



# Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter

April 2016

Volume 12, Issue 2



## Spring in Berlin



Clockwise from top: Spring at the Dom; blooms by the Gate; Rebecca Louise Law's floral installation at Bikini Berlin (photo courtesy Bayerische Hausbau); cherry trees along the Wall. But spring in Berlin wasn't always sunshine and flowers: Spring 1945, Berliners clean up a devastated city.

### Inside This Issue:

- 1 *It's spring in Berlin, from nature to art; but it wasn't always all flowers and sunshine*
- 2 *Houston area regional -- April 2016*
- 5 *Upcoming Colorado Springs regional & Homecoming 2016*
- 6 *Jim Branson '64 attends World Schnitzel Tour in Durham, N.C.*
- 7 *Rusty Widger '71 and Carl Samples '76 in Port St John, Florida*  
*Steve Craig '78 and Linda (Waters) Smith '80 in Nashville*  
*Candace Wyman '73 and Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72 in Phoenix area*
- 8 *Bob & Diane (Shaw) Orozco '66, Carl Fenstermacher '73, Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, and Jim Wright '72's Bavarian feast in Phoenix Military brat art camp*
- 9 *Can't decide between currywurst and hamburger? Try this recipe by Julie (Goff) Merriman '80*
- 10 *First memorial to military families, in St Paul, MN*
- 12 *500th anniversary of German beer; craft beer comes to Berlin*
- 14 *Excerpt from Diana Jean (Green) Kempton '72's upcoming book "Nonessential Personnel: Growing Up in the Cold War"*
- 16 *Throwback photos: Natalie (Wilson) McKenna '86, Vicki Long '86, and Katherine (Young) Blewett '86; Mike Friedrich '78 and family; Ni'Dari (Rosenau) Casterline '87 and family*
- 17 *In case you wondered .... : Broken chain sculpture in Berlin*  
*Serendipity: Hans Fenstermacher '78 and Debbie (Olsen) Grover '73*
- 18 *Month of the Military Child: Does nomadic childhood lead to more creative life?*
- 21 *Eight realities of being a brat; Brats helping brats make dreams true*
- 23 *In memory: Alexander Longolius (BAHS Faculty '61-'67)*
- 24 *Farewell & Good-bye ... Hello & Welcome*  
*Contacts - Upcoming Events*

# HOUSTON area regional

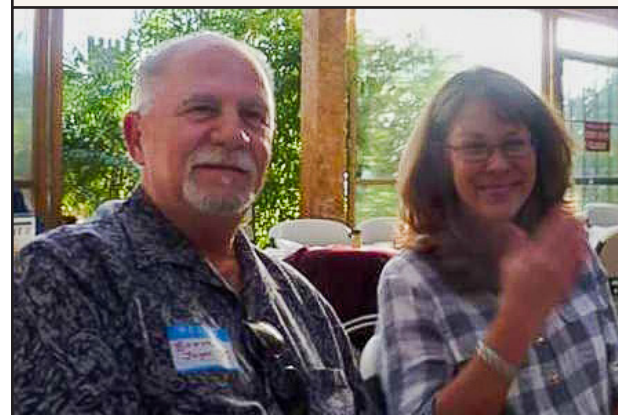
April 3, 2016

*King's Biergarten, Pearland, TX*  
*Hosted by Yoshika 'Yo' (Loftin) Lowe '83*

Thirty-seven Berlin Brats from the '60s, '70s, and '80s enjoyed authentic German food (awarded best in the U.S. for three years) and Bier, live German music, and many laughs with great friends!



Top: L: ZD and Evelin Collins '82, Joyce (Warren) Theodore '80's daughter, and Joyce; R: Trisha Lindsey '82, and Giovana Carol (guest). Middle L: Yo and Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72 man the registration and sales table; R: Bernie Beausoleil '72, Trisha Lindsey '82, Mel De Vilbiss '71, and Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83 reminisce over our Book. Bottom L: Lisa (Tarr) '78 and Michael Fuse '79; R: Richard and Nancy (Robinson) Ware '81.



The Cubs/Bears out in full force: Sitting: Lisa (Tarr) Fuse '78, Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83, Mom Polansky, Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72. Middle: Michael Fuse '79, Shelly (Branam) Curiel '82 (husband Ernesto behind her), Trisha Lindsey '82, Evelin Collins '82, Bev (LaCour) Whatley '72, Nancy (Robinson) Ware '81, Mom Beausoleil, Susan (Black) Sill '72, Bernie Beausoleil '72, Vicki De Vilbiss, Karen and Jay Lehman (guests). Back: Robert Schroeder '78, Steve Flanary '75, Joyce (Warren) Theodore '80, Tamara (Murdock) Cooper '88, Laura (Coats) Satterfield '71, Craig Satterfield, Mel De Vilbliss '71, ZD Collins, Ginny and Paul Polansky '79, Bruce Jager '65.



# HOUSTON

Top L: Bruce Jager '65 and girlfriend. Top R: What is Mel De Vilbiss '71 doing to Bernie Beausoleil '72? Along with Laura (Coats) Satterfield '71 and Sandy McCuskey '73. Bottom L: Ernesto Curiel, Shelly (Branam) Curiel '82; Lisa (Tarr) Fuse '79, Livia Flanary; R: Robert Schroeder '78, Michael Fuse '79, Gina Cuellar (wife of Rocky Martinez '89, not pictured).



Left: Sandy McCuskey '73, Susan (Black) Sill '72, Laura (Coats) Satterfield '71, Bev (LaCour) Whatley '72, Mel De Vilbiss '71, Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, Bernie Beausoleil '72.

Middle L: Nancy (Robinson) Ware '81 and Tamara (Murdock) Cooper '88. Middle R: Shelly (Branam) Curiel '82 and husband Ernesto.

Bottom L: Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83 and Trisha Lindsey '82, sporting the maroon. Bottom R: The '70s table.



# HOUSTON

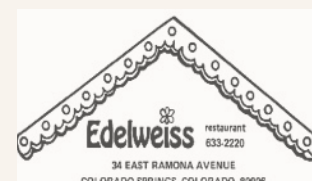
## Colorado Springs regional: Berlin Brats get-together in August 2016

Come one, come all, and join us for a great time with friends  
-- old and new -- at the Berlin Brats  
get-together in Colorado Springs this summer.

### Thursday, August 4, 2016, 6 pm

Refresh your Berliner tastebuds at the Edelweiss, a family-owned German restaurant that has become an institution in Colorado Springs.

View German artifacts and join in with strolling musicians  
(or not ... if your voice is like mine).



## RSVP by July 29

(we need a head count)

[BerlinBrats@gmail.com](mailto:BerlinBrats@gmail.com)



We're holding the Colorado Springs regional in conjunction with the Overseas Brats'

## HOMEcoming 2016 -- ALL SCHOOLS REUNION August 4-7 at the Elegante Hotel (Col. Spgs.)

Please join us for this as well by registering at the Overseas Brats website:  
<http://overseasbrats.com/Homecoming2016.htm> (early bird prices before June 1st)

If you can't attend the entire Reunion, just sign up for Friday ....  
as that night The Bluzinators (a 12- to 16-piece band) will be performing!  
You don't want to miss them – a favorite of the Denver/Springs area!

