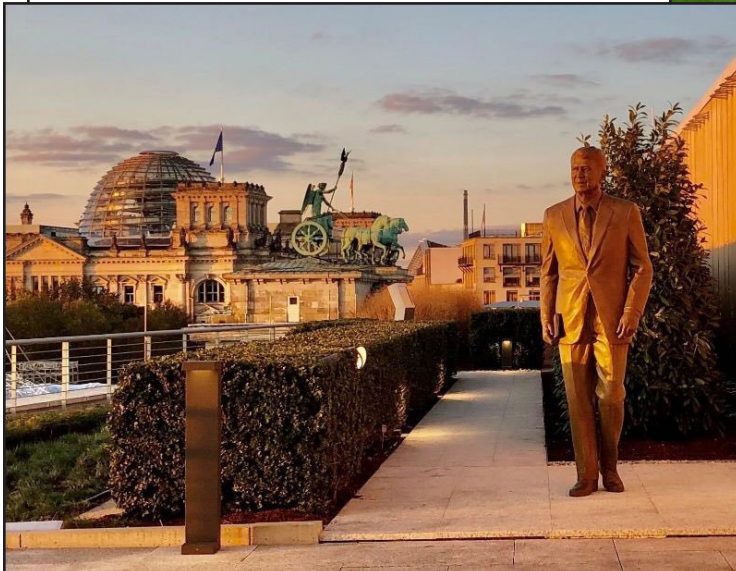
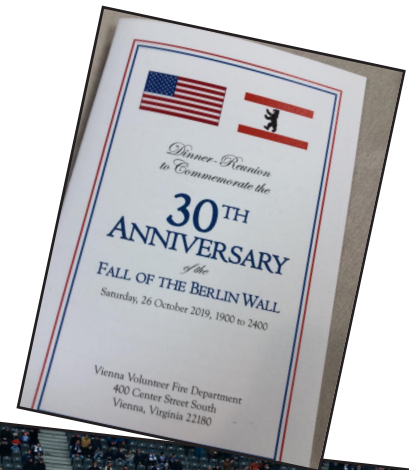




Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter

October 2019

Volume 15, Issue 4



The Berlin Wall fell 30 years ago on November 9th, and the city has a week of events planned to memorialize the event and the history of the city's division and reunification. Kicking off events, Berlin's Hertha 'football' team created a replica of the Wall on their field, and the US Embassy erected a larger-than-life statue of Ronald Regan atop the Embassy. German Chancellor Angela Merkel thanked the US for its support during reunification, saying "That the USA, along with George Bush, helped and supported us on the path to German reunification is something that we will never forget." Celebrations are even occurring in the US, as the program from Vienna, VA, illustrates.

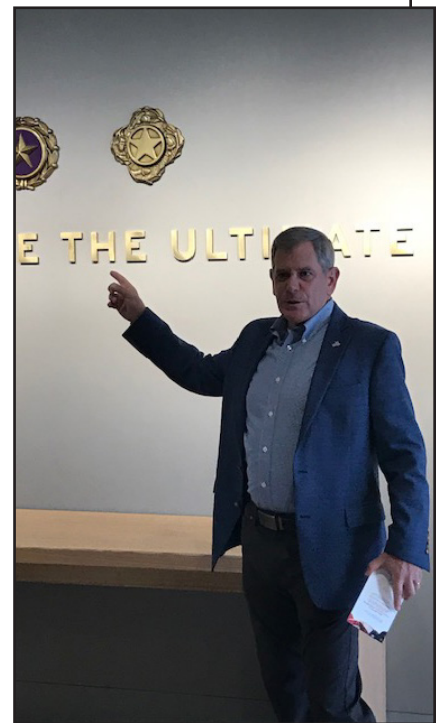
Columbus, Ohio regional

On September 21st, 2019, about 15 Brats, faculty, and spouses gathered in Columbus, OH, for a regional that included a visit to the new Veterans Memorial and

Museum -- and a personal tour by the Museum's President/CEO, Lt. Gen. (Ret) Mike Ferriter '75.



From L to R: Kathleen Hildenbrand '91, Joel Koffley '75, Liz Cleveland-spouse, Mike Cleveland '61, Mike Ferriter '75, Margie Ferriter-spouse, Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, DeeDee Whitney-spouse, David Whitney '85, Mr. Adam Hildenbrand FAC '69-'94, Patty (Frey) Borja '68, and Contance (Frey) Chapplelear TAR Brat. Not pictured: Sean O'Day '76 and Kelly O'Day '78.



Top center and right: The General - Lt. Gen Mike Ferriter '75 (recently retired), and now the founding President of the new National Veterans Memorial and Museum, personally greeted us and gave us a private tour.

Creation of the German bizonie:

from German Culture, Sept 2, 2019

By early 1946, the Western Allies—the United States and Britain in particular—had become convinced that Soviet expansionism had to be contained. The Soviet Union's seizure of Polish territory and the drawing of the Oder-Neisse border (which gave formerly German territory to Poland), its antidemocratic actions in other countries occupied by Soviet forces, and its policies toward areas such as Greece and Turkey, persuaded Western leaders that the Soviet Union was aiming for communist domination of Europe. Churchill's use of the expression "iron curtain" to describe the Soviet cordoning off of a sphere of influence in Europe illustrated a basic change in attitude toward Soviet intentions on the part of Western leaders. As a result of this change, Germany came to be seen more as a potential ally than as a defeated enemy.

