

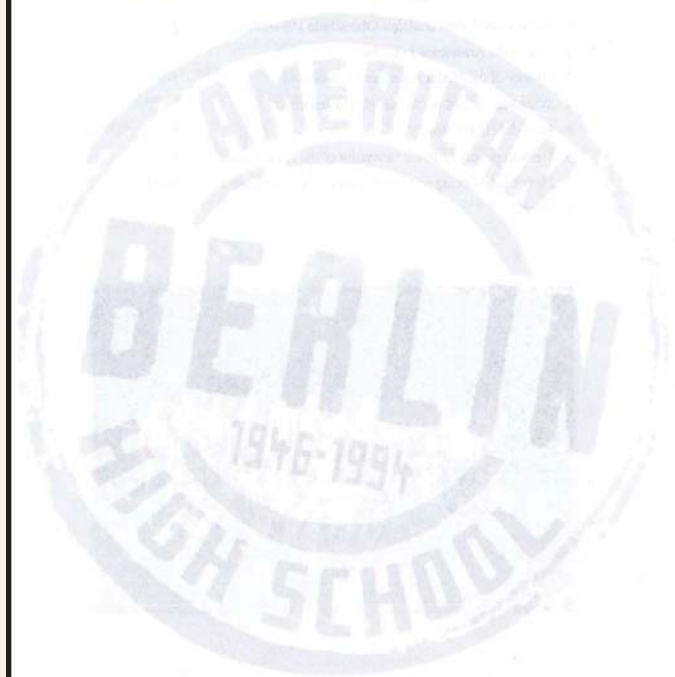


Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter

April 2015

Volume 11, Issue 2

Searching for Traces of the Berlin American High School



“Searching for Traces of the Berlin American High School”

....was the title of the Program the students of Wilma Rudolph Oberschule prepared and published for our visit to BAHS.

Our visit coincided with the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the secondary schule - Wilma Rudolph. (In '94 the U.S. Military departed Berlin. Our school then was turned over to the city of Berlin who promptly converted it to a German high school).

Below: pictures from BAHS days extracted from the Program.

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Sport team BAHS



Project Development

Teachers

Frau Slickers (back/second left)
Frau Prothmann (back/second right)

Charly Bluem (back/third left)

Students

Line Rehländer
Lennart Laurisch
Arne Rehländer
Deniz Meles
Alicia Sperling
Josephine Stemmann
Lia Rauschenbach

Translation

Frau Flohr
Herr Rembs

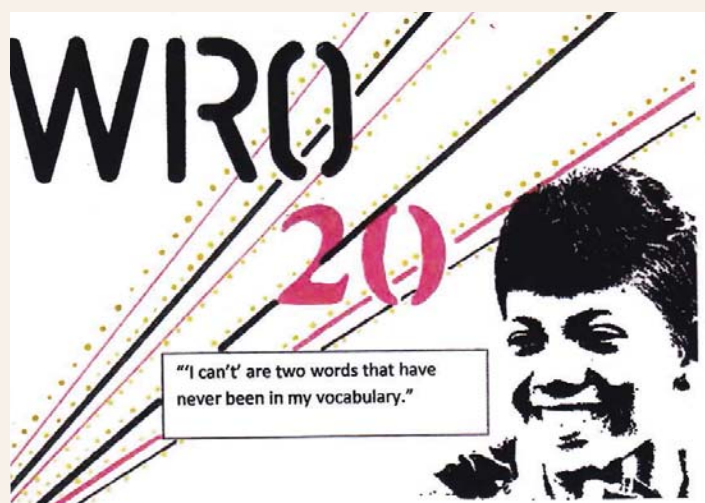
Layout

Alicia Sperling
Larissa Lachmann
Frau Geisel

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Mr. Bluem, BAHS FAC '69-'94 and Frau Flohr - the last Host Nation teacher at BAHS from '93-'94 were part of the project team.

*For their 20th Anniversary the students handmade Postcards for a fund raiser.
Featured below are the 4*



“I can’t are two words that have never been in my vocabulary”

Wilma Rudolph

My First Brat Pendant

I ordered the new Brat dandelion pendant about 2 weeks ago; it arrived just before I was going to San Antonio with college friends. I'd made arrangements to have dinner with BAHS classmates Sharon "Sherry" (Golder) Kulig '62, Kaye Veanna (Stewart) Crawford '62 and Mikel (Fisher) Brightman '64 and wanted to share it with them. I also had made plans to visit Carolyn Knott, '61 who had been a mentor to me the summer I arrived in Berlin - 1960. She lived in the Major's quarters around the corner from me, and she took me under her wing. We cheered together my sophomore year and were very close friends. We had lost touch with each other until we reconnected at the Berlin Brats Reunion in Scottsdale in 2009. We had dinner together with our husbands a year later when I travelled to San Antonio on the way to visit Sherry for her birthday with Mikel and Kaye. We corresponded at Christmas and talked on the phone a number of times and then I didn't hear anything. About two years ago her husband called me to tell me she had been diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's. I sent her lots of pictures and articles from her life in Berlin, but she was unable to do much more than look at the photos. A few weeks ago she was moved to Abode, a hospice Alzheimer's facility in a residential area in San Antonio. It was in this home that I visited her. I took photos and my Berlin American High School banner and I sang Berliner Luft and talked of our time together while holding her hand. I cannot say if she knew who I was, but she responded to my hugs and squeezes. I was so glad I could tell her how much she had meant to



