



Berlin Brats Alumni Association

BERLIN BRATS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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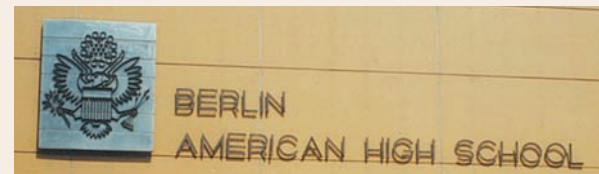
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Richard St. John '84 asked*what is a Berlin Brat?* on the Brat Attack site.

Bryan Duckett '84 answered:

Berlin Brat



Berlin—noun (bûr-l'ñ) The capital of Germany: Constitutes a state. 3,121,000 people; 341 sq. mi. (883 sq. km.). Formerly (1948-90) divided into a western zone (West Berlin), a part of West Germany; and an eastern zone (East Berlin), the capital of East Germany, and now the Capital of the reunified Germany.

Brat—noun (bra-t) a child, an offspring of a career military person or a very troublesome child, or all of the above.

Berlin Brat—noun (bûr-l'ñ'brat) an offspring, troublesome at times, a child nonetheless, whom at one time or another lived within the confines of the city known to us as Berlin (West or East). Derived from the words Military Brat —noun (being one of Military Parent) a general term, with no specific branch of service, nor a theater of operations. The words Berlin Brat, identifies the exact location of this Brat... However, once the branding of Berlin Brat is bestowed upon you, you will always carry that moniker on your person. As they say, "Once a Berlin Brat, always a Berlin Brat" or those famous words "Ich Bin ein Berlin Brat."

For those that have never lived in Berlin, but have been granted a title of "Berlin Brat," have done so by showing character traits by which the name was so given; one who doesn't care of race, religion, or what branch of service your father, or mother was in, nor if your football team beat ours. A person who has lived in a minimum of two states, two countries, and has moved more than a half dozen times. One that pauses when asked, "So, where are you from?" One that can honestly say, "I remember buying bier when I was 15." One who understands that bier is part of the meal. But most of all, someone you would consider not only your friend, but Family... or anyone who buys the first round!

From Berlin to New Mexico Only Takes 45 years

April 19, 2008

From Berlin American High School graduating classes of 1962, 1963 and 1964, we are:

Kaye Stewart Crawford, (New Braunfels, Texas), class of 1962

Ada Lopez, (San Juan, Puerto Rico), class of 1963

Sherry Golder Kulig, (San Angelo, Texas), class of 1962

Maggie Ellithorpe MacPherson, (San Anselmo, California), class of 1963

Mikel Fisher Brightman, (San Antonio, Texas) class of 1964

(at the last moment could not attend our mini-reunion due to her mother's hospitalization)

Currywurst and Margaritas in the Mountains

We had traveled to the Land of Enchantment... to the mountains of southeastern New Mexico... 7,000 feet above sea *and* stress levels. We had just concluded our first full day of visiting with each other, after nearly half a century, by enjoying that improbable but tasty culinary combination, **Currywurst mit Margaritas**. *Wishing to make this article as practical as possible for those planning similar mini-reunions, we pause here to advise that when it comes to daring and creative leadership in the kitchen, Kaye Stewart Crawford is your girl.*

BRATS and a Setting Zia Sun

Outside a bedroom window, the wind howled as the Zia sun set over Mt. Sierra Blanca. Snug inside or inside *The Snug*— a house so-named due to the often prevailing winds, we lounged on the floor like teens, absorbed by Maggie's copy of a DVD about *Growing Up Military*.

We were in a bedroom because we forgot to borrow and bring along a ten-year old to cope with the electronics of the upstairs living room's TV. *Again take heed, future mini-reunion planners.* Who knows how inspired our dancing around the kitchen island to 60s music might have become had we but known how to centrally activate the house and deck speakers.

The DVD "**Brats: Our Journey Home** (The First Documentary About Growing Up Military)".

Even on a smaller screen, we found comparing our own experiences against the backdrop of the DVD "**Brats: Our Journey Home**" to be fascinating. *And could not resist liberally paraphrasing some of its statements in the paragraph headings that follow.*

1. 'Military Brats respect a sense of mission.'*

Months ago we made, and on this very special weekend fulfilled, a commitment to one another to meet as a small group. The accomplished mission provided us a tremendous sense of continuity, "Welcome to the hotel California..." With a rush of unconditional affection, we greeted each other like favorite cousins. That's a relaxed notch or two above sisters. Our coming together proved so powerful that we believe the friendships we've reformed to be "for life!"

*Reference: The DVD "**Brats: Our Journey Home** (The First Documentary About Growing Up Military)".



1961 - 62 Berlin High School Cheerleaders L - R Nancy Deane, Janet Gonzales, Sharon Golder, Mikel Fisher, Maggie Ellithorpe, Lee Hodges



1961 - 62 Cheerleaders Practicing at Sports Center, L-R Janet, Mikel, Maggie, Sharon, Nancy



Ada Lopez '63



1962 Pep Rally: Kaye Stewart '62 and Sherry Golder '62 sing to Mike Sabolyk '66 ... '101 pounds of fun, that's my little honey bun'

2. *'In military spheres, appearance is emphasized; you have to look well and do well at all times...there will be a white gloves inspection.'**

Despite having lived more than four decades apart, we think we could have identified each other in a line-up. A line-up of grandmothers, —what a concept! We kept glimpsing in one another's eyes and bone structure, basic elements of our selves as exuberant 16 and 17 year olds. (An interesting development was that after our trip, one of us e-mailed the others about how much younger she (now) felt. *Thank you, we think...*)

3. *'Careers: It's particularly important for military kids to find out what they're good at and what they want to do for the rest of their lives. That's because achievement is emphasized in military homes where work is imbued with meaning and patriotism. In civilian life, success can appear to be principally measured by dollars and cents --a value system which could seem a little wanton to the minds of children of the military. Also daughters raised in military homes may have to labor especially hard to discover where and how to make a mark in such a patriarchal environment. Typically they'll not become warriors. So options remaining to them can appear restricted to being "beautiful, dutiful, or invisible."*

Our respective professional arenas are quite varied. Mikel has achieved in the publishing field. Ada is an enthusiastic translator who has particularly enjoyed working for corporations specializing in issues pertaining to Departments of Corrections. Kaye has just retired from teaching college level physics! Sherry's a therapist in private practice, and Maggie, our extreme sports specialist, has established a company that's guided many enthusiasts to the base camps of Mt. Everest, to Patagonia, and to New Zealand. We feel our professional walks have reflected positively on our common background (inclusive of good old B.H.S.), on the families who disciplined us when our grades weren't what they could have been, and on each other as early peers.

4. *'Army brats quickly befriend others...their friendships are rich and cut across cultures, race and age.'**

What joy we felt upon seeing one another. Our conversations became quickly and familiarly spirited. We'd decided before the trip to make our favorite things for dinners—mostly reservations—and we were so busy sharing histories, extending support and laughing that servers everywhere returned repeatedly to plead with us to place an order.

5. *'Trust is very important to military kids.'**

Our open and honest exchanges revealed that we're still pretty decidedly individuals. Now though, we're even more accepting of both the old and the newer differences. We tapped into so many topics that were important to us, becoming so engrossed in our Indy 500-paced conversations, that whenever one excused herself to go to the loo, she'd make the rest promise, "Now don't say anything else important until I get back."

* The DVD **"Brats: Our Journey Home (The First Documentary About Growing Up Military)"**.



April 19, 2008 Kaye Stewart Crawford '62 arrives at El Paso Airport where Maggie Ellithorpe MacPherson and Ada Lopez '63 are waiting.



Sharon, Kaye and Ada with the mountains of Ruidoso, New Mexico in the background



Maggie, Sharon and Kaye



Ada Lopez '63,
The Lodge Bear,
Kaye Stewart Crawford '62,
Sharon Golder Kulig '62 and
Maggie Ellithorpe
MacPherson '63.

6. *'Military kids usually develop fabulous survival skills. They can be extremely flexible and resilient. They tend to figure out pecking orders fast. They learn that they can truly rely upon themselves.'**

That we, too, were resilient became evident in discussions we had concerning obstacles that inevitably appear when having to make tough decisions of all sorts. (We were very quick with "*macht nichts*," never wasting a second on "Who's Who.") Three days plus provided enough time to review predictable milestones-- parental and spousal illnesses and injuries; their terrifically painful losses; our various loves (collectively we've been married for scores of years, give or take a decree or two); children, children's weddings, children's children; our experiences with business opportunities and the professional wins that have come our way. ("Corporate cool" seemingly never hotly appealed to any of us. Did we ever behave like "hell on heels?" Well, maybe but only a time or two and only when provoked). Something else we learned is that we are each extremely determined to age healthfully. Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of our marathon discussions is the unbounded enthusiasm we share about life's next chapters. (*Achtung* alumni matchmakers! We're encouraging applications from singles you know to be especially deserving of meeting our Ada—let's promote from within our BHS family!)