The change in attitude led United States officials to take a more active role in Germany. A notable early example of this policy change was a speech given in Stuttgart in September 1946 by the United States secretary of state, James F. Byrnes, proposing the transfer of administrative functions from the existing military governments to a single civilian German administration. Byrnes stated that the United States had not defeated the Nazi dictatorship to keep Germans suppressed but instead wanted them to become a free, self-governing, and prosperous people. The speech was the first significant indication that Germany was not to remain an

outcast but was, according to Byrnes, to have "an honorable place among the free and peace-loving nations of the world."

Neither the Soviet Union nor France desired a revitalized Germany, but after intensive negotiations, a unified economic zone, the Bizone, consisting of the United States and British zones, was proclaimed on January 1, 1947. After a difficult beginning, the Bizone proved itself a success, and its population of 40 million began to benefit from an improving economy. Only in the spring of 1949, after a period of sustained economic growth, did the French occupation zone join the Bizone, creating the Trizone.

In mid-1947 the European Recovery Program, or Marshall Plan, as it is more widely known, was announced. The plan's aim was to stimulate the economies on the continent through the infusion of large-scale credits for the promotion of trade between Europe and the United States. The United States stipulated only that Europe's econ-

omy was to be united and that Europeans were to participate actively in the administration of the program. The Soviet Union suspected that the proposal was a means to prevent it from harvesting the fruits of the victory over fascism. Deeming the proposal a direct affront to its communist ideology by "American economic imperialism," the Soviet Union promptly rejected participation in the program, as did the East European states, obviously acting on Soviet orders.

To fulfill the precondition of economic cooperation in Europe, sixteen Western countries joined the Organization for European Economic Co-operation in early 1948. In April 1948, the United States Congress approved the Foreign Assistance Act, which arranged the provision of aid. Shortly thereafter, industrial products, consumer goods, credits, and outright monetary gifts started to flow into the impoverished economies



How Berlin became a divided city

of Western Europe. Cities, industries, and infrastructure destroyed during the war were rapidly rebuilt, and the economies of the war-torn countries began to recover. In the Western zones, aid from the Marshall Plan laid the foundations for the West German "economic miracle" of the 1950s.

A functioning currency system was also needed for a growing economy. The war economy of the National Socialist government had created an oversupply of currency not matched by a supply of goods. To combat the resulting black-market economy, especially noticeable in large cities, and to aid economic recovery in western Germany, a central bank was founded and a currency reform was proclaimed on June 19, 1948. The reform introduced the Deutsche Mark. In exchange for sixty Reichsmarks, each citizen received DM40. Additionally, controls over prices and basic supplies were lifted by authorities, thus abruptly wiping out the black market.

The swift action of the Western powers took the Soviet authorities by surprise, and they quickly implemented a separate currency reform for their zone and all of Berlin. The Western powers, however, had already ordered the distribution of Deutsche Marks in their sectors of the city. This measure, which for the Soviet Union represented the culmination of the Western policy to undermine Soviet efforts to build a socialist society in its zone, produced a sudden dramatic reaction, the Soviet blockade of Berlin.

On June 24, 1948, Soviet

troops blocked all road and rail connections to West Berlin. Within a few days, shipping on the Spree and Havel rivers was halted; electric power, which had been supplied to West Berlin by plants in the Soviet zone, was cut off; and supplies of fresh food from the surrounding countryside were suddenly unavailable. The Four Power status of Berlin, agreed upon by the Allied victors, had not included any provisions regarding traffic by land to and from Berlin through the Soviet zone. It had, however, established three air corridors from the Western zones to the city.

The three Western powers acted swiftly: an airlift of unprecedented dimensions was organized to supply the 2.5 million inhabitants of the Western sectors of Berlin with what they needed to survive. The United States military governor in Germany, General Lucius D. Clay, successfully coordinated the airlift, which deployed 230 United States and 150 British airplanes. Up to 10,000 tons of supplies were flown in daily, including coal and other

heating fuels for the winter. Altogether, about 275,000 flights succeeded in keeping West Berliners alive for nearly a year.

The Soviet Union had not expected such Western resolve. Failing in its attempt to starve the Western Allies out of Berlin, it lifted the blockade on May 12, 1949. The Western Allies, led by the United States, had stood their ground without provoking armed conflict. Although the blockade had ended, its effects on Berlin were lasting. By June 16, 1948, realizing that it would not achieve its goal of a socialist Germany, the Soviet Union withdrew from the ACC, prompting the Western Allies to create a separate administration for their sectors. At the end of 1948, two municipal administrations existed, and Berlin had become a divided city. A more significant effect was perhaps that, in Western eyes, Berlin was no longer seen as the capital of Hitler's Germany but rather as a symbol of freedom and the struggle to preserve Western civic values.