Carolyn and Maggie

me when I was the new kid on the block. I returned to say goodbye before I flew home. I took my Brat Pendant and the explanation of why the dandelion was chosen to represent us and read it to her. When I said goodbye I decided to leave the pendant with her. She may not know that it is there, but all the wonderful people who are taking care of her and her devoted husband Ed have the photos of a beautiful, red-headed teen-age, military brat to remind them of the special woman in their care. I am so glad I made the trip...

Maggie (Ellithrope) MacPherson '63



Sherry (Golder) Kulig '62, Kaye (Stewart) Crawford '62, Mikel (Fisher) Brightman '64 and Maggie (Ellithorphe) MacPherson '63 at their San Antonio dinner.

BERLIN BRAT ARCHIVIST/HISTORIAN RETIRES

Joe Morasco '75, has been our "official/unofficial historian" for years.

On April 1st, 2015 Joe retired after 30 years service with
West Virginia University – Library.

As such he will be stepping down with us too!
After 30 years of working with the public, he is looking
forward to the anonymity and solitude that life as a
"country gentleman" will offer him.
He'll be taking care of 40 acres!

Over the years when "large padded envelopes" of "memorabilia and scrapbook items" were sent to the Berlin Brats Joe copied and scanned those treasures so that we might share them with our fellow alums via the Berlin Brats website. Then came the YEARBOOK PROJECT! Every year, every book, every page was painstakingly copied/scanned so that we might have our full history documented and out on the web!!

He even repaired the binding on some of the very early annuals.

".....after sitting in front of the pc for the last 20 years helping people with databases, webpages, and various software issues, I will not be spending much time online. Not only am I giving up my scanners when I leave WVU, but also my library ultra high speed internet. Remember that the Berlin Observers were all loans, and I only have a handful of personal copies... so they're online for all to enjoy."

"I still have a few projects planned to keep my brain busy....converting all my old vinyl, cassette music and vhs family tapes to digital. But I have other passions and interests to explore... and am focused more on what lies ahead rather than what was in the past..."

As one of his last acts at WVU Joe had the University Library order a copy of our recently published "Cold War Memories" Book for inclusion in their library! WAY TO GO JOE!

AND Speaking of the Book – Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83 recently shared on FB:

So excited! I got an email from Herr Prigge (FAC) and he was writing to me on behalf of himself and Mr. Bluem (FAC). It brought tears to my eyes! They said they LOVE the Book, they had been reading it and discussing it together! They want me to send them a larger version of an East German 'terror spots' map reprinted from the 1953 Berliner Zeitung article which accompanied a 1953 Stars & Stripes article in our book.

I got the map from the Berlin Brats website.... go to the Brats website and click on 'scrapbook' then go to 1953. I believe this map was provided by Joe Morasco '75, who also provided the Berlin Observer online archive (he is a life saver too!) We acknowledge him in the book, because without his (and Cate Speer '85) hard work of putting so much stuff in an online format, it would have taken way more than 4 years to complete the book!

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE BERLIN BRATS!!!
WE KNOW YOU WON'T FLY BUT WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT ONE OF OUR
EAST COAST REUNIONS IN THE FUTURE?!**

YOU WILL BE MISSED!!

WE FREQUENTLY GET REQUESTS

Berlin Wall Questions

Hi Noah,

I was forwarded your email from the American Overseas Schools Historical Society and wanted to answer some of your questions about the Berlin Wall.

My name is Jim Branson '64 and I live in North Carolina. I was a young teenager at the time that the Berlin Wall was constructed in August of 1961. My father was in the United States Army and there were many American families living in Berlin at the time that the Wall was erected.

I was a sophomore at Berlin American High School and attended the high school with 236 other American kids. We saw first hand a part of history that people still talk about today, as you are doing in your Social Studies class.

I think it's great that you and Brennan have chosen the Berlin Wall as your topic for your paper. I'll try to answer your questions as best as I can from the perspective of an American teenager living in Berlin at the time and hope that these answers will help you.

First of all, let me tell you a little bit about what Germany was like after the Germans were defeated at the end of World War II in 1945. The defeated German people had little to say about their government until 1949 when two states were established in what is now all of Germany.

The Federal Republic of Germany, or West Germany, was a democracy with a capitalist economic system, like the U.S., Great Britain and France. The other new state was the much smaller German Democratic Republic, or East Germany, a dictatorship with its communist leadership selected by Russian leader Joseph Stalin after World War II in order to make it a Soviet satellite state.