# BRAT GET-TOGETHER

## World Schnitzel Tour ....

Saturday, February 20th, 2016

By Jim Branson '64

Fantastic time last night with a bunch of new friends from Heidelberg and Frankfurt. A bunch of Brats getting together, developing new friendships, and discovering our commonality is the best way to spend a Saturday night I can think of. If only the rest of the world knew about this.

As part of Mike Cannon's self proclaimed "World Schnitzel Tour," about 20 Brats gathered together February 20th in Durham, N.C., at The Guglhupf, an extremely nice German bakery and restaurant with a humongous schnitzel on the menu. Mike Cannon is



### Lions, Eagles, and Bears . . . . OH, MY!!

L to R: Mark Goldman, Heidelberg '88; Mike Cannon, Heidelberg '78; Jim Branson, Berlin '64; Bridgette (De Vaughn) Araba, Heidelberg '82; Mary (Chapin) O'Connor, Heidelberg '78; Dennis Van Berwyn, Frankfurt '78.



Brenda and Jim Branson '64. (Notice Brenda's Brat Necklace: the Dandelion!) The tee is a given, Jim!!!!

a fellow Brat and Heidelberg Lion ('78) who my wife Brenda and I met on New Year's Day in 2011 after hearing on BratCon Radio (former internet streaming Brat radio show) about a get-together that Mike was promoting in Raleigh at the time. [The show's archives are at <http://www.bratcon.com/archives.htm> in case you missed any episodes.]

Mike's nickname on the show when he'd call in was "#1 Brat Head," and Mike has been gathering small groups of fellow Brats together all over the U.S. for the past few years just to get together, connect with one another, and have a great time.

At the Guglhupf (which is a German coffee cake ring, by the way) there were former high school Brats from Berlin, Heidelberg, and Frankfurt all in the same room and all were amazed at the connections they had with each other. The stories were all familiar and very similar, even though in some cases there were more than two decades between Brat experiences. New friendships were made and numbers and emails exchanged so that we could continue to keep in touch with one another and get together again!

## Connecting in Port St. John, Florida

Rusty Widger '71 and  
Carl Samples '76



# BRAT GET-TOGETHERS



Steve Craig '78 caught up with Linda (Waters) Smith '80 and her husband Jim outside of Nashville while she visited his mom's tax service.

"Always great to see her and looking forward to riding our Harleys with them soon."

-- Steve

Nashville

## Sun 'n' fun in Arizona

April 19th, 2016

Candace Wyman '73 in Phoenix from Fort Mill, SC, met up with Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72.

No! Candace wasn't just released from the hospital....that's a JW Marriott entry bracelet for the resort!



## BRAT GET-TOGETHER

### Three Berlin couples in the Phoenix area

March 20, 2016 at the Bavarian Point Restaurant



L to R: Bob & Diane (Shaw) Orozco '66; Carl Fenstermacher '73 & Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72; Jim Wright '72 & Jackie Runyon.

## Can you travel and help military brats at the same time? Yes!

From Lora Beldon, Founder/BRAT Art Institute (via Donna Musil, "Brats, Our Journey Home" producer)

My goal this year as an art teacher and non-profit director of the BRAT Art Institute (BAI) is to **raise money for 40 children to attend military brat art camp** located at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, for free.

My friend Suzanne Pitt works for Journeys Travel Agency.

She has many years of experience booking and has traveled to over 30 countries herself!

If you mention me, Lora Beldon, or the BRAT Art Institute when you call to book a trip, **Suzanne will donate 10% of her commission to our BAI Art Camp**. It's a gift that keeps on giving. If you continue to use her as your agent, she will donate every single time! No matter where you are, PLEASE consider calling her and at the same time help a great cause. Please share this email, Thank you!

Suzanne's email is: [suzanne@journeystravelinc.com](mailto:suzanne@journeystravelinc.com)

Or contact her on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/JourneysBySuzanne/?fref=ts>

For more information on BRAT Art Institute, see: <http://www.bratswithoutborders.org/brat-art-institute-2/>

**BRAT ART INSTITUTE**

## Can't decide between currywurst and hamburgers? Try out this Brat-created recipe that gives you both

Julie (Goff) Merriman '80 is a finalist in the Sutter Home burger recipe contest at <http://sutterhome.com/build-a-better-burger-recipe-contest/finalists/2015/vote-now#.VxW3HZMrKH5>. Voting ended April 20th, but the final results weren't posted by press time (however, Julie's recipe had the highest score & five times more votes than her nearest competitor). Here's her entry:

### The Bratty Patty

I was fortunate to spend my teen-aged years living in Berlin, where currywurst is practically a national dish. What, may you ask, is currywurst? It's Germany's most popular street food -- a grilled pork sausage topped with curry-spiced ketchup. Since returning to the states, and because I also love burgers, I decided to create a burger with those flavors, and the Bratty Patty was born!

*Makes 6*

### Ingredients

#### CARAMELIZED SAUERKRAUT

2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil  
2 honey crisp apples, cored & thinly sliced  
1 large sweet onion, thinly sliced  
2 cups sauerkraut, drained  
pinch of salt and pepper

#### CURRY KETCHUP

1 tbsp extra virgin olive oil

1 large onion, small diced  
pinch of salt and pepper  
2 cups ketchup  
1/4 cup water  
1 tbsp curry powder  
2 tsp smoked Spanish paprika  
1/4 cup brown sugar  
2 tbsp red wine vinegar

#### PATTIES

1 lb ground pork  
1 lb ground veal  
1 tsp caraway

1 tsp marjoram  
1/2 tsp allspice  
1/2 tsp mace  
2 tsp salt  
1 tsp pepper

Vegetable oil, for brushing the grill rack  
6 pretzel hamburger rolls, split  
6 slices havarti cheese  
3 cups crispy shoestring potatoes  
6 slices heirloom tomato

### Instructions

Prepare a medium-hot fire in a charcoal grill with a cover, or preheat a gas grill to medium-high.

**To make the caramelized sauerkraut**, combine all the ingredients in a heat-proof saucepan. Place the saucepan on the grill rack and cook, stirring often, until golden brown and caramelized, about 20 minutes. Set aside.

**To make the curry ketchup**, combine the olive oil, onion, salt and pepper in a heat-proof saucepan. Place the saucepan on the grill rack and cook, stirring often, until the onion is translucent, about 10 minutes. Add the remaining ingredients and cook an additional 15 minutes. Set aside.

**To make the patties**, gently but thoroughly combine all the ingredients in a large bowl. Divide into 6 equal portions and form into patties the size of the hamburger rolls. Brush the grill rack with vegetable oil. Place the patties on the grill rack and cook for 4 to 5 minutes per side for medium. During the last two minutes of cooking, place a piece of cheese on each patty and place the cut side of the rolls on the outer edges of the grill rack to toast.

**To assemble**, place some caramelized sauerkraut on the bottom half of each roll. Add a cheese-topped patty, some curry ketchup, a tomato slice, and some crispy shoestring potatoes. Add the bun tops and enjoy!