7. *'Scrappy military Brats tell it like it is.'** (*"I'd like to know how that made you feel as well as what you were thinking during the experience and why you made that choice..."*)

The communication we exchanged throughout our time together was very "real deal." Even though we know by now (at least we think we know by now) to be polite, we felt that we didn't have to use that particular skill set with each other. We saw that we were women with strong opinions. Proof that we weren't afraid to voice them was an exchange that took place on our way to an Apache reservation the second day of our trip. We slipped into discussing government and polled one another as to how we were planning to vote in the upcoming presidential election. One was for Senator McCain; one was for Senator Clinton; one was for Senator Obama; and the last one of us admitted (when pressed) that she'd voted for Mr. Obama in a primary, but only because she hoped he'd be the easier candidate for Senator McCain to overcome in the fall general election. (*Maybe next trip we can get into it about religion?*) And in anticipation of your next question, what's said and by whom on a trip stays on the trip, yada yada yada.

8. *'Military kids get use to the hall of mirrors where everything reflects on Dad and his efficiency ratings.'**

Forty years later we're still learning things about the lives we led as families in Germany's divided city. We appreciated in New Mexico the complicated bonds we'd shared with our extremely busy fathers in Berlin. We spoke frequently of their wives and career facilitators, our mothers and role models. Adding climbing the professional ladder to the conversational mix, (you know, the stuff of which 60s marching anthems for women were made), was inevitable...although sadly it resulted in our frustrating yet another waiter, this time at the Lodge in beautiful Cloudcroft, overlooking White Sands.

* The DVD "**Brats: Our Journey Home** (The First Documentary About Growing Up Military)".



Kaye prepares her special recipe of Margaritas to accompany her special Currywurst Recipe



Kaye's delicious dinner entrée
What else: Currywurst!!!!



Sharon Golder Kulig '62 with Kaye and Ada in Ruidoso



Sharon, Maggie and Ada on Sharon's vacation home porch in Ruidoso

9. 'Military kids are great at "reading" people. The greatest tragedy though is that they do not come to know each other on a sustained basis. They can say goodbye and never look back...never even blink.'*

Despite having been thrown together in an overseas high school in the 60s, we're courting the idea, now, of making a sustained and formal commitment to stay in each other's lives. We shall do so as a group of friends who care and intend to regularly share about what we're doing and experiencing. (Certainly our little group, too, has had enough to last several civilian lifetimes of saying goodbye to people we love.)

We can't wait to see how we will want to do this; at this time, we don't know what format our hanging-out or hanging-in-there might take. "*Same time next year?*" Maybe. (After all, the dynamics were simply incredible and the only thing we had to do to experience each other this time was to "just show up").

New Mexico, Texas, California, Puerto Rico, the base camps of Everest, wherever! *Well, maybe the base camps of Everest bear a little more thinking.* As folks who grew up traveling, we don't think we'll get too frantic about *the where*. After all we've had more opportunities than most to see that sharing from a distance can add quality and perspective.

10. 'Many military kids evidence complete confidence in their abilities to accomplish things. There is nothing that they can't make-work. They're sturdy, strong and durable.'*

Whatever the level of dedication required, we're up to it. We are going to really know, care about and appreciate each other. We are going to remain on familiar and respectful terms with one another's faiths, passions, professional pursuits and life circumstances. We are going to lift one another up and appreciate all that we share in the most positive ways. We're going to keep our hearts wide open, our bodies pretty fit and those neurons tuned! Finally we're going to know about and keep in our prayers one another's families— a pretty important consideration given the antics of some of our grandchildren (*and their grandfathers.*)



Kaye, Maggie and Sharon out to lunch at the Inn of the Mountain Gods in New Mexico



Maggie and Kaye at the Lodge



Ada and Sharon at lunch at the Lodge in Cloudcroft, New Mexico

Epilogue It's been 10 extremely busy weeks since our get-together in Ruidoso. The e-mails, invitations, and phone calls are flying and our snail mail exchange of books, ideas, and pictures is similarly "alive and well." We're part of each other's lives again, only this time with paid-up-in-advance Internet and cell phones-- giggling, encouraging, congratulating and learning together, *virtually*. *We're kin in addition to kin. We're "Military Brats!"*

With all our hearts, we'd like to thank Jim Branson '64.
Without Jim-- Our tale would never have been lived or treasured ever after.

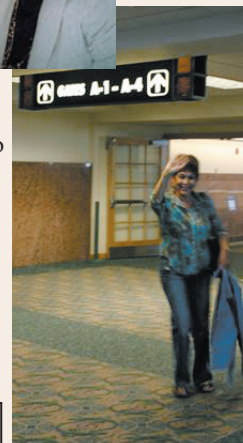
Below: Sharon looking at Maggie's Berlin scrap books



Sharon, Ada and Kaye on our last night at the end of our marathon reunion of catching up on over 40 years



Maggie's T-Shirt designed by Madelyn Whiting '61 for the Asheville Reunion



Ada waves goodbye to Maggie at the airport in El Paso



Sharon, Ada and Kaye time to leave Ruidoso

At the Inn of the Mountain Gods

Sculpture in front of the Inn of the Mountain Gods



Ada pointing to the Plaque that states that Carol Lombard and Clark Gable were here



Plaque in front of the Inn of the Mountain Gods in New Mexico

At the Lodge in Cloudcroft, New Mexico



Ada, Kaye and Sharon in Front of The Lodge in Cloudcroft, New Mexico

Cancun

Mini - 80's Reunion

Rob Ahrens '87, his girlfriend Annabelle Hartman, Karrie (Kotcher) Wymer '86, Julie (Davis) O'Hearne '87, Marnie (Nelson) Newton '87, Kristy O'Hearne '86 flew to Cancun together and stayed at the Great Parnassus Hotel June 12th through June 17th in **Cancun**.



Sea
Sand
&
Surf

Is he the Cancun Cowboy.....
or Rob Ahrens '87?



Above: Marnie, Rob, Annabelle & Kristy



The girls
show us some sand and surf along the

Kristy, Marnie, Karrie & Julie!



Kristy O'Hearne '86, Marnie (Nelson) Newton '87, Julie (Davis) O'Hearne '87, Karrie (Kotcher) Wymer '86



Backrow standing:
Karrie (Kotcher) Wymer '86, Julie (Davis) O'Hearne '87
& Rob Ahrens '87
Front row: Kristy O'Hearne '86
& Annabelle Hartman

The month of "MAY" has been designated as "National Photography Month."

As such, USA Today (the newspaper) thought the time was right to talk with renowned photojournalist, Harry Benson. (USA TODAY Friday, May 16, 2008) Benson shared some of his favorite places to take "people shots" with the paper. Entitled: 10 Great Places to Take Photos of Perfect Strangers" ...Berlin came in 7th.

One of the most vibrant cities in the world, Berlin is known for its beautiful parks, stunning architecture and historic landmarks.

Benson went on to say Berlin nightlife is unlike anything he has ever seen. "The Kit Kat Club" is the most outrageous, full of all kinds of people from businessmen to bikers - all wonderful photo subjects."

We agree, Berlin (the city) and it's people, make for wonderful subjects and would like to feature a few here with shots from John Freeman's (class of '71 and Photojournalism Professor at the Univ of FL) students. John takes 14 of his students to Berlin each May (go figure - Photojournalism Month!) to document both with text and photos the life of everyday Berliners.

Check out the pictures below and then visit: <http://berlinblog2008.blogspot.com/> to read the student's blogs.



Ever young that's John in the back right corner!
Andrew, Chen, Amy and I took a long S-Bahn ride to the Wannsee Lake and hopped the free city-run ferry across the Wannsee over to Alt-Kladow, where we enjoyed pizza outdoors. The great weather continues.



View of the Wannsee



An accordion player working for tips along the Spree River wouldn't have been seen back when the area was the Russian-controlled section of Berlin years ago. But now, several sections of the city are full of immigrants seeking a new life in one of Europe's biggest melting-pot cities. This constant change in Berlin -- it's historical but at the same time on the cutting edge of trends -- is one reason I keep coming back with a study-abroad group. After dinner tonight, a short walk down a cut-through street resulted in me finding this WWII relic of a building just two blocks from our hotel. Its fate? -- most likely it'll be knocked down for new, trendy housing that the Prenzlauer Berg district is becoming known for.