Both states in Germany had separate governments and separate leaders until the Wall came down.

With Germany divided in two, the city of Berlin was sitting 110 miles inside the state of East Germany and it was divided into 4 sections after World War II. Three sections were to be run by Allies of World War II; the Americans, the British and the French. The fourth section was controlled by the Russians and the communist government that they had established in East Germany. For many years after the end of World War II until 1961, the Russians wanted control of all of Berlin and tried many things to push the U.S., Great Britain and France out of Berlin.

While West Germany and West Berlin became prosperous under their democratic system, East Germany under the Communist government was poor and their people were leaving the country and the city of East Berlin to live in the West. 2.7 million East Germans fled to West Berlin from the end of World War II until 1961 when the wall was built. All of the educated people in the East, teachers, scientists and much of the work force left. The Russians and East Germans were upset that all of their best people were leaving, so a Wall was built completely around West Berlin to keep the people in East Berlin and East Germany from leaving.

NOW YOUR QUESTIONS

1. Were some citizens in support of the wall? If so, was it the east or west Germans?

I don't think many, if any of the Germans on either side were in favor of the Wall. The people in the East wanted to have the kinds of things that the Westerners were able to afford and the ones in the West liked the new prosperity that they had earned after World War II and the freedoms that their government gave them. Many families were separated when the Wall was built. Some family members were living on the East side and some were living on the West side. Until the Wall was built, both sides could visit one another freely and move back and forth between East and West.

2. Did Germany's leaders become part of east or west Germany? Also, what did they do about the other side?

As I mentioned, both sides had their own established governments. When the Wall was built, they continued to have two separate governments until the Wall came down in 1989.

3. Before the Berlin Wall was built, were German citizens in east and west Germany fond of their government?

The Germans in the East really had no voice in their government because it was a dictatorship. Their leaders were chosen by the Russians instead of being elected. The leader in the East, Walter Ulbricht, was not very well liked at all by people in the East or West. He was the man responsible for building the Wall overnight that sealed off East Berlin from West Berlin and families from one another.

On the other hand, Konrad Adenauer, who was the West German Chancellor when the Wall was built, was very well liked by the West Germans. He had lead West Germany to prosperity after World War II and formed very close relations with Germany's former enemies in World War II, especially the United States and France. He was also a strong opponent of Communism and disliked the Russians immensely.

The Mayor of Berlin at the time of the building of the Wall was Willy Brandt. He was a very popular leader and well liked because of the way he handled the tensions between the Russians and the Western government shortly after the Wall was built. Mayor Brandt and President John F. Kennedy became very good friends during the early days of the Wall. He and President Kennedy both delivered speeches to the Berliners after the wall was built telling the Berliners on both sides that the Americans would stand by them and help them. Willy Brandt was later elected Chancellor of West Germany and received the Nobel Peace Prize.

Noah, I know this is long, but I hope I've helped you with some of your questions. If there are any other questions that I can answer for you, please don't hesitate to write me again. Hope you do well on your paper!

Jim Branson '64

My friend and I got an A on the project.

Thank you so much for showing interest in what we were doing.

I hope the rest of your day Is great!

Noah

Bavarian Grill Dinner in Plano, Texas



Back row: Mike Stingel '69, Laura (Coats) Satterfield '71, Tammy (Iverson) Peoples '73, Karen (Paige) Sellers '80, Roo (Eargle) Moran '73.

Front Row: Tamara (Murdock) Cooper '88, Elaine (Stingel) Platt '75, Diane (Offutt) Brian '77 and Mel DeVilbiss '71



Diane (Offutt) Brian '77



Mike Stingel '69



Tammy (Iverson) Peoples '73 and hubby Ron....

Tammy is wearing her 2006 Reunion Polo Shirt....Ron his 2012 Reunion Polo!



Roo and Mel'73 and '71er unite!



Debbi Stokes Pickett '74, Mike Stingel '69 and his wife Ann Stingel



Roo '73 and Laura '71 wearing her "cheerleading letter!"



Showing off their Cold War Memories Book: Mel DeVilbiss and Laura (Coats) Satterfield, both '71, unite at the TX get-together on April 4, 2015

A special thank you for photos to:

Roo (Eargle) Moran '73, Tammy (Iverson) Peoples '73, Mel De Vilbiss '71 and Laura (Coats) Satterfield '71

Colorado Brats Club (CBC) holds another event & grows!

Organized by Chris Kryios, Karlsruhe '75 last year....the Colorado Brats (from all schools, all classes) were invited to the famous "Edelweiss Restaurant" in Colorado Springs for a Luncheon.

Post Edelweiss report: Great turnout! 53 brats and one teacher attended!

(This doesn't count the two people who showed up on Sunday!)

Held on Sat, April 11th, Dara (Tabor) Hung '88 & her husband represented BERLIN!

