty much unavoidable throughout the country; some of the only things you can actually do are eat in restaurants or cafes, go for bike ride, or visit a museum.

And if you're thinking that Germany seems a little behind the times in this world of 24-hour consumerism, you might be right.

For a long time, the country's shop opening hours were stuck in the 1950s; a law passed in 1956 stated that shops could be open only until 6:30pm on weekdays and until

shop when it suited them. Despite the smaller range of products available, they could enjoy later opening hours in the week and in many places could even shop on a Sunday. When the wall came down in 1989, though, East Germans lost some of this freedom.

Then in 1996, the Bundestag started to relax some of the laws by allowing shops to open until later in the evening - 8pm on weekdays and 4pm on Saturdays - in the

month leading up to Christmas. In 2003, opening hours on Saturdays were extended to 8pm but the big change really came in 2006, when the issue of opening hours was placed in the hands of the state rather than being managed at the federal level. Berlin leapt at the chance to give shoppers more freedom, and other states quickly followed suit.

Sundays continue to be a *Ruhetag* throughout the country today; look out for the occasional miraculous day once every few months when shops are allowed to have special Sunday opening hours, usually because of a public holiday during the week.

But things have also slowly begun to change, as in recent years, small corner shops - known as *Spätkaufstellen* or *Spätis* - open late at night or on Sundays, have begun to emerge in cities

across the Bundesrepublik. Without *Spätis*, the disorganized shoppers and night owls of Deutschland would likely be left to starve and, perhaps more importantly, unable to buy a beer for the road.

But while opening hours regulations are slowly relaxing in the country, with many supermarkets open until 11pm or midnight, German shopkeepers don't always seem keen to take advantage of this. For example, though shops are allowed to stay open until midnight on Saturdays nowadays, it is still pretty common to see places closing as early as 3pm.

In a survey by *Spiegel Online* in June, 61 percent of respondents said shops should be able to decide for themselves whether they want to open on Sundays. Large chains such as Rossmann and Hornbach told *Spiegel Online* they do not think opening their doors on Sundays would lead to a significant increase in their sales and profits. "We are very happy with the current situation," Rossmann said.

It seems shops across Germany aren't legally going to be able to fling open their doors on Sundays anytime soon. But at least over the past few decades changes have been made, albeit slowly.



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West Germany with almost no amendments for 40 years and during this time they were the most restrictive hours in Europe. Meanwhile, East Germans actually had more flexibility to

“Together Is a Beautiful Place to Be”

Brats gather en masse to celebrate the wedding of Rob Ahrens '87 and Holly Touchstone

by Jenni (Hewitt) Shaw '85

The weekend of October 26th and 27th over 40 Berliners ranging across classes '82-'89, spouses, and families gathered in San Antonio, Texas, to celebrate our very own Rob Ahrens '87 marrying the love of his life, Holly Touchstone. The celebration kicked off with a Welcome Fiesta at Rio Rio Cantina on the infamous RiverWalk.

In addition to the nuptials, several dozen Berliners continued celebrations at the Kremlin Dance Lounge for Natalie Wilson '86's 50th milestone birthday, where they were joined by “locals” Danny Franklin '85 and Brad Blewett '86.

The day of the wedding, Rob surrounded himself with Berlin love, sharing his day with those who have loved him longest (with the exception of his family) while the Berlin boys got trimmed and groomed for the big day.

The bride and groom and their wedding party danced in to the ceremony at Sunset Station. The “Dudes” danced in to “Here Comes Your Man,” by the Pixies. The Ladies danced in to “Baby, I Love You,” by Aretha Franklin. The absolutely stunning bride was escorted to her handsome groom to the tune of “True,” by Spandau Ballet. They then walked up the elegant staircase to the “Padre,” Vincente Lingner '82, who officiated the ceremony.

Special readings by Anne Robinson and Jeff Hoss '87 were lyrics selected

by Rob and Holly for each other. By the time they were done, there was not a dry eye in the station.

The wedding party danced their way from the ceremony to the dance floor to the tune of “You're the One that I Want” from Grease.