BRAT GET-TOGETHERS

Charlotte has heart: Berlin Brats and German food



Above: 2018 luncheon, L to R: Deb's mother, Mike Clark-SOB of Deb, Bryan Duckett '84, Gary Robinson '74 (visiting from FL), Susan Robinson-SOB Gary, and Deb. Above right: July 2019 luncheon, L to R: Michael, Ellen (Morphis) Citarrella '73, Candance's hubby, Candance Wyman '72, and Deb. Regular attendee Bryan couldn't make this one but was toasted!

Deb (Brians) Clark '74 holds a regular luncheon at the famous Waldhorn Restaurant in Pineville, NC (a burb of Charlotte). It's consistently rated in the Top 10 of German Restaurants in the U.S. We see all three Schnitzels on those plates!!!

WVU football

Ken Magee '88, Riley Newton (Marnie's daughter), Marnie (Nelson) Sizemore '87, and Tess Magee (Ken's wife) linked up in West Virginia to watch a game in 2018 and again in 2019 -- starting a new Brat tradition!



Conquering mountains

Nothing brings Brats together like a good challenge. Rob Ahrens '87 joined Karrie (Kotch-er) Wymer '86 and hubby Lee in CO on Oct 5th for an attempt to conquer "Manitou Incline" -- 2,000 feet straight up! (Study the pic behind them.) You see here the successful summiters!



BRAT GET-TOGETHERS

Brats bring good luck to the Nationals

Not only did the Nats win, but we got to go to the game with a Berliner!! Larry Speer '83 and Kelly (Murphy) Waymire '82 in Washington, DC.



On their way home from Carl Marvin '87's wedding in the Czech Republic, Rob Ahrens '87, Steve Kinzie '87, and Chris Marvin '89, stopped for a visit in Berlin, where they inducted Mr. Bluem FAC '69-'94 into the Michigan fellowship.

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Remembering: 30 years since the fall of the Wall

East and West Berlin life in photos at height of Cold War

by Jennifer Newton for
Mail Online, 10 Oct 2018

Rubble from Second World War devastation lying in the street. Enemy soldiers chatting at a checkpoint. A lone tram photographed through barbed wire.

This is the haunting, eerie city of Berlin at the height of the Cold War, captured on camera in a series of fascinating images by British photographer Allan Hailstone, who visited the east and west sides between 1959 and 1966. And now he has put all 180 of his vintage images into a book titled *Berlin in the Cold War* - and kindly let MailOnline Travel reproduce some of them here.

Mr Hailstone, 79, a keen photographer of street scenes from the age of 10, was inspired to visit Berlin after a



Bernauer Strasse, pictured in August 1962, is arguably the most well-known of the locations of the Berlin Wall, and where a number of deaths occurred as a result of people fleeing from the East. The buildings are in East Berlin, whereas the pavement is in the West. Shortly after the Wall was built, refugees used to jump from the windows on to the street below. The authorities then removed the inhabitants of the buildings and bricked up the windows. As can be seen here, one brick space was left open so that the People's Police could observe the activity in the street below.

visit, in 1956, to the library in his home town of Coventry. He explained: 'I picked up a slim volume with black covers entitled *Berlin*. It was an unap-

pealing effort, the very antithesis of what a good guide book should be.

'However, as I perused its pages, I was fascinated by the grainy black-and-white pictures of the city as it then was.'

Mr Hailstone had already spent time pursuing his hobby of photographing the streets of cities in Britain and Europe. But he realised that Berlin was different. It was arising from the ashes of war, locked behind the Iron Curtain and divided into sectors, with each having their own identity - and even, in the case of the Russian sector, its own currency. The snapper made his first visit to the German capital in 1958 and was captivated by the 'photogenic streets' that he has returned to many times since.

In his book *Berlin in the Cold War* he includes images he recorded between 1959 and 1966, both before and after the building of the Berlin Wall, including several taken surreptitiously of sensitive locations in communist East Berlin. Potsdamer Platz, for example, much photographed between

Con't on pg. 20



The Gendarmenmarkt in the east of Berlin on September 11, 1959. It's now one of the main tourist squares, which lies just south of Unter den Linden. In contrast to the work done to repair war damage in West Berlin, the East German government had not even begun to clear the rubble from the wartime devastation in this square. Gendarmenmarkt was originally constructed around 1688 as Lindenmarkt (the Lime Market).

Remembering the last victim shot down crossing the Wall

Thirty years ago, border guards gunned down Chris Gueffroy as he attempted to flee across the Berlin Wall into West Germany. The 20-year-old was the last person to be shot trying to escape the East German dictatorship.

The Berlin Wall Foundation held a ceremony in February 2019 to remember Chris Gueffroy, a young waiter who was shot dead as he attempted to flee East Germany on February 5, 1989.

Following a prayer service at a church on the former death strip, local dignitaries laid a wreath at the site where the 20-year-old launched his escape attempt 30 years ago.

The Berlin Wall separated communist East Germany (GDR) from West Germany between 1961 and 1989. In that period, at least 140 people were fatally shot as they tried to leave the GDR illegally via the notorious border fence. Gueffroy was the last of those victims.

"Their fates show how great the suffering and how strong their desire for freedom must have been," Axel Klausmeier, the director of the Berlin Wall Memorial, told DW.