Chris says: Other than the Rathskeller being a bit dark, the feedback was excellent.

Folks enjoyed the food and camaraderie as well as the activities. And interest in the Breckenridge Oktoberfest (Sept 12-13, 2015) was high for the next event, so mark your calendar now.

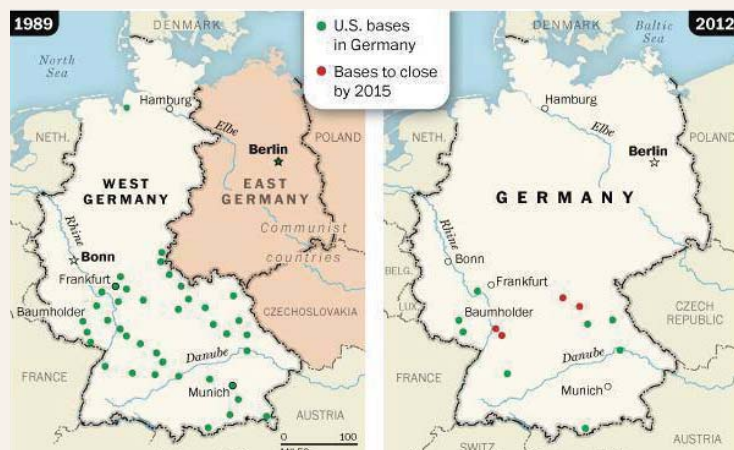
Contact: Chris Kyrios for more info at: kyriosc@yahoo.com
or visit the FB page at: Colorado Brats Club (and TCK's too)



"Brats from various schools share and enjoy the same experiences"



Dara w/her '88 Letterjacket and Chris w/his Dad's (Alex Kyrios-the 1st Principal of BAHS) '51 jacket. Notice the '51 EUCOM Champs patch!



This map of declining U.S. bases was shared at the event.

From There to Here and Many Ports in Between

Like many Brats I became a nomad and literally wondered the globe. After my father retired I joined the USAF and became a flight engineer and after the AF I realized I still had the travel bug. So on a whimsy I went to work for the cruise lines as a spa manager. I figured I'd be out for 3 months – well as a bratster you wouldn't be surprised to know I was at sea for 9 years! Finally, after 44 years of living out of a suitcase, I hung it up for good in 1999. Seemed kinda fitting, like the end of an era. Now my favorite bag is the one with my garden tools. Even though I don't travel anymore, I still have flights of fancy. Especially when I'm watching HGTV's International House Hunters. Ok, so now I'm an armchair traveler but I found a remedy that is better than magazines or tv.

My husband Jay and I host foreign exchange students. That's right, I bring the world to my living room for 10 months of the year! Since we don't have children, we prefer to host 2 students each year, one from Asia and the other from Europe. With the student's worlds apart in culture, this provides them the opportunity to learn about a country quite different from their own as well as that of America. Of course we especially enjoy hosting German students and next year we will have a student from Berlin!

I have truly enjoyed hosting as we have created relationships all over the world. With the advent of social media, the other side of the world is a lot closer and provides the opportunity to establish lasting relationships. The parents of our students are now our friends as well – family actually. We are able to skype & face book. I enjoy garden and house tours – that is I enjoy showing the family my gardens as I walk around with my iPad and they reciprocate as well. It's so much fun. We've had one German family come visit for a couple of weeks and this June our Austrian student Thomas' father will come for a visit. These relationships become life long and every students' parents has offered an open door to come and visit. Jay visited a family in Freiberg, GE last fall and he had a "tourrific" time. I do plan on visiting the families sometime in the future so I'll have to dust off my suitcase. Better yet I'll get a new set as these days, they make 'em with cool wheels that pivot 360.

I'll come out of my travel retirement to live my retirement plans. You see, my husband and I have no retirement and well Social Security isn't so secure, so we have a plan..... we plan to stay with each student at least one month a year. So if we have hosted 12 students than we are all set for 10 years. I figure I'll have a few extra to ensure a standby. We won't even have to pay for the transportation to the next student. I figure by the time we have stayed 30 days, they will eagerly buy us a ticket to the next stop. Ok, I'm joking but I do say this with a "twinkle in my eye". I program the students for this eventuality and tell them they must succeed and do well. Who needs Wall Street? I prefer International Investments :) Our Thai student from a few years back, Mond, must have taken me seriously as he decided to become a doctor. Now I just need a doctor in Europe...