Rate This Burger

Average: 3.9 (51 votes)



# Story stones memorialize the poignant words

From articles by Pat Kessler and Tim Pugmire

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The State of Minnesota dedicated a moving tribute to military families on the grounds of the state capitol building in June 2015. The 1.5 acre walk-

way is the first place in the country that honors the families of military members and veterans.

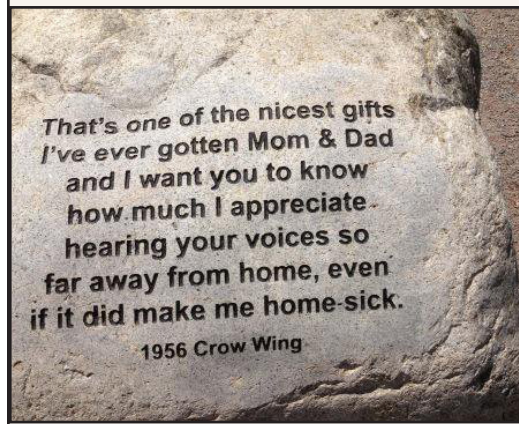
Hundreds of people wandered through the 87 boulders on the eastern end of the walkway, known as “story stones,” representing Minnesota’s 87 counties. Each rock is inscribed with excerpts of letters between soldiers and their loved ones from the Civil War to the present. The inscriptions provide a window into the lives of our military families and their sacrifices, as well as imparting a strong educational component.

“They’re very meaningful. It’s hard for me, and I picked the stories with the committee, to walk through there and not get choked up and teary-eyed, because they’re stories to moms and moms to their child,” said Ted Lee, the landscape architect and memorial’s designer. “They’re very moving.”

The stones are arranged into clusters of nine northern hemisphere constellations, which recognize that the shared stars of the night sky have always connected loved ones that are deployed and their families at home.

“This is about a tribute to families — past, present, and future,” Lee said. “When a soldier deploys, it’s more than just him. It’s their entire family, because everyone back here has to think about that and remember and miss that person.”

The gold star table at the walkway’s western end, made of bronze, recalls the traditional table where families gather to share dinner, stories, and laughter—a familiar symbol of domesticity, respect and solemnity. The gold star is a symbol used since 1971 to acknowledge the loss of a loved one in military service. The table is also etched with a display of



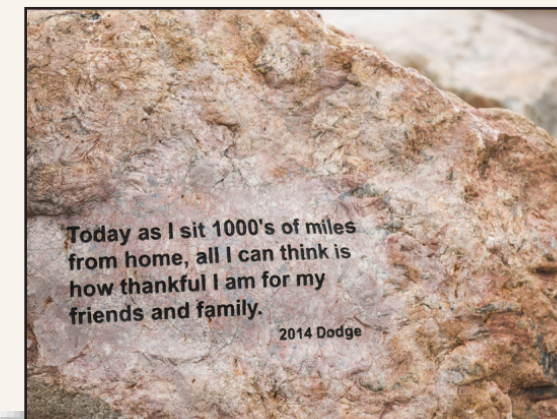
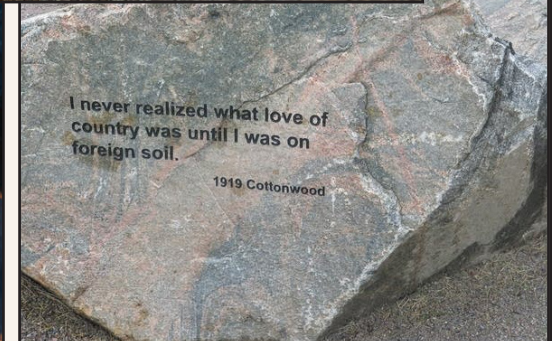
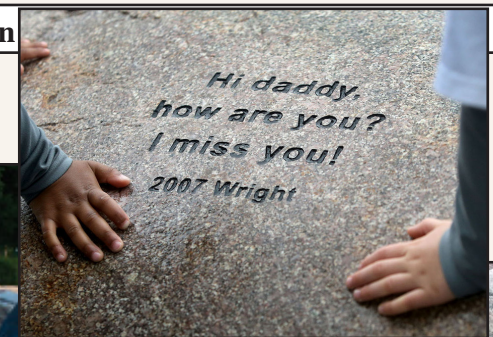
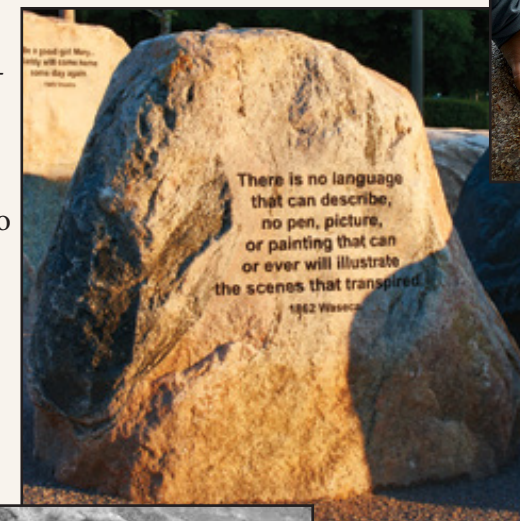
The curving, tree-lined walkway embraces the Capitol Mall veterans memorials and connects the two major dappled shade in summer, vibrant colors in fall, and gray bark against fresh snow in winter. Red flowering

# of U.S. military families

constellations leading to the North Star, a constant navigational guide home.

“It will be a lasting tribute for generations to come,” an attendee said. “We’ll be able to come down here and remember our loved ones, and because of that, their memories will live on forever.”

The memorial — paid for entirely with private funds — was started by the Minnesota Military Foundation, which provides financial assistance to military families. Organizers wore red at the service, reflected in flow-ers at each end of the walk-way: for RED: “Re-mem-bering Everyone De-ployed.”



Renderings: HGA Architects and Engineers

elements of the family tribute. The graceful arc responds to the seasons with rows of maple trees that provide gardens at each end invite visitors in, where they are inspired to Remember Everyone Deployed (R.E.D.).

## Good German Bier; staple of many fond Berlin memories, always

### Craft beer movement takes off in Berlin

(Article from CBS News March 15, 2015)

Hops and malt and yeast and water ... put them all together and you get BEER! Though the basic recipe is ancient, variations and improvements are always on tap, even in a land where most people like their beer as it is. Here's Elizabeth Palmer:

"In Germany foaming golden beer is more than a drink; it's the lifeblood of tourism, an excuse to dress up. And for Germans, it's a pillar of national identity -- at least for the older generation. But the young (who tend more to dance clubs than beer halls) have been losing interest in the traditional brew, and turning to hipper mixed drinks."

Enter Greg Koch, who thinks he's got what it takes to tempt them back: U.S.-style craft beer. Cool, bold, experimental. The *Berliner Kurier* newspaper cast Koch as an American beer "savior" come to shake up a boring German beer scene.

Craft beer took off in the U.S. about 20 years ago, and Koch was one of its pioneers. A self-confessed beer geek, in the '90s he co-founded the Stone Brewing Company in Cali-



Berlin gasworks building

fornia with his partner, Steve Wagner.

