Berlin Brats Alumni Association

BERLIN BRATS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

April 2007

Reunion 2006

Volume 4, Issue 1



Inside this issue:

2006 Reunion

Registration • Bus Tour

Our Journey Home • Film

Opening Reception

At the Brandenburg Tor

Visitation of Schools Thomas A. Roberts

Faculty . Mr. Sullivan Memorial

Visitation of Schools Berlin American High

Volksfest

Allied Museum Exhibit 10

Outpost Theater

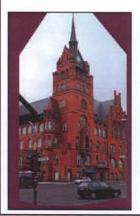
Dinner . Dance 12

Thank Yous . Credits 13

Berlin in Photos 14

Berlin in Photos 15

Contacts . Regionals Reunion 2009 TBD



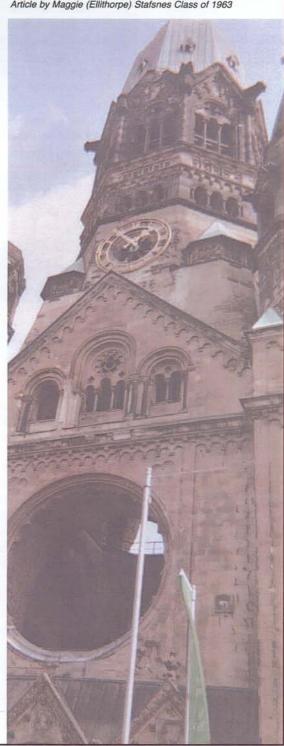
Homecoming for the Berlin Brats!

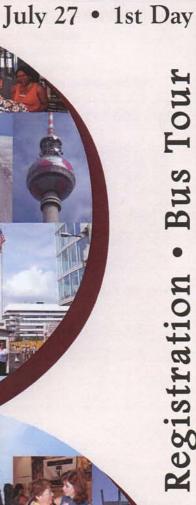
Article by Maggie (Ellithorpe) Stafsnes Class of 1963

The only thing higher than the temperatures and humidity in Berlin July 27-30, 2006, were the spirits of the Berlin Brats attending the first Brats Reunion held in Berlin. For many it was the first time they'd returned to Berlin since school days. It took no time at all to reconnect with classmates even though for some over 40 years had past since they'd last seen each other. Squeals, hugs, huge smiles, and laughter rang through the lobby of the Steglitz International Hotel as friends recognized others who were registering for the exciting weekend of festivities.

Over 230 students who had attended one of three schools established for children of military personnel and government stationed in Berlin from 1946 - 1994 came to the reunion. Twentyeight former faculty members, family members and friends brought the total attendance up to 401. Jean (Crews) Derry '48, who told about being driven to school in an ambulance, was there along with Marianna (Lieurance) Mounsey '50, who told about ambassadors' children coming to school in limousines. There was at least one representative from every class of the '60's and '80's. The class of '85 had the most attendees with 23. The last class to attend school in Berlin in '94 was represented by Stephen Rippelbeck.

Many of the stories circulating during the three days had a similar ring - arriving in Berlin feeling lost, missing friends and former schools, and having no idea of what was facing their fathers. Upon entering Berlin American High School they immediately became members of a family of teenagers with vagabond lives just like theirs and discovering that friendships made during their years at BHS and their time there were some of their fondest memories. How easily the years in between their last encounters melted away and how vividly the memories of school years in Berlin came flooding back.





For many, the first activity was a bus tour of Berlin. Memories poured forth in excited voices as classmates road by familiar places in Dahlem, the Kurfurstendamm, the Kaiser-Wilhelm Memorial Church, the Victory Column, the Reichstag, and then the Brandenburg Gate.

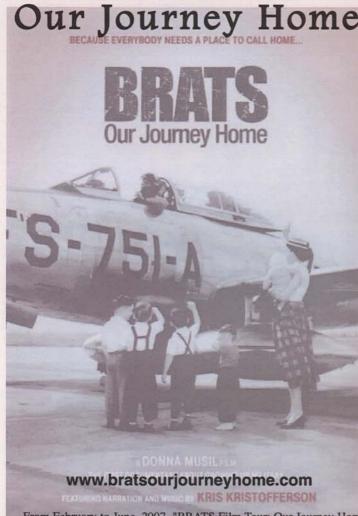
For many, the Wall, a symbol of the cold war which stood from 1961 to 1989, had prohibited them from entering East Berlin. Walking freely through the gate and into a reunited city was a tremendously emotional experience, and sharing that in the presence of former classmates was too good to be true.

Seeing the extensive rebuilding of East Berlin and development of a united Berlin into one of the most impressive international cities in the world was thrilling to observe.