Katrin (Lindroth) Planz '71 and husband Bill Planz, also '71, came to Berlin (from Frankfurt) to visit Bill's mother, so here we are meeting up. Bill and Katrin used their GPS system to find my hotel -- they had not been in the (former eastern) Prenzlauer-Berg area, so were surprised to see how the previously neglected WWII buildings were all getting facelifts and flower boxes that adorned many of the window ledges. They parked at the hotel and we walked to the corner Bier Stube ("Grad Celsius") for a couple of beers. Talk drifted to the old times, such as our summer jobs for about 25 of the guys it was Packing and Crating or Roads and Grounds. I told them about efforts to keep my group of 14 students focused on their photo projects and not go too wild and crazy in such a tolerant and liberal city. In the end, it all worked out. After 12 nights, I helped edit all their work and we posted 14 photo stories with audio soundtracks to a University of Florida website:

<http://www.jou.ufl.edu/people/faculty/jfreeman/Berlin2008/Berlinslideshows.htm>

Next summer will be trip #5 for me.
The year 2009 also marks 20 years after the Wall.....

take care,
John Freeman, BAHS '71



We are back from the neighborhood bier stube!! It was fun seeing them and very nice of Katrin to make contact with me.....they were mainly in Berlin visiting Bill's mother who just broke an ankle. Yes, that's me on the right...

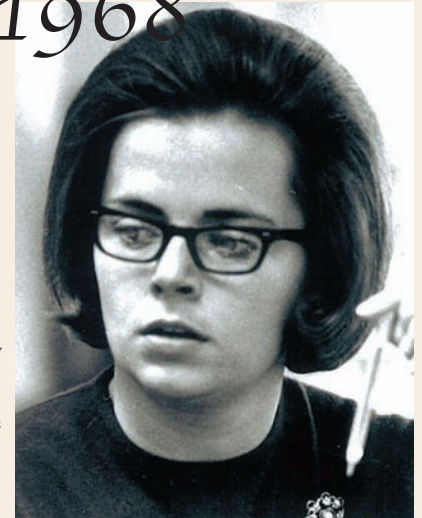
Viel Spass!

2008



On May 29, 2008 I retired from 43 years as a high school teacher/counselor. During this time I spent 30 years teaching at a private Catholic high school, nine years at various public schools, and four years working for DODDs in West Berlin. As my time working with teenagers comes to an end this year, I can't help but remember the special experiences I had teaching at Berlin American High School that began exactly 40 years ago. In 1968, as a 28-year old newlywed, I was staying with my parents in Michigan awaiting a call from my husband John to join him in West Berlin once he had obtained housing for us. He had been gone about a month when I got his call on Tuesday, August 27th telling me that I had 5 days to get to West Berlin so that I could accept a teaching job at BAHS. (I had applied for a teaching job w/DODDs to teach in Berlin the year before, but since there were no openings in business education or social studies--my teaching fields, my application was put on file. When an unexpected opening in business education came up late in the summer, my complete application was in place ready to go, and I was offered the job). Now all I had to do was get to Berlin by the end of the week so that I could meet the principal, sign my contract and start teaching after the Labor Day break.

1968



Mrs. Belt Retires.....

Quickly I got my TB x-ray, my plane tickets, and set out on a Pan American flight from O'Hare Airport in Chicago to Frankfurt where I changed planes and flew to West Berlin. I wasn't as nervous as I might have been because I already had five years of teaching experience under my "belt" and had been in Berlin in 1964 as a tourist--I felt that both experiences gave me some understanding of what I was in for as both a teacher and a person now living behind the Iron Curtain --boy was I surprised since my four years in West Berlin turned out to be nothing like I had anticipated!

Until my husband found off-base housing, we stayed at a "motel" near Berlin Brigade which was within walking distance to the high school. I was on my own for the first week since my husband was sent "TDY" the day after I arrived in Berlin. As I walked to the school to meet my new boss on my first day, the sidewalk began to shake as did everything else around me. My heart started to pound until I realized that it was the Army's tanks going out on patrol. (I later found out that the armory where these tanks were housed was located right behind the school). I quickly met my new principal, Mr. LeBrun, signed my contract and was given a classroom on the second floor in the front of the building--the business education room that was set up for the five subjects that I would be teaching--shorthand, bookkeeping, typing I and II, plus office practice. As a 1962 Michigan State University graduate with a major in history and a minor in business education, I was already experienced in teaching several courses at the same time. At first it was daunting to adjust to a new life in West Berlin--living off base and commuting on the bus from an area near McNair Barracks every day, adjusting to new students and colleagues and simply finding a niche in my new school. The people that helped me adjust the most were Polly and Norb DeYoung (FAC), my students and their parents. Since I was the only business education teacher, many of the students from the classes of 1968-1969 were in several of my classes--Becky Yarbrough, Sandi Hoosack, Debbie Graham, Cheri Biernesser, and Jose (Richard) Sanchez immediately come to mind. Needless to say, we became close while at the same time maintaining the teacher/student relationship. My mentor was Polly DeYoung who taught math and was so helpful that first year in teaching me the "ropes." Many of the parents I got to know well since many of us hung out together, bowled together, etc. Several of my students' parents worked with my husband John in the 6912th Security Squadron and we got to know them well. Some of these families that come to mind are the Polansky, Fulmer and Yarbrough families.

As I think back on my four years (1968-72) at BAHS located on the edge of the Grunewald, many images and memories flash into my mind--here are but a few of them:

- * During my first week, I was teaching a class when an Army helicopter suddenly landed in the football field which was located about 100 yards away from my classroom windows. When this happened the first time, I was startled and scared (remember the Soviets had just invaded the Czech Republic the week before I arrived in Berlin -- a scary time for all of us because of the Cold War tensions at the time.) When I looked at my students' faces, I could tell this was a routine event that I shouldn't worry about. After four years I learned to never flinch when the Army tanks went out on maneuvers or when the helicopters landed near the school.

- * The many bomb scares that occurred during my tenure. When the alarm went off we had to leave the building immediately and go to the football field until the Army's bomb squad gave the "all clear." Many times it was cold and we stayed outside for hours enduring the weather. Once they had cleared the cafeteria which was built on the back of the school, they moved us into this area where the teachers and administrators had to keep several hundred students in order while they searched the rest of the school. I remember this going on several times a year until Mr. Twohy, the principal, started making us stay until 5 p.m. to make up the rest of the time lost. By 1972, my last year, I don't remember these bomb scares as being so prevalent. I do want to recognize Betty Hoosack, Sandi and Debbie's mom '70 & '72 respectively, for saving my bacon during these events. Since her apartment was located near the football field, I would sneak off for a cup of coffee and to get warm. When the "powers that be" were looking for Mrs. Belt, my students kindly covered for me during these times, so no one ever found out how I survived these events.
- * The death of Norb DeYoung, our beloved science teacher, around Thanksgiving of 1969. I still remember the moving memorial service we had in his honor in the BAHS gym. Everyone was brave as one by one students and faculty members made testimonials in his honor. It was especially hard since his wife Polly was also a respected math teacher and we all felt her pain as well as our own.
- * Taking students out of West Berlin on the overnight Duty Train for functions in West Germany, i.e. athletic teams, cheerleaders, band, etc. was a unique experience. We had to have those infernal "flag" orders typed in four languages for each student going on the train -- their personal information on their ID cards had to match their individual flag order -- a nightmare of typing for the secretaries. When we stopped in Potsdam we had to surrender all of our documents to the US Army officer in charge of that particular train. He, in turn, presented them to the Russian Official at Potsdam to have our orders inspected before we passed through East Germany to the West. All of the adults on the train held their collective breath at this time hoping and praying that none of the students would do anything stupid that would get us thrown in jail. It was only later, when I attended several of the Berlin Brat reunions, that I found out what the students were really doing on that train--the incident that stands out is "mooning" the guards -- I shudder to think what would have happened to us if they'd been caught!
- * President Nixon's visit, Feb. 27, 1969--he was the first president to fly in to West Berlin on a Boeing 707. The military didn't know if the runway at Tempelhof Central Airport was long enough for this large, heavy plane to land; so, the load was cut in half and most of his staff was flown in on a separate plane. Consequently, Tempelhof's runway was able to handle the safe landing of "Air Force One." The ceremony was held at Tempelhof's hangar and the entire school was bussed to this location to provide an audience for the event. It was a cold, snowy miserably overcast day and we were all freezing. The military gave us little flags to wave. Our school's official flag bearers were in front of our group holding the BAHS and U.S. flags. When the President started to walk in front of our group and the flag bearer started dipping the BAHS flag in his honor, the secret service immediately jumped on the student holding the flag because it had a sharp point that could hurt the president. We were all so surprised when this happened. Does anyone remember what student was holding the flag? (Later we found out an attempt had been made to bomb Nixon's motorcade, but the bomb was discovered before it could be triggered).
- * The surprise Xmas party thrown for me by my typing II class that first year (we weren't supposed to have Xmas parties). During the party the Commanding General of Berlin Brigade, who visited the school often to show us off to various dignitaries, popped into this class for a visit. Fortunately, half of the class was working on their final project while those who had finished were eating cake and ice cream. When the general stepped under the mistletoe someone had hung in the room, Debbie Grantham jumped up to give the general a kiss on the cheek. I was panic stricken since I thought I'd be fired and sent back to the USA immediately. The next day the general contacted the principal to tell him what a wonderful time he had had visiting the school--especially my class. Boy did I breathe easier when I heard this.
- * My husband and I going out "on the economy" with some of my students in the evenings. A couple of times we went to the Cheetah Club and I remember passing through a "cave" to get into the club. Once the cheerleaders took me out to an Italian restaurant and introduced me to their favorite Lombroso wine--horrible stuff--but we had lots of fun drinking it eating pizza and telling tall tales.
- * One-third of my students would change over every school year--my grade book was always a mess as I scratched out the names of students leaving and entered the new students coming into my classes.