Aside from our retirement fantasies, hosting the kids has been an opportunity to give back. We are a family and share the crazy and fun things in our culture and routine. I also see this as an opportunity to enlighten the other side of the world about the real American family. America is much more than New York, Chicago, LA and Americans are vastly different than we are depicted in the news. So, I enjoy this time teaching young eager minds who we are and what we believe. What they learn here, spreads around the world 10 fold thanks to social media. So our mission multiplies! Speaking of missions, this is also our opportunity to share our faith and since my suitcase is retired, I bring the mission field to us! The students attend church with us and help with volunteer activities. I want the students to know that Americans pitch in to take care of each other. The students have helped with food & school supply drives. They have ridden around with me when I'm dropping off donations or help in my van ministry as I drive people around when needed. The students

also experience that we are a diverse society and my neighborhood is just that – diverse. So, these students may have come for school and English immersion but they are leaving with an education far beyond what any school alone could provide.

Jay and I believe strongly in “pay it forward” and have become Host Family Coordinators for our agency – CIEE. We want to ensure that every student needing a host family has one. For us Bratsters a foreign student living in our home may not sound so unusual but for many people it is difficult to imagine. I’m hoping that you will consider and open your heart and home to an exchange student. No suitcase required.....

For information on hosting please contact me via email or fb message. Our fb page “Host a Foreign Exchange Student” has a couple of student created videos that are very endearing. You are never too old, young, married, single, tired....to host. I look forward to speaking with you and assisting you in finding the best student for your family.



Team Loves Snow - something they never see in Thailand! Road Trip Utah 2014



The Whole Gang Ft. Worth Stockyards 2015

Debbi (Stokes) Pickett '74

debbipickett@gmail.com

fb: Host a Foreign Exchange Student



Henry from Germany at his return flight home. Note his T-Shirt says “Contaminated Homeschooler”. I told him he had to wear it home especially since Germany doesn’t allow homeschooling. I thought he might get stopped by customs but no....

Editorial Note to BBers reading this:

Each time we have returned to Berlin ('06 & '14) the Teachers and Administrators at Wilma Rudolph have asked us about doing a “student exchange program” - so we hope some of you will consider doing such!

What better way than w/Debbi - one of our own - helping you transverse the application process!



Brats attend German Deli – “Wine Down Wednesday” ...in the process learn about the Student Exchange Program

Via Berlin Brat: Debbi (Stokes) Pickett '74

The “Wine Down Wednesday” (Apr 15th) at the German Deli of Colleyville, TX was a great success. The event was sponsored by Traubenhaus wines. Paul Steinbach, one of Traubenhaus Wine’s founders, was in town for the event and joined his colleague Justin Bryan to share their passion for German wines and their favorite Traubenhaus varieties. The wines were splendid and complimented the hors d’oeuvres that Inga (President of GermanDeli.com and a Wiesbaden Brat) and her team had beautifully created. Of course the evening was topped off with yummy strudel.

The event was also highlighted with a “Meet & Greet” of CIEE Foreign Exchange Students.

Debbi (Stokes) Pickett '74 is a coordinator for CIEE and brought out a few of her students to meet the German Deli patrons. Debbi and her husband Jay answered questions about the program while the students - Tim/Germany, Thomas/Austria and Team/Thailand - enjoyed speaking about their experiences. Of course Tim and Thomas enjoyed a taste of home while Team relished the new flavors. The Boys also got a kick out of the wall size Germany map and added their pins.

A funny anecdote - Debbi purchased her German supplies via GermanDeli.com and only recently realized that they were physically located a few miles down the road. Now she has 2 great ways to shop!

For further info, please visit Face Book pages for “Host a Foreign Exchange Student”, “GermanDeli.com” and “Traubenhaus Wines/Spirits”.



Thomas and Debbi have a handle on the CIEE table as well as the display of German Deli sweets!



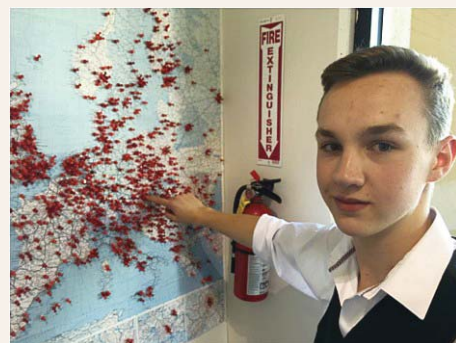
Are You Pinned at the German Deli?



Wine Down Wednesday Feast



Tim from Langen Brutz,
formerly East Germany



Thomas from Aspang in Lower Austria

GERMAN-AMERICAN YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN DANGER

Feb 27, 2015



Some members of the German-American community are fighting for continued funding of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) program. This program, which is jointly funded by the US Congress and the German Bundestag, sends 350 Americans to study in Germany each year. In an effort to cut back on costs, the US government has announced that it will slash its funding for the program by 50 percent for the 2015-2016 academic year.

“The future of the program’s existence is in danger,” CBYX says in a statement. “The German Bundestag has pledged its support to help fund the entire costs of the program for the current year, However, without a reaffirmed commitment to continue funding at the \$4 million level by the United States, the program will be in jeopardy beyond 2015.”

Alumni of the CBYX program have gathered in support of continued funding for the program and even launched a campaign titled Save CBYX. To date, more than 18,000 signatures have been collected in support of the program.