Guests enjoyed a special dinner with the couple's favorite things from places like Greece, Texas, and Germany. The entry from Ger-



YOU ARE LEAVING
THE AMERICAN SECTOR
ВЫ ВЫЕЗЖАЕТЕ ИЗ
АМЕРИКАНСКОГО СЕКТОРА
VOUS SORTEZ
DU SECTEUR AMÉRICAIN
SIE VERLASSEN DEN AMERIKANISCHEN SEKTOR



holly rob
OCTOBER 27, 2018

Welcome to our party, where a wedding is going to break out!

We value family and friends above all else, and we have gotten to know each of you in different stages of our lives, in different places around the world. Just as our relationships with you are unique, we want our celebration to be the same. Rather than a traditional wedding, we wanted something that reflects who we are, from the ceremony to the food and the music. Instead of having you sit at some round table full of people we think you'd get along with, we've created an event that is more social, and we think more fun. Don't pick a specific seat and stay in it... as a matter of fact, there are less seats than people! We want you to dance, mingle, laugh, and get to know the other fun, interesting, and amazing people that are here.

#HollyFoundHerLobster



Currywurst
Invented in Berlin, Germany, in 1949, today you can find currywurst at almost every corner Imbiß (food stand) in Berlin. Having spent his teenage years in Berlin eating as much currywurst as he could, Rob recommends putting the curry sauce over the sausage and then topping with a sprinkling of curry powder. For an extra Texas kick, add a little cayenne.



many was currywurst, complete with recommendations on how to eat it. The wedding cake was a Croquembouches, a traditional French wedding cake made of profiteroles filled with crème patisserie and lightly coated with crispy caramel. The sign beside the cake said, “The couple opts not to cut the cake and feed it to each other because Rob cannot be trusted NOT to smear it all over his bride's face.” Holly knows Rob.



The night continued with meaningful family toasts from Eddie Arnold and MSgt Carl Marvin, Jr (father of Brats Carl '87, Chris '89, and Dusty '88), and the roastings, er, toastings, from the honor attendants. Tom Carey '87 reminded us of just the kind of uniquely caring guy Rob is and Steve Kinzie '87 shared words specifically written for Rob and Holly by beloved teacher Mr. Charlie Bluem FAC '69-'94. All the toasts had us laughing and crying as we raised our glasses in Rob and Holly's honor. Guests continued to dance and party to some fabulous music by the best wedding band EVER! The bride and her fellow Aggies even got their anthem in, too!

Rob and Holly said it best – “Welcome to our party -- where a wedding is going to break out!” The wedding itself was joyful and uniquely Rob and Holly. Every detail was purely and intentionally Rob and Holly – joyful, considerate, and thoughtful.



“You Are Leaving the American Sector” sign....was a surprise for Rob via “the Padre,” Vince Lingner '82. The Berlin city flag was promptly displayed and used throughout the wedding preparations and celebration.....to include 1st kiss on the dance floor by Rob and Holly (upper left).

70,000th Stolperstein for Holocaust victims laid in Frankfurt

If you've been to Germany, you might have noticed the small brass blocks embedded in sidewalks to commemorate victims of Nazism. The unique memorial project, launched 20 years ago, has just passed an important milestone.

A small crowd gathered in northern Frankfurt on October 23rd to watch Gunter Demnig lay the 70,000th brass stone in the ground. The "Stolperstein" memorial project was his brain-child.

"Ultimately there's no reason to celebrate, because 70,000 stones are 70,000 stones too many," he said.

The small plaques, known as *Stolpersteine* (stumbling stones or stumbling blocks in English), have been installed in sidewalks in Germany and other countries to preserve the memory of the Nazis' victims. Each stone is engraved with the name, date of birth, and fate of an individual, and placed in front of their last voluntary place of residence.

The 70,000th stone bore the name of Willy Zimmerer, a man with a disability who was murdered in 1944 in Hadamar, near Frankfurt. The western German town was home to a psychiatric hospital that was used to exterminate "undesirable" members of society under the Nazis' "euthanasia" program. Nearly 15,000 Germans were murdered there.

Two of Zimmerer's distant relatives traveled from the United States to witness the stone being placed in the ground in front of a red sandstone house.

"It means a lot to us," said Michael Hayse, whose grandmother was one of Zimmerer's cousins. "Willy will not be forgotten."

"The stumbling stones show that the victims lived among us."

