



The 50th Anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's visit to Germany.

By Dr. John Provan, Kelkheim - (historian and K-town '74 Brat)

No visit to Germany by any political representative would be so emotionally remembered, as that of U.S. President John F. Kennedy in June of 1963. During this short trip, he spoke directly to the German population, offering the courage and support of the American people. America's commitment to keeping Berlin, insured the stability of Europe and this is why Kennedy's visit proved to be so important. He was deeply impressed seeing the Berlin Wall, firsthand; a wall which would divide families for more than 30 years, with approx. 136 individuals losing their lives while attempting to escape. His speech on the steps of the Schöneberger City Hall, which ended with the words "Ich bin ein Berliner", would make him immortal. The world was shocked, when in November of that same year, an assassin's bullet would kill him in the streets of Dallas, Texas. Without being sentimental, the German population was especially grief stricken. German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer (1876 – 1967) had invited Kennedy to visit Berlin, when he heard of the President's planned trip to Italy. Adenauer was already 87 years old, while Kennedy had been the youngest President elected in the history of the United States and was only 46-years old at the time. Therefore, a generation rift existed that was noticeable during the entire visit, especially by the German population who admired this young American President.

In fact, it is probably no surprise that the dates chosen by the Kennedy administration for this trip to Germany were directly connected with the events, 15 years prior. It was on June 26th, 1948, that the famous Berlin Airlift began; only days after the Soviet Union blocked all access routes to the city of Berlin. It was GEN Lucius D. Clay, in his role as U.S. Military Governor of Occupied Germany, who ordered this airlift to begin. During this monumental airlift, 2 million citizens were supplied with food and fuel, in order to prevent the city from becoming part of the Soviet sector. In the following 324 days, the U.S. military transported some 1,783,573 tons of supplies, at a cost to the American tax payer of some \$137,177,427.00. The USAF had managed some 277,570 flights, making it the largest airlift in human history. The British transported another 542,236 tons, at a cost of 5,850,000 UK Pounds. For the first time in history, military air transport was successfully used as a diplomatic weapon. More importantly, the Airlift had cost the lives of 31 American and 39 British soldiers and airmen, along with 9 German workers, connected with this operation, underscoring Western resolve to remain in Berlin.

It was this unquestionable support in time of need that made America so extremely popular with the

Berliners and why President John F. Kennedy was now coming to underscore and mark this anniversary. During his stay in Germany, Kennedy made stops at the Köln Cathedral, he spoke at the Bonn City Hall, had several formal meetings in Bonn, which was followed by a visit to U.S. Forces at Fliegerhorst Kaserne in Hanau, he spoke at the Frankfurt Römer and in St. Paul's Church (the birthplace of German democracy), which was followed by a visit to Wiesbaden Kurhaus.

He stayed overnight at the "General Von Steuben" Hotel, before departing from Wiesbaden Air Base for Berlin.

His visit to Berlin, emphasized America's support for a city, which only recently had been "walled in" by the East Germans. The West-Berlin population was concerned whether the Americans would remain in their city. Whether Americans would defend their interests and stand up to the Soviets? Kennedy spontaneously realized the importance of the situation in Berlin, and decided to improvise from his original speech. With the words "Ich bin ein Berliner" Kennedy underscored the provocative importance of his visit and support to a city recently divided by a wall. Kennedy managed, with these words, like no President prior or after - to impart a feeling of personal responsibility for a people's fate.

It was also a statement that the Soviets understood all too well.

Kennedy was greeted like a "Rock" star and his popularity remains unmatched.

Millions of Germans lined the streets in each of the cities, in an attempt to gain a glimpse of this American President. In order to document this unique visit, the Stadtf Museum of Wiesbaden is presenting an exhibit entitled "Wiesbaden loves JFK – the memories of the Kennedy visit in 1963", which will be shown between June 5 and September 15, 2013, with texts in both German and English.

The Schaufenster Stadtmuseum is located on the Ellenbogengasse 3-7, in downtown Wiesbaden, across from the City Hall. They can be contacted at museumspädagogik@wiesbaden.de.

German Television, ARD and HR will each be presenting a special documentary about Kennedy's visit, that will be shown around mid-June.

Without question, the visit of President John F. Kennedy marked a highlight in German/American relations, which even after 50 years has not faded from our memories.

It was the beginning of a short-lived dream. A dream that would take mankind to the moon and insure peace in Europe. Only a few months later, President Kennedy was killed in the streets of Dallas. Those same individuals who had cheered so loud along the German streets, were all the more grief stricken.

All free men, wherever they may live, are citizens of Berlin, and therefore, as a free man, I take pride in the words, 'Ich bin ein Berliner'

President John F Kennedy

The Berlin Story Verlag (030) 20 91 17 80 has published a book entitled "***Ich bin ein Berliner – John F. Kennedy's Deutschlandbesuch 1963***" (ISBN 978-3-86368-112-8).

This German book has numerous photos of Kennedy at the various stops and tells the stories of how many individuals both Germans and Americans experienced this visit. It costs 9.80 Euro.

An English version has been produced as an E-book that should be available for most reader systems and contains the same photos and text.

Entitled "Ich bin ein Berliner! The Story of U.S. President John F. Kennedy's visit to Germany, June 1963", (authored by Dr. John Provan), so that people of both countries can recall their memories, each with their own version of this book.

Shown opposite page is the route taken by President Kennedy during his trip to Berlin, extracted from the above cited book.

"Ich bin ein Berliner! The Story of U.S. President John F. Kennedy's visit to Germany, June 1963."

The Route taken by President Kennedy in Berlin.

provided by John Provan



CNN: Nicolaus Mills commentary below:

The reaction of the crowd listening to Kennedy address them in front of West Berlin's City Hall was so overwhelming that, on the plane leaving Germany, he remarked to his aide, Ted Sorensen, who had written most of his speech, "We'll never have another day like this one as long as we live."

In Berlin, the still-young president took advantage of being on the global stage to make it easier for friend and foe alike to see him as a leader eager to steer America and the world away from nuclear confrontation. His efforts were not wasted. Two months after his Berlin speech, the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union signed the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, the first such agreement since atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Nicolaus Mills



Listeners on Pariser Platz
at the Brandenburg Gate
(© Tassilo Ziegeler)



President Reagan giving a speech
at the Brandenburg Gate on
06/12/1987
(© Public Domain)



President Kennedy's address
to the people of Berlin on
06/26/1963
(© Public Domain)

Presidents in Berlin, Berlins in the U.S.

Holger G. Ziegeler

Director, German Information Center - Jun 21, 2013

President Obama visited Berlin and added another pearl to the string of U.S. presidential visits to the German capital. As a student at the bicultural John F. Kennedy School in Berlin, my 14-year-old son was glad to be among the spectators witnessing the first U.S. president speaking on the 'other' (eastern) side of Brandenburg Gate and sends us a picture of this historic moment.

Like the other listeners, he expressed enthusiasm about having been able to be there.

That is how Berliners have always felt when a POTUS visited their city, which was until 1989 the symbolic outpost of the Free World during the Cold War. John F. Kennedy's declaration "Ich bin ein Berliner!" on June 26, 1963 is still inscribed in their hearts. Richard Nixon came in 1969, and Ronald Reagan ended his speech in 1987 with the now-famed words "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" President Clinton was the first U.S. president to visit a unified Berlin and must have liked it since he came three times during his presidency: in 1994, 1998, und 2000. George W. Bush arrived in May 2002, and now, 11 years later, it was Mr. Obama's first visit while in office.