Visiting Checkpoint Charlie, where many had solemnly observed world history as it unfolded, filled the hearts of many former students with pride for the dedication of their parents and a renewed sense of patriotism.

Later, while watching the documentary, "Brats: Our Journey Home", memories again poured forth as Berlin Brats were taken back to their childhood. Discussions continued throughout the weekend about how the film did or did not relate to their Berlin experiences. Almost everyone agreed that their lives were deeply affected by these experiences and were a big factor in determining their direction in their adult years.

(Continued in the letter E page 4)



Brats Film • Tour Dates 2007

April

Eglin AFB, FL Monday, April 16, 5:00 p.m.(850.882.3462)

Peterson AFB, Co Springs, CO - Wednesday, April 18

Elizabethtown, KY (near Fort Knox and Louisville) - Sunday, April 22, 2:30p.m.

Pensacola, FL (Gulf Breeze, FL) - Thursday, April 26 - 3 Screenings at 1:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.

The Armed Forces Network Television (AFN) will also be showing the movie worldwide in April as part of the Month of the Military Child in Europe and the Pacific! The schedule for those AFN screenings:

AFNlfamily: Sunday, April 15th @ 2000 viewer time AFNlspectrum: Wednesday, April 18th @ 1100 viewer time AFNlprime: Saturday, April 28th @ 1200 viewer time

May

Montgomery, AL - Thursday, May 17, time TBA (334.262.4858) \$5 proceeds support Brats without Borders

Dayton - Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH - date to be determined Melbourne, FL Columbus, GA Warner Robins, GA

Tune

Fayetteville/Fort Bragg, NC - Tuesday, June 19, 6:30 p.m (910.483.3003) Washington, DC - Wednesday, June 27, 1st screening 6:00-7:30 p.m., Wine Reception 7:00-8:00 p.m., 2nd screening 8:00-9:30 p.m. (202.737.2300 or 800.821.8892)

Camp LeJeune, Jacksonville, NC Virginia Beach, VA

Also note that after the tour is over, we will be screening the film in additional locations, including New York and Hawaii!

From February to June, 2007, "BRATS Film Tour: Our Journey Home!" will be screening the film at select locations around the country, and writer-director Donna Musil will be attending almost all of these screenings. They'll kick off the tour in San Francisco, cross the country from Phoenix to Ft. Hood to Virginia Beach, then finish with their big "BRATstock" blowout in Washington, DC!

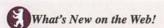
There's nothing like seeing this film with a theater full of BRAT NATION, all laughing and crying in unison. So grab a friend and join in! Because sometimes... you actually can go home again.

They will also be sponsoring their BRATS Without Borders MENTOR PROGRAM at various locations throughout the tour - bringing together Vietnam-era brats with Iraq-era brats to talk, share experiences, and let each other know they're not alone. If this is something you might be interested in sponsoring or attending, please let them know.

Donna and the Film will also be at "Homecoming 2007," August 2-5th, in Dallas. This is the all schools, all years, Reunion held every 3 years as well and sponsored by Overseas Brats. (Remember Wichita in '01? When we were the largest school in attendance, won the Most School Spirit and the Best School Exhibit with our Berlin Wall?)

About this Newsletter:

It was wonderful to "Go Home" again. The city of Berlin was beautiful and after viewing everyone's photos on the website and those that friends have shared, I still get so excited and am so grateful I was able to be a part of the history of our school this past summer. I wanted to do a newsletter that was special so that we could go back; all alumni, faculty, and administrators and revisit the several days we had together again as Berlin Brats. The Reunion was to me every Berlin Alumni's journey because if you were not there in person you were there in our hearts, our thoughts, and in our memories. Yes you were there with us! As I put this montage of images together I tried to put them in chronological order but in wanting to describe everything some events are not quite in their timeline. Thank you to those who shared their Kodak Gallery photoshows and to Bryan Duckett our Reunion photographer. If it were not for the website maintained by Cate Speer our Web Brat, this newsletter would not be possible. The symbol below will be seen throughout the following pages indicating items we can find on our website. www.berlinbrats.org





The first day ended with a "Welcome Reception" at the hotel. The noise level was well above recommended decibels as groups of former classmates got higher on memories, each other, good food and great German beer. Teachers were honored and the newly remade school flag was presented. Diana (Green) Kempton '72, who won the design competition as a 7th grader, explained the contest, her win and the design, and Bill