Cologne-based artist Gunter Demnig, who turned 70 last October, started the project in 1996 with his first stone in **Berlin**. **The first 50 stones were placed in Berlin. Illegally.** Since then, he has traveled across Germany to install the stones in more than 1,200 municipalities.

The memorial plaques have also been laid in 24 other countries, including Austria, Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, Poland, and Argentina.

The project, which is considered to be the largest decentralized memorial in the world, is funded by sponsorships. Each stone costs €120, or about \$138.



Gummibären -- A German delight since 1920

by Nicole Glass, German Embassy

Go to the candy aisle of any grocery store and you'll find at least one gummy product. Gummy candy has found its way into lunchboxes and kitchen pantries across the world, but the chewy treat originated in Germany almost a hundred years ago.

In 1920, Bonn resident Hans Riegel launched a confectionery company that he named Haribo (which stands for Hans Riegel Bonn), producing hard, colorless candies in his own kitchen. His wife, Gertrud, helped him with his endeavor, distributing the candies to their first customers using only her bicycle. Business was good, but not as good as Riegel had hoped – until he came up with a new idea.

In 1922, Riegel was struck with inspiration: after seeing trained bears at festivals and markets across Germany, he invented the so-called "dancing bear" – a fruit-flavored gummy candy in the shape of a bear. The initial "dancing bears" were larger than the Haribo gummies that are on the market today, and they quickly became popular. The bears were sold at kiosks for just 1 Pfennig (which we Brats all recall was the German penny!), making the colorful treats affordable at a time when the economy was struggling.

It wasn't long before Haribo made it onto store shelves: by 1930, Riegel was running a factory with 160 employees. By the time World War II began, there were more than 400 employees. But World War II took a toll



war and his two sons were taken prisoner by the Allied forces. When they were released, the company had only 30 employees left.

Despite the wartime hardships, the company recovered and Haribo continued to grow. It soon had



over 1,000 employees and a catchy slogan (in English: "Kids and grown-ups love it so, the happy world of Haribo!"). The name Goldbär (Gold-Bear) was registered as a trademark in 1967. Although Haribo dominated the gummy bear market, other companies were emerging with their own versions of gummy candy as far west as the US. In

1981, the German company Trolli introduced gummy worms, while The American Jelly Bean Company came out with its own line of gummy bears. In 1982, Haribo opened its first branch in the US.

Today, Haribo produces over 100 million Gold-Bears each day.

And not all gummy candy is uniform; over the years, a diversity of gummy types emerged on the market. There are organic gummy bears, gummy candy with added vitamins, Halal gummy candy, gummy candy in various shapes and gummy candy that's allegedly good for your teeth. Gummy bears are a staple candy in Germany, but even across the world, the chewy candy has become a common treat.

on the company: Riegel died during the



Changes in latitudes

Tom Post '64 and his wife, Rita, lunch with Mike Cleveland '61 and his wife, Liz, at the Sister Noodle House in Key West, August 8th.

BRAT GET-TOGETHERS

Family reunion

After living for years and years in the Seattle area, Roma (Freeman) Petton '71, twin of John Freeman '71, has relocated to Gainesville, Florida, to be near John and family. Here they are in September at Satchel's Pizza in Gainesville following the big move!



Happy Halloween
1960-2018!!

BRAT GET-TOGETHERS

Ahrens fever



The soon-to-be Ahrensens (Rob Ahrens '87, left, and then-finacée Holly) found a Smurf (Michael James '87, center) in Long Island, New York, on October 12th.

Rob and Holly also received a letter from Charlie Bluem FAC '69-'94, who sent his regrets for missing their wedding. As Rob said, "Mr. Bluem may be the greatest human ever!"