Berlin is currently celebrating the 50th anniversary of the iconic speech Kennedy delivered on the balcony of the then (West) Berlin City Hall in Schöneberg. A plethora of events, speeches, lectures, special exhibits, and tours are taking place - so don't miss them if you are there!

**The city of Berlin is coming to Washington D.C.
with a delegation to express its gratitude by
laying a wreath at President Kennedy's grave
at Arlington National Cemetery.**

The delegation will also participate in activities at the Newseum, the German-American Heritage Museum and the Goethe-Institut to not only relive the historic events, but also celebrate modern-day Berlin.

A highlight is the exhibition "Berlins - MADE IN USA", featuring many of the 37 communities in the U.S. that have taken their name from Berlin, Germany. Did you know that East Berlin has continued to exist since the fall of the Wall? Why, there is an East Berlin in Connecticut and Pennsylvania (or Nova Scotia, if you live in Canada), and there is a West Berlin section of Berlin, New Jersey (and another one in Nova Scotia, naturally).



BERLINS-MADE IN USA
(© GAHM)



Soviet tank controlling the population in East Berlin 06/17/1953 (©German Federal Archives)

I cannot close without mentioning another anniversary: 60 years ago, on June 17, 1953 East Germany saw an uprising against the socialist regime. It started with strikes in East Berlin and spread fast across the country. Soviet tanks and the Volkspolizei brutally brought the situation under control. In memory of this revolt, the Federal Republic of Germany established June 17 as a national holiday, the Day of German Unity.

Only upon achieving unification in October 1990, the holiday was moved to October 3.

JFK Views Brandenburg Gate from West Berlin - the View on June 26, 1963.



John F. Kennedy in Berlin (1963) Geschichtsstunde - Published on Jan 7, 2013
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSsfzsIDIA>

Obama Views Brandenburg Gate from East Berlin - June 19, 2013.

President Obama stands next to German Chancellor Angela Merkel in front of Brandenburg Gate in Berlin on June 19.
 (Photo: Michael Kappeler, AP)



Berlin School now bears the name of Candy Bomber Pilot

Berliner Morgenpost © June 2013 - adjusted for clearer translation.

In Zehlendorf, a school was named after Gail S. Halvorsen. He was the American pilot known for dropping candy attached to parachutes during the Berlin Airlift. The naming ceremony for the school took place on Saturday. The school is now called Gail S. Halvorsen schule. For two long years their school had only a number and no name.

Trigger for optimism: The pupils of the secondary school Zehlendorfer have known about this part of Berlin history, the Berlin Airlift. They had read a lot about it and visited the Allied Museum in Clayallee. When it came time to vote for the name of their school last fall, the majority of them voted for Gail S. Halvorsen. Stefan Begie, students of class 10g, described it as something special on Saturday that the 92-year-old namesake had come to visit the students, teachers and parents of "his" school and attend the unveiling ceremony of the name of the school. "This is an honor for us," he said.

The 9th Integrated School was formed by the merger of the Alfred Wegner secondary school with the Beucke-secondary school during the school structure reform two years ago. The merger was not easy for all parties involved, the deputy headmaster George Händschke said at the ceremony on Saturday. "For two years we have found ourselves in a transitional phase. The fact is that it has now become a period of openness, having a lot to do with the naming of the school."

Speaking about Friendship: The most important speech of this holiday came from Gail S. Halvorsen.

"I am delighted to be here back in my second home," he spoke to all present in German. Halvorsen said that he was not there because of his deeds, but because of 30 children, whom he had met during the airlift at the barbed wire fence of Tempelhof Airport. "They were only looking for flour, so grateful and clear that they wanted nothing more than freedom - not even chocolate," he said. He had promised these children to drop out of his plane chocolate on little parachutes when he would fly the next time at Tempelhof. They had promised to share. "The children later wrote letters to thank him."

The guests included the Berliner Mercedes Wild. She was one of the children from Berlin, who grew up during the hard time of the blockade. At that time, she had written a letter to Gail S. Halvorsen. In it she told him that she lived near Tempelhof Airport on a farm which had white chickens. He should throw chocolate there. Halvorsen never discovered the chickens, but sent the little girl a package in the mail.



Photo: Reto Klar: The 92-year-old Gail Halvorsen came with his son Bob '75 and his daughters Denise and Marilyn '73 for the naming ceremony in Berlin

Halvorsen concluded his moving speech by saying that he asked the students today, to stand up for others.

"Service to others and gratitude will help you to resist temptations and difficulties, and bring you inner peace and happiness at the end," he said.

Julian, Florian and Dennis from the class 9d were thrilled.

"It's great that Mr. Halvorsen himself has come to us, and at his age," Florian said. His grandmother had told them a lot about the raisin bombers.

Education Secretary of State Mark Rackles (SPD), who was also among the speakers, told the students that the friendship is something very valuable. Halvorsen was an example. "The old man has returned to Germany, to Berlin, then the headquarters of terror.

He returned because he feels connected to our people."

Responsibility and friendship are the greatest things in life, said Rackles.

The Candy Bomber has five children, three were with him in Berlin this time.

He has 24 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren.

Marilyn (Halvorsen) Sorensen '73, says her father had always had a clay pot full of chewing gum.

"He had brought it back from Berlin, we have called it the Berlin-pot." He has always given chewing gum to his grandchildren when they come to visit him, so he is to them, "Grandpa Gum" - the chewing gum Grandpa.

This marked the first time a school in Berlin has been named after a living namesake.

A Great Day in the History Of Berlin

It was June 26, 1963, and graduation day at TAR was fast becoming a memory. All the students that shared the year with each other were embarking on their own careers and or transferring to other parts of the world with their parents. As I was contemplating my own future, I was reminded by my mother that President JFK had arrived in Berlin, and was due to visit the American community shortly to give a speech. I grabbed my camera and we headed out of our 3rd floor apartment on Taylor Strasse, near the Outpost Theater, and crossed over to Clay Allee, where the activities were taking place. There was a huge crowd of about 200 to 300 American dependents, soldiers, and VIPs gathered in front of the podium which was all roped off. The President arrived and the crowd was all pumped up as the band was playing and soldiers from Andrews and McNair barracks were marching past the reviewing stand. Minutes later, the President gave a rousing speech which lasted about 10 to 15 minutes, and that's when it happened! He stepped from the podium and made his way around the roped security area greeting well wishers along his route. As he rounded the corner, he walked so close to me that I lunged forward and grabbed his hand, pulling him closer so he could shake my mothers hand. It was at that moment that I snapped a close up photograph of him as he was flanked by 2 of his Secret Service agents. I shouted out "Welcome to Berlin Mr. President," and he replied "Thank you, It's good to be here." I let go of his hand and he continued down the line. It wasn't until several days later when the film was developed, that I saw the photograph that I took of him, and noticed the look on the Secret Service agents face focusing his attention on me when I grabbed the Presidents hand.

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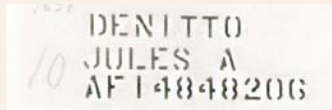
A Great Day in the History Of Berlin



A few months later, I left Berlin to live with my Sister at McDill AFB in Tampa, Florida, and subsequently decided to join the Air Force.

On 18 November 63, I was at an Air Force recruiting station in Tampa, when in the middle of taking the Oath Of office with two other individuals, in walks JFK on an inspection tour! He stayed until we completed the oath and shook our hands, congratulating us on our entry into the USAF.

I told the President that I had met him a few months earlier in Berlin, and he replied that he was so exhausted from that trip that he did not remember much!