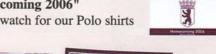
Planz '71, who was featured in the yearbook parading the flag in to see the Astronauts at Templehof back in '69,

paraded the flag into the reception. There was also a 20 minute Berlin Wall Presentation about the Wall's purchase, transport and donation to AOSHS last spring. After the reception many Brats headed off to the Brandenburg Gate for pictures, or went out to dinner with long lost friends, or headed to bed to try to recover from jet lag. (Continued in the letter R page 6)



Every 3 years at Reunion time the BB design a new Reunion Logo to incorporate their school mascot and their reunion location. July 2006 with the group's 1st ever return to their roots, BB graphic artist Susan Sams '85, modified the

Berlin City Flag w/Bear and added the text "Homecoming 2006" to convey the sentimental journey. Shown also is the swatch for our Polo shirts and the Homecoming CD with a song selection every brat would appreciate.





Berlin Brat Stamp 1 Jun 2006

After obtaining the Berlin Wall, (yes, a 14,000 pound Section) the Berlin Brats thought they indeed had everything! Then a mysterious padded package showed on their doorstep recently. Inside, their very own Berlin Brat "Postage Stamp." The stamp depicts this year's reunion logo and was produced by longtime, parent-supporter Mr. Curtis Carter. (Mr. Carter's daughter Betty is from the class of '72). If others are interested in designing their own stamp you can do so at www.zazzle.com/stamps. They are sanctioned by the USPS.







Where East Meets West

A Man From the East Meets a Man from the West a large Metal Sculpture along the Spree



Kaiser Wilhelm Statue







In Berlin in 2006, the circle of "United Buddy Bears" is shown at a historic site. The central part of the Bebelplatz is the location for the memorial "Library". This empty underground library, designed by the Israeli artist Micha Ullman, is a reminder of the National Socialist book burnings.

For a few weeks, the "United Buddy Bears" exhibition was shown at this historic site to promote more tolerance and understanding between different nations, cultures and religions. The bears are standing together "hand in hand" - all equal and at peace - thus creating a symbol of a more tolerant coexistence.

Many of the "United Buddy Bears" which were presented in Berlin in 2006 have traveled over 50,000 sea miles (and more than 4,000 kilometers over land). This distance spans the entire globe twice.



Golden Rul Bear

UNITED BUDDY BEARS®

An idea on its tour around the world!

138 Buddy Bears, will stand together hand in hand, peacefully representing 138 countries acknowledged by the United Nations. An exhibition under the motto

WE HAVE TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER ...

... it makes us understand one another better, trust each other more and live together more peacefully.

The idea for this exhibition was created in 2002 by the inventors of the Buddy Bears Eva and Klaus Herlitz, having three aspects in mind:

ART More than 138 artists, each one coming from the country his bear represents, show the art style of their home countries. Standing in a circle the bears form a unique work of art altogether.

A MESSAGE As a basis for a better understanding the individual design of each bear includes a lot of information about the different countries. Together with the symbolism of the circle love, peace, friendship, tolerance and international understanding are promoted.

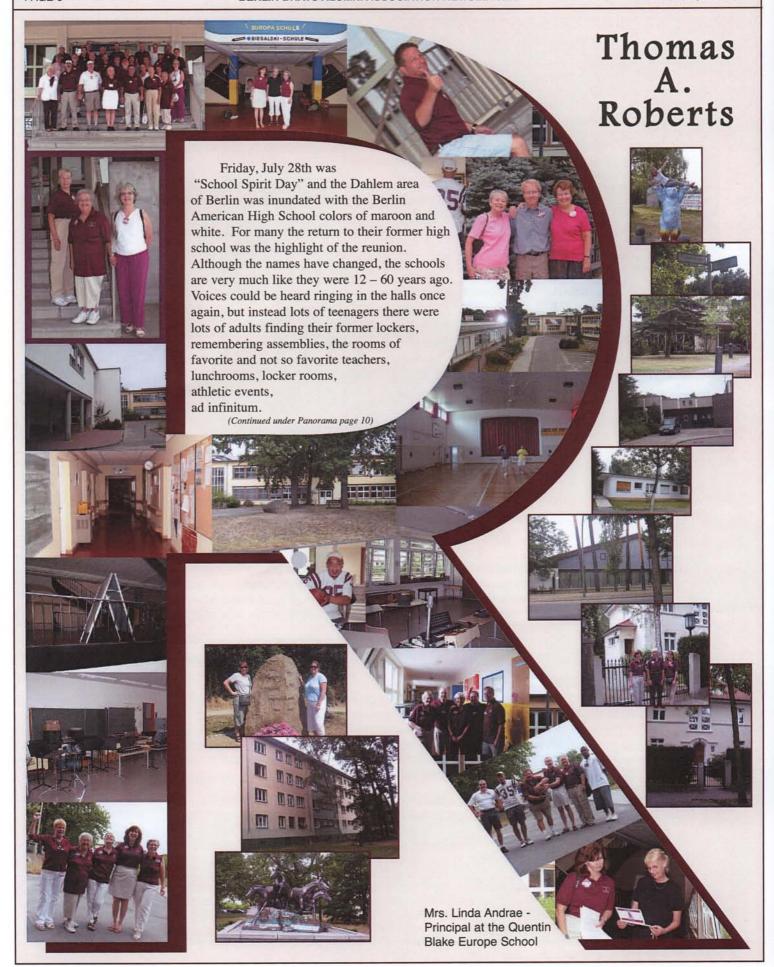
CHARITY Over 1.315.000 Euro (November 2006) for charity organizations so far. In each city where the circle is shown activities (e.g. auctions) raise money for children in need. At the end of the world tour and in between the bears will be sold by charitable auction for UNICEF and other organizations helping needy children all over the world.