“He is doing so much better.”

After a very serious accident Richie Arnold '85 - featured in his Berlin tee here (5/2/15)....is back home recovering. Still in need of rehabing.....but “He is doing so much better” reports Art Gilfus '86, his close bud who flew in for a personal visit.

April is the Month of the Military Child



The official flower of the military child is the dandelion. Why?
The plant puts down roots almost anywhere, and it's almost impossible to destroy.

“Stolpersteine” in Berlin Family of Survivors Reclaims German Citizenship

by Lauren Rogers, Press Officer, German Embassy Washington, 1/2/15

Seventy-five years ago in the small German town of Bad Wildungen, 14-year-old Gerd Buchheim was hiding Torah scrolls. In November of 1938, even small towns in Germany were afflicted by the horrors of Kristallnacht (the Night of Broken Glass). Nazi soldiers destroyed synagogues, desecrated Jewish graveyards and systematically stamped traces of Jewish culture out of German cities. The Bad Wildungen Synagogue, the place of worship for the city's 25 Jewish families, went up in flames alongside hundreds of others across Germany on the Night of Broken Glass. Thanks to Gerd Buchheim, the Torah was preserved. Seventy-five years after the attacks on the synagogues, Gerd's son Gary and granddaughter Jillian decided to reclaim what was lost during that dark period in German history. After a semester abroad in Denmark, Jillian learned about Article 116 of the German Constitution from her father who had read about it during some genealogical research. Article 116 is a fundamental part of German law that states that anyone whose family fled Germany during the Second World War has the chance to reclaim their German citizenship. After a long discussion with her family, Jillian decided to become a dual citizen. Her father decided to join her in the endeavor. For 23-year-old Jillian, the choice was clear: a German citizen is an EU citizen, and an EU passport will allow her to travel, work and live freely in Europe. For Gary, the choice was more personal. “Amongst my siblings, I’ve taken a strong interest in genealogy,” he says. This is ultimately what drove him to make the decision: the search for a stronger connection with the history of his family.

German, Bolivian, American Roots

Gerd Buchheim was only fourteen when his family fled Germany. According to his son Gary, his life in Germany up until then was not a happy one. The Night of Broken Glass may have been the tipping point for many families, but the seeds of intolerance and segregation were already flourishing across the country. Gerd was routinely picked on and harassed at school because he was Jewish. His family, too, suffered even in the tight-knit community of Bad Wildungen. His family was fairly religious, which made them easy targets during the Third Reich. Nevertheless, luck and chance kept them out of concentration camps. Gerd himself was sent to Buchenwald, but, in a moment of mercy, the guard told him to go home, as he was too young to be there. His father and brother Fritz were released shortly thereafter and the family fled to Bolivia. It was in La Paz that Gerd met his wife, Edith, whose family also escaped persecution from the Nazis. They married in 1953 before immigrating to the US and settling in Cincinnati, Ohio. Despite spending his entire adult life in Bolivia and the US, Gerd retained a love for German culture long after leaving. “I don’t recall growing up with any bitterness towards Germany,” says his son. In fact, while in Bolivia Gerd took up an apprenticeship as a baker and intertwined traditional German style bread and fine pastries with Bolivian flare. When the family relocated to Cincinnati, a city steeped in German culture, they opened a kosher bakery that served Jewish and German specialties. Later on, their full service restaurant, Maya’s, had the same unique culinary combination, adding in Bolivian dishes. For the Buchheim family, where they came from was just as important as where they landed. Their restaurant and bakeries were a reflection of that.



Keeping the Memory Alive

For the ever-shrinking population of survivors, a constant question is how to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive in the younger generations. It was partly for this reason and partly to commemorate his family that Gary Buchheim decided to pursue the “Stolpersteine” project. Across Europe, small brass “Stolpersteine” or stumbling blocks are installed in the pavement in front of the homes of those who were forced out during the Nazi era. The project challenges visitors and residents to constantly “stumble” over their history.

The Buchheim family stolpersteine in Bad Wildungen.

(© Gary Buchheim)

When Gary suggested to his father in early 2014 that they should have Stolpersteine installed for his family, Gerd was skeptical. Not because he didn't like the idea, but because he didn't believe it was possible. However, with hard work and organization from his son, and a great deal of assistance from Mr. Johannes Grötecke, a Bad Wildungen high school teacher and historian, the family was able to travel to Bad Wildungen in September to install four stones, one for each member of his family. Unfortunately, Gerd's doctor advised him against making the trip. The buildings, architecture and city plan of Bad Wildungen haven't changed much since 1938. Modern shops have replaced the old ones, but the old Rathaus and city square remain. Gerd recognized the town square immediately when his family returned with a video of the ceremony. His memories of Germany may have included the horrors of Kristallnacht, but they also included the taste of Pflaumkuchen and Ahle Worscht. The fact that his family made the journey to Bad Wildungen and visited his childhood home also meant that Gerd's memories would be kept alive for generations to come. Gerd Buchheim lost his wife, Edith, in December 2000. He passed away on November 23, 2014.