It's now the 10th largest craft brewery in the U.S., with annual sales of over \$130 million.

If Americans loved these beers, Koch thought, so would Germans. And to prove it, he spent \$25 million last year [2014] on an old Berlin gasworks, which he's making into a brewery.

And why so big? "If you're going to do it, do it grand!" Koch said.

Palmer asked, "Is there

anything like this in Berlin at the moment?"

"Nothing, absolutely nothing at all," he replied.

Koch's grand vision for this space also includes gardens and an 800-seat restaurant, based on Stone's runaway success operation in San Diego.

To get there, Koch is going up against the traditional German brewing industry, which in 2013

made almost 2.5 billion gallons of beer, sold widely and cheaply. So he knows there will be skeptics.

"For the typical industrial beer drinker, they're probably going to be quite dismissive, I would guess," said Koch. "You know, 'German beer is the best. Anything else from anywhere else is not worth my time. And by the way, you're American?'"

"How dare you?" asked Palmer.

"Not so much 'How dare you'; more, 'That's the dumbest thing I've ever heard!'"

But Koch is no dummy. He's seen the numbers. Trendy bars like Vagabund in Berlin specialize in craft beer, and they're drawing young drinkers looking for premium brews ... while the government's own figures show sales of industrial beers have trended downward for a decade.

*Note: Stone Brewing in Berlin set to open in 2016.*



(photo © picture-alliance/

## a sure thing. But German beer culture is changing.

### Purity law gone, beer drinking down in Germany

The German Day of Beer is April 23. For 498 years, German culture, cuisines, and stereotypes have revolved around one simple, malty beverage: beer. On April 23, 1516, the *Reinheitsgebot*, or Bavarian Purity Law, was agreed upon by two dukes in Bavaria, regulating the production, ingredients, and even the price of a mug

of beer. Originally, the law was implemented to combat competition for grain, yeast, and hops between the bakers and the brewers, two of the largest trade guilds of Germany. Soon, however, the signature combination of water, barley, and hops became synonymous with German culture.

The Bavarian Purity Law is no longer an actual part of German law. In 1993 the Provisional German Beer Law went into effect, making the old law obsolete. However, it is sacred for some. In 2013, the German Brewers Association began trying to make the original text of the *Reinheitsgebot* into a UNESCO World Cultural Treasure. By 2016, the 500th anniversary of the law, they hoped to be celebrating its UNESCO status. Some may have scoffed at the attempt, saying it promoted stereotypes of German

beer drinkers, but the president of the brewer's union, Hans-George Eils, saw it differently. "If Germany today enjoys a reputation of beer drinkers, it is thanks to the purity law," he said. "It guarantees purity, quality, and salubriousness."

*Note: The Brewers were unsuccessful with UNESCO.*



- North Rhine-Westphalia and Bavaria are the biggest consumers of beer within Germany. In 2013, they consumed a mind-boggling 9.7 million hectoliters, which could fill nearly 400 Olympic-sized pools.

- While Germans are enthusiastic beer drinkers, the country isn't the consumer it once was. According to the Brewers Federation, Germans on average drank 105.5 liters per head in 2012, more than 10 liters less per person than in 2004.

- Spokesman Franz-J. Weihrauch said, "The aging population means there are fewer beer consumers." A changing professional landscape also has an impact, according to Eils, because beer consumption was livelier when more people were engaged in hard physical labor. A Beck's rep, Oliver Bartelt, said honoring history isn't the answer to declining sales. Instead the values embedded in the brewing law, like high quality and tradition, have to be used in marketing.

- Sales may be down, but with more than 1,300 breweries creating over 5,000 brands, Germany is still the biggest producer in Europe by far; its closest rival, the U.K., producing only around half the volume.



dpa & BZ)

### BERLIN BEER GLASSES: Are you interested in obtaining?



If so, Chris Gilmore '68 recommends *Glas and Krug*. He's had excellent experience at the German website <http://www.ebay.com/sch/glas-und-krug/m.html?sacat=0&sop=10&nkw=BERLIN&rt=nc&dmd=2>. They specialize in beer glasses/mugs/seidels/paraphanelia, with a great selection of classic Berlin brands (Berliner Kindl, Shultheiss, etc), many of which are collector's items, at reasonable prices. He has shipped orders to the US and Canada; everything arrived intact and as advertised. "Uschi was particularly very helpful in ensuring that weight and size packing issues were dealt with to minimize shipping costs," Chris said. Feel free to contact him should you have any further questions at [cgilmore@sympatico.ca](mailto:cgilmore@sympatico.ca).

## Nonessential Personnel: Growing Up in the Cold War®

A book about Berlin by Diana Jean (Green) Kempton '72

Diana is almost done with her book. She's working on the last chapter. Here's a synopsis and a sneak peak:

### Synopsis

If you can't see the layers of smoke and mirrors, how can you begin to peel them away?

A young girl living on a U.S. military post in mid-century America looks forward to her teen years, dreaming of cruising the boulevard outside the main gate and of dancing on Dick Clark's American Bandstand. But the Cold War hits home during the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962, and now everyone's parents begin setting up the interior storerooms in their cookie-cutter military homes as fallout shelters. She soon realizes that with missile silos located all around them, her school's "Duck and Cover" drills offer false hope. As Halloween approaches, the crisis is averted, and everyone returns to normal activities. She sees her mother is back to work on her witch costume, so assumes everyone will now live--at least through October 31st. But it's obvious that life's priorities have changed.

Soon her father is asked to head up an important top secret project in West Berlin, a vibrant city cut in half in 1961 as rolls of barbed wire were strung through its streets overnight, sealing off the Russian sector and the surrounding farmlands of East Germany. Her teen years will now be spent 110 miles behind the Iron Curtain in an 'Outpost of Freedom,' where despair and hope live side-by-side...where nothing is as it seems, and no one is who they appear to be.

Spy games and political intrigue are seen through the eyes of a young girl touched by the inescapable emotional remnants of the Cold War, for whom inconsistency and dissonance slowly become shadowy traveling companions that follow her into the future, obscuring the trip wires of love and life.

### Chapter 1

I didn't hear the blast as much as I felt it. The bed shook, the windows rattled, and I was sure the painting of the *Grunewaldsee* above my bed was going to come crashing down on my head. Tossing back the comforter, I jumped up on the window side. The draperies were drawn back, but my view of the front yard was obscured by a white Austrian shade, and all I could see was an eerie orange glow off to the left. I ducked between the sheer fabric layer and the window for a better look, pressing my right cheek tightly against the cold glass and trying not to burn my knee on the radiator below the windowsill. There was still nothing to see but flickering orange light.

I looked up and down the sidewalk for the black-uniformed night watchman, but he was not in sight. He must have heard the explosion, but since he walked the same route slowly and methodically each night, I knew he could be several blocks away.

The source of the orange glow revealed itself soon enough as a huge ball of fire rolled into view, gliding silently over the cobblestone pavers. Passing the gas lamp post, it slowed to a crawl and came to a stop in front of our house, flames lapping at the tree branches

hanging over the street. Whatever it had once been, it was now fully engulfed in flames.