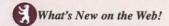
www.buddy-bear.com



In Berlin in 2003, the circle of "United Buddy Bears" is shown next to Brandenburg Gate, at the site that now the new American







YEARBOOKS! Browse through them all! FACULTY! See them through the years! BEAR FACTS! Browse through old copies!

While there visit all the press coverage (& TV clips) from the Berlin Reunion, more has trickled in!



Nancy (Robinson) Chiles '81 (at the back table in the Banquet room/Saturday night) signing the Yearbook that we sent to Mr. Leonard......

since he lost all his in Hurricane Katrina



Oldest Brat in attendance: Jean (Crews) Derry '48 (attended the very 1st year 1946-1947) with the very 1st two yearbooks

Our Faculty















Some faculty shown above given corsages or boutonnieres during reception





Jan (Johnson) Carmean (who I hear was instrumental in getting others to come)

Attendees:

Carol Sams Admin '80-'81

David Allen FAC '67-'68
Alberta Barlow FAC '68-'92
Charles Bluem FAC '70-'94
Ann (Burns) Trump FAC Elem '66-'67
Barbara Cossarini FAC '68-'69
Jeanette (Crenson) Kauffman FAC Elem '65-'70
Syd (Dahlen) Elstran FAC Elem '67-'68
Ruth Donnocker FAC Elem '66-'68
Sam Echeveste FAC '67-'69
Philippa (Fernandes) Steward FAC Elem '65-'68
Mechthild Flohr FAC '94-'06 (stayed on at Wilma Rudolph Oberschule)
Glenna Harrison FAC '71-'72
Ron Harrison FAC '71-72

Jerry Harrold FAC '67
Adam Hildenbrand FAC '69-'94
Dorothy Holt FAC Elem '65-'70
Katrin (Hotzel) Stratz FAC '70-'71
Dr. Huston Jack FAC '81-'85
Janice (Johnson) Carmean FAC Elem '66-'67
Alexander Longolius - FAC '61-'67
Marge Nubbemyer - FAC
Kathleen (O'Brien) Piper - FAC Elem '67-'71
Werner Prigge FAC '72-'94
Don Reed FAC Elem '64-'92
Martha Shealy - FAC Nursery School '67-'69
Byron Smith FAC '70-'77
Linda (Tunseth) Schuck - FAC Elem '67-'71



Memorial Service for Mr. Sullivan

We gathered at the gravesite of Mr. Sullivan and held a small ceremony there. Larry Speer '83 spoke about how Mr. Sullivan had influenced the way we viewed our selves and influenced our speaking of the English language and he also spoke of how many of his students tried to out pun the master of languages. Flowers were placed there by Kristy O'Hearne '86. The family Mrs. Sullivan and daughter Kristina listened to stories from those who had Latin and were members of the Flat Earth Society and celebrated Guy Fawkes Day.





Frau Anja Rathmann - Principal at the Wilma Rudolph Oberschule (retired in June 2006) was our host as the new principal, Dr. Hans-Günther Bauer, was on vacation.

Berlin American High School

This is the Music Plaque "given back to us" at the exchange of gifts with the Principal at the Wilma Rudolph Oberschule The card in the Principal's hand is our logo'd Homecoming Thank You card that contained a check (donation) for the school.



Class of 1979 Tina (Burhans) Saltsman '79 couldn't make the Reunion so she sent "Flat Tina" in her place. Tina popped up everywhere at the Reunion and had a great time!