A monument dedicated to Chris Gueffroy stands on the banks of the Britz canal

Ill-fated plan

On February 5, 1989, Gueffroy and his friend Christian Gaudian crept under cover of darkness towards Berlin's Britz canal, where they hoped to slip across the border. At midnight, they began to scale the 3-meter (9.8-foot) wall undetected. Having safely made it over, they approached the last metal fence separating them from West Germany. That's when things went wrong.

The flood lights came on, sirens started screeching, and the border guards opened fire. Gueffroy was hit twice in the chest and died instantly. His death came just nine months before the Berlin Wall came down on November 9, 1989.

Gaudian, who survived with serious injuries, was arrested and later sentenced to three years



in prison for attempted illegal border-crossing.

East Germany was a repressive state that kept tabs on its population with the help of an extensive surveillance network and the secret police, or Stasi. Citizens could be persecuted or locked up for showing disloyalty to the state, with offenses ranging from listening to subversive music to planning an escape to the West.

It's unclear just how many people were killed at the frontier because the Stasi often sought to cover the deaths up or coerce victims' families into silence. They also tried — and failed — to keep Gueffroy's killing a secret.

His case led to international protests, prompting GDR leader Erich

Honecker to announce an end to the policy of shooting would-be escapees.

Klausmeier, of the Berlin Wall Foundation, told DW that the wall's remnants serve as a reminder that "dictatorships can be peacefully overcome, if the political conditions allow it."

Dream of escape

Gueffroy grew up under the watchful eye of the GDR authorities with dreams of becoming an actor or a pilot. But after finishing school he refused to choose a career in the National People's Army and, as a result, was denied the right to go to university, severely limiting his options.

He worked as a waiter for many years, but in January 1989, when he learned he was going to be conscripted into the army, he hatched an escape plan. His decision to make the crossing on February 5 was based on a false rumor that the order to shoot people attempting to cross illegally had been suspended.

While he was the last person to be shot at the Wall, he was not the last individual to die in an attempted escape. Just over a month after Gueffroy's death, another young man, Winfried Freudenberg, was killed when he fell from an improvised gas balloon traveling high over West Berlin.



BRAT GET-TOGETHERS



Enjoying the good life



Loved spending time with these ladies August 4th for an impromptu brunch at Jennie's beautiful house. So thankful to have Sly (Sylvia Alexander '84), Kate (Murphy) Scrivener '88, and Jennie (Felker) Curtis '82 in my life!! I love you guys! Does this count as a mini-brat gathering?

-- Rose (Hanson) Neel '84

Aloha!

It was a great evening! Fantastic meeting up with Susan and her hubby Dave. Half-way around the world and 50 years later! We were Sundgauer bus mates all those years ago in Berlin. Stephen Gillentine '74 and Susan (Black) Sills '72 in Hawaii.



Believe in heroes

Frank Davis '87 and Stephen Smith '87 meet up in Jacksonville, FL, October 24th, 2019. Frank knew Stephen worked at the Jacksonville VA, so he made sure to link up with his fellow Brat bud when he was there for a dental appointment!

Driving through

Bradley Blewett '86 was riding through San Antonio on September 13th, but took time to stop for some pizza and beers with Marc Abrams '86 and Marc's wife, Stephanie, at Pizza Italia off Thousand Oaks. A great start to the weekend!



Across schools & time

I had the most wonderful night reuniting with friends after 39 years! My sister and I were good friends with the Carters when we lived in Berlin and they were in Karlsruhe. We spent time together often, but lost touch once back in the U.S. I've been looking for them for years! This is what being a Brat is all about! (from Trisha) Above, L to R: Trisha Lindsey '82, Larry Carter, Tina Carter, Carolyn (Lindsey) Grobes '80, and Richard Carter.

BRAT GET-TOGETHERS



Brugs, ya'll!

Angie (Thomas) Lewis '74, Valerie Walton '74, and Boyd Walton '73, met up in Fayetteville, NC, on August 9th, 2019. They sent greetings to the rest of us who missed out on the fun.



Three for the road

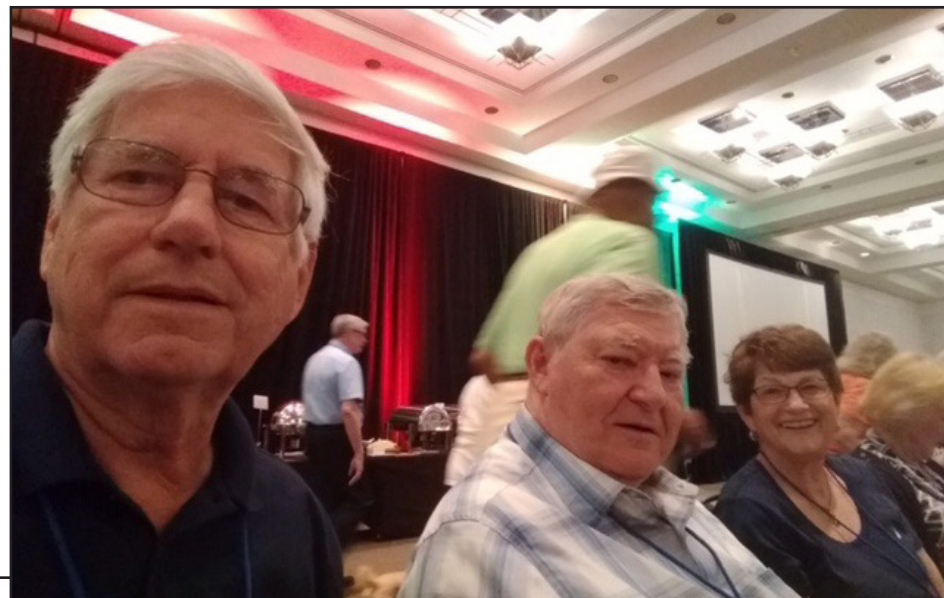
Three Berlin friends met up at "The Shed" restaurant in Santa Fe before attending the DoDDS' Teacher's Reunion in Albuquerque. Jennifer Christ FAC TAR '89-'94 (4th grade teacher), Ynez Olshausen, the last principal at TAR '94, and Rebecca Bird (Ingram) Haley FAC TAR '89-'94 (music and chorus teacher).