I couldn't believe that I met the POTUS
two times in 6 months.

First day at Lackland AFB, (11/19/1963)

Now, a mere 48 hours later, I'm in my barracks at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas, when my drill Sgt. walks in and informs my Flight that JFK is coming to Lackland, tomorrow (11/21/63) to inspect the troops,and we better look sharp"! With our heads shaved and our brand new starched green fatigue uniforms, on 21 November 63, we stood at attention on the parade grounds at Lackland, as President Kennedy began to review the troops. I was standing at attention in the middle of the formation as he walked past me rather briskly, but then he suddenly stopped, causing the top brass to almost run into him. He then performed what I would describe as a Michael Jackson "Moon Walk" backward to my position again, and turned to me stating (with a big Smile), "DENITTO, Good to see you again. How is the Air Force treating you?" I was stunned and I replied "Very well Mr. President!" He then replied "Well you go and have a nice career now." I then replied "Thank you sir!" As he turned to continue on, I overheard the Base Commander whisper in the ear of my drill instructor, "Find out who that Son-of-a-bitch is?" as they glared at me!



I guess I could describe my feelings after this third encounter with JFK as being on "Cloud Nine"!

It was the very next day at 1:20 PM. While sitting on my foot locker polishing my boots, a message came over the intercom.

"Attention all personal,
The President of the United States was just shot and killed in Dallas." Nov 22,
1963 is a day that I try not to remember,
but one that I will never forget!!!

Jules A. Denitto '63

Last day Air Police Academy, Lackland AFB, (3/15/1964)



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<http://www.germandeli.com/mish.html>

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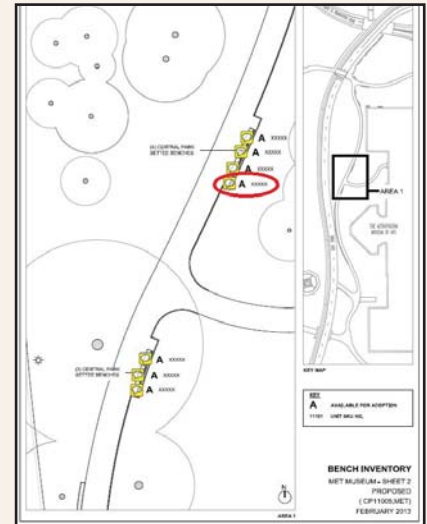
(as found on the German Deli website)

Army Major David G. Taylor Jr.
Army 1st Sgt Jeffrey R. McKinney
Army Lieutenant Colonel Kip Taylor



<http://www.germandeli.com/kiptaylor.html>

UPDATE: LIZ WOOD '85's BENCH PLACEMENT AND DEDICATION



I received an email from the
Central Park Conservancy this
morning. The area is currently
under construction and they
expect it will be late August by the
time the area is complete and the
bench is installed. The renovation
began about a month ago. So we
are probably looking at a late
September dedication.

The attached map is the site
blueprint and the red circle is
where Liz's bench will be installed.

-James Tolson

Jo-Anne Prokopowicz Sears '87
visited his grave on Memorial Day.



Heidelberg HS closing ceremony celebrates mascot Lion, recalls history

By Nancy Montgomery - Stars and Stripes

Published: May 31, 2013

HEIDELBERG, Germany — It was the lion's last roar.

In the gym of the soon-to-be-shuttered Heidelberg High School, students, administrators, teachers and former students of the school with the leonine mascot gathered to hear it one more time, and bid it "Auf Wiedersehen."

The closing ceremony on Friday for the high school, the last remaining of the original six Department of Defense schools in Germany, was the first of several events in a week of farewells to the denizens of the U.S. Army garrison, which is leaving the fairy tale city that their forebears found too beautiful to bomb. At least that was the story.

"They said, 'Let's bomb Mannheim instead,'" said a speaker at the beginning of the two-hour tribute, remembrance and pep rally.

There was a lot of participation by students, alumni, teachers and administrators as mistress of ceremonies Emily Gourdine led them through the school's 67-year history, era by era, as though it were a children's bedtime story.

"My precious baby cub-lets: 'Are we happy? Are we sad?'" Gourdine, a Heidelberg High teacher, said at one point. "All of us are both happy and sad."

What became the high school opened in buildings at the University of Heidelberg when World War II ended in 1946. There were 60 students in first through 12th grades, some of them from Stuttgart, Mannheim and Karlsruhe. They all lived in dormitories then, according to the program, with the girls' dormitory at the top of 128 steps.

Eight students graduated the following year, with a ceremony at the Heidelberg castle, which got their photo on the cover of Life Magazine.

Five years later, as more "Cold Warriors" and their dependents flooded into Germany, the current high school opened.

Its last graduating class as the school closes its doors forever in two weeks with a downsized U.S. Army Europe moving to Wiesbaden, numbers 117.

Speakers at the event all touched the same themes: the excellence of the American school, the wonders of living in Europe, the beauty of the city and the warmth of their German hosts.



Photo: JOSHUA L. DEMOTTS/STARS AND STRIPES

"We danced where dukes and duchesses once walked," said Carol Kuzmick, a Heidelberg teacher, principal and administrator for the past 27 years. "We've walked in the footsteps of Mark Twain on the Philosophers' Way. We've partied under medieval arches."

Kuzmick and other speakers also emphasized the idea that while things change or even end, as American poet Walt Whitman once wrote: "Nothing is ever really lost, or can be lost."

"It's the lion's last roar, the end of an era," Kuzmick said. "Yes, the doors of Heidelberg High School will close in June. But the roar of the mighty lion will continue to echo through the Neckar Valley."

Among the speakers was a 2004 graduate, Lt. Jacob Patrick, now a Navy aviator, who showed up in his flight suit and talked about the discipline and teamwork he'd learned playing high school sports.

Before the school's colors were cased and the honor guard marched out for the last time, Principal Kevin Brewer took the podium and gave a master class in how to fire up a crowd.

When they close the doors a final time, he said, there will be one memory that none of them could ever forget.

"You hear it off in the distance," he said.

"Heidelberg," he said in a low quick growl.

"Then it grows louder," he said.

"Heidelberg!" he shouted. "Hei-del-berg!"

At that, the gymnasium erupted. "Hei-del-berg! Hei-del-berg! Hei-del-berg!" they shouted, clapping and stomping their feet.