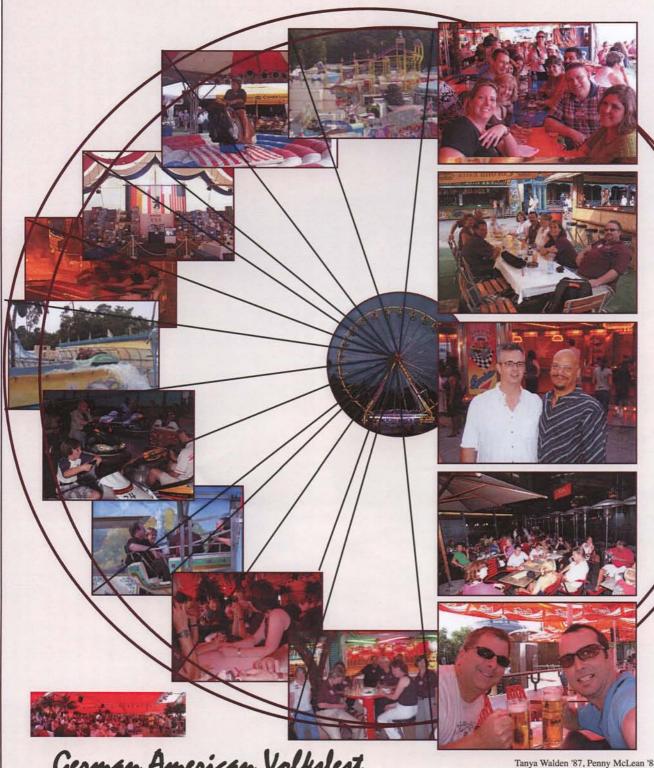


In the 1990's students were living in the newly reunified city. Their experience was not like any we could imagine.

Those of you unable to attend the Berlin Reunion might be wondering just who the fellow in the letter jacket amongst the class of '71 is(?). It's none other than Florian Weiss, the Allied Museum Curator, who's initiative, persistance and oodles of work made our special exhibit possible. For duties way above and beyond the call the '71ers spontaneously and unanimously made him an Honorary Member of the Class of '71! Welcome Florian!



