

Home-coming – Class of 1967 – 40 Year Reunion *Potomac Variation on a Theme*

By Laura Newby Siklossy

Berlin 2006 was a hard act to follow, but Washington D.C. 2007 topped the expectations of the 1967 graduating class of BAHS. Hosted in the Arlington and Bethesda homes of two former Berlin Brats and one faculty member, we enjoyed the hospitality of home cooking, spectacular views of the Capitol and the Luftbruecke-look-alike, a backyard game of wiffle ball, and a pool party (no one fell in!).

Our ninth grade English and social studies teacher Mickey Cash Durazzo (1962-1964) kicked off the reunion on Friday evening with a lavish buffet and a penthouse vista of the city, the perfect introduction to D.C. for the out-of-towners. As we approached her apartment, we were greeted by a large and colorful banner, "Welcome Berlin Class of '67," especially designed by Mickey for the reunion. Mickey set the stage for the rest of the weekend, providing a relaxed home atmosphere for around 30 BRATs and their partners. 60's music and copies of the yearbooks provided by George Gilmore did the rest to break the ice and the intervening years melted away.



Mickey Cash Durazzo, Maureen Gilmore, Laura Newby in front of special Berlin Brats welcome banner at Mickey's place

Washington Monument and the Tidal Basin



Jerry Harrold at bat, poised to bring in her team at wiffle ball



On Saturday evening

Beth Jones (1966) and her husband Don hosted us poolside in their Bethesda home. Beth and her three sisters, Kathy (1967), Sally (1969) and Diana (1971) cooked up a feast culminating in five home-baked pies and the surprise appearances of other graduates. Above Beth is pictured with Mickey Cash Durazzo.



John Latham, Laura Newby, Don Drach on couch with Mickey Cash Durazzo and Jerry Harrold standing in back



Sally Jones, Maureen Gilmore, Don Perovich (Kathy's husband) and Kathy Jones
Photos by George Gilmore

On Sunday evening, we gathered in Don Drach's Arlington home and garden for an impromptu game of wiffle ball. Don, his wife Ludy and their daughter Mary served up a sumptuous meal of Philippine specialties and bratwurst, while the rest of us reveled in memories. As our final evening drew to a close, the "Do you remember.....?" anecdotes drew tears of mirth and nostalgia, highlighted by a phone call from Ross "Jerry" Flavel in Baghdad. Goodbyes were poignant but buoyed by the prospects of our next meeting in 2008.

This reunion was unique in many ways. Only two former faculty members were part of the party, but they were favorites: Mickey Cash in ninth grade and Jerry Harrold in twelfth book-ended our high school days in Berlin. Not only did we enjoy generous hospitality in the homes of our classmates with their partners and children, but this format kept costs to a minimum. The planned evening events were complemented by a wealth of free, individual daytime activities including a personalized tour of the Congress, a biking trip around D.C., a visit to the war memorials and the National Mall. As we look toward future reunions, we might consider replicating this approach, especially with an eye to rounding up more of our classmates who were sorely missed this year in D.C.

For more information about the class of '67 including reunion photos:

www.geocities.com/berlinhs67



Ginny Ashcraft, Don and Laura attempt to reprise the 'gooney walk' after 40 years without practicing it!