SEPT. 23, 2018
HELLO ROB & HOLLY,
I RECEIVED YOUR FIRST CLASS
STYLED WEDDING INVITATION & I THANK YOU
FOR IT.
YOU CAN WELL IMAGINE, I WOULD SURELY
LIVED TO HAVE BEEN PRESENT AT YOUR
WEDDING, BUT UNFORTUNATELY I AM
NOT ABLE TO... BUT I WILL BE WITH "YOU
GUYS" ON THE 27TH... IMAGINING IT ALL,
WITH ALL YOUR BUDDIES/FRIENDS!
YOUR WEDDING HAS TO BE THE
HEADLINE STORY IN THE NEXT BAH'S
NEWSLETTER, YOU HEAR???
GETTING ALL PSYCHED UP FOR YOUR
WEDDING DAY, HOLLY, ROB??... I CAN
WELL IMAGINE!!! TSCHUSS & AUF
WIEDERSEHEN FOR NOW... *Charlie*

Birthday bash



Some class of '85 friends going on 35 years gathered to celebrate Paul Murphy '86 for his 50th birthday!

Left to right: Charlie Cleveland, Malissa (Murray) Ladd, Jenni (Hewitt) Shaw,
Tim Murphy, and Wendy (Felker) Roberts.

Finding Berlin



Above: Deb (Clark) Brians '74 with the "Buddy Bear" she found in Charlotte, NC. Left: Surprise! Another section of the Wall found by Barbara (Jones) Gower '72 outside Philadelphia. "I went to Oktoberfest at the Vereinigung Erzgebirge and there stood a piece of the Berlin Wall!" The V.E. is a social and sports club founded by immigrants from the Erzgebirge region of eastern Germany in 1931 and is now home to many of their descendants.



SOLD OUT

**Berlin Brats "Regional"
Charlotte/Monroe, NC
70th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift
November 10, 2018; 11 am - 4 pm**

Enjoy lunch, followed by the Warbirds Over Monroe airshow at the regional airport. There, we will receive a guided tour of the Spirit of Freedom, a C-54 plane used in the Berlin Airlift and now the flying museum dedicated to the Airlift. We are honored to have a personal tour by the aircraft's owner and pilot, Tim Chopp, who is also the founder and president of the Berlin Airlift Historical Foundation and was honored in 2011 with the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Impromptu in N.C.



Brat get-together at the famous "Waldhorn" German Restaurant in Charlotte/Pineville, NC. Bernie Beausoleil '72 was in town on business and Deb (Brians) Clark '74, class contact, hastily arranged a get-together to reunite with Berliners from the local area.

Left to right: Mike Brians '78, Steve and spouse Ellen Morphis '73, Deb (Brians) Clark '74, Mike Clark, her spouse, Bernie, and Candace Wyman '73 and spouse, Greg.

BRAT GET-TOGETHERS

NY state of mind



Tamara Dunham '90 reconnected with Michelle Estes '90 in New York for fun after Michelle's recent promotion ceremony. Tamara's mother also joined them.

Tribute to Charles Huffer, FAC '69-'87

by Sarah Lewkowicz '79 and Rick Martin '77

Many will remember Mr. Charles Huffer as a math teacher at BAHS during the 1960s-1980s. He was an iconic teacher of algebra, trigonometry, and calculus.

While Mr. Huffer was well-educated and an excellent math teacher, less well-known were his roots in Arkansas, his service in the Army, and his many hobbies.

Mr. Huffer's sister, Kay Price, recalled the early years with Charles while they lived in Haven, AR:

"Charles, also known as 'Sonny' to family, was the oldest sibling and was always studious, smart, and insisted on classical music in the home. He played clarinet and was a member of the school band. He also had a keen interest in model airplanes, which we built and flew at the local park. He was also a practical joker and loved to scare me by popping

out of hiding places."

When Charles was in 12th grade, he moved in with his grandmother in a nearby town.



Charles on right, age 11.

After this newfound independence, he announced he would be known as "Charles" from that time on – not Sonny!

Charles excelled in music and academics. He earned a music scholarship to college, 1956-1960, where he played solo clarinet in the band and was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity.

Mr. Huffer was proud of his service in the Army, starting with service in the Arkansas Army National Guard after high school in 1956. He later went to the Army Language School in the Presidio of

Mr. Huffer circa 1990s, in Berlin. Right, his beloved Unit Circle!



Monterey, studying German. That resulted in assignment to the U.S. Army Security Agency (USASA) in Berlin, where he served in the 78th Special Ops Unit, 1961-1963. This was a critical time, as Berlin was in a state of crisis; the Berlin Wall was built just after he arrived. Due to Mr. Huffer's linguistic skills and special operations training, he worked at "Field Station Berlin" at Teufelsberg, a highly-classified site.