I glanced at the luminous hands on my double-bell copper alarm clock on the other side of the room, squinting to bring them more into focus. It was still a few hours before dawn. No wonder it was so quiet outside. I heard Mom call out from my parents' bedroom down the hallway.

"Diana, are you all right? Diana?!"

"Yeah, I'm fine, but something's on fire in the street!" I heard my parents scrambling around in their room and then, "Jesus! Diana, stay away from the window!"

I found my glasses and stole one more look outside to see if they made the scene any clearer, but they didn't. As I ran around the bed toward the hallway, I stubbed my bare toe on the chair in the corner and let out a yelp.

"What happened?" she called out again.

"Nothing, I, just stubbed my stupid toe. I'll be right there," I yelled back as I half-hopped down the cold linoleum hallway.

"What is that thing?" I asked as I rounded the corner into their room. Dad was peering out to the street

from behind the draperies.

"It looks like a VW Beetle, but it's hard to tell through the flames." His voice quality betrayed the calm demeanor he was trying to convey to Mom and me. "I'll call it in."

Even with all the commotion, my sleepy brain wasn't yet wrapped around the idea of an exploding car ending up in flames in front of our house. How serious was this? Had it just been a bomb planted under the car? Or was this the night we'd have to evacuate? I went back to my room to put on my robe and fuzzy house shoes and brush my hair. It was long and thick, and just naturally wavy enough to always be messy and in my face.

If this was it, I knew how it would go down. Upon our arrival in West Berlin in 1965, we had been met by our family sponsor, a civilian engineer with the Army Security Agency like my dad. He instructed us early on to keep a set of totally black clothing for each family member, including coat and shoes, and a black carry-on bag with our passports and any prized possessions inside, so we could grab it in case of emergency evacuation due to invasion. Nothing we wore or carried could be reflective, so we would have to leave wearing our dog tags tucked down the front of our clothes. Mom and I would be picked up to head off to Tempelhof Air Force Base first, while Dad and the other ASA guys stayed behind to destroy equipment and data, joining us stateside later.

I'm not sure Mom believed he'd make it out to join us. I didn't even think we'd get picked up, so it all seemed moot to me. But just in case, I opened the door of the *Schrank*, and the black bag was there on

the floor of the closet, safe and sound. My black outfit hung above the bag and my dog tags dangled from the same hanger.

I had to wear those stupid dog tags to school every day the first year we were there. They were so cold they made me shiver when I put them over my head

and dropped the chain down the front of my blouse. I hated wearing them; I was a civilian's kid, for heaven's sake. The Wall had gone up less than four years prior to our arrival and things were still unstable politically. Still, hearing them jangle as I walked made me envision one tag being yanked from my neck to send to whomever in my family was left, and the other being threaded onto the small section of chain so it could stay with my body.

The tags had the usual obvious information stamped into them, like "female." I tried not to think about the circumstance under which that wouldn't be obvious. It also read, "Lutheran." Who decided I should be Lutheran? I was a half-breed, after all, Lutheran on Mom's side but Mormon on Dad's. I guess Dad was put on the spot when filling out the dog tag forms for the three of us and had to grant me one hand-me-down religion or the other. Heaven forbid you leave one space on a Department of Defense form blank.

## Nonessential Personnel: Growing Up in the Cold War

Diana Kempton 602-819-4270 dianaJean@aol.com  
2312 W. Lindner Av., #35 Mesa, Arizona USA





# Throwback photos

Top: Natalie (Wilson) McKenna '86, Vicki Long '86, and Katherine (Young) Blewett '86 bei den Wansee. Bottom L: Mike Friedrich '78, his younger sister, and mother by Checkpoint Bravo. Bottom R: Ni'Dari (Rosenau) Casterline '87 and family at the Wall near Duppel, circa 1983.



## LOOKING FOR A GERMAN RESTAURANT IN NYC OR L.A.?

This may be of interest to you: A restaurant in Chelsea market in Manhattan called *Berlin Currywurst*. They have one location in NYC and two in Los Angeles. A German couple from Berlin owns the company and have created a true experience.



I thought the group might be interested -- as I know many of us miss things from our Berlin experience. The website is [berlincurrywurst.com](http://berlincurrywurst.com). Perhaps those who live outside these locations may have an opportunity to visit while traveling.

-- Diana (Fielstad) Lastella '77

## In case you wondered ...

"Berlin" is the name of this sculpture on Tauentzienstraße in Berlin.

First conceived in 1985 by the husband-and-wife sculpting team of Brigitte Matschinsky-Denninghoff and Martin Matschinsky and installed in 1987, the sculpture's principal motif, a "broken chain," symbolizes the severed connections between East and West Berlin due to the construction of the Berlin Wall.

Even though the Wall has since been dismantled, the sculpture was bought by the city from Mrs. Matschinsky-Denninghoff to commemorate the unfortunate chapter in German history.



## Serendipity

On March 17th, I attended a symposium in DC with a small group of distinguished language professionals. I was helping out at the registration desk when one of the participants mentioned that his name is too long for badges. His name was Hans Fenstermacher. I told him that my high school music teacher was Mr. Fenstermacher. He asked me where I went to school and I told him Berlin. He said "Wayne Fenstermacher was my dad!" Small world!

Hans Fenstermacher '78 and Debbie (Olsen) Grover '73 at George Washington University.

April is Month of the Military Child

## Does a nomadic childhood lead to a more creative life?

from Huck 48, *The Origins Issue*  
by Shelley Jones

Is there a connection between creativity and nomadism? We meet some military brats and displaced kids who turned to art to express their mixed sense of roots.

What do you think of when you think of home? Your childhood bedroom? The local park? Weird neighbours and birthday parties and the ditch where you lost your two front teeth?

Most Brits and Americans have got those kitchen-sink memories of youth. But what if you don't? What if you never stayed anywhere long enough to call it home? There are, in fact,

millions of people who grew up on the move. And being a citizen of the world, it seems, produces a certain kind of character. Joe Strummer, Annie Leibovitz, Michael Stipe, Wiz Khalifa and Peter Doherty, for example, all grew up as military brats (kids who move around with military parents). So what does it feel like to have no concrete roots? And if success and creativity is a common characteristic, should we all be heading for the open road?

My journey begins on a park bench in Berlin last summer. I'm interviewing Element Skateboards founder Johnny Schilleref and he says something familiar: "I moved around a lot as a kid, my dad was in the military." Intrigued – I've heard this a lot in interviews – I follow up. Was it this kind of upbringing that influenced your path in life? "Oh absolutely," he says, quickly. "I moved around a ton and I had to get acclimated to a different high school and a different environment constantly. You have two choices in a situation like that. You can become extremely displaced and maybe screwed up or you can adjust and become more outgoing and make sure you're not always the new kid. So I took that other path where I just enjoyed meeting

new people and looked forward to where we were going next and became pretty worldly."