FAC GET-TOGETHERS

Birthday greetings from Brats with friends

Top photo: Mr. Adam Hildenbrand FAC '69-'94 turned 84 on July 5th, 2019. Berlin Brats expressed their birthday wishes to him on our BBAA Facebook page, which Mrs. Glenna Harrison FAC '70-'72 printed out and presented to him at the DoDDS' Teacher's Reunion in Albuquerque, on July 18th. He was really tickled pink! (Look at his face as he reads some of the comments from his past students.)

Bottom photo: Ron Harrison, AOSHS Treasurer, Mr. Hildenbrand, and Glenna Harrison at the DoDDS' Teacher's Reunion in Albuquerque.



BRAT GET-TOGETHER

1960 Little League Champions

The guys attended the Games again this year.....

[We reported on their 1st return to the Games on pages 12 & 13 of the Oct 2016 newsletter edition:

<http://www.berlinbrats.org/newsletter/2016%20October%20newsletter.pdf>]

I can't tell you guys how good it was to see all of you after 59 years. Brings back old memories the more I think about it. Hope you all made it home ok. We got home about 7 pm Monday. I'm still not too shot in the you know what about flying on commercial airlines. There's no rudder pedals or a control yoke in the back seats! And you never know who's flying the thing. He could have flunked a number of things and still passed with a 70%. Oh well, nothing I can do about it now.

Our thoughts are with all the people that live on the East Coast, Florida, S. and N. Carolina and the Bahamas [due to the hurricane]. I've flown into Freeport, Chub Cay, Nassau and Marsh Harbor quite a few times and feel sorry for all the locals that live there. What a great place it was. From the looks of the videos I've seen, there's not much left of them.

Looking forward to our next reunion!!

-- Al Bradley '66

It was great seeing you and Lana too, Al. Really enjoyed hearing about your flying background and your Vietnam experiences. We got back safely and are already on to the next things-which for me was a colonoscopy this morning. Argh!!

On top of all the fun we had catching up, the games we saw were tremendous. Great baseball. Amazing 12-year-old athletes.

If we go again in five years, we might have to break out the wheel chairs, ha. Or, maybe bring cardboard to slide down the hill.

-- John Reale '65

I sure missed seeing you guys! I am so glad you had a blast and gave Little League Baseball one more opportunity to remember our great team!

Hopefully, we can all get together again sometime pretty soon.

I think I personally spent a lot of my young years not really appreciating what we accomplished as 12 year olds... and what we Berlin Little Leaguers went through together. It was amazing and quite a

feat to win every game in Europe, catch a Boeing 707 to New York and play in the LLWS. I tell folks here that I think I "peaked" at 12 and everything else has been downhill from those days... laughing. That will probably be on my gravestone...

Thanks for sharing your memories. Hoping to see you all!

-- Ed Cole '66

Great! I love that drawing and that quote. We boys of old grew up with coaches and Dads telling us exactly the same thing! Our captain and catcher now has taken up the mantle. Still don't be a lollygagger! (Lanky Ed a/k/a Ed Cole '66)



Vince Lingner '82 stars as chocolate mogul

Vince P. Lingner '82 (stage name of Vince Phillip) is a New York-based film, vocal, and theatrical artist with extensive experience in Shakespeare as well as modern and other classical styles. You can watch his reel or listen to his commercial voiceover demo at his site vincephillip.com.

Look for him as chocolate mogul Frank Mars, inventor of the Milky Way Bar, in the mini-series The Food That Built America, which came to The History Channel on August 11th, 2019.

Also, in winter 2019 he will be in Discovery ID's season 2, episode 1,



of Dead of Winter. He is soon to be working on a new series, Mob Mentality, as Sweetie Pie. He can also be heard in the soon-to-be-released new podcast series from Gotham Variety, found here: <https://www.gothamvariety.com/podcast/episode/b2b67fbd/ep-1-trailer-the-bridge>.

As a company member of Hudson Warehouse Theatre Company, he's been Richard in Richard III, Petruchio in The Taming of the Shrew, Iago in Othello, Mercutio in Romeo and Juliet, among other historically beloved characters.