Stolperstein in Bonn for Ida Arensberg "Here lived Ida Arensberg, née Benjamin *1870 - deported 1942. Murdered in Theresienstadt on 18.9.1942".

Stolpersteine in Berlin

In May 1996, the Neue Gesellschaft für Bildende Kunst (NGBK) organized an exhibition called "Künstler forschen nach Auschwitz". Within its framework, Gunter Demnig laid 50 Stolpersteine in Berlin – in Oranienstrasse and Dresdner Strasse – without permission from the local authorities. Steven Robins was struck by Demnig's chosen form of commemoration when he first saw Stolpersteine in the district of Kreuzberg as he was on the tracks of his relatives during a visit to Berlin. He launched efforts to persuade the district council of Kreuzberg and the Kreuzberg Museum to lay more Stolpersteine at Naunynstrasse 46, which bore fruit in July 2000. Gunter Demnig has since laid over 5000 Stolpersteine in Berlin, and there are currently more than 38,000 Stolpersteine in 12 European states and in over 800 cities and municipalities of Germany. There are now initiatives in every Berlin district that organize the local laying of Stolpersteine, largely on a voluntary basis. They are sometimes affiliated to district museums or local churches, or might have evolved from a community of interests in a particular neighborhood.

It soon became clear that an institutional framework was necessary since there was so much interest in laying Stolpersteine in Berlin. In 2005, the district museums of Berlin Mitte and Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg created the Coordination Office Stolpersteine Berlin, which has been affiliated to the Active Museum of Fascism and Resistance in Berlin since 2012. The office functions as a liaison between the artist and his team, the district initiatives, the sponsors of Stolpersteine and the relatives of victims. It also serves as a central point of contact for anyone applying to have Stolpersteine placed in Berlin or with general enquiries.

Local initiatives

The Stolpersteine project in Berlin is organized by twelve district initiatives, which are supported by numerous local groups. They conduct research into the biographical backgrounds of victims, seek and contact descendants and relatives, make suggestions for inscriptions and are sometimes present when Stolpersteine are laid. They are also responsible for public relations, funding and maintenance matters. The initiatives often organize ceremonies when or after a Stolperstein is laid to impart more information about a victim's life and fate. The Coordination Office Stolpersteine Berlin holds regular meetings with the initiatives to discuss organization matters and other relevant issues.



The Waldfriedhof - Dahlem Cemetery

My wife Doris Schmill '83 (maiden name: Schulze) died suddenly on January 20. She had attended BAHS for about two years (1980-82), and she was buried at the Waldfriedhof Dahlem cemetery on March 3.

The Waldfriedhof is one of our most beautiful cemeteries (old fur trees, ...) with graves of many celebrities; e.g. in February was the funeral of one of our most popular presidents. Also Mr. Sullivan's grave (Doris' former English teacher) is at the Waldfriedhof. But the reason why Doris wanted to be buried there was because it is right next to the building which used to be BAHS (now Wilma Rudolph Oberschule). Her grave is only a couple yards away from the school and during the graveside ceremony I was looking right at it.

The two years at BAHS were maybe the best two years of her life. She often talked about it. She stayed in touch with several students and teachers of BAHS through the years. When Doris and I met, we visited BAHS together shortly before it closed down, and I came to know her former school a little bit.

Doris was just 49 years old, when she died, and she had not been terminally ill. So, we never had any reason to plan her funeral. But through the years, whenever we touched the subject of funerals in a conversation, she said that she wanted to be buried at the Waldfriedhof. While she was attending BAHS, she went for walks in the cemetery and studied for her classes, sitting on a bench, enjoying the quietness between the trees.

Doris had still been in touch with her former teachers Ms. Snyers, Mr. Pinschmidt, and Mr. Bluem shortly before she died, and her favorite teacher, Mr. Charlie Bluem, was even able to attend her funeral. He brought a wreath in the name of BAHS. He knew how much BAHS had meant to my wife. It was a wonderful gesture.

The meaning that BAHS held for my wife taught me several things. Something that doesn't mean much to one person, can be very precious to somebody else. Contacts that we have with people can become memories that the other person and/or ourselves cherish for the rest of our lives. And friends that we make can become friendships for a lifetime.

Christian Schmill



The Waldfriedhof Dahlem (forest cemetery)
Steglitz-Zehlendorf district,
on the edge of the Grunewald forest at Hüttenweg 47.
(entrance is across the street from the American Community
Chapel on one corner and the AYA on the other)



Doris Schulze '83
Freshman yearbook photo

CITIZEN OF THE DAY



MIKE HENTZ/The Citizen

Liese Hutchison was born in Germany, and being an Army brat, moved around quite a bit. Hutchison moved to Key West more than two years ago via St. Louis and bartends at Grunts. "I like the diversity of the people and thought," said Hutchison, also added the obvious perk, the warm weather.