AN INTIMATE BERLIN REUNION

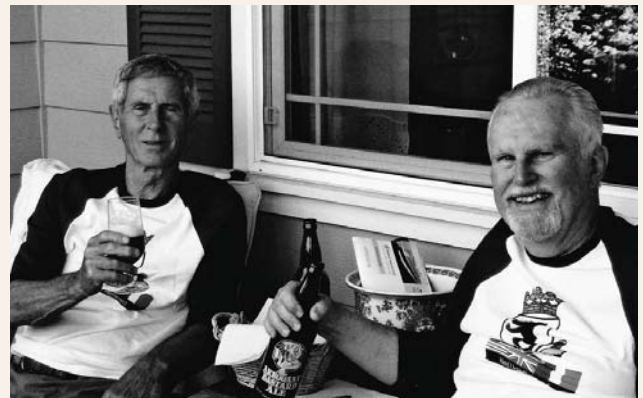
Fifty years ago two former residents of Massachusetts were faculty members at Berlin American High School. The two faculty members were Dana Straight and Nicholas O'Neill. Dana was a counselor and taught social studies while Nick was a mathematics teacher. Both staff members spent several years at BAHS, Dana from 1963 to 1967 advancing to Assistant Principal and Nick from 1961 to 1965 going from junior high math instructor to high school math teacher. Many good times were enjoyed by both staff members during the time they were active at TAR/BAHS and a friendship was formed that would continue throughout the years as has happened to so many former faculty. The years at BAHS were both enjoyable and exciting first because of the interaction with American military students, now affectionately referred to as "Brats", and second due to the excitement of being in a city divided into a four powers of occupation, American, British, French and Russian. Many former faculty have testified that the time spent teaching American students in Berlin was the most rewarding of their careers. These students were far from their homes in the USA and deserving of the best possible education that could be provided them. This belief brought out the best in the faculty assigned to Berlin. Dana and Nick were proud to be part of this faculty and bonded in friendships that have lasted many years. Dana, now married, departed Berlin in 1967, returning to the United States where he obtained employment with The Department of Justice under a former Director of Education who had served in Barcelona, Spain. This contact turned into a career of 20 years, taking him back and forth across the country and eventually ending in Burlingame, California as Regional Administrator for Education and Training in 14 Western States, retiring in 1987. After this experience he moved to Florida and obtained a position as Director of Guidance in a high school of 1400 students continuing his dedication to the counseling and education of students. Eleven years later Dana retired and moved back to the West Coast, settling in Oregon. Along the journey he had two wonderful sons, one married in the San Francisco area with two children and the youngest a Pennsylvania State University graduate with a PhD. in Cultural Anthropology.

Nick departed Berlin in 1965, transferring to Bremerhaven HS to teach math, then moved to the States to complete a Master's Degree at Boston College (1967). He returned to Bremerhaven HS from 1967 to 1969 for two more teaching



years. Nick then transferred to Lakenheath HS for the next 29 years teaching in all areas of mathematics and at the University of Maryland overseas branch evenings. Nick retired from Lakenheath HS in 1998 and relocated to Skien, Norway where he presently resides.

Along the way he married and had two lovely children. One a son living in Denmark with two sets of twins and a daughter with two children living in the San Francisco area.



One would think that these two old colleagues had gone their separate ways never to meet again but not so. Several years ago a telephone call from Nick contacted Dana in Oregon. The resulting conversation and renewed contact rekindled a spark born 45 years ago in Berlin at what was then the Thomas A. Robert's School later changed to Berlin American High School. The recall of memories from the past during that telephone call resulted in continuous Email exchanges that went on for several years always with the intention of meeting face to face once again. Then the opportunity arrived when Nick had an invitation to attend a 50th class reunion of his first teaching assignment in Massachusetts and suggested a 45 year reunion in Oregon. Plans were made and finalized for this reunion of two BAHS faculty members who taught together so long ago. September 23-26, 2010 we finally met face to face after many years of separation to consummate a commitment to celebrate some of the best years of our lives spent in Berlin, Germany. We met, choked up a little at our initial meeting, then went on to recount old times remembering dear friends Jim Shook, Bill Elstran, Jim Esip, Sam Echeveste, Lt. Rozzell, Burt Cooper, and local colleagues Longolius, Pietsch, Schirmer plus other faculty.



I am standing in front of BAHS pointing to the sign 'Keep Off Grass' while some of the students were peeking through the school windows behind me. I believe the year was 1965-66 and the peeking toms were l. to r. Margareta Wertenbaker, Alexandra Neeb and I think Claire Booth. The location was in front of the windows to the right of the then entry.

A lengthy dialogue and recollection of talented "Brats" and what contributions they were making in the world ensued as we discussed Liz Wong '64, Lear Von Koch '64, Dana Swenson '65, Kathy Veatch '65, Ed Jiru '66, Alexandra Neeb '66, Virginia Ashcroft, James Carter (presently my brother-in-law), Ann Davis, Steve Denton, Don Drach and Laura Newby all '67 class. Recollections were aided by reviewing ERINNERUNGEN yearbook pictures. Further conversation led to reminiscing about student, overseas hardships, previous lady friends, enchanting haunts and the never ending exciting and delightful times that could only have happened in an electrified Berlin 45 years ago. It is often said that life, like love is wasted on youth but rest assured it was not wasted by us during those early days. Such an experience only can be enjoyed once in one's life and we were blessed to have such an opportunity.

Teaching, counseling and supporting military students, "Brats", was an honor and privilege during our assignment overseas. When departure time arrived we vowed to get together again and to encourage others from the past or other more recent times to do the same. Renew contacts with past colleagues before time runs out.

Contact: Dana Straight - sstraight2u@charter.net, Nick O'Neill - nione@online.no

by: Dana Straight, FAC



Class of '65

DANA SWENSON

Chorus, 1,2,3,4
French Club, 1,2
Players Club, 2
Art Club, 1
Sec. of Student Council, 4
Speech and Drama, 1, 2
"Noah", 2
"Music Man", 2
"Oklahoma", 3



Dana was the lead female character in the 1964 BHS production of "Oklahoma".

Sounds like that is where she got her start for her theater career.

Sorry I missed that by a couple of years. Sounds like it was lots of fun and that

Dana had a memorable performance.

I've heard about it for many years. - Jim Branson '64.

Later she had the opportunity to play understudy for the play on Broadway
"No No Nanette"

A memorial has been posted on the Berlin Brats Webpage.

An Obit also can be seen at:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dailycamera/obituary.aspx?n=dana-swenson>



1978 DYA Junior All-Stars

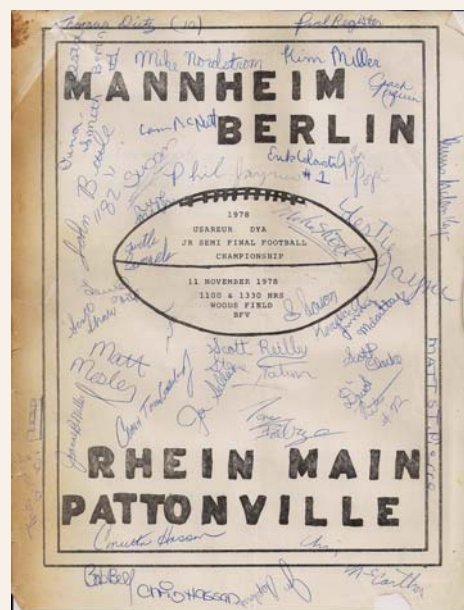
By Liese Hutchison ('83) with Tom Dietz ('82) and Phil Jaynes ('84)

For many Berlin Brats too young to participate in BAHS sports teams, the DYA became our avenue for friendship, sportsmanship and camaraderie. With so many military dependents living there in the late 70s, the DYA fielded four junior football teams and cheerleading squads every fall. At the end of the nine-game season, the football coaches got together to pick the best 25 players to represent Berlin in the USAREUR DYA Junior Boys Class A Football Championships. For the cheerleaders, we individually presented a routine to a panel of coaches who chose seven girls for the junior squad and seven for the senior squad to compete in the USAREUR Cheerleading Championships. On November 18, 1978, both the junior football team and the junior cheerleading squad came in second at the championships held at Patch Barracks in Stuttgart. Tom, Phil and I reconnected via Facebook recently and wanted to share some of our fond memories with our fellow Berlin Brats about what the DYA and the trips to West Germany as All-Stars meant to us.