* The co-operative work experience/workstudy program I started in 1969 and continued to supervise until I left in 1972. This program was authorized by USDESEA pamphlet 621-600 and Mr. Twohy selected me to start this program at BAHS in October of 1969. (I had been teaching World Regions for just a few weeks when this change was initiated.) The object of the work study program was to give juniors and seniors actual work experience, during high school, in a career field of interest to them. The students involved, left school for two-to-three hours several days during the week to go to their workstation. These jobs had to be something attached to the military unless they could speak fluent German and find an appropriate job on the economy. At first, establishing this program proved to be a tough job since I had to go out to meet the military personnel located at the Army hospital, Berlin Brigade, AFN and other places scattered throughout the military community to find “employers” willing to work with an appropriate student. Then, I had to match an interested student to a job in which they were interested. At first I had about 25 students working everywhere; by the time I left, there were about 50 students in the program. These students did everything from pumping gas at the military gas station, inventorying movies that were being shown at the various movie theaters, working at the hospital as lab assistants or chaperones in the gyn clinic, repairing trucks, tanks and typewriters at McNair Barracks and working with a local veterinarian. From this work experience, many of the students involved decided that their chosen career path was a good one while others changed their minds. Although these students did not get paid for their work, they did gain 2-3 credits and valuable experiences that they carried on into their future. The best example is John Freeman ‘71 who worked for the Berlin Observer as a photo/journalist. At 16 he could write better than most of the recruits who worked for the newspaper; consequently, many of his articles and photos appeared in this publication regularly until he graduated. John went on to major in photojournalism in college; eventually, he earned a doctorate in this field. The last I heard, John was a professor of Photography at Florida State University. I ran into John at one of the reunions and he told me how helpful this program was in helping him decide his future career path.

* David Twohy’s positive influence on me and my career. Mr. Twohy became the principal in 1969 and was there until I left in 1972. Not only did he help me start the work study program, he encouraged me to become a counselor. I was already considered a career counselor as the work study teacher, but when I voiced to him that I wanted to get a Masters Degree but didn’t know what field to pursue, he told me that I was a natural born counselor and that I should pursue a guidance and counseling degree. Since my husband’s tour of duty in Berlin was unexpectedly extended from three years to four years, I took this opportunity to do all of the class work required for this M.A. program through Wayne State University in Detroit. That last year went quickly as I took two different graduate courses in guidance and counseling every eight weeks while working full time. (Wayne State University professors rotated to several European bases every eight weeks during the year. This allowed those of us in this master’s program to finish the required course work in 13 months.) I was able to write the required thesis when I returned to the States.

We lived in San Antonio where I completed the M.A. requirements in guidance and counseling at Trinity University in 1973. Adding this experience and degree to my resume helped make me a much better teacher and counselor these past 35 years. I will always be grateful to Mr. Twohy for his encouragement and support during my years at BAHS.

* Teaching Lt. Col. Dick Webb’s two daughters—they were all very tall; but, a nice family. Col. Webb was the commander of John’s squadron who told us before we left in 1972 that he’d put us in for embassy duty. Consequently, we spent two years from 1974-1976 at the American Embassy in Moscow. In the spring of 1974 our daughter Johanna was born and spent her first two years of her life there. (Some day I’ll tell you what it was like living in Moscow for two years, if you’re interested.)

Since I left Berlin in 1972 I have been fortunate to attend three of the reunions. I was especially thrilled to attend the first reunion in 1986 where so many of the 198 attendees were former students of mine. We had such a good time reminiscing and telling stories about our time in Berlin. We laughed and cried together over the wonderful experiences that we had shared. I was surprised to learn that many of my former students did NOT actually graduate from BAHS because their parents’ jobs often took them elsewhere before they graduated. Despite this, all who ever attended or worked for BAHS consider themselves to be a “brat”, including myself. This is such a blessing since so many of us have been able to maintain friendships started in Berlin and find friends lost when we left Berlin. Every time I read one of the newsletters, I’m so impressed with how well everyone is doing and how so many of you have helped each other out in times of need. It’s good to know that many of you have included many of your BAHS teachers and administrators in your lives, as well, and for this I am thankful. As I write this, it is June 10, 2008--my 68th birthday. I look back on my career in education with wonderful memories and gratitude. I know that I wouldn’t have changed a thing in my life--*especially those years at Berlin American High School!*



THE CO-OPERATIVE WORK-EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

BERLIN AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL



Cover of the '70-'71
Co-Operative "Work Study Program" Handbook

*Dental Assistant ♦ Mechanic ♦
AFN Cameraman ♦
Lab Technician ♦ Veterinarian ♦
Office Assistant ♦ Secretary ♦
Teacher Assistant ♦
Kindergarten Teacher ♦
Bookkeeper ♦
Computer Programmer*

These were some of the many
career choices offered in the
**Co-Operative
Work-Experience Program**

*Under the Supervision of
Mrs. Judy Belt
1969-1972*

Career Information Center



Delcy Kent and Jane Salisbury consider their jobs in the future in the newly opened Career Information Center, which is under the direction of Mrs. Judy Belt.

John Freeman '71 is the editor of the '70-'71 Co-Operative "Work Study Program" Handbook...which has photos on the cover.... featuring students at their various work locations. These two Handbooks have been donated by Mrs. Belt and will be added to our website soon. On the cover shown above are Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72 (working in the Dental Clinic at the US Army Hospital), and 7 additional Brats. Larry Garrells '72 did the artwork for the '71-'72 cover, while Nancy Liepman '72 and Pat Martel '72 were the editors of the '71-'72 Handbook.

Mrs. Belt was one of my favorite teachers. She was always enthusiastic, energetic and ready to go, go, go. Unlike some teachers who seemed to push you down, Mrs. Belt was one to lift you up. With her, the glass was not just half full, but on its way to being filled up. When I first showed an interest in photography, she was an instant supporter. When I began working with her on making a booklet to showcase the "Co-operative Work Experience" program she coordinated to let us check out jobs in the community, I saw what a school-wide booster she was for the students. She was a lot more than "the typing teacher" many knew her to be. Mrs. Belt was a friend to the students and a confidence booster. Her help at landing me a part-time job at the Berlin Observer newspaper undoubtedly was a major reason I continued a passion for a career in photojournalism.

John Freeman, '71 Associate Professor of Journalism, University of Florida

Mrs. Belt had a way of challenging me to do more than I thought I could. She was encouraging and often more confident of my abilities than I was. My memories of senior year at BAHS include Mrs. Belt's training in business which led to my eventual college major and teaching career in business subjects to middle, high school, community college and adult learning students. Her classes were relaxed -- except for timed writings -- and I loved her funny stories. She is one of my favorites and I am grateful to her.

Becky (Yarbrough) Bailey '69

She was my EVERYTHING in Berlin and was the only teacher that really influenced my life! I still feel like I have a little Judy Belt on my shoulder guiding me through the answers to difficult questions and problems! Because of her guidance, friendship and caring I was able to get through my tough years in Berlin! To this day I value her as one of my closest and dearest friends. Even when lots of time goes by and we have not spoken -- it's always the same and like "yesterday"! They do not make them like Judy Belt anymore! She is truly a special Angel sent by God to teach, guide and care for all those students whose life she touched.