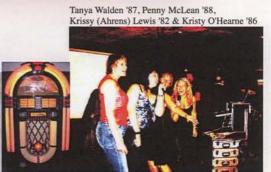


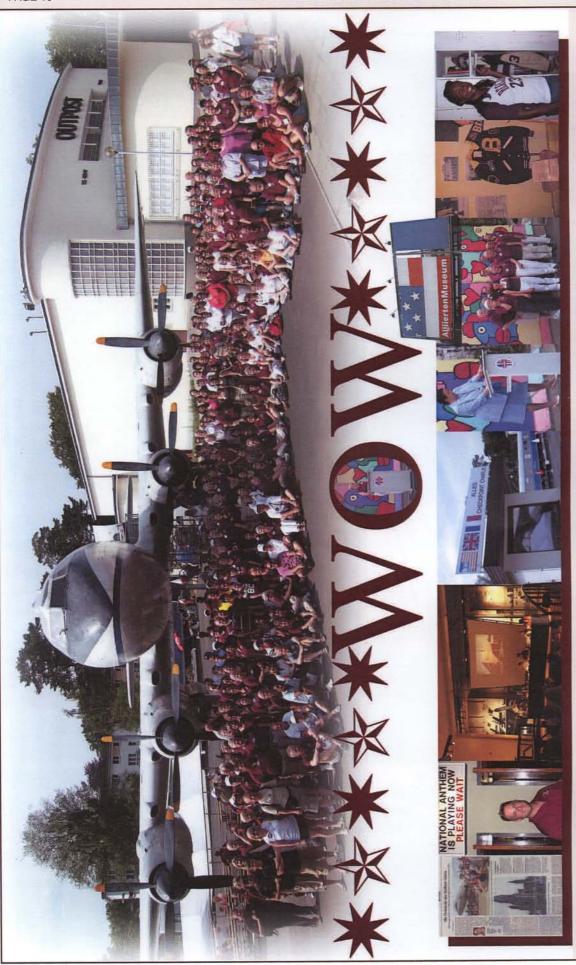


German American Volksfest & Hanging Out in Berlin









cial opening began with speeches by Florian Weiss (American Curator of the Allied Museum), Karin Schubert Vice-(Mayor of Berlin), Peter Claussen, (Cultural Attache (Continued in the letter N page 12) of the U.S. Embassy), Diana (Green) Kempton '72 (AOSHS Board Member), and Katrin (Lindroth) Planz '71 (Berlin Brats Project Leader for the Exhibition) and then jackets, documents, and other items covering the walls and desks. Many recognized themselves and their classmates and the stories and memories continued. The offiwall in the 60's, the terrorist bombings in the 70's, the opening of the wall in the 80's, and the end of the American military presence in the early '90's. Just before the not in Berlin - a devastated city that had 65% of its buildings destroyed in WWII and the Berlin Airlift in the 40's, the workers' strikes in the 50's, the building of the School 1946-1994". The special exhibition of memorabilia collected from former teachers and students was designed like a class room, with photos, yearbooks, letter the official ribbon was cut. Two panel discussions made up of a teacher and a student from each decade allowed everyone to fill in the blanks of the years they were second panel began, Jasper Kump '87 gave an impromptu singing of the National Anthem, and emotions soared. The day ended at the German-American Volksfest The memories were further enhanced at the opening of a new exhibit at the Allied Museum, the former military "Outpost Theater" entitled "Berlin American High which has been held on the same ground (the former post football field) since it was introduced as a fundraiser for the AYA in 1961.

School Spirit Day • July 28



The classes of the 1980's at the Museum's section of the Wall. Behind is a vopost tower.

Allied Museum Exhibit

Our Exhibit at the Allied Museum has finally come to a close. Initially, we were slated for a 6 week run, but they extended it to a full 6 months as it was well received by the German public. Florian Weiss, the curator, informed us that there were 30,000 visitors to our Exhibit after our departure.

Florian has been returning all our memorabilia over the last few weeks. If you contributed or know of someone who did and has not received their items PLEASE let us know.

Special thanks go to Dr. Helmut Trotnow, Director of the Allied Museum, who was not able to be with us but whose support and sponsorship made our special exhibit possible.



A Special Thank You to Checkpoint Charlie Association

The Checkpoint Charlie Foundation was founded in 1994 by the Berlin State Legislature and is a legal foundation with political rights in the Berlin State and within its laws. The purpose of the Foundation is to foster German-American relations with special consideration for the role that the U.S. played in Berlin between the years of 1945 and 1994.

This year, after learning of our "Homecoming Reunion" and our "Allied Museum Special Exhibition" the Berlin Brats were the recipients of a 2,000 Euro Donation to underwrite the expense of our luncheon at the Allied Museum, on Friday, July 28th at our Reunion. We are indeed grateful for this donation and the recognition bestowed on us by the Foundation.

Our heartfelt thanks to Herr Alexander Longolius, BAHS Faculty member from '58 to '67, and Chairman of the Executive Board, along with our appreciation to Frau Dr. Andrea Mehrlaender, Executive Director.

For more information on the Foundation please visit our Links Page or www.cc-stiftung.de/en





Katrin (Lindroth) Planz '71, Florian Weiss, Cate Speer '85, Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72 (left to right)



Cate Speer presents a Plaque to Jeri thanking her for bringing the Reunion to Berlin.





A very special thanks to Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, Director of the Berlin American High School Alumni Association, Katrin (Lindroth) Planz '71, Project Leader for our Allied Museum Exhibit, Cate Speer '85, our Web Brat and woman on the spot and Florian Weiss, the American Curator at the Allied Museum for their incredible efforts to provide 60 years of Berlin Brats with the reunion of a lifetime!

Who said you can't go home again?

Maggie (Ellithorpe) Stafsnes '63 Photos by: Bryan Duckett '84

Thanks Too To: Welcome Table/Brat Store Volunteers & Panel Participants

Chris Erickson '87 • Jim Branson '64 • Jim Wright '72 • Rob Ahrens '87 • Roy Hawkins '82 • Kristy O'Hearne '86

• Dent White '68 • Doris Kuhlmeier '67• Joyce Clark '72 • Susan Sams '85 • Gary Brown '71 • Larry Speers '83 • Bill Planz '71 Diana Green '72 • Glenna Harrison-FAC • Chris Kyrios-Karlsruhe • Patricia Hein-Stuttgart • Deb Winchester-Yamato

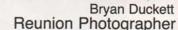


Cate Speer Web Brat

Being in the area during the planning stages of the reunion, Cate '85 was our woman on the spot. She also had the idea of using cobblestones for the table decor and as a door prize or rather table prize with one person winning the cobblestone at each table. You know her as the webmaster for our Berlin Brat website which has been used as a model for other overseas and reunion websites.

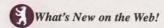
Thank You Cate!

We are fortunate to have had a Berlin Brat Class of 1984 to have covered the Berlin Reunion as all the events have been captured as only another Berlin Brat could have experienced them. He has made all of the best pictures available on a CD/DVD or DVR for us too. Look for the order form on the back cover. Also available are individual prints of Class Photos, a print of the Panoramic, and browse through the catalog of photos online to select other prints you would like to order as well.