After he left the Army in 1963, he returned to the U.S., where he spent the next five years pursuing his love for math. He earned a BA and an MS in Mathematics, taught high school math, and earned a teaching position at Northwestern State College in Alda, OK. He then returned to Berlin in 1968.

During the next 19 years in Berlin, Mr. Huffer was one of three math teachers at BAHS, and often taught advanced, college-prep math. During his free time, he was the high school tennis coach, played in the Berlin Britzer Blas-Orchestra, and was the principal clarinetist in the Berliner Arzte Orchestra. He was also active in the Mensa association.

A student at BAHS once asked about a ring on his finger. He claimed no recollection of how it got there. After the student complimented Mr. Huffer on his handsome appearance and attractive qualities, he replied, "For many years a good part of the female population shared your opinion of my appearance. That sure made things easy! Such behavior had its

risks but it was ever so fun!"

Mr. Huffer returned to the U.S. in 1987, but Berlin was always the city he loved. In fact, Charles frequently visited his German girlfriend, Ute Hoefig, in Berlin.

In his retirement, Charles continued his love of learning. He was a keen reader and would learn everything he could about a topic. His interests included birds, butterflies, travel, music, religion, and networking across the world through his Amateur "Ham" radio call sign NY2X.

Mr. Huffer also had a great interest in Unidentified Flying Objects – UFOs. He would regale students with stories about UFO sightings and other unexplained phenomena. He was quite well-known and a long-standing member of the Mutual UFO Network.

It has been ten years since Mr. Huffer passed. We dedicate this tribute to Mr. Huffer – a life underscored by an enduring quest to teach and share his love of learning. Without a doubt, he left a legacy of students who bear the fruit of his efforts. With fond remembrance and in honor of a life well-lived –

"Thank You, Mr. Huffer!"



Personal memories

Mr. Bluem, FAC '69-'94: Charles Huffer and I shared a strong friendship over the years, borne of talks while we were teaching at BAHS and regular contact when he returned to Arkansas. The strongest impression I have was that he was a great teacher! He had an incredible intellect and used that to pursue his passion in math and inspire students. Equally important to him was his time in the U.S. Army and he talked about that as much as he did his teaching experiences. It gives me great satisfaction to know the Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter is doing this tribute to Charles Huffer. BAHS was certainly a good high school thanks to Charles Huffer and many others, and because it was behind the iron curtain, it was a most unique high school experience. Thanks to all who keep this very special and unique BAHS experience alive!

Joe Lewkowicz '76: Mr. Huffer was one of the good guys. But when I first met him, I did not realize it yet, and wished him a swift and sudden reassignment to the hot place. Why? At the end of my freshman year, he brought his class of 7th and 8th grade squirrels into our math class for a contest. He would select a problem from our textbook and when someone had an answer, they would raise their hand. It was a humiliating ½ hour. On every question, all their tiny hands instantly shot up, and we sat silent. They even answered questions from chapters far ahead of us - shame, nothing but shame, eternal shame.

After thinking it over, I realized that he must be an extraordinarily talented math teacher and decided to take only math courses he taught. It was a lot of work, but worth it.

The next year, a week from summer vacation, he gave us a break from math by reading out loud from a gift he had just received. The book, *Letters from Earth* by Mark Twain, was

published posthumously. Over the next few days, Mr. Huffer read his favorite parts to our alternating shock and delight. He had a rare gift. It seemed as though he was speaking extemporaneously. I will never forget him walking around the classroom with the book in his hand, his face shining with delight. I don't remember the math we toiled over anymore.

Then there was the time a Young Earth Creationist spoke after school. The basic premise was that the Earth was created less than 10,000 years ago. During the question-and-answer period, Mr. Huffer appeared and loudly asked a long-winded question. How, if this timetable was correct, could the dinosaurs have survived the deluge? The dimensions of the ark being well known, there would have been no room on board for two of each and fodder, and they would probably have eaten all the other animals. The lecturer paused, and then answered that the dinosaurs didn't need to be on the ark because they could float. Mr. Huffer was delighted with this answer and asked no more questions.