Throw
back
photos



Throw
back
photos



Top left: Andrea DeBerry '84, Rose (Hanson) Neel '84, and Peggy Van Gorder '84 during their graduation year. **Top right and middle of the pages:** Bringing back the Classic! These were rocked all weekend! (R): Warren Knarr '77 (during '75-'76 school year), "Dang! I was good-looking!" (M): Anthony Sims '87. **Center left:** 1962 Prom: Susan Clark '62, Robert "Bob" Harris '62, Patricia "Pat" (Burrell) Boyd '63, and Dean Boyd '62. Pat and Dean are still married!!! **Above:** Kathy Rose-Ray '75 (Misawa, Japan, and Germany brat) visiting Berlin in April 1968 with her brother and Mom from Frankfurt (her Dad wasn't allowed to accompany due to his mission at the time). Kathy has ironically gone full circle: her long-time boyfriend is Berlin Brat Billy Jordan '76, and she has attended at least three Berlin Reunions and four regionals. We think that makes her a "Bear"! **Left:** 1976 doubles champions in Berlin, Rick Martin '77 and Keith Smith '76 ... and then fast-forward almost 40 years to General Rick Martin's retirement ceremony in 2017!



Left: The 1975 football team. **Below top and center:** A photo Kathy Rose-Ray '75 (see more info on pg 14) found of young-Berlin style circa 1968 - and the Berlin Bear! - in an envelope with the Wiedemann's logo on it. Seems like all the photos from this time period were developed by them. So many of us have this marking!

Foto-Wiedemann
1 Berlin 62
Cheruskerstraße 11
Telefon: 71 33 83



Above: Jeanette "Jan" (Gonzalez) White '63 (L) in Spring 1961 (pre-Wall) with her mother Haydee, and sisters Magda (Gonzalez) Miley '66 and Ivonne (Gonzalez) Ervin '70, who was about eight.

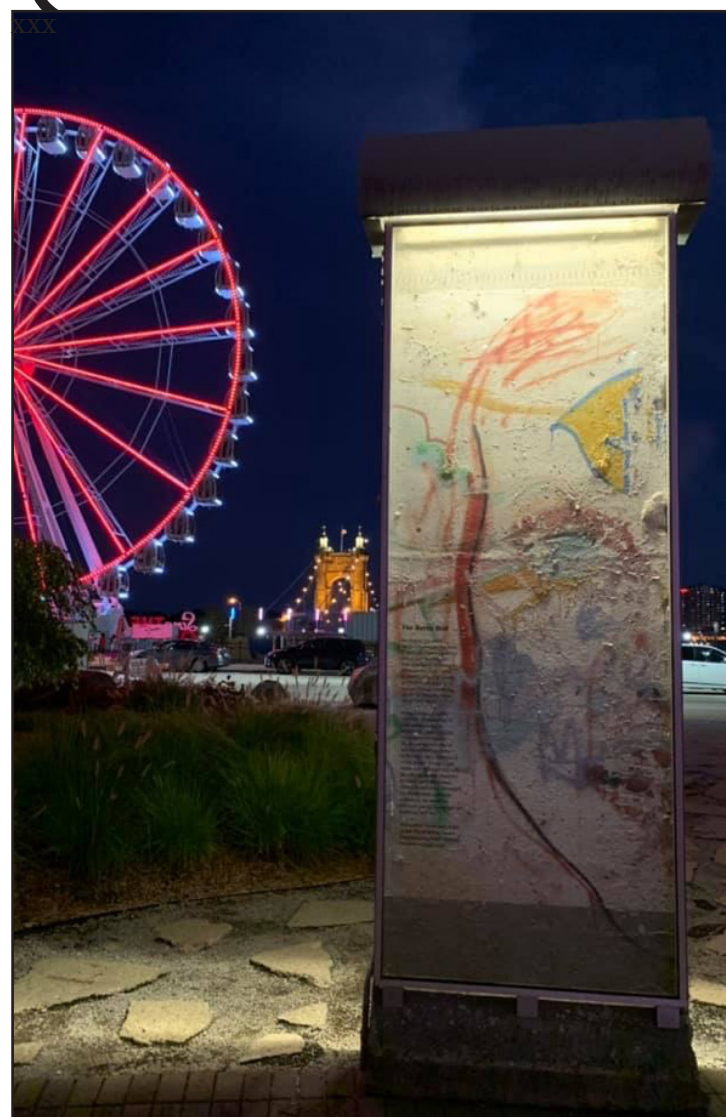


Center left: Donna (Berry) Bullock '65 (L) at her 1st job, spinning records in Berlin. She and Andrea Brown (R) were the hosts of "Accent on Youth Show" on Saturday mornings on AFN during the '62-'63 school year. They spun songs along with high school friends' dedications. The man is SSG George Hudak, who did the 5pm "Frolic at Five" show for years. **Above:** Tom Carey, Steve Kinzie, and Rob Ahrens (all '87) ... is that a 'centerfold' in *Business Week*?? 32 years ago!!!!

Finding Berlin



Left: Our favorite "Bear" find to date: Stacey (Clayton) McFarland '88's daughter Carolyn, home from school for the summer, at the Olympic Stadium, Berlin, July 2, 2019. Stacey is living in Berlin at present; her husband is assigned to the U.S. Embassy there.