Initially called the AYA when we all arrived in Berlin in 1976, the DYA was more than an organization that provided sports competitions for youth; it kept us active, helped us make friends and provided us the chance to travel to West Germany together. Phil points out that the DYA “gave me the opportunity to meet and work with kids that otherwise I wouldn’t have even met. I was 11 when I signed up for my first season with the DYA. At that age, I only knew the kids in my class and the ones that lived around my playground in Duppel,” Tom adds, “Throughout the year, every major sport was offered to us at no cost to our parents. Not only were the majority of the kids in Berlin in great shape, but they also learned valuable lessons in life, such as teamwork, leadership and how to get back up after being knocked down. We Brats are a pretty tough bunch! We had a knack of adapting to new lifestyles, cultures, and most of all, making friends.” For me, the DYA was also a physical space where the cheerleaders would compete to make the All-Star squad, practice for the competition and have squad sleepovers, where we talked about boys, school and other young teenage girl topics well into the early morning hours.

Making the All-Star team was exciting on many levels. It was a grand adventure, but I also realized it was an honor to represent Berlin. Phil agrees, “I know now that it was a big deal to represent Berlin, but I always looked at it as a bigger deal that the DYA and the parents gave us kids an adventure that would stay with us for the rest of our lives.” We knew that we were unique in that as newly created groups, we were being sent to face players and cheerleaders who had worked together all season long. While we only had one week to prepare before climbing aboard the train for the semi-finals, the trips to West Germany offered us opportunities to bond. When the other kids were probably sleeping in their own beds, we slept on the floors of barracks or on the top-level of apartment buildings in either Mannheim for the semi-finals one weekend or Stuttgart for the championship the next weekend after having a fun night of hanging out on the Duty Train together. Phil recalls, “My fondest memories would have to be the time spent traveling. Our nights on the Duty Train were spent listening to a Richard Pryor tape someone had brought on and playing Mattel Electronic Football.” Tom asks rhetorically, “Did any of us really sleep on our way to Frankfurt?”

Once we arrived in Mannheim to play the Mannheim Chiefs on Nov. 11, 1978, the boys were all business. “I just remember the Mannheim game being a slugfest between two strong defenses on a cold drizzly day,” Phil recalls. Berlin won 8-0 on a three-yard run with only 1:30 left in the game.



Phil also remembers after that game the boys were on a bus without the coaches. "So we thought it would be a good idea to see if we could rock the bus onto its side. Once the grownups noticed the bus a rockin' they put a stop to it. I wouldn't be surprised to learn that we got that thing up on two wheels."

The next weekend, we all took the trip again to West Germany, but this time to Stuttgart for the championships. The cheerleading competitions occurred in the morning before the football game. My main memory from the previous year's cheerleading competition and the 1978 competition is that we all looked so small compared to the other girls. Our coaches, Louise Naquin and Jo Anne Miller, helped us put together a fun routine that focused more on entertainment and precision than gymnastic abilities and lifts. We seemed to impress the judges enough to come in second, a placement we were all thrilled with after only working together for two weeks and feeling so overwhelmed by the other squads!

Coached by Chuck Hassan, Bob Cummins, Fritz Prater, Tom Gruber and Frank Foster, the junior Berlin Bears hit the field for the championship game that afternoon in which we came close, but lost 22-12 to the Pattonville Jets. Phil recalls that the Pattonville contest was the exact opposite of the Mannheim game the week before. "It was a fast, high-scoring game on a warm sunny day."

"For me," Tom reflects on his time in Berlin, "the one thing that stands out in my mind was the 1978 Berlin All-Star team that played in the championship game. As in the many football movies that Hollywood made about that championship season or that 'what if' game, we too had one in Berlin that year. Many players of that team can still talk about that season as if it were last week."

Being part of DYA athletics also meant feeling like you were part of a big family, both literally and figuratively. Coach Hassan's daughter Chris Hassan ('82) and I were on the junior squad together. Our Coach Naquin's daughter, Nicole Naquin Branson ('83) cheered on the senior squad, and Phil's dad Chuck traveled with the team, taking the photo about the championship game that appeared in the "Berlin Observer."

Even though neither the team nor the squad won in the truest sports sense, we all feel that this All-Star experience at the ages of 13 and 14 positively affects us 35 years later. Tom sums it up best, "Yes, many details and accounts have been forgotten or exaggerated over the years, but one thing that remains is, we belonged to something special. Special to us, if to no one else. I hold my former coaches, teammates and cheerleaders dear to my heart to this day. We remain ever thankful that this great city gave us the opportunity to bring this group of kids together and to remain in contact with one another. Yes, this truly was special."



This Bit of Nostalgia Belongs to: Linda (Hall) Cerniglia '80

“THE SPY THAT SHOULD HAVE STAYED OUT IN THE COLD”

Most everyone that was living in Berlin when the infamous Wall was constructed on August 13, 1961 was aware that the D.D.R, or the German Democratic Republic as it was called back then, expanded their spy network exponentially. The main objective was to gather intelligence from the West by any means necessary! Usually operating under the cover of darkness, many East German agents would sneak over, under, or through the concrete and barbed wire fortifications that separated East and West Berlin with the sole purpose of gathering information, or if they were extremely lucky, kidnap an American soldier and smuggle him back into East Berlin! The American authorities at Berlin Command warned all American personnel, especially military soldiers, to be aware of any suspicious persons or activities, and to report any and all incidents when and where they occurred. The city of Berlin, a thriving metropolis of people, stores, buses, and subways, and a nightlife filled with hundreds of bars and nightclubs, offered endless hours of excitement and entertainment. It also had an element of danger, which most people paid little or no attention to. Berlin was not immune to its share of incidents!

This is an account of one of those incidents. It is a story of one of East Berlins Stassi agents, (secret police), who slipped into West Berlin on a cool clear night in October 1962, with the intent of successfully fulfilling his mission to bring back any intelligence he could acquire, to hand over to his superiors. This well trained East German spy had no idea what was in store for him, for he was about to meet something that he should never have singled out. It would be the object of his ruin. It was known as a “Berlin Brat.”

On this particular night in question, I was with my brother Gary, who had just arrived back in Berlin as an Army soldier. He had enlisted in the Army in Berlin, back in November of 1961. My father was able to pull some strings and get him transferred from an Army post in Busac, France, to Andrews Barracks, in Berlin. Even more amazing, Berlin Command allowed him to live off post with the family on Taylor Avenue during his tour. It was a time for celebrating, so I suggested that he and I “hit” the “Kudam” for some partying. I advised him that he should dress in civilian attire as he was still in his class A uniform, and it was not wise to travel about at night in Berlin while in uniform. He did not feel it was necessary to change out of his uniform, and we subsequently left for the Kurfurstendamm in downtown Berlin. After visiting a couple of taverns, it was about 9.00 PM when we