Thank You Bryan!

Reunion Photographer



Reunion Logo Patches have just been ordered and will be available soon in our Brat Store.



PayPal Information

PayPal has been added to our site. Check it out!!! Several Brats have already made purchases from our Brat Store using the feature.



The next two pages are scenes around Berlin.

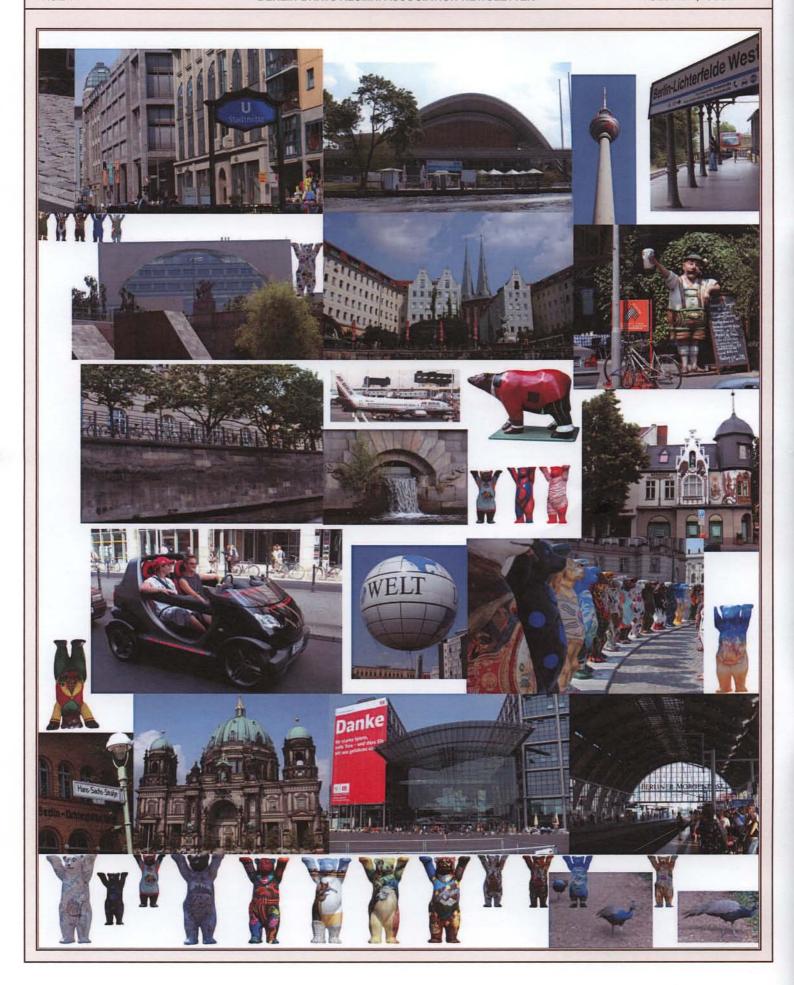
I hope looking through them is like a stroll on a sunny afternoon. Jasper Kump's Gallery has great food shots. I am wishing I could take a trip to the Bakerei. Check out this pic of pastries.....

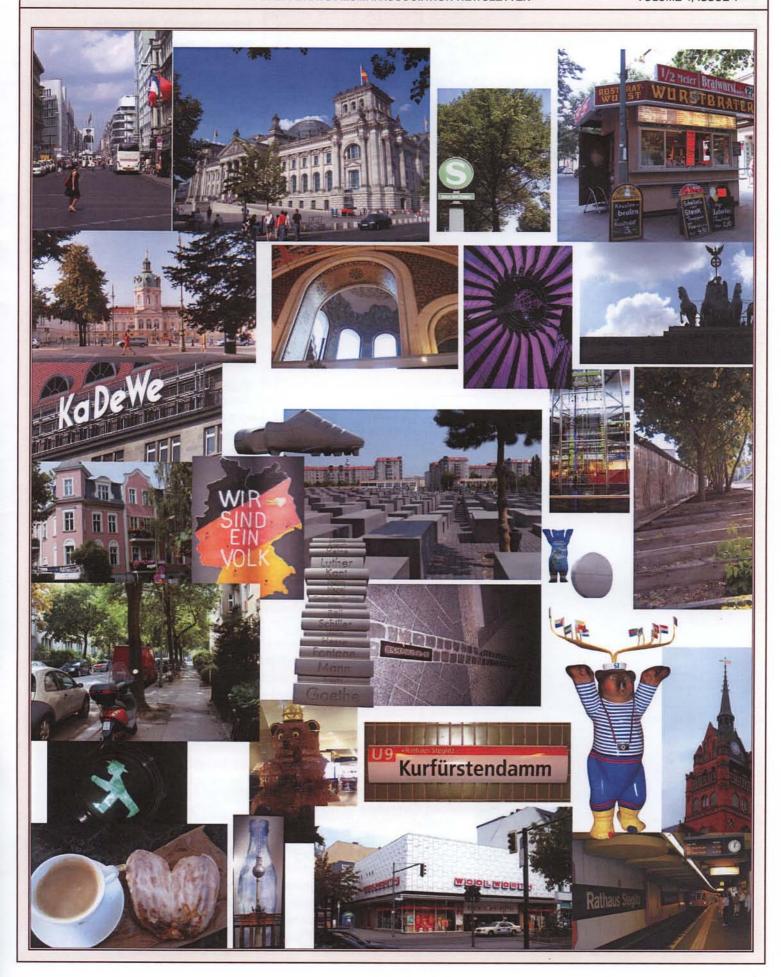
Don't forget the currywurst.