Above and left: On her cross-country trip, Liese Hutchison '83 stumbled on the Berlin Wall segment in Cincinnati, OH, on July 18th. Cincinnati is famous for its proud German heritage and in 1989 became sister cities with Munich -- the same year the Berlin Wall fell. It's been over 28 years, and in 2010 the city of Berlin gifted Cincinnati's National Underground Railroad Freedom Center with a piece of the Wall itself. It sits facing the Ohio River, itself a former barrier, to allow people to reflect upon those who, "through courage, cooperation, and perseverance, worked collectively to demolish a modern barrier to freedom."

Want to visit Berlin?

There're at least 26 of them

by GermanyinUSA.com

"Ich bin ein Berliner!" ("I am a Berliner!") said John F. Kennedy during his visit to Berlin in 1963. As it turns out, he's not the only American that can make this claim.

According to the German-American Heritage Museum, German speakers began arriving in North America in the 1600s. Today, around 15% of Americans have German ancestry, according to the Census Bureau. That's roughly 45 million people! Their ancestors made it to every corner of the continent, bringing with them their hopes, dreams, food, culture, language, and yes, names!

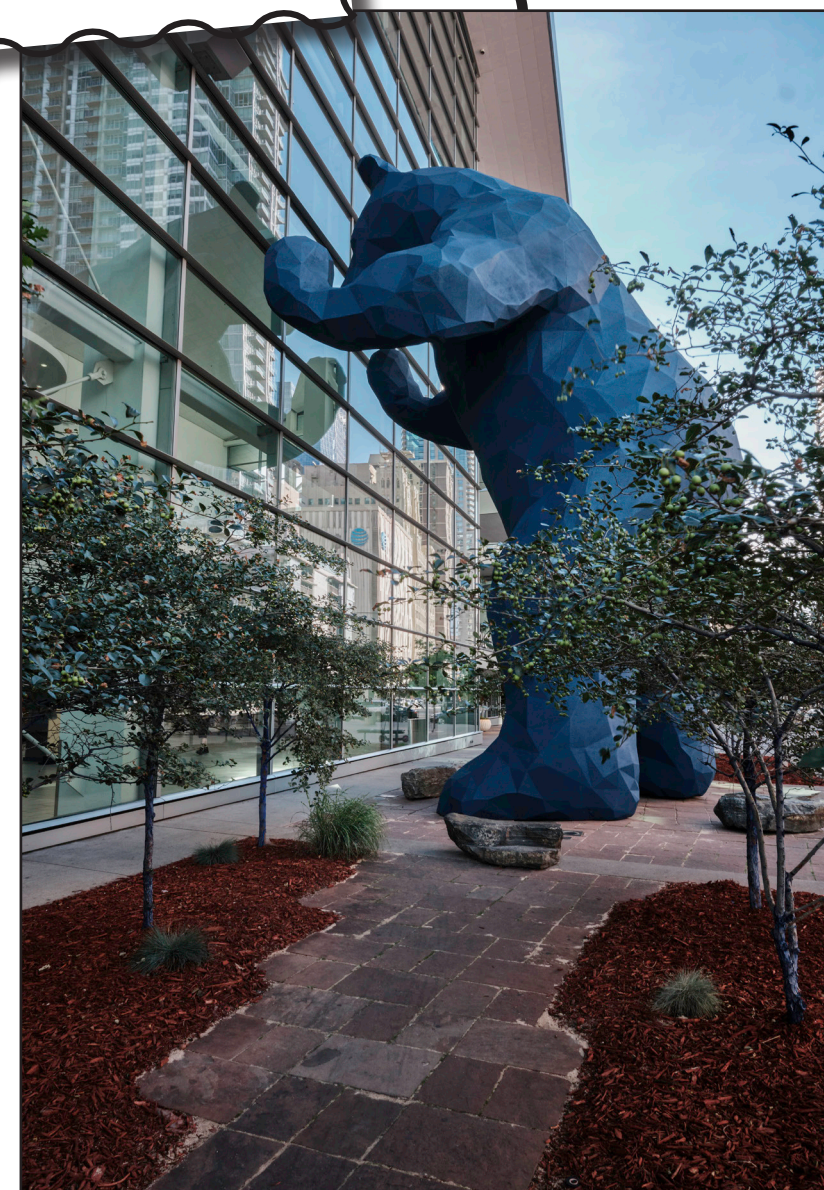
Though French and Spanish names are more common, several cities and towns in America have German names. From Anaheim, California to New Braunfels, Texas, and Schaumburg, Illinois, German immigrants were eager to stamp their new home with a bit of German pizzazz.

However, not all founders were so creative (see: Germantown, Tennessee). Maybe that's why there are so many Berlins in the USA! Type "Berlin" into Google Maps, and you might find Berlin, Georgia, before Berlin, Germany. In fact, there are approximately 26 Berlins spread across the 50 states! Here's a map with all of them we could find.

There are concentrations of Berlins in the Northeast and Midwest, and a few scattered to the South, like Berlin, Texas, and the West, like Berlin, Nevada. It must be because of the large number of German immigrants that went those directions over hundreds of years.

It's important to note that some of these lovely Berlins are unincorporated or extinct towns. Berlin, Nevada, is actually a ghost town! But several Berlins are thriving! For example, Berlin, Connecticut, has 20,000 people. Not bad!

Do you live in one of these Berlins? Ever visited?