Berlin Brat "Sam" (Sandi Hoosack Class of '70)

I would love to add a few words to the teacher that I am 99.9% sure I had for all four years of high school -- Not only did I love going to her class because she made it fun, but she always challenged me to do better and was extremely patient! The skills I learned in her business classes I still use today -- I have the very fondest memories of Mrs. Belt and the greatest respect and admiration for her and her dedication for 43 years! Wow, all the best to her in retirement .. come to Park City Utah for a visit! It is beautiful here! *Always, Nancy Leipman '72*

Mr. Huffer, FAC '69-'87**Did you know?.....And what's he doing now?****2006**

Since I speak German, courtesy of the U. S. Army Language School at the Presidio of Monterey, nearly all my contacts away from BAHS were with the Berliners.

From 22 July 1961 - 3 August 1963 I was in the 78th U. S. Army Security Agency Special Operations Unit stationed at Andrews Barracks. This was the finest time of my life and I promised myself I would someday return to live in Berlin. I made it back 3 June 1968 and stayed a while longer, 19 years at BAHS!

Considering that I had a serious cancer operation two years ago, I feel fine. I am departing 19 June for a three month trip to Berlin. I still have a Berlin girlfriend or I could not do such a thing! Healthwise, I know I am on borrowed time. Two years ago I was told by one of my doctors that my chance of living another five years was 25% - 40%, not exactly good odds.

It is a fine thing that so many former students are keeping the memory of BAHS alive. Their children must think that strange.

But while I was at BAHS a student who really wanted to get a good education could do so. In the schools of today that is rare indeed!

Charles A. Huffer

May 2008

1972 1983

Mr. Huffer as Tennis Coach from '70 Yearbook w/ Matt Schneider and Mike Dane, both from '72



Math Teacher

How Well do you know Berlin?

http://www.morgenpost.de/berlin/article561475/Berlin_Dart.html

The above link is a Traveler's Challenge of locations of interest in Berlin.

AOSHS Board Members Visit Our Section of THE WALL

Patricia Hein, the Stuttgart Alumni President and an AOSHS Board member was in Wichita for the AOSHS board meeting which meets annually in Wichita. Along with Joy Harper Bryant and Joan A. Oak they take a little side trip stopping by The Museum of World Treasures on Saturday, May 17, 2008 to visit the BERLIN WALL.

Patricia Hein (middle)

Founder and President of the Stuttgart/Ludwigsburg American High School Alumni Association Class of '76

AOSHS Secretary

Joan A. Oak (rt) entered DoDDS in August, 1964, and taught in Germany and Okinawa, retiring in 2001. She started at Babenhausen, 1964 - 66, then went to Rhein Main until 1969. Later went to Naha Air Base, Okinawa, for one year, 1968-70, then returned to Rhein Main until 1980. Joan returned to Okinawa, 1980 until 1999, then transferred to Sembach until 2001. She says it was a grand time to be in DoDDS!

Joy Harper Bryant (left), President of J.M.Wainwright HS Alumni Association (Tainan,Taiwan), Class of '71 AOSHS Board, Alumni/Web Monitoring



Some of you may remember it was a Stuttgart Brat that found the BERLIN WALL on Ebay, emailed Patricia, who then emailed our Director, Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, which put in motion our purchase of this Section pictured here. (Later donated to AOSHS, who has it on 2 year loan to MWT).

"Old Friends Are The Best Friends"

story told by Toni (Yarbrough) Combs '71

Debbrah McCoy Hunt '71 came to Berlin in the middle of June 1969 (just in time for the Volksfest) and left two weeks into her Senior year at BAHS. She was able to spend her complete Junior year of school at Berlin American High School and like many of us Berlin Brats it was the best year of her life in school. She could participate in school events and get involved in outside organizations the school encouraged or supported. It was nothing like any school she had attended before or after. When she first arrived in Berlin she met Dolores La Cross '72 in her neighborhood of Sundgauer and they became good friends during that summer.



Debbrah (McCoy) Hunt '71

It is interesting to me that everyone starting school the very first day at BAHS felt as if they knew everyone or had at least met someone the summer before school started. Out of the blue at the beginning of the year Debbrah was approached by Pamela Krinning '71 who she had not met before and was asked if she wanted to join the Rainbow Girls (a girl's organization sponsored by the Masons) She joined the Rainbow Girls and they became great friends, along with Katrin Lindroth '71, Robin Wright '72, and Sarah and Elizabeth Snyder '71. Debbrah showed school spirit in the Pep Club and worked in the Junior Jyp Joint. One day when visiting students came from different Overseas Schools for a Music Symposium, Debbrah was just closing up the Junior Jyp Joint that she ran after lunch, and she heard a voice calling out her name. The voice belonged to a boy who lived across the street from her when she lived in D.C. The students were going to be staying in homes in the Berlin military community, so she called her mom, his chaperones were contacted and they let him stay with Debbrah's



family in her Sundgauer apartment. This was by the way a neighboring apartment one story below where my family lived. Yes Debbrah and I were neighbors, but we were also friends, belonged in The Senior Girl Scouts troop together and traveled with some of the same girls who were in the Rainbows. ***We always had a great time!***

Debbrah now lives in Bakersfield, California with her husband Elwin a mother of two grown children and grandmother to five granddaughters and one grandson.

**"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take
but by the moments that take our breath away!"**

Upon learning about Mrs. Belt (see pg 8), Debbrah informed me she had Mrs. Belt for a bookkeeping teacher. The Co-operative Work Study Program had just started in '69 and if Debbrah had not left shortly after her senior year started, Mrs. Belt had arranged for her to work for American Express. Debbrah, as a young impressionable girl, remembers the wedding band that Mrs. Belt wore. It was a wide gold band with a single carat diamond engagement ring. So when Debbrah got engaged that is the ring style she chose for herself. (Mrs. Belt are you reading this?) <Smile>

Connecting through www.classmates.com

We both joined www.classmates.com at about the same time, the beginning of this year. To find friends from BAHS was a New Years Resolution for us both. My email to her went into her spam and we did not connect at first. She had been looking in the yearbook for Dolores La Cross and noticed Pat Martel's picture two pictures away.

So she contacted Pat Martel to find Dolores, Pat didn't know her whereabouts, but she gave Debbrah the Berlin Brat website address and my contact info from the back of a newsletter. Reading an article written by Katrin on the website she learned Katrin had married Bill Planz '71. (Bill was also one of our neighbors in Sundgauer and a good friend.) Debbrah and I talked on June 4th and I gave her Pamela Krinning's address from the Roster (a Wyoming resident) and on June 5th Debbrah and Pam Krinning had a long reunion via telephone.

Debbrah and I are now talking on the phone and via email and looking forward to the Reunion in Arizona in 2009.

"Old Friends Are The Best Friends"

Debbrah says tearfully but we laugh because it is so good to talk to our old but good friends.

We would really love to know where our old friends but good friends are!

Dolores La Cross
Robin Wright
Elizabeth Snyder
Sarah Snyder

Note: Debbrah and Pamela just located Brigetta Jorgensen '71 right before this went to print in El Campo, Texas

The Eagle Has Landed: Porcelain Gift Perched in Lobby of New US Embassy in Berlin

US Ambassador to Germany William R. Timkin and his wife, Sue, pose in front of the newly unveiled Meissen porcelain bald eagle statue on May 26 in the foyer of the US Embassy in Berlin.



Meissen Masterpiece:
© pictures - alliance/dpa



The new US Embassy in Berlin has received its first major gift, a porcelain statue of a bald eagle that was installed in the foyer of the building, which is to be officially opened on July 4 by former US President George Bush, #41.

The statue was made by Meissen, the world renowned porcelain manufactory based in the southeastern German state of Saxony.

As reported by the Associated Press, US Ambassador William R. Timkin called it a fitting gift to receive and dedicate on Memorial Day (May 26).

"What better way to mark the holiday than with an American bald eagle made by a historic German company," he said as quoted by the AP.

Other art showpieces are also planned: In addition to a segment of the Berlin Wall, the new embassy will house a mural by Sol LeWitt and a 40-foot steel sculpture by Ellsworth Kelly.

Meanwhile the US flag fluttered over the commanding new building on Berlin's most prominent square, Pariser Platz, for the first time on Sunday (May 25).

"The Stars and Stripes are flying over Pariser Platz," said a diplomat.