Mike Hannah '77: I've thought a few times about Mr. Huffer over the years. He left an impression. I got to Berlin in '72 and left in '76. I remember his green sweater and black-rimmed glasses, and that he was always on top of the subject. He also facilitated the student astronomy club. One cold night we were on the football field for some star gazing and there were maybe ten of us. In the distant sky there was a light that twitched on/off slowly as it zigzagged away from us. That was all Mr. Huffer needed to test our objectivity. It turned into small group discussions on what did you see? And then a discussion from the group on what it was. I don't remember the consensus, but I think it was just a helicopter skipping across the sky with a flashing warning light. I think spaceships did come up as a possibility. :) He got me interested and that's what counts.

Continued, page 22



Column, top to bottom: At Arkansas State College, 1956 and again in late 1950s; Army recruit, late 1960s; BAHS math teacher, 1970s; retired life in Springdale, AR; Emeritus Professor Huffer with Berlin Brigade pin. Above: Mr. Huffer's headstone at Carlisle Cemetery in Carlisle, AR. He designed the headstone himself, with emblems from his life, including the Berlin Brigade patch, Berlin Lawn Tennis Club, Army Security Agency, Defense Language Institute, and Army medals.



Personal memories, *con't from page 21*

Rick Martin, '77: Mr. Huffer and I had a teacher-student relationship that evolved over the years to be a strong friendship. He challenged me in math that ultimately led to me pursuing a major in mathematics at the USAF Academy. He also inspired me as a life-long learner. Throughout the years we had many phone calls and exchanged letters on topics from veterans' issues, UFOs and aviation ... to often passionate discussions on politics and religion. I will never forget the long "farewell" conversation we had by phone a few weeks before he passed in December 2008. Heart-to-heart. Poignant. Memorable.

The reason Mr. Huffer was a great teacher? He was passionate in the classroom about learning – not being distracted by administrative details. He had high standards and expected the same from students. He cared about where students were in their life journey and how he could facilitate achieving their goals. God Bless the memory of Charles A. Huffer ... and all the teachers in our lives who dedicate their lives to inspiring life-long learners.

Julie Ely-Jones '79: He was an absolute character and a great math teacher who managed to find a way to make a very dry subject interesting. I recall he must've been one of the first adopters of the hand-held calculator – he used to brandish this whiz-bang, sophisticated Texas Instruments scientific calculator at a time when no one we knew even owned one! Mr. Huffer was my first experience with the quintessential nerd (and I use this term in the nicest way possible)! I eventually became a research scientist nerd

when I grew up, so have been surrounded by such folks all my life – he certainly paved the way for me to think outside the box and I am grateful to him for that!"

Sarah Lewkowicz '79: He was a great math teacher with a keen sense of humor and pushed us to the limits of learning, including allowing programmable calculators in class so we didn't spend all our time doing long-hand multiplication and could advance to learning spherical trig and calculus. I remember him taking Vitamin C pills long before it was fashionable. With his encouragement, I entered a high school science competition and presented a speech at the Max Planck Institute. I can still hear him in class calling me "Sayrah Lukes" in his Southern drawl. I was very glad to reconnect with him in his final years of life and helped him with some of his projects, including extensive research on actress Irene Dunne, with whom he was fascinated. What a special and unique human being! I am so grateful to have been a student of his.

Larry Speer '83: I had Mr. Huffer for three years in a row at BAHs. I remember playing chess against his chess machine. Yes, even back then there were computer programs for playing chess. I still remember a gem of advice Mr. Huffer gave me one day: "You can get a great education no matter where you go. You just may have to work harder at some places than others." Mr. Huffer's math education really helped me succeed with a heavy math workload at the USAF Academy. Many thanks from a grateful Berlin Bear!

Pete Murphy '84 interment to occur at Arlington National Cemetery

This fierce warrior as well as beloved son, brother, and friend, Pete Murphy '84, will finally be laid to rest in Arlington Cemetery on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, at 3pm with full military honors. He will be interred at the Columbarium. Here is our opportunity to thank him for his self-perceived, single-handed role in uniting the people of Berlin (and the rest of Germany). "Katie, the Berlin Wall was up when I reported to duty in Germany and it was down when I left. There's your proof."