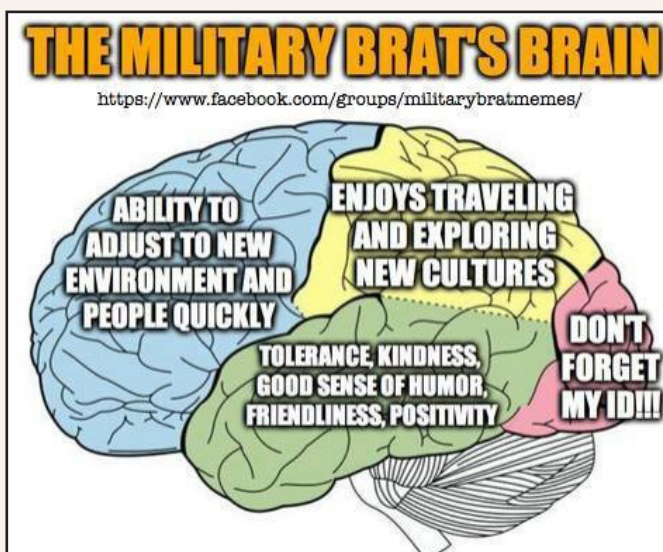
In fact, Johnny started Element, in part, to encourage kids to focus on skateboarding, as a constant, in transient lives like his own. But its enduring success, he thinks, could have a lot to do with the things he learnt from being on the move. "No matter what I do, no matter how complacent I become, I have this nomadic way of wanting to be. I always want to change. Change my room, change my house, change my business. But it's not complete change, it's evolution. I need constant movement and progress. I can't sit still. Everything's always got to go, go, go and be better. And maybe that's

because as a kid I was always striving to find a better place to be."

A nomadic youth inspired Oliver Percovich – founder of non-profit org Skateistan, which teaches skateboarding to kids in places like Afghanistan, Cambodia and South Africa – that there was common ground between cultures. "I skateboarded in different countries – Papua New Guinea, Germany, the US, and the UK – up to the age of fifteen," he says. "And

wherever I went, skateboarders would be very gracious in terms of letting me be a part of their local scene. That really opened my eyes because I didn't see that in other subcultures. In skateboarding, these connections across culture were made really fast."

For filmmaker Lance Bangs it was music and film that provided refuge from the ever-changing scenery. "I grew up in a military family so we moved every nine to twelve months," he told me when I interviewed him in 2013. "I was making personal films on Super 8 as I was travelling around, leaving home and documenting the things I was going through. 'This is the twenty-four-hour laundromat I'm staying in. This is what the lights look like and here I am talking into this tape recorder.' I was just preserving myself. It felt like I was going to disappear and not be around anymore so it was more like writing a journal than traditional film-

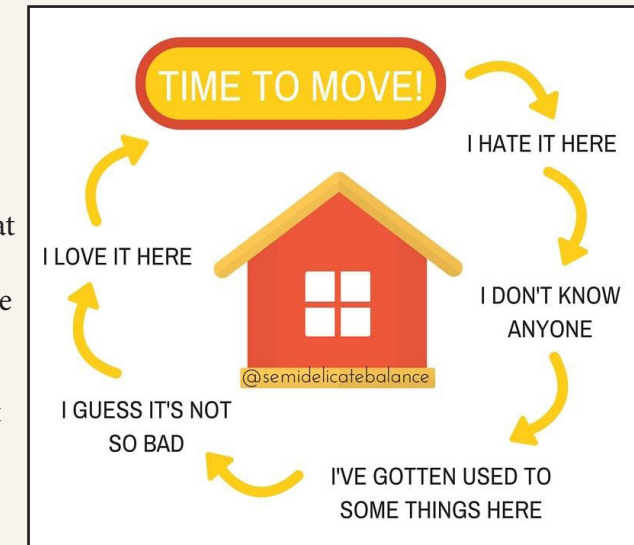


making."

These are stories of independence. And that is typical military brat behaviour, filmmaker and something of a brat expert Donna Musil tells me. "Many of these kids don't have a voice when they're growing up," she says. "It's always what the military needs, what the foreign service needs, what the missionaries need. So I guess that makes a lot of artists, because you want to express yourself."

Donna went to a different school every single year of her life. "Well apart from third, fourth, and fifth grade," she tells me on the phone from Denver, where she's currently resting her well-travelled feet. Inspired by her experiences, and searching for people with similar stories, Donna made a documentary *Brats: Our Journey Home* and formed a non-profit Brats Without Borders, to shine a light on this 'invisible tribe'. "I think there is a direct correlation [between creativity and nomadism] because when you move so much – and it's more about the mobility, I think, than the military – it sparks curiosity. From a very young age you get to witness people and places and cultures and ways of life that are different from yours. So you grow up not being afraid of what's different, you kind of like it. We loved going to our friends' houses that were Filipino and eating their food and learning about their language and culture. We also know what it's like to be outsiders. You see, we don't really belong anywhere."

Donna, and others like her, have a unique insight into other cultures – as both insider and outsider. This can lead to some interesting mash-ups. Thanks to his military youth at bases in Turkey, Cairo, Mexico City, and Germany, The Clash's Joe Strummer, for example, was able to open up the first wave of British punk to other influences and pave the way for new sounds to emerge – famously playing in front of a wall of world flags in the 'I Fought the Law' video. Musician Ahmed Gallab – aka Sinkane – who moved many times with his diplomat/academic parents has an interesting take. "People who grew up in an expat community or as military brats all feel the same feeling of loneliness," he says. "When you feel lonely, you use what you have



around you in a very creative way. Growing up in the expat community and people not understanding who I was meant that once I had the resources to express who I was it was very easy and I was allowed to create something great."

Loneliness, Donna agrees, is definitely a big part of nomadic life. "We lose more people – teachers, coaches, dreams – in five years than most people do in a lifetime," she says. "And

actually I think that is attached to the creativeness because a lot of children in these situations cling to art. They read a lot of books. They go to a lot of museums. They paint. They find things to do to entertain themselves. We don't learn that there is consistency to things. The good part of that is if you try something and it doesn't work, you can always start over. The bad part is you don't have a consistent sense of identity. Who are you? What do you think? What do you feel? I think those are the things that are difficult for nomadic types of people."

As the world becomes more globalised and people are moving more, for careers and pleasure and in hope of a better life, the phenomenon of 'third culture kids' – people who grew up in cultures outside their parents' cultures – is only going to grow. Fashion photographer Emma Woolrych, who grew up with her Naval father around Australia, America, and the UK, explains: "I think in this day and age you never really know where you're going to go back to," she says. "Not everything's about where you're from, or where you've been. It's kind of about setting yourself up in the present. Learning from the past and focusing on the next day. I think I'm happy to do that because of my upbringing." Emma's work is inspired, in part, by her desire to see new things all the time. But doesn't the internet make that possible without upping sticks? "You can never understand another culture through the internet," she says. "There's no tangibility. You can see things but not touch them. The internet is relatively controlled. There's so much that we don't get. I don't think there's any way of understanding or knowing a people unless you're living in their shoes."

Continued on pg. 22

# Eight realities of being a military brat

by Sarah Sicard

April 5, 2016

Being a military brat can have its ups and downs, but you're born into it and learn to own it.

Military brats aren't your typical kids. They are adaptable, resilient, and maybe pick up a few quirks — like knowing the phonetic alphabet, or asking the barber for a high and tight.