Stars and Stripes: An American flag now flies over the US Embassy in the heart of Berlin

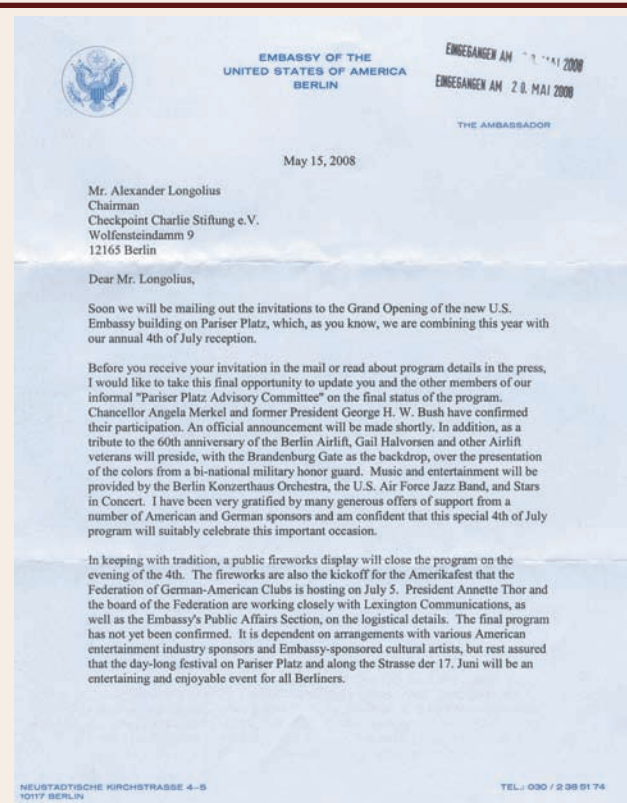
© picture- alliance/dpa

Moving staff completed on Saturday (May 24) evening the relocation from a nearby building which served as the US embassy for decades. The new embassy marks a return to the historic location that it abandoned in 1941.

The new, \$130 million sandstone-clad complex designed by California architects Moore Ruble Yudell is in the heart of Berlin, close to the Holocaust Memorial, the sprawling Tiergarten city park and the German capital's iconic Brandenburg Gate triumphal arch.

Bush, the father of current US President George W. Bush, is set to preside at the inauguration on the Fourth of July.

Timkin said earlier this year that the embassy would celebrate with an expanded version of its annual invite-only Independence Day event featuring high-level speakers and fireworks, followed on July 5 by a public Volksfest organized in cooperation with the Federation of German-American Clubs.



There will be a formal opening on July 4th with President Bush, Senior and Chancellor Merkel. I have sent the front and back of my invitation to the opening. Above is an announcement to look for the invitation in the mail and provides information about the events to take place at the Grand Opening at the Embassy. On July 5th there will be a public event for the Berliners on Pariser Platz and there is an additional program for the rest of the year.

All the best,
Alexander

(Alexander Longolius, Faculty '61-'67 and residing in Berlin)

Front of Invitation*Invitation to the Embassy Opening
from Herr Longolius*

This year the U.S. Embassy returns to our pre-World War II site next to the Brandenburg Gate. Today, Germany and the United States are true global partners. The opening of our new Embassy is symbolic of that partnership. The United States is proud to have been a steady partner in the quest for one Germany, whole, free and sovereign.



We have chosen to celebrate the Embassy opening on July 4th, Independence Day, our country's national holiday when we celebrate freedom and democracy. We will do this at the foot of the once closed Brandenburg Gate where the wall stood. The quest of the German people for freedom destroyed that wall.

Please join us for this historic event.

W.R. Timken Jr.
Ambassador William R. Timken, Jr.

Inside of Invitation

The Ambassador of the United States of America
William R. Timken, Jr. and Sue Timken
request the pleasure of the company of

Mr. Longolius

at an Independence Day Celebration
and the Grand Opening of our new Embassy

on Friday, July 4th at 18:00
on Pariser Platz, Berlin-Mitte
Entrance: Brandenburg Gate



R.S.V.P. June 6 • Dress: Smart Casual

*John Adams would have been pleased that we celebrate the holiday the way we do. It's just he wanted us to do that on July 2, the date of the Act of Independence.

*The Declaration which explains the act, was adopted on July 4.

*Most people think The Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776. No. On July 6, 1776, the President of the Continental Congress, John Hancock wrote a letter to the delegates that they needed to sign The Declaration of Independence. A resolution was passed on July 19, 1776 requiring the delegates to sign it. Of the 52 delegates to the Continental Congress then, two delegates (from Pennsylvania) refused to sign it. They were replaced. So The Declaration of Independence was signed on dates in July, August, September and November 1776, and one delegate (Thomas McKean of Delaware) didn't sign it until 1781. His excuse? He was in the Army!

*Two of the signers, John Adams and Samuel Adams, were related to each other. Both were cousins.

*While the majority of the delegates were lawyers, judges, merchants or farmers, there were also among the signers: a surveyor, a soldier, a publisher (Benjamin Franklin), two physicians, a clergyman, and an ironmaster.

*A group of settlers calling themselves the, "Fair Play Men," gathered under what was called the Tiadaghton Elm in another part of Pennsylvania. Fed up with British rule of North America, they declared their independence of Great Britain on July 4, 1776, completely unaware what the Continental Congress was doing on that date in Philadelphia!

*A surprising number of U.S. Presidents have connections to July 4. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson died on that date in 1826. James Monroe died on that date in 1831. James Madison was nearing death then in 1836 and his doctors wanted to keep him alive until that date, but Madison refused to take the medications. Calvin Coolidge was born on that date in 1872.

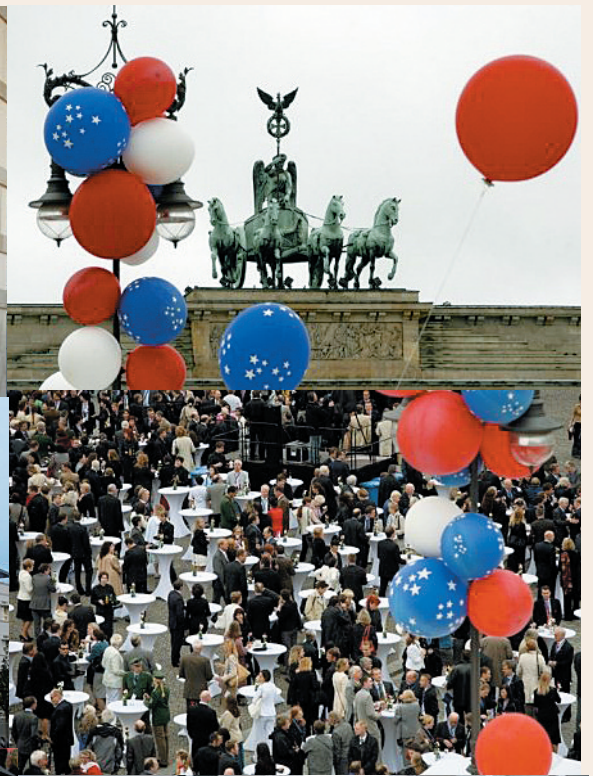
Then there was a senator for Maine who was elated that a grandchild of his was to be born on July 4. The baby had its own plan and was born on July 6 instead. The baby's name was George W. Bush.

*Up until 1945, Vicksburg, MS, REFUSED to celebrate July 4. Why? Because on July 4, 1863, Vicksburg surrendered to the U.S. Army under Grant during the Civil War.

*In the early 1990's, the mostly British crew of an exclusive cruise ship wanted to celebrate the day with a sign to greet their mostly American passengers and make a statement that there were no hard feelings after all the problems the two countries had experienced in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, but nothing they came up with seemed right.

A number of them adjourned to one of the bars on board the ship, and after a few brews came up with a sign they all agreed upon. The next morning, the American passengers were greeted with this sign:

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY, USA! LOVE, MUM."



Above: Col. Halvorsen middle of front row

Celebration at the Opening of the U.S. Embassy



Photo coverage from the Morgenpost



Left: Impressions of Berlin by John Freeman's students
 Checkout: http://www.jou.ufl.edu/people/faculty/jffreeman/berlin2008/publish_to_web/

Interesting Berlin 8mms

These are some of the best films I've ever seen.
Each link references another 2 or 3 films.
All worth viewing.

Here are a couple of links from YOU TUBE:

Mike Friedrich
Honorary Brat from '78

“Walk the Wall Challenge”

Walk, run, bike or swim the length
of the Berlin Wall, 96 miles,
from August 13th (the day the Wall went up) to
November 9th (the day the Wall came down)

What a great way to get Fit? Stay Fit? or set a
Berlin Goal?

We first mentioned the Walk in our last
Newsletter so this serves as a reminder that
August 13th is just around the corner. Mark your
Calendar now for the kick off!

Log your own activity and miles.

You have 89 days to complete 96 miles.
That's 1.07 miles per day!
Or do 3.74 miles X2 a week.

To make it more interesting we thought an
interesting twist would be to ask YOU to take a
picture of yourself doing a walk, run, bike or
swim with an interesting backdrop and
then submit to us for our winter issue in
December.