The Murphy Family is planning a reception after the ceremony, details yet to be determined. The Murphy "kids" are also thinking of some sort of gathering on the day before (MLK Monday off) for those who might be in town and just want to hang out together. We are so grateful for those who traveled to join us for his funeral in July 2017 so please don't feel any additional pressure. If you are considering joining us for either or both events, please PM me, the shrew with the curly hair of questionable origin.

We're just trying to gather some numbers for

planning purposes. Love and peace to all.

Please PM Kate (Murphy) Scrivener '88 on FB if you can attend.

(Murphy Brats: Ann '82, Pete '84, Tim '85, Paul '86, and Kate '88)



The 9/11 Memorial & Museum on the site of the former World Trade Center in NYC memorializes those lost in February 1993 and September 2001. Berlin Brat Kip Taylor '81 was killed during the attack on the Pentagon in 2001. His name is on the memorial with thousands of others the country remembers each fall.

9/11

Brats remember at NYC memorial

by Toni (Yarbrough) Combs '71 and Joyce (Clark) Mallon '72

This was a very quiet and contemplative time for us in New York City (our first time).

We had just returned from Ellis Island - and were making a very historical journey from there to Freedom Hall, where President Washington was sworn into office, and then to a future time where lives lost in horrific circumstances were, and are, valued and remembered.

I didn't know what to expect as we approached the Memorial. There were so many names and as I walked along, I recognized that the names were grouped by location and by employer...so many first responders...it was overwhelming emotionally. I moved along, seeking the names of those who were lost in the Pentagon that day. When I saw Kip's name, the tears started flowing. I never met him, but I knew that he had left behind a wife and children and I knew about his wife's illness and death. I felt such sadness for those left behind to grieve the losses. It is sacred ground, "beauty out of the ashes."



What stereotypes do other Europeans most associate with Germany?

A new survey of 3,000 people across 27 countries in the EU asked what stereotypes their citizens hold of Germans - and you might not be surprised by what it found.

Not surprisingly, "love of beer" came in first place, as voted on by five countries including neighbouring Austria, in the survey conducted by *Translate Media*. The Danes and Swedes were among the countries who most strongly stereotyped Germans for their stubbornness, and a love of efficiency and bureaucracy was the next largest stereotype, as singled out by Bulgaria, Luxembourg, and Romania.

Some countries had more unusual stereotypes of Germany. Spain, for example, associates the Teutons most strongly with garbage sorting, while the British and Finnish think of Germans for their Christmas traditions. Beyond beer and bureaucracy, Croatians

associated Germany with bread baking.

When Germans themselves were surveyed about the customs they are the most proud of, over a third (37.3 percent) were quick to answer "punctuality."

Coming in second place, 16.8 percent of Germans were most proud of privacy, followed by environmental awareness (14.5%), perfectionism (9.4%), being direct (8.8%), a love of rules and organization (7.3%), and stubbornness (5.9%).

"Germany has a great tradition of brewing very good beer, and that's what a lot of visitors to the country enjoy, so it's no wonder

that's the trait most identified by Europeans" said Yusuf Bhana at *Translate Media* in a news release.

"But it's also interesting that Germans themselves are proudest of their punctuality; it's a very polite and respectful trait!"



Upcoming Events

Charlotte/Monroe,
NC Regional

November 10, 2018

SOLD OUT!!

**Homecoming
2019**

Overseas Brats-sponsored
August 15-18, 2019
New Orleans

**2020
REUNION**

Seattle
June 4-7, 2020

Contact Information



Berlin Brats Alumni Association

Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, Director

41910 N. Crooked Stick Road

Anthem, AZ 85086

telephone: 623•764•1105

email: BerlinBrats@gmail.com

website: www.berlinbrats.org



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Newsletter Brat: Kimberly Keravuori '85

Early '60s Site

By invitation only

Contact Jim Branson '64

jbranson01@hotmail.com

for an invite

American Overseas School Historical Society

Gayle Vaughn Wiles, President
email: overseasschools@aoshs.org
website: www.aoshs.org

Overseas Brats

Joe Condrill, President
email: joeosbpres1955@gmail.com
website: www.overseasbrats.com

Communication Brat:

Peter Stein '80

pstein80@msn.com

WebBrat:

Carl Fenstermacher '73
WebBrat@BerlinBrats.org