Right now, there are roughly two million U.S. military children, ranging in ages from newborn to 18 years old. While military parents face enormous hardships during their service, there is no shortage of sacrifices made by their children too.

In honor of the month of the military child, here are eight realities of being a military brat:

## 1. Home is wherever your family is.



You've moved more times than you can count, probably before you even learned how to count. When people ask you where you're from, your response is usually, "everywhere." But your family always makes the best of it. Other military families

become your extended family.

## 2. Your clothes come from the exchange, and your food comes from the commissary.

Grocery store is not a word in your vocabulary. You also probably consider it a victory if you convince your parents to let you eat at the food court. But honestly, you can't beat the tax-free, duty-free, shopping on base.

## 3. When you turn 10, you get your first military ID.

The ultimate status symbol for military brats is the ID card. Nothing makes you feel more grown up than getting to go to the base ID center, get your photo taken, and have that holographic card handed to you. Now, you can get past the guard gate without a parent.



## 4. You develop a lifelong habit of putting your hand over your heart for the national anthem.

Regardless of the occasion, you always stop what you're doing when you hear the Star Spangled Banner and put your hand over your heart. You've also grown accustomed to taking off your hat during the anthem, especially during ballgames. You were raised knowing the flag and the anthem deserve the utmost respect.

## 5. Sometimes your parent is a drill sergeant when it comes to chores.

It can be hard for your service member parent to leave work at work. Doing chores may be led by a drill sergeant instead of mom or dad. On days like that, dishes must be put away, the bathroom should be spotless, and you better roll your socks in their drawer. It's not always like that, but sometimes.

## 6. You have your own uniform.

This starts as early as infancy with little sailor suits or Army fatigues. As you grow up, you often garner a collection of clothes made up of old unit t-shirts, worn-out combat boots, hats, or jackets. The best playtime costume is modeled after your mom or dad's uniform. You run around the house trying to beat the bad guys. If you're lucky, you may even have your own pair of dog tags.

## 7. Homecoming is your Christmas morning.

There is nothing better than homecoming. You count down the days, crossing them off on the calendar, one by one. Then when that day comes, you get dressed up and head out to the arrival point. Depending on what service or unit your parent deployed with, it could be a tarmac, ship dock, or airport. Sometimes there are hundreds of people; other times, it's just you and your family. But there is no happier moment than when your mom or dad disembarks and you get to hug her or him for the first time in months.

## 8. You grow up a lot faster than most kids, but it makes you strong.

It's not easy to be a military brat. You move a lot, have to make new friends, and sometimes experience



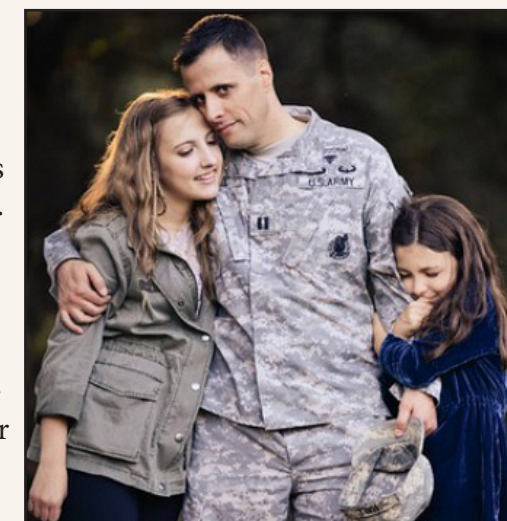
loss at a young age, but it makes you a stronger person. The life of a military brat is not always easy or fair, but it's a unique experience that most of us wouldn't trade for anything.

# Brats helping brats make dreams come true

by Kenzie Hall

I was 11 years old when my father was deployed to Afghanistan. There are no words to really explain the sight of seeing my dad leaving us to go to war; just remembering it sends chills down my spine. I would go to bed and thoughts would creep into my mind at night that he might not come home. It's hard to recall the look on my five-year-old sister's face and the sound of her crying when it hit her that our dad was really leaving. My parents realized how much stress this deployment put on the both of us. So they decided we should take a situation full of fear, stress, and sadness and make it as positive as possible. We were not able to change our circumstances, but we were able to change our views. For that year, my parents let my little sister and me live out a dream.

Since I was five, all I wanted to do was be an actress. I was certain that I was going to be the next Disney Channel star. But never would I imagine that only six years later, my mom would sign both my sister and me up for acting classes, even fly us from Texas all the way to Los Angeles to meet with managers, agents, and go out on auditions. Acting has been the best escape since day



Kenzie Hall, her father CPT Jason Hall, and her sister, Madison.

one. My little sister and I grew out of our shells, pushed out of our comfort zones, and loved every second of it.

But despite the distractions, there were the constant reminders of war. I remember being with my mom one day and hearing her talk on the phone about someone being injured by an IED (Improvised Explosive Device). It was scary and confusing, but I remember

telling her that I believe every military kid who is facing something like this should be able to live out a dream of theirs. They deserve to have a distraction and escape like my sister and I did. Whether it is pursuing a career, meeting a celebrity, being trained by an NFL player, or even just going on a vacation with their family. No dream is too big or too small.

From there, Brat Pack 11 [she was 11 at the time] was formed. In the simplest terms, BP11 grants wishes to military kids of wounded and fallen soldiers.

I've been working on BP11 for almost six years, and it has been a project very close to my heart. From the very beginning, it was a struggle to have my voice heard and for my vision to become a reality. Having adults take me seriously enough to support me and buy into my vision has been the biggest challenge. I

Continued on pg. 22

## Brat Pack 11 grants wishes for military children, *cont'd from pg. 21*

remember making calls and getting laughed at or dismissed as though I was too young to realize that I was biting off more than I could chew. This has always been shocking to me because adults complain that teens are lazy. Meanwhile, I was trying to do something for the children of America's heroes, and I was getting nowhere fast.

I think these adults thought I was too small to make a difference in the world. I am glad to prove them wrong. My favorite quote is from Anita Roddick: "If you think you're too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito in the room." There is never a perfect age or time for you to live out your dreams. You just have to see it and go for it. No matter how old you are, you can accomplish anything if you have tenacity and passion driving you. You should never doubt yourself — or others. We are all capable of changing this world for the better.

A few years ago, I reached out to a national non-profit called The Boot Campaign that took me under their umbrella and made my

charity a program under them. They loved my passion for wanting to help other military kids and wanted to help Brat Pack 11 grow. Military kids are the only group that did not choose the military life; they were just born into it. They are often forgotten, however, when we talk about the sacrifices of soldiers. The Boot Campaign saw that this was a group that I wanted to bring a voice to, and they supported my vision without hesitation.

There are a lot of struggles and sacrifices all military kids

and their families face that others don't see or realize. For example, constantly moving and being the new kid in school. I have attended twelve schools so far, and let me tell you, it never gets easier. The worry of having a parent deployed and not knowing if they will come home is a daily stress. And, sadly, some soldiers (and their families) pay the ultimate price for our freedoms. I wanted to show these military kids and families that there was a community that cared about them and that we have not forgotten their sacrifice, not for a moment.