Just send the pic via email attachment or
snail mail fully identifying yourself
and the location.

For example: Here's Susan Smith '00 at the
Grand Canyon, Here's Harry Smith '00 at NASA,
Here's Linda Smith '00 at Mt. Rainer, Here's
Sally Smith '00 at Hoover Dam.

If you have a story we'd LOVE TO HEAR THAT
TOO! Get other Brats to join you.
Let's see what we come up with. :-)

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=IboC04picC0>

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=fdkWT1Rep2U&feature=related>

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=fdkWT1Rep2U&feature=related>



I just read an article here in Spain that Berlin is spending 40 million euros on a GPS and hand-held tour system that employs a PDA and GPS to guide tourists around the city to places where the Wall still is, and mostly was. Apparently, this was derived from frustrated tourists who visited the city and did not see the Wall - 70% of them!! I have to admit that when I was there I expected to see more of it physically, but when I walked around the city you could see where it used to be via the brick lines.

Joby Polansky

The official Multimedia Guide of the Berlin Wall

The Discovery Tours WallGuide is the first GPS-integrated tour



tracing the path of the former Berlin Wall and giving a vivid insight into the Wall's history at key geographical locations. The explanations are all eminently accessible - ensuring a fascinating tour for all ages, for new or old Berliners, and for visitors from all over the world.

The WallGuide, on offer in English and German since 1 May 2008, is the official guide licensed by the Berlin Senate authorities. The WallGuide uses the latest multimedia technologies to combine authentic images, and historical film and sound clips to open an exciting window on the fate of this once divided city. The tour includes 105 commentaries, with stops at the five key locations in the Wall's history and details on 22 memorial sites.

- Collection points: Brandenburger Tor, Bernauer Straße, Checkpoint Charlie, Niederkirchnerstraße and the East Side Gallery

- Innovative GPS-supported multimedia tour for walkers or cyclers

- A wealth of details on the historical and political background

- Numerous expert and eyewitness interviews, historical photos, film clips and audio recordings

- Customisable tour and flexible audioguide drop-offs



BERLIN REGIONAL

Every October, Overseas Brats, holds a Gathering (a reunion of sorts of all American overseas schools). This October it is being held in Herndon, VA (a bedroom community of Washington, DC)

October 30 - Nov 2, 2008

As with Berlin's Reunion, Thursday night is a kick off night, with a Dutch Treat Dinner off site from the Hotel. Since BERLIN usually holds a "regional" in the DC area almost every year, we thought this year we would combine it with this OSB event.

So ~ BERLIN BRATS ~ come join us!!

Either meet us in the hotel lobby of the Hyatt Dulles in Herndon at 6pm or at:

Ned DeVine's Sports Bar & Grill

(at 2565 Centreville Road in Herndon)
at 6:30pm, Thursday October 30th.

We'll sit together as a group.....share our stories and reconnect!!!!

I would also encourage you to attend the whole Gathering. It's fun to connect with other Brats we share a common heritage with or perhaps played in sports, or met by attending other schools.

Please visit the Overseas Brats website at: www.overseasbrats.com for the complete itinerary and how to register.

The Brat Documentary: **Brats: Our Journey Home** will be featured.

Along with the Brat writer, director, producer Donna Musil. Meet her up close and personal and participate in the Q & A immediately following. Q & A's with Donna are always fascinating!

As with all Reunions the last event is always a banquet (dinner/dance). This year being an election year...and since we'll be in the Nation's capital the Saturday night banquet will take on an "Inaugural Ball" theme....politics aside. Rumor has it.....that one of our own....a "Berlin Brat" will be making a special appearance on stage. SO plan on attending!!!

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email me or Joe Condrill, the President of Overseas Brats at:
joeosbpres@sbcglobal.net <mailto:joeosbpres@sbcglobal.net>

We do need a head count for the Dutch Treat Dinner on Thursday night.....so please RSVP to
BerlinBrats@gmail.com no later than Friday, October 10th.

We look forward to hearing from you and hopefully seeing you in Herndon!!!!

After RSVPing look for Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, our Director, on site in the hotel lobby or at Ned DeVine's. The Berlin Letterjacket ought to give her away!

Books Written for youth called The Wall Series take Place in Berlin

I wanted to let everyone know about a book series I found at a book sale today. It's called The Wall series. The first book is entitled "Candy Bombers" the second is called Beetle Bunker and the the third is Smuggler's Treasure. The books are for ages 8-12, so I am including them as part of my American History for my 12 year old (*I home school my kids & we happen to be covering WWII right now!*).

Anyway, Candy Bombers takes place in Berlin, spring 1948, two teens are trying to survive in a devastated Berlin during the Soviet blockade. Beetle Bunker takes place in Berlin, August 1961, shortly after the Soviets build the Wall. A teen girl may have found a way to the west. Smuggler's Treasure takes place in Berlin, spring 1989, when a teen living in West Berlin during a time that the Cold War seems to be thawing, discovers a startling secret no one will talk about while doing research on the Wall. The author is Robert Elmer.

Yoshika Loftin Lowe '83

MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR THE 2009 REUNION NOW!

Our special "group rate" and "coding" has now gone "live" for our upcoming Reunion.

Book early as we have sold out our Hotel for the past 2 Reunions!!!

Visit our website: www.BerlinBrats.org

Click on: "Hotel Reservations" from our Upcoming Events Box and follow the instructions.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!!!



WANNA ATTEND THE 2009 REUNION

MAKE IT WORK !!!!!!!

Here's how:

1. Find someone to watch your kids for the week (if your children are young), if they are older, make them get a job and then kick them out. If you don't have any kids, lucky you, and skip to number 3)
2. Have a yard sale, and sell all your children's toys...
3. Have a yard sale, and sell all your spouse's toys
4. Collect Money from anyone and everyone
5. ***Start Drinking Beer now...***
6. Start limiting your required sleep by going to bed 20 minutes later every night, so that by the time the reunion comes around, a 30 minute nap in the afternoon is all that is required each day.
7. Go through the year books and the photos on our website at www.BerlinBrats.org and memorize all your friends...
8. A few months before the Reunion make flight reservations, send in your Reservation Form and payment to the BBAA (Berlin Brats Alumni Association). Max out each and every credit card if you have too... Then Tell your boss (if you have one) that you need time off to visit family members you haven't seen in 20+ years....
9. ***Show up and let the good times roll... everything else will take care of itself.***
10. See you there...

Bryan Duckett '84
Class Contact & Brat Photographer

You are cordially invited to attend a regional gathering of ** Berlin Brats **
October 10-12, 2008 (Columbus Day weekend)
in Austin, Texas!



We'll share great memories and make new ones
with fellow Brats from all years
as we dig into some great Texas BBQ,
enjoy Austin's famous live music venues,
and relax on a sunset Dinner Cruise on Lady Bird Lake.

Details will follow, but we've already had a tremendous response to this event,
so make plans now to attend!

Friday, October 10th 7:00pm
Dinner and drinks at County Line on the Hill restaurant
6500 Bee Cave Road
9:30pm until --Live Music & drinks on Sixth Street or in the Warehouse District
(we'll forward venue details--who's playing where--as they become available)

Saturday, October 11th All Day until 5:30pm
Experience all the excitement and attractions Austin has to offer!

We are developing a HUGE list of Austin's attractions and entertainment options,
and we will forward that to you soon, as well as a map so you can start plotting!

Start your planning now by visiting www.austintexas.org
for an incredible, interactive site that will practically plan your itinerary for you!

We'll be putting together a historical tour for those who are interested,
and we will distribute a list of attendees' cell phone numbers
so we can stay connected while we visit this beautiful city by day!



6:00-8:00pm Sunset Dinner Cruise on Lady Bird Lake (formerly called Town Lake)
Arrival time is 5:45pm at the Hyatt Regency Austin (downtown);
we'll launch at 6:00pm!

We'll enjoy a fabulous dinner of the Hyatt's famous grilled fajitas
while we catch up with old friends and await the sunset,
when we'll witness the exodus of "the largest urban bat colony in North America"
as they leave their home under the Congress Ave. Bridge in search of their own dinner!



Saturday
8:30pm until --Live Music & drinks on Sixth Street
or in the Warehouse District
(we'll forward venue details--
who's playing where--as they become available)

Sunday, October 12th 10:00am Breakfast/Brunch (location TBD)

We have had great success in years past by building in an abundance of free time for friends and families
to personalize their weekend getaway.

Dress is casual and comfortable for all planned events,
including Fri night dinner and Sat dinner cruise.

Cost per person is \$45
for the dinner cruise Saturday night.

As in our most successful years past,
you'll have the freedom to choose your own hotel.
Fri night dinner (avg \$11-15 entree) and lunches are Dutch Treat.

