

December 1, 2020

Dear Brats,

We have all faced times of uncertainty, but never collectively as a whole. The year 2020 has not been easy for anyone! Except for maybe the dogs who think it is wonderful that we are home. All. The. Time. Aside from our pets, everyone in every industry has suffered some way from the impact of civil disorder or the closure of the economy as direct responses to the range of scientific opinions, elected official's orders and individual emotions, linked to the Pandemic.

In early April, we postponed our June 4-7th, 2020 Reunion in Seattle due to Covid-19 restrictions issued by the CDC on March 15, 2020 and immediately followed by the Presidential guidelines on March 16th, 2020. Likewise, the post-reunion Alaskan Cruise was also postponed. We postponed/did a new contract with our selected hotel for June 10-13th, 2021 and the Alaskan Cruise for June 13-20th, 2021.

Initially we ALL thought Covid-19 would pass in a matter of weeks...then the not-so-peaceful protesting started in major cities across the United States. Seattle and Portland seemed to be the worst. As Seattle continues to make negative news, the calls and emails started filtering into the Alumni Association about "changing the location." The last calls/emails being as late as October 28th and November 13th because of actions being taken by Seattle's city council, public safety committee and the Mayor. Seattle's actions are unprecedented thus, in our 34 years of holding Reunions, complaints, and requests for a new location to be considered have NEVER rolled in from our Brats.

Now, at this date, we are seeing a second surge in Covid restrictions and lock downs, many taking us through the holidays. Reunions nationwide are now being canceled for Jan-Apr, 2021. Mardi Gras has been canceled in New Orleans for Feb, the Boston Marathon has been canceled in April and the New York theatre district is remaining close till June, to name just a few.

With this in mind and the negative perception of events at this location itself, we have canceled Seattle as our 2021 Reunion location. **(However, the Alaskan Cruise is still on. June 13-20th, 2021).**

All of these disruptions aside, with the restrictions imposed across the country, we do not feel the confidence level will be in place for large groups organizing and traveling for an early summer reunion. Hence, we will now wait till January 2021 to decide on an early fall 2021 Reunion. Still out west, as that is our current cycle.

As always, we are continuing to watch, evaluate and staying wired to the hospitality industry practices as the biggest indicator of what is transpiring and acceptable for large groups to meet in the near future.

We are extremely sad for this 2nd postponement of a Berlin Brats Reunion being able to re-unite Brats in person. The good news, the little ray of sunshine in this year, is that some of the void has been filled with three Zoom Reunions. The Classes of '75, '80 & '85 each held on-line reunions with 23-25 Berlin Brats ALL on screen at one time. What a hoot for all of them sharing their stories and time in Berlin one-by-one! Perhaps some other Classes might want to join the bandwagon in the in-term?

Visit our website (www.BerlinBrats.org) to view their pics and a "list of how to plan/organize a Zoom Reunion." Also, the Classes of '80 & '85 were on the cover of our July 2020 Newsletter!

Please stay tuned to your Class Contact, the BBAA announcements, the website, and our Facebook page which is: "Berlin Brats Alumni Association" for future forthcoming 2021 Reunion news.

You might want to take this time to up-date yourself on the Master Alumni Database by visiting our website and filling out the Brat Guest Book Form found in the left index. This ensures direct notification to your In-Box on this event and others yet to be held.

Thank you for your understanding, patience, and continued support of the Berlin Brats Alumni Association.

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