entered the famous “Smoky’s” night club, (a well known burlesque joint). After a couple of drinks and while enjoying the entertainment up on the stage, I happened to glance across the room when I observed a gentleman focusing his attention on our table instead of the beautiful women up on the stage. Not thinking much about it at that time, I turned my attention back to the dancers on the stage. About an hour later, we departed that club, and while walking up the Kurfurstendamm, I happened to glance behind us and, once again, noticed that same man was walking toward us. It was at this time that I advised Gary of my earlier observations in the club and suggested that we were being followed. He just shrugged it off stating that I was “imagining things.” I was convinced that we were being followed. Across the street was a large department store with several female mannequins in the display window. I suggested to my brother that we cross the street and peer in those windows to see if he follows us. We immediately ran across the street, in and out of traffic, to the other side and pretended to look at the displays. We were able to see in the reflection in the window that the man had also run across the street and was peering through the windows further down from us. I asked my brother “Do you believe me now?” My brother was visibly upset and asked “What are we going to do?” I replied, “I know of a bar in the next block called Captain Bilbos. Let’s go there!” A couple minutes later, we arrived there and noticed the subject was close behind us. As we walked through the front door, we took a table on the right side of the bar near the hallway that led to the bathrooms. We ordered a beer, and when the waitress served our drinks, we noticed the subject walking through the front door. He suddenly stopped, scanned the bar, and locked his eyes on our table staring at us. He then turned to his left and took a seat on the only remaining empty stool at the bar. The bar was well lit, and we got our first real good look at this individual. He was a white male, dressed in all black, with a white shirt and black tie, and had a deep ugly eight inch scar running from across his left eye down to just below his mouth. When he turned toward the bartender to order a drink, his jacket opened slightly revealing a brown shoulder holster containing a black automatic pistol. My brother and I looked at one another, and acting as calmly as I could, I whispered to him “Don’t leave this table. I’m going to walk back to the restroom where there’s a payphone, and call Dad.” Within a minute, I was advising my father over the phone of what was happening and our location. He screamed back over the phone “Don’t you leave that G...D...bar for any reason. I’ll have someone there immediately.” I knew my father would come through as he was also the Sergeant Major of the 7350th Air Police Squadron at Templehoff Air Base.

I went back to our table and advised Gary that help was on the way. As we slowly drank our beer, the subject at the bar was still staring at us with his drink in hand. Approximately 10 minutes later, the door to the bar flew open, and 8 uniform West German Police, accompanied by 2 Air Force OSI agents, ran in.

OSI agent, Dutch Schultz, who knew me, shouted "Point him out to me!" I stood up and pointed directly at the subject in the black suit, whereupon the uniform police drug him off the bar stool, slammed him on the floor, and removed the gun from his shoulder in one fell swoop. The whole time the subject was screaming profanities in German as they drug him out the door, beating him with their rubber Billy clubs. When the incident was over, OSI agents Schultz and Al Guidenburger walked up to my brother and I and stated to me, "Jules, can't you just keep it simple for once?," as they laughed and walked away! Later investigation revealed that the man in black was in fact an East German agent !!!And my brother no longer wore his Class A uniform off duty again!

PS: (RECAP)

Jules A Denitto
Class of '63

Celebrating my Brothers return to Berlin - Nice

Watching the Beautiful girls at Smoky's - Fun

Observing expression on Spy's face upon being caught - Priceless

Brats Get Together in Philadelphia

The Fall of the Berlin Wall as presented by the Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra.

Paola (Blank) Meimariss '79 and Bob Schiavinato '79 went to see:



Berlin: Landscape of Memory
A Solo Exhibition of Photographs by James B. Abbott

The Center for Emerging Visual Artists presents
Berlin: Landscape of Memory
A Solo Exhibition of Photographs by James B. Abbott

Dates: March 21 – April 26, 2013
Artist Talk and Reception: Thursday, April 11, 2013, 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Created in Berlin in the years just preceding, during and again twenty three years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Abbott's photographs are an insightful, thoughtful and contemplative portrait of the city during times of momentous change. Fascinated by the character of the neighborhoods the Wall inhabited, these images reflect an intimacy that counters the grand forces we usually associate with a divided Berlin, offering a significant record of nuance in a location that experienced overwhelming historic transformation.

Location:
The Center for Emerging Visual Artists Gallery
The Barclay, 3rd Floor
237 South 18th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
www.cfeva.org / 215.546.7775

Co-sited PFA Programs: Fall of the Berlin Wall, Beethoven's 9th Symphony.
A multi-media concert by the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia and projected photographs by James B. Abbott, Sunday April 7, 2013, 2:30 pm Verizon Hall

This project was funded in part by an Artist Fellowship from The Independence Foundation and the Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts. Exhibition support provided by The William Penn Foundation, Remembrance Council on the Arts and the Philadelphia Cultural Fund.

Image credits: James B. Abbott; 1. to 19 Brandenburg Gate 2012; Brandenburg Gate 1989

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Under the baton of Conductor Laureate Ignat Solzhenitsyn, they journeyed to that historic moment in time with a program that commemorated the demolition of the Berlin Wall in 1989, leading to Germany's reunification.... the completely instrumental "Epitaph for the Victims of Communism" by Mikhail Dmitrievich Smirnov, came with riveting visuals by Abbott that contrasted body counts of those trying to cross the Berlin Wall each year with Berlin's statuary of angels that stood there in stark contrast to their grim surroundings. With gloomily expressive percussion and a melancholy string melody, the effect of the entirety of art and music moved many in the audience to wipe their eyes as the piece progressed. The concert concluded with Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125, known more familiarly as the "Ode to Joy."

The Visuals by James Abbott were very interesting wrote Paola. "A lot of pictures of parts of Berlin that I was never allowed to visit were shown." Behind the orchestra were scenes of the Berlin Wall and areas around Berlin. The photographic arrangements and their movement, scored perfectly to the music, provided an intensely dramatic backdrop.

Paola: "We think it's a pretty big deal that we've found each other living so close after all these years."

D.C. Regional @ Cafe Berlin



Standing:

Kevin Evans '85
Marcia Wiss '65
Tom Hamerly '73
Larry Stull '72
Joyce (Clark) Mallon '72

Sitting L to R:

Linda (Robinson) Talley '73,
Maj. Cletis Smith '80
Mina (Buenviaje) Tice '83
Aden "Barbara" Brown '71

Sometimes everything comes together to form perfection. On Saturday, June 15th, nine BAHS alumni and six guests enjoyed lunch at Café Berlin located on Capital Hill in Washington, D.C. The sun was shining and the temperature and humidity ideal for dining al fresco. Linda (Robinson) Talley '73 brought along her adult children Micheal and Jenn. Mini (Buenviaje) Tice '83 introduced her young daughter Isabella who goes by Issi. Joyce (Clark) Mallon '72's nephew Christopher Clark (father Bill Clark '75) and his girlfriend Maya Houn, who both love German cuisine, joined in the fun. Larry Stull '72 and wife Rosemary traveled from Stafford, VA. Other locals included Major Cletis Smith '80, Aden "Barbara" Brown '71, Tom Hamerly '73, Marcia Wiss '65, and Kevin Evans '85. Conversation was lively, the food delicious, and more than a few German brews were consumed. Three hours later the group posed for photos and exchanged farewells and promises for future gatherings.

Linda and Joyce re-connected in Waldorf, Maryland two years ago, forty years after forming their friendship at Berlin American High School, and have met periodically to include last year's Berlin Brat Reunion in Fairfax, Virginia and Overseas Brats Homecoming in Reston, Virginia. Their recent plan to meet for lunch evolved into the idea of extending the invitation to other Brats in an informal gathering. Linda and Joyce are already planning the next gathering for this October to coincide with Oktoberfest. Stay tuned for details.

Joyce (Clark) Mallon '72



Back Row: Michael Talley (Linda's son), Jenn Talley Funkhouser (Linda's daughter), Kevin Evans '85, Marcia Wiss '65, Joyce (Clark) Mallon '72, Tom Hamerly '73, Larry Stull '72, Christopher Clark (Joyce's nephew), Maya Hoang (Christopher's girlfriend), Rosemarie Stull (Larry's wife) and Izzy Tice (Mina's daughter)
Front Row: Linda (Robinson) Talley '73, Cletis Smith '80, Mina (Buenviaje) Tice '83, Aden "Barbara" Brown '71.