Lots of flexibility, maximum FUN, whatever your budget!

SO MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND NOW!!

Please RSVP by Aug 15th to reserve your spots on the dinner cruise!
Send RSVP info below to Yoshika Loftin Lowe '83 at: loweyj@sbcglobal.net

If you have any questions, feel free to call or email us:
Yoshika Loftin Lowe '83 (aka Head Honcho) loweyj@sbcglobal.net ph# 713-253-0782 or
Cheryl Dearing Starich '85 (aka Local, um, Expert) CDearingStarich@aol.com ph# 512.423.8102

We look forward to hearing from you!

RSVP To make it easier, you may cut-and- paste the following and email it to Yoshika:

____ YES! Can't wait to see everyone in Austin!
____ # of people attending FRI night dinner at County Line on the Hill
____ # of people attending SAT night Dinner Cruise on Ladybird Lake

Names of attendees (and "class of" if a Brat):

We will need only a HALF deposit (\$22.50 per person) by August 20th
for the dinner cruise, with the remainder due the day of the cruise.
Send half or full payment for the dinner cruise to the payment of

Yoshika Lowe
8502 Star Hollow Ln.,
Houston, TX 77095

British Airlift Memorial

Fifty two years after the end of the Berlin Blockade on the 12th of May 1949, a Memorial and Grove of thirty-nine trees was unveiled at



the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire on Saturday the 12th of May 2001 by the British Berlin Airlift Association. The memorial, along with a Remembrance Book in St. Clement Danes Church, London is the only one in the UK that remembers the thirty-nine British, Commonwealth and Civilian air and ground crews who died in the Berlin Airlift. Over 150 veterans of the Airlift, together with wives and friends were present. Also in attendance were members of remembrance associations in Germany from Berlin and Fassberg. The grove of thirty-nine trees stand as a tribute to the personnel who

were killed in the Airlift and are fruit trees, which will blossom in May to commemorate the end of the blockade on the 12th of May and bear fruit to represent the supplies of food and other commodities flown into West Berlin. Thirty-nine white doves were released at the end of the memorial service.

The memorial simulates the 'Airbridge' into and out of Berlin from the western zones of Germany with the three corridors standing proud of the main structure. The eagle represents the British and Commonwealth contribution to the first victory in the Cold War. The memorial Sculptor was Andy DeComyn and the eagle was made by Peter Benson and his team of the Essex School of Woodcarvers.

<http://www.bbaa-airlift.org.uk/memorial.html>

We are grateful for Mr. Carter's friend Trevor Allison for making us aware of the British Airlift Foundation website and the British Airlift Memorial. We will continue to cover 60th Anniversary of the Airlift events in our future issues.

Berlin Firefighters Save Landmark Philharmonie Building from Fire



Inferno: Berlin firefighters work to save © picture-alliance/ dpa the landmark home of one of the world's greatest orchestras.

Paula (Meimaris) Blank '79

brought this story to our attention:

Berlin firefighters have put out a fire in the city's iconic Philharmonie, the concert hall that is home to the Berliner Philharmoniker. Fire officers were still keeping watch in the roof of the asymmetrical golden building to ensure that the fire, which burned for more than 12 hours after being detected on Tuesday May 20, did not break out again, he said.

The concert hall itself was undamaged under its concrete ceiling.

The 2,200-seat building, designed by Hans Scharoun, opened in 1963 on the West Berlin side of the Berlin Wall to house one of the world's best known orchestras.

Orchestra to Perform in Airport Hangar after Berlin Fire

Berlin's Philharmonic Orchestra has performed in a hangar at the city's landmark Tempelhof Airport after a recent fire damaged its concert hall. Conductor Sir Simon Rattle led the concerts from Thursday to Saturday (May 29-31) in Hangar 2 at the urban airport.

Dr. Tafoya is leaving DoDEA.

Please follow the link below to the DoDEA home page to see an important message from DoDEA Director, Dr. Joe Tafoya.

www.dodea.edu Click on the icon

"Front and Center...An Important Announcement" to view the message.



Retraction: Page 2 of the April Newsletter:

I am sorry if I left the impression that this picture was created by me. It is an art rendering of an old Airlift photo of C-47 Skytrains lined up at Tempelhof for unloading during the early days of the Berlin Airlift, along with some of Berlin's historical landmarks. It was created for the 50th Anniversary of the Airlift, 1998-1999. I was in search of a photo to create a U.S. postage stamp to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Airlift. I take the responsibility of altering the photo by digital photo cloning and changing the dates. Unable to locate the owner of the photo, and knowing that ZAZZLE.COM (Pitney Bowes) would not print the stamps without the approval, of the photo owner, the idea was dropped. We were successful in assisting in producing the stamp for Col Halvorsen, shown in the same newsletter. Again, my apologies to the owner of this piece of art and anyone else I might have offended. Curtis Carter

Overseas Brat Connection

To General Lucius Clay, Sr. Of The Berlin Airlift

Recently I was enjoying the April edition of the Berlin Brats newsletter, reading about the Berlin Airlift. In the article it mentioned that General Lucius Clay, Sr., had been in charge of the Berlin Airlift. At the time I read this, it was a fact that got filed away in my brain.

Then I visited the International School of Bangkok (ISB) Network web site. I attended ISB for my sophomore and junior years of high school between 1970 and 1972. The ISB Network publishes an online newsletter and I saw an article about how a sophomore classmate of mine, Carla Clay, had reconnected with the ISB Network.

Of course I was curious, because I had known Carla and this was the first time in 37 years there was news about Carla, so naturally I was curious to read her story.

As I read her story, I remembered she had been an Air Force general's daughter. Yet the Carla I knew never wore her father's rank (4 stars); she was a very down-to-earth, engaging, and very attractive blonde.

Then something hit me: Didn't I just read something about a General Clay associated with the Berlin Airlift? Was there a connection here somehow?

I did a quick google search of General Lucius Clay, Sr.'s biography. He had a son named Lucius Clay, Jr., and googling that man's biography, I discovered it was Carla's father!

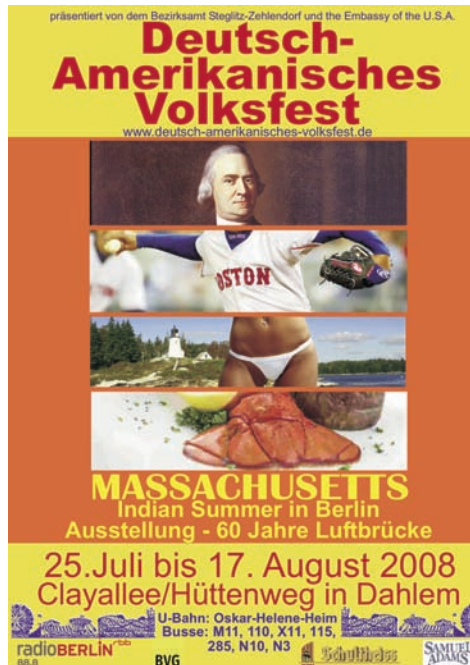
Wow! Without knowing it, I had gone to school with the granddaughter of the man in charge of the Berlin Airlift, who is an Overseas Brat herself!

**By Joe Condrill, President
OVERSEAS BRATS & Advisor
Berlin Brats Assn.**

Always on Our Mind..... "Germany!!!"



*Pete Murphy '84 goes to Australia.
Links up with fellow Brat.
Cate Speer '85, (our WebBrat), and the
1st place they go to is
..... "Bavaria!"*



"Indian Summer?"
....wasn't that the summer
of our 2006 Reunion?



Big "ß" is Now Officially a German Letter
The new capital "ß" is a jauntier, puffed-up version of its lowercase counterpart.

Many German learners will recognize the "ß", also known as the "Eszett." That strange looking letter that represents a sharp double-s in the German language has now been officially accepted as an upper case figure in the German alphabet by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).



Until now, the letter "ß" has only been a lower-case figure, causing all sorts of problems for journalists and advertisers who needed to find ways to avoid capitalizing the letter. Or the big "ß" was simply written as "SS" in situations where capitalization was unavoidable. But now it has been granted official status under the ISO's "special consonants found in western European languages."

Whether this means that the new character will now be integrated on German computer keyboards however remains unclear. But the capital "ß" has already been integrated in the latest Unicode version – the industry standard consisting of a repertoire of about 100,000 characters that allows computers to represent and manipulate text expressed in most of the world's writing systems.

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To Send Photos & Ideas for the Newsletter
Email: Toni Combs at traecombs@gmail.com

Early 60's Chat Room

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jbranson01@hotmail.com

Brat Attack - A Berlin Chat Room

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