Together, The Boot Campaign and I formed a BP11 Task Force. They helped me raise money to grant wishes and included me on their website to share the stories of some amazing military kids. We would have 7 AM

conference calls before school to go over all of the applications and discuss the planning and details of wishes we were granting. It has been an amazing experience working with everyone there, but I knew eventually I wanted BP11 to grow big enough to be its own national non-profit, and to create a support community for all military brats. To get there, we would have to grow our own wings.

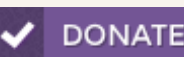
*Note: Since this article, Kenzie obtained 501c3 status to make Brat Pack 11 its own national non-profit. Now 18, Kenzie and BratPack 11 are raising money for the Lopez family <https://www.crowdrise.com/the-lopez-family>. You can visit the Brat Pack 11 web site at <http://www.bratpack11.com> to see some of the dreams they have helped make happen and to donate. You can also find them on Twitter @Brat\_Pack11 and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/pages/Brat-Pack-11/106241082168](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Brat-Pack-11/106241082168).*



## Nomadic childhood, *cont'd from pg. 19*

For Donna, there are good things – she tells me racism on military bases just doesn't exist, for example – and bad things to be learnt from the experience of third culture kids. Ultimately, she feels, there needs to be a balance between a rooted and uprooted existence for the best work, and lives, to flourish. "I'd hate people to lose all of their different cultural roots because that's what makes the world interesting," she says. "And I've

noticed that when I go travelling things are starting to look the same. I don't want us to lose the great part of what it is to be different types of human beings. I always say that if every child in the world was required to go to a different country for even just two weeks of their lives I think the world would be a different place. Just to know that the world does not revolve around you, your city, your country, that there are other things out there – is really, really good."



## In memory of Alexander Longolius (BAHS faculty '61-67)

Herr Longolius passed away on January 31, 2016

*The Checkpoint Charlie Foundation under Herr Longolius's leadership sponsored our luncheon at the opening of our exhibit (The American Education Experiment) at the Allied Museum/former Outpost Theatre during our 2006 Reunion in Berlin. While at BAHS, he taught language and soccer. The Berlin Brats have lost a great teacher and dear friend.*

It is with great sorrow that the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation announces the death of its former director and chairman, Alexander Longolius, who died in Berlin on January 31, 2016, at the age of 80.

Alexander Longolius was born in Berlin on December 30, 1935. As a young man, he participated in a year-long high school exchange to the United States organized by the American Field Service, an experience which not only cemented his love for the United States, but inspired his work in support of international exchange for the rest of his life.

In 1975, Alexander was elected to the (West) Berlin House of Representatives as a member of the Social Democratic Party. In 1986, while a member of the House of Representatives, he helped found the Initiative Berlin-USA, a non-profit association that organized a large number of people-to-people exchange projects between Berlin and the United States. In 1994, he was instrumental in the passage of legislation to create the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation, which became



perhaps his most important legacy in support of German-American relations.

After leaving politics in 1995, he became the foundation's first executive director, a position he held until 2000, when he was appointed chairman of the executive board of the foundation, guiding its growth and continued development until December of 2014, when he retired from public life completely. In 2005 he was awarded the Federal Service Cross of the Federal Republic of Germany in recognition of his work to further international understanding.

His tireless work in support of German-American relations has touched the lives of tens of thousands of people on both sides of the Atlantic. He has been not only a central figure in the creation and growth of this foundation, but also a valuable advisor, a quiet inspiration for what one person can do to make the world a better place, and a friend. He will be missed.

### Alexander Longolius

† 31. Januar 2016

Allen, die sich in stiller Trauer mit uns verbunden fühlten und Abschied nahmen, danken wir herzlich.

Die große Anteilnahme war uns ein Trost in den schweren Stunden.

Hannelore Longolius  
und Familie

Berlin, im Februar 2016

### Translation:

To all of you who felt connected with us in silent grief and bade farewell, we give heartfelt thanks.

The outpouring of concern was a comfort to us during our difficult time.

Hannelore Longolius  
and family

Dear friends,

*this will just be a short note to wish you a Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year. I just got back from the hospital after many weeks and am too weak to write. Please understand, I am thinking of you!*

Love,

Alexander

Alexander



# Farewell & Good-bye .... Hello & Welcome

by Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72



With this issue we say "Good-bye" to Newsletter Brat Toni (Yarbrough) Combs '71, who has been with us since 2007! Toni has decided to step down to concentrate on family - she especially wants to be a "doting grandmother!" It is hard to say good-bye to a colleague who I became friends with via our 1970-71

Cheerleading Squad. Argh, some 46 yrs ago! But Toni isn't leaving us....you'll still see her at regionals and Reunions. Thank YOU Toni for your tireless effort in getting out this Newsletter quarter after quarter.

AND now "Hello," to Kimberly Keravuori '85. Kimberly is kind-of new to the Berlin Brats. She was in Berlin from '78 through '84, and attended JFK. However, she's very familiar with the BAHS classes from the early '80s because she was on the Bear-a-Cudas swim team and had close friends at BAHS. I, myself,



met Kimberly at Berlin Brat weddings over the last several years (Kelly Murphy '82's and Cate Speer '85's). Kimberly has a wealth of experience doing newsletters so you may notice her influence with this layout. :- ) We are so excited to have her in our group! Welcome aboard, Kimberly!

## Upcoming Events

### Berlin Brats Colorado Springs regional

Aug 4, 2016, 6 pm

Edelweiss restaurant

### ~~~~~ Homecoming 2016

Colorado Springs, CO

ALL SCHOOLS REUNION

Held every three years!

Aug 4-7, 2016

Hosted by: Overseas Brats

### Next Reunion

June 7th-11th, 2017

New Orleans



Mark your calendars now!

Hotel booking page  
will go LIVE by late  
Summer 2016

## Contact Information



### Berlin Brats Alumni Association

Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, Director

41910 N. Crooked Stick Road

Anthem, AZ 85086

telephone: 623•764•1105

email: [BerlinBrats@gmail.com](mailto:BerlinBrats@gmail.com)

website: [www.berlinbrats.org](http://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)



"NEW"

follow us on Twitter  
@BerlinBrats

### Early '60s Site

By invitation only

Contact Jim Branson '64

[jbranson01@hotmail.com](mailto:jbranson01@hotmail.com)

for an invite

### American Overseas School Historical Society

Gayle Vaughn Wiles, President

email: [overseasschools@aoshs.org](mailto:overseasschools@aoshs.org)

website: [www.aoshs.org](http://www.aoshs.org)

### ~~~~~ Overseas Brats

Joe Condrill, President

email: [joeosbpres@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joeosbpres@sbcglobal.net)

website: [www.overseasbrats.com](http://www.overseasbrats.com)

### Communication Brat:

Peter Stein '80

[pstein80@msn.com](mailto:pstein80@msn.com)

### WebBrat:

Cate Speer '85

[WebBrat@BerlinBrats.org](mailto:WebBrat@BerlinBrats.org)

Newsletter Brat: Kimberly Keravuori '85 • [kkerav@gmail.com](mailto:kkerav@gmail.com)