First a big THANK YOU to our hostesses!
 (featured at R: Joyce '72 and Linda '73)

I can't express how much it meant to connect with the Berlin Brats this afternoon. This little reunion was so perfect. Getting a chance to chit chat and meeting others with common ground. I know we all have our own personal experiences and it was wonderful to hear others speak of their own.

Thanks Again,
 Larry '72 ('63-'66) & Rosie Stull



Fenstermacher Brothers in Berlin

Carl Fenstermacher '73 (far right) and his brother Hans '79 (far left) were in Berlin this past April and stopped in at our Reunion Hotel. Pictured here with Herr Stolle (Hotel Mgr) and Catering Mgr Melanie.

Brat Get Together in Anthem, AZ

A little wine/cheese get together
May 26th in Anthem, AZ.
2nd from left Kay Martinez '80, Center (white):
Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72,
Behind Jeri: Diana (Shaw) Orozco '66 and
her husband Bob far right.
Others: well traveled friends.

Brat Get Together in Charlotte, NC

Left side: Carl Fenstermacher '73, Ellen Morphis '73
Right side: Bryan Duckett '84 and Deb (Brians) Clark '74

Carl is wearing the 2009 Berlin Reunion Polo and Deb is wearing the polo designed by Bryan for the Berlin Brats Race for the Cure October 2010.

BAHS BREAKFAST

Deb (Brians) Clark,
our Class Contact for '74,
holds a monthly Brat Luncheon
in Charlotte, NC (shown Above)
but recently
she connected over breakfast with
Angela (Thomas) Lewis '74.

Both were in the Raleigh/Durham area over the weekend of 6/7.
Deb was on business, and Angela was going to a relative's graduation
in Durham. Both with very busy schedules....but they were able to
connect over breakfast at LaFarm in Cary, NC.

***Brat Get Together in
League City, TX***

L to R: Carl Fenstermacher '73,
Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72,
Dave & Susan (Black) Sill '72
all had dinner in League City, TX.
Is that a "Berlin Bear" behind them?

Angela is doing well and enjoying her HR role at the EPA
in Kansas City, (she previously lived in NC). Angela and Deb left
BAHS right after their junior year, and lost touch after they both
moved back to the US. What they didn't realize then, is that they
would both move to Fayetteville, NC, attend different high schools,
and later, different colleges. Both of them played volleyball for their
respective colleges, and unbeknownst to them, their teams had to
play each other in a tournament. Having lost touch, imagine their
complete shock and surprise when during practice on the court, they
both looked up and spotted each other. As Angie tells it, "Deb....
remember, I was a black girl with a huge afro, and you were a white
girl with long blonde hair, and it was 1976. When we ran toward
each other, screaming, embracing, and jumping up and down, the
gym got so quiet, you could hear a pin drop."

BRATS GET TOGETHER

CONGRATULATIONS YOU TWO!!!!

In our last issue (April 2013) we announced that Brats Dawn (Abel) Krenning '87 and Robert Hayes '85 were engaged. We featured their individual high school pictures and then their Engagement picture.

Then
Homecoming 1983



Now
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hayes.

Robert holds the '83 Homecoming pic and Dawn their new Marriage Certificate!

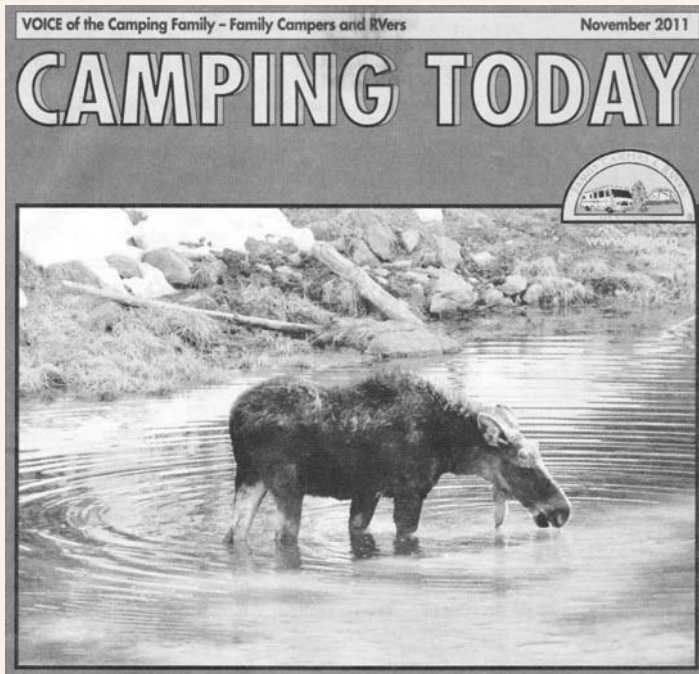


Jim Branson '64 posted June 19, 2013
Bill "Duke" Ayres, Class of '66, played with a group called Gravity in the early '70s in the D.C. area.



Prost!
Every year for 5 yrs
Now it's "To Grad's"
MaryAnn (Cunha) Glover
& (Besties)
Lydia (Gedarian) Sasse
Meet @
Edelweiss Colo Spys, CO
She comes →
to visit her Dad &
Sister from Minnesota
LYDIA also is A CAMPER!

Getting together every year for 5 years, at the Edelweiss restaurant in
Colorado Springs, CO
are Mary Ann (Cunha) Glover and
Lydia (Gedarian) Sasse,
both 1976 graduates



It "Moose" be Camping Time

by Mary Ann Glover

Someone once said, "If you're lucky enough to live in the mountains, you're lucky enough." For as long as my husband and I have been avid campers, I've always wanted to see a moose and especially photograph one. This past spring we had the best time camping and hiking in Lake City, Colorado and guess what.



CAMPING WORLD

Mary Ann (Cunha) Glover '76 and her husband Lonnie are "avid campers." Her "moose" sighting/photography and article were published in "Camping Today," take a look to left photo.



Tim Olsen '75 - Tattoo for Charity



After spending three months in India, and seeing the difference

Mary's Meals makes in the lives of children throughout the country (and the world), I am enduring the pain of a tattoo on my birthday of all days to raise awareness and, equally important, to raise money! £10.70 or about \$16.50 feeds a child in a place of education for an entire year - you can change their lives with your contributions!

If you would like more information or would like to contribute to "Mary's Meal"

contact Tim at:

TimOlsenX@aol.com



OUR BRAT JEWELER IS NON-OTHER THAN:

Rose Anderson Frankfurt Class of 1970 began studying metal-smithing and jewelry making while attending high school in Frankfurt, Germany, later graduating from the American Jewelers Institute. An Air Force Brat assured her of experiencing many wonderful and different cultures. Living in Europe for five years, immersed in so much great art and architecture only fueled her passion to create something of beauty. With her love of colored stones, unusual gemstone materials and metals, becoming a jeweler/metal-smith was a natural evolution. The fashion forward Europeans inspired her to push the limits of metals to get that edgy, eye catching piece.

Over the years she has learned several metal-smithing procedures including lost wax casting, fabrication, granulation and enameling. To achieve her goal of truly unique pieces she often combines methods as well as materials. These traditional hands-on techniques are crucial when refurbishing heirloom jewelry and assorted treasures. She has worked on an interesting array of items sometimes creating a part to repair, other times to add ornamentation. In addition to jewelry she has manufactured custom belt buckles, medallions, shoe ornaments, kilt pins, key rings and pill boxes.

Rose is a member of the Jewelers Board of Trade and her trademark (Ro) is registered with the Federal Trade Commission.