Apr 25th, 2015

Berlin Brat, Liese Hutchison '83 is Citizen of the Day in Key West, FL

BERLIN THE SUMMER OF '71

We recently were sent this 6 minute video on every day scenes, commuters and students in Berlin-Zehlendorf.

<http://youtu.be/8Z6kKReXJDE>

At the 2:33 minute mark a BAHS Student in a '73 Letterjacket walks by.

We circulated amongst the Class of '73.....to a tee every one said it was Jim Biernesser '73.

Jim just confirmed he thinks it him as well by his "ears!"

**One Reunion and he's hooked!**

Look at what Paul Polansky '79 ordered from Café Press!



JUST IN: Peter Tork of the Monkees attended school in Berlin!

OSB President, Joe Condrill, received a letter from a Brat who recently met him at a Kentucky Orchestra event (where according to his website he has recently written a piano piece for the orchestra in Bowling Green).

He indicated to her he attended “Kindergarten” in Berlin!

His father, Halsten J. Torkelson, (Torkelson is his real last name), was drafted into the Army in '45. Sent to Berlin as a 2nd Lt (from '46-'48) to locate housing for displaced persons.



This makes Peter class of '59.

His father's Obit:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/hartfordcourant/obituary.aspx?pid=1765312>



Is anyone out there ready for summer!?
Gummi Popsicles!!!!

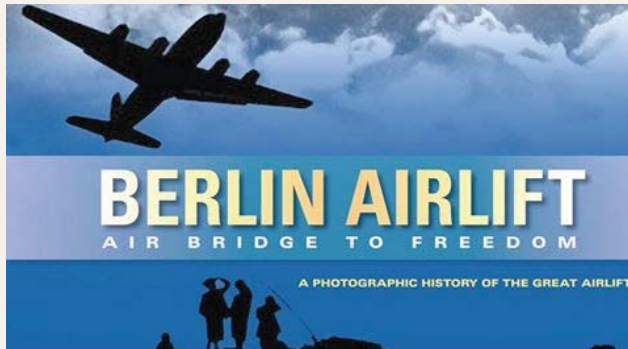


Easy as pie: Popsicle molds, Sprite,
& Gummi Bears



The traffic jam at the Brandenburg Gate as East and West Germans cross freely on the first Saturday after the fall of the Berlin Wall. [November, 1989]

BERLIN AIRLIFT, a photographic history of the Great Airlift, is now available on Amazon and B&N. The author served in Berlin with the 6th Infantry in 1959-60.



Bruce McAllister & McNair Barrack
Berlin Germany / 5th/ 502nd INFANTRY

6-11 Jul 2015
Jamaica 2015 Cruise
Miami, FL depart/arrive

Hosted by Gloria '91

16 Aug 2015
Washington D.C.
Details to follow

Hosted by Jeri '72

26 Sep 2015
Oktoberfest - 6th Annual
Charlotte, NC
More details to follow

Hosted by
Deb (Brians) Clark '74

Oct 1-4, 2015
OSB Annual Gathering
Portland, OR
Hosted by: Overseas Brats

Homecoming 2016
Colorado Springs, CO
ALL SCHOOLS REUNION
Held Every 3 years!
Aug 4-7, 2016
Hosted by: Overseas Brats

Upcoming Events:

Contact Information:

Berlin Brats Alumni Association
41910 N. Crooked Stick Road
Anthem, AZ 85086
623•764•1105 tele
BerlinBrats@gmail.com
Director: Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72
www.berlinbrats.org

Find us on Facebook:
"Berlin Brats Alumni Association"
(the official Fan Page site)

"Berlin American High School (BAHS)"
(an Open Group chat page)

WebBrat: Cate Speer '85
WebBrat@BerlinBrats.org

Newsletter Brat:
Toni (Yarbrough) Combs '71
traecombs@gmail.com

Next Reunion: Summer of 2017
when we rotate to mid-country USA
Pen us in your calendar now!!!

Early 60's Site

By invitation only
Contact: Jim Branson '64
jbranson01@hotmail.com
for an invite

American Overseas School Historical Society

Contact: Gayle Vaughn Wiles -
President
Email: gayle.aoshs@gmail.com
Website: www.aoshs.org

Overseas Brats

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

Order your "Cold War Memories" Book
(Brat stories from '46 to '94) at:
www.createpace.com/4863532

\$1 of each book sold
goes to the BB Scholarship Fund

**AT YEAR END THE BALLOTS WILL GO OUT FOR
THE 2017 REUNION LOCATION.**

YOU MUST BE AN ACTIVE DUES PAYING MEMBER AT THIS TIME TO VOTE!

Please join or renew your Membership at: <http://www.berlinbrats.org/members.htm>
Scroll halfway down the page to download the Form or join via PayPal.