Auf Wiedersehen

Neil Clark and Rick Roemer both from the Class of '64, sleeping in the hotel lobby....."exhausted from all the Reunion activities"







I		UNION 2006 DER FORM	
Name			
Address		Mary Mary Comment	
City	State		Zip
	REUNION CI	ASS PRINTS	
	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
5x7 Class Year	\$ 12		
8x10 Class Year	\$ 18		
Panoramic 8x24	\$ 24		
DVD (slideshow for TV)	\$ 25		
CD-R (slideshow for PC or Ma	c) \$ 25		
4x6 Miscellaneous Prints	\$3		
	TOTAL		
Please circle PC or Mac for CD)-R		
	Bryan Duckett 1913 Little Stone Charlotte, NC 282		

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. CD/DVD's may be shipped separately from prints. DVD/CD are slideshows of all the best images of the reunion. All prices include shipping and handling within the USA, additional charge for over seas shipping. Please call or email for matting and or framing options. Individual prints from the reunion may be ordered from an online gallery to be posted after the reunion, and a link will be posted at www.BerlinBrats.org.

If you order only 4x6 prints, there is a \$5 shipping charge, all other items the shipping cost is included.

Newsletter Brat:

Toni Combs

C/O

Adplex, Inc.

Adyles, IRC. 4380 Federal Drive, Suite 116 Greensboro, NC 27410 Phone: 336-294-7676 Fax: 336-294-7809

To send stories, pictures or any Brat Facts to me:

Email: tcombs@adplex.com cell: 336-689-0831

Note: I work mostly in the evenings Tuesday through Friday

I am looking forward to hearing about the regionals that have been held since July 2006, and the trip to Prague will be in the next newsletter. Please send pictures and stories about any newfound brats, if you learned something new about Berlin you did not know when living there and any bear facts.

2009 Reunion



Ballots will be sent to "official Members" this fall to vote between 2 western locations. Boise, Idaho will be one of the 2 locations. The other TBD at this time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Phoenix Regional

8-10 June 2007

Phoenix, Arizona

BERLIN and Heidelberg Brats

Days Inn at PHX airport

Saturday-

Bavarian Point German Rest.

Contact Brock (H-Brat) for details.

bdphipps@cox.net

OSB

2-5 August 2007

Overseas Brats

Homecoming 2007

Hyatt Regency

Dallas-Fort Worth Airport (DFW)

Grapevine, TX

All the info is on our site and we have links to all the others. Check it out and join us in the Big "D"..... registration is going on now.

Class of '67

6-7 October 2007 Class of '67 Washington D.C. Area Contact Don '67 for details.

San Antonio Regional

2-4 November 2007 San Antonio, Texas Friday-The New Braunfels WurstFest Saturday-Dinner and drinks on the world famous RiverWalk

Contact Roo '73 for details.

Plans are in the works for a Houston regional for Saturday, May 26th. Stay tuned to the website or contact BerlinBrats@gmail.com for further information.

Please delete the JUNO address from your address book and update with this one: BerlinBrats@gmail.com

Contact Information:

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www.berlinbrats.org

American Overseas School **Historical Society**

Contact: Scarlett Rehrig, President email: overseasschools@aosh.org Website: www.aoshs.org

Overseas Brats

Joe Condill, President Email: joeosbpres@sbcglobal.net Website: www.overseasbrats.com

Early 60's Chat Room

By Invitation Only Contact: Jim Branson at ibranson01@hotmail.com

Brat Attack - A Berlin Chat Room

By Invitation Only Contact: Janine Fisher at guitarlady61@yahoo.com