When Rose is not at her workbench sawing, filing, soldering, setting stones or hammering something, you may find her out fishing in the Northwest or on a tropical beach somewhere. She balances indoor benchwork with outdoor activities such as hiking, biking or water sports. An avid gardener that will attempt to grow anything simply for the challenge, providing it's pretty, fragrant or edible.



My Berlin connection:

During WWII my Mother, a German fluent in French and English, was assigned to a job in Berlin. She immediately fell in love with this gorgeous city, speaking of it often. Even though she was bombed out twice losing everything she owned, she hoped to make her home there when peace returned. The events took another turn, as she married that handsome young GI she met later near Munich. Because of my Dad's job she was not able to visit Berlin while we were in Germany in the late 60's. To this day, I have a vivid memory of both my Mother and Father crying while watching the news when the Berlin Wall was built.

How the rings and medallions evolved:

Yahoo and later Facebook made connecting with long lost friends easier and easier. After some chatter about lost rings and those poor souls that missed the opportunity to buy a ring originally, we decided to do something. Eventually the FAHS group decided on using a new design based on the original logo. Rose suggested a medallion as a great option for those that wanted a more versatile piece. The process went from artwork to wax model to rubber molds back to wax models that were then cast in silver or gold rings and medallions. After Rose finished the first batch for FAHS alumni she posted a photo of a medallion on Facebook. Within an hour she sold several pieces and was contacted by other alumni groups, one of which was the awesome Berlin Brats. To date Rose has made hundreds of medallions, charms, and rings for overseas brats as well as commemorative pins for several local companies.



Berlin Brats Reunion 2012 Featured in Reunions Magazine.

Below is the article
on "our" reunion in Fairfax County, VA.



Fairfax County is where it's at ... Especially if you're a brat!

by Dean Miller

Normally, being called a "brat" is not something you'd want to hear. But for the sons and daughters of tens of thousands of American military personnel and foreign service officers stationed overseas, being a military brat or a foreign service brat is a badge of honor. It means you grew up living in different countries, probably moving regularly with your family, getting used to making new friends quickly and easily, learning new languages and absorbing new cultures. You're proud to be a Brat!

Many Brats attended high schools located around the world that were (and are) run by the US government for children of American service members and civilians stationed there. In fact, there are now so many ASA (American School Abroad) alumni groups around the country that they have their own umbrella organization to assist them in organizing and holding reunions: The Overseas Brats, headquartered in Wichita, Kansas (www.overseasbrats.com).

Three Brat alumni groups elected to get together in Fairfax County, Virginia, recently. Fairfax County's proximity to Washington, DC (right across



Kubasaki Brats at the Iwo Jima Memorial.



the Potomac River), makes it a natural location for Brat reunions. Many reunion attendees were stationed (at least for a while) in the Washington metropolitan area while growing up, making getting together here a true homecoming. And the area's wide variety of attractions, museums, and activities ensures that any group will find lots to see and do.

Graduates of Kubasaki High School, on the Japanese island of Okinawa, met at the Sheraton Reston hotel for three days of fun, festivities, and reminiscing. Attendees spanned a wide range of class years, but the weekend was highlighted by the 50-year reunion of members from the Class of 1962. A total of 154 Kubasaki Dragons and their spouses enjoyed seeing the Washington, DC, monuments by moonlight, as well as touring the White House. The group's hospitality suite was decorated with a large *torii*, a ceremonial Japanese gate found at the entrance to Shinto temples. The group's banquet event included Okinawan dancers and musicians playing the *sanshin*, a three-stringed banjo unique to Okinawa. Reunion chair Sunny Schwentner

noted, "This was the BEST reunion we have ever had. We never thought we'd be able to find authentic Japanese musicians here in Fairfax County, but we did, and this really made the reunion special!"

Meanwhile, at the Marriott Fairview Park, Brats from Berlin American High School and Karlsruhe High School celebrated their common high school heritage with a weekend full of German food, a "volksmarch" (a ten kilometer hike through nearby woods), and July 4th fireworks on the National Mall in Washington, DC. Attendees recalled how Berlin High School was featured on The Ed Sullivan Show at the height of the Berlin Crisis in the early 1960s.

The Berlin Bears and the Karlsruhe Knights joined together for a trip to the 9/11 memorial at the Pentagon, where a fellow Berlin Brat, Lt. Col. Kip Taylor, had perished.

According to Berlin Brat Association President Jeri Glass, the highlight of Saturday evening's banquet was the promotion ceremony of US Army Lt. Col. Michelle Estes, overseen by US Air Force Major General Frederick ("Rick") Martin. Both Lt. Col. Estes and Major General Martin are Berlin Brats. Lt. Col. Estes, on active duty in Afghanistan, flew to Fairfax County while on leave for her promotion ceremony.

Over 400 graduates of the two schools attended the reunion.

About the author

Dean Miller is the National Sales Director of Visit Fairfax and worked with the planners of these reunions. He's eager to help you plan your reunion in Fairfax County, Virginia, too. He can be reached at 703-790-0643; www.fxva.com.

LOGO COMMITTEE BEGINS THEIR WORK!

Every Reunion cycle we task our resident Graphic Artist, Susan (Sams) O'Neill '85, with a "small committee" made up of Class Contacts to design our Reunion specific Logo.

The committee has just been formed.

Welcome committee members:

Linda (Ehrlich) Packard '70,
Katrin (Lindroth) Planz '71,
and Yoshekia (Loftin) Lowe '83.

Over the next two months they will review designs,
discuss and select our Reunion Logo for 2014!

The selection will be made just in time for the Reunion Registration Packages to come out this fall. Later the Logo will be prominent on our Reunion Polo shirts and other various merchandise.

Here are some of our past Logos:



Berlin Brats 2012
Washington, D.C.



Berlin Brats 2009
Scottsdale, Arizona



Berlin Brats



Homecoming 2006
Berlin, Germany



Berlin Brats 2003
Asheville, North Carolina



Berlin Brats 2001
Wichita, Kansas



Berlin Brats '99
Breckenridge, Colorado



Here is the 1960's Konnopke's Imbiss the year they introduced curry wurst.

TRY THIS CURRYWURST STAND OUT IN 2014:



According to fellow brat (and my brother, Hans) Konnopke's Imbiss serves the best curry wurst and pommes (french fries) in the world. Located at Schönhauser Allee 44 B, 10435 Berlin (former East Zone) and scenically placed directly under the U-Bahn, the establishment has been serving wurst and other German foods since the 1930's. Curry Wurst was added in the 1960's. Only during WWII and again during construction of the current building in 2010/2011 did they pause their trade. They are open 6 days a week from 10am to 8pm (except noon to 8pm on Saturday) but not on Sunday. Bring your appetite, because I bet you can't just eat one Curry Wurst!

Don't visit on a Sunday as we did...otherwise you'll run into closed shutters as the pic reveals!

Also check out the video on wurst in Berlin at:

by: Carl Fenstermacher '73

<http://www.travelchannel.com/video/berlin-brats-and-currywurst>

Upcoming Events:

"Brats Beach Bash"

(aka Homecoming 2013)

August 8-11, 2013

at the Plaza Resort & Spa
Daytona Beach, Florida

Details at:

www.overseasbrats.com/OVERSEAS_BRATS_Homecoming_2013.htm

Contact: Overseas Brats

Joe Condrill, President

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Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83 &

Trisha Lindsey '82

Thanks!



Next Reunion

BERLIN 2014

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By invitation only

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jbranson01@hotmail.com

for an invite

Find us on Facebook:

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