Homesick for Berlin:

We see Berlin bears everywhere

James Miller '83 came across this bear on August 12th, 2019: "It's a 40-foot bear outside the Colorado Convention Center, downtown Denver, on 14th Street between California and Stout. As soon as I saw it, I just thought, "Berlin Bear" right away, even though I don't think it really has anything at all to do with Berlin. It just kind-of caught my eye and made me think about Berlin and how I want to get back ... and maybe I read more into it looking through the window than I should have. :)"

BRAT GET-TOGETHERS



In the heart of Texas

Marc Abrams '86 and his wife, June (taking the photo), met up with visiting Brats (front to back) Terri Geer '89, Dannette Brown '89, and Felicia (Phillips) Hays '88 poolside at the Hilton Hotel off Highway 410 in San Antonio.

Oklahoma welcome

Warren Knarr '77 and his wife Carla flew home to Okemah, OK, on October 11th to visit family and received a warm welcome from

two Brats who had lived in the same building in Berlin!

Hey, Brats! Bring this awesome sign to our SEATTLE REUNION!!!



Above, L to R: Carrie (Duke) Bailey '79 TAR, Carla Knarr (spouse), Debbi (Duke) Lloyd '84 TAR, and Warren Knarr '77.

Brats can't get enough Brats!!

Oktoberfest in VA; Brats can't miss it! Left (front row): Martina Laymer-Boone (Stuttgart '88), Erica (Riddick) Benison '88, and Katja Murphy '87; (back row): Chris Boone (Stuttgart '88), Ken Magee '88, Denice Brumback '90, and Joy (Campolo) Turner '88.



BERLIN FOREVER IN THE HEART



Early '60s united for dinner on Oct 30, 2019, in Reno. L to R: Liz Cleveland (Mike's spouse), Kaye (Stewart) Crawford '62, Gail (Rybalowski) Karppinen '63, Mike Jiru '63, Steve Tunnell (Kaye's spouse), and Mike Cleveland '61.

30 years since the fall of the Wall

Continued from pg 8

the wars and now a sleek popular tourist area, was in 1960 a non-descript location rarely photographed. But Mr Hailstone meticulously captured every corner, providing historians with a unique record.

In his book, he writes: 'Modern visitors will not begin to appreciate the flavour of the way the city felt when divided. I hope that this book will help to provide a taste of those days.'

When the Cold War began, the country was divided into East and West Germany with Berlin (located in the East) itself split up with the west controlled by the US, the UK and France, and the east the Soviets. At first, thousands of people could move freely between the Soviet and Western controlled areas. But the differences between the two areas eventually became stark, with West Berlin

wall in 1961 - a physical barrier against defection. The wall was reinforced with barbed wire to stop people from climbing over and it ran for 91 miles, entirely cutting off West Berlin from the rest of East Germany. Soldiers were ordered to patrol the wall to stop anybody from crossing and would shoot those attempting to escape.

It is believed at least 260 people died while trying to escape from east to west.

One of them included teenager

Peter Fechter, who was shot in the pelvis by guards as he desperately climbed the wall. His body was left tangled in a barbed wire fence and he bled to death as hundreds of horri-

fied witnesses - including journalists - looked on. But, as he was inside the Soviet sector, American soldiers were unable to go and rescue him. It's thought that the guards on the east side were possibly too afraid of being shot to help him - the climate of fear and paranoia at the time was intense.

Some people were given permission to cross into West Berlin but



would have to do so at checkpoints. The most famous was Checkpoint Charlie, which is now a museum in the city.

The Berlin Wall remained in place from 1961 until 1989 when, after months of rising tension in East Germany, the Berlin Wall burst open on November 9. Thousands rushed immediately to border crossings after a communist East German government leader told a news conference that travel to the West was to be allowed. Huge numbers of East Berliners gathered at checkpoints demanding to be let across and the vastly outnumbered guards realized they had no choice but to allow them through. East and West Germany were eventually reunited 11 months later in 1990.



Unter den Linden in East Berlin at Christmas 1964. From the approximate location of the present-day Hotel Adlon. The pre-war Adlon was one of the great hotels of Europe, largely destroyed in 1945.

rapidly evolving into a showcase for the capitalist way of life.

However, in the east, the economic situation was not as prosperous, with people living there suffering shortages of food and housing and suffering the restriction of individual freedoms. In order to stop a drain of people from east to west, the communist government in East Berlin decided to erect a



Other page: Top: A shot looking north along Friedrichstrasse from West into East Berlin, July 1960, long before the site became famous. One of only a few from before the Wall. The cyclist is about to cross Zimmerstrasse, along which ran the white line marking the border after Checkpoint Charlie came into force. **Bottom:** Friedrichstrasse Bahnhof on September 12, 1959. The station, in the east, was, and remains, one of the principal railway stations of Berlin, serving both S-Bahn and U-Bahn. At the time of this shot, anyone could travel by rail or on foot between the two sectors of Berlin while undergoing few, if any, formalities. An advertisement for Neues Deutschland, the principal communist daily newspaper, can be seen on the railway bridge, and the ubiquitous political slogan boards are also in evidence. **This page: Top:** Potsdamer Platz, 1962, looking along Leipziger Strasse, where you can just see the East Berlin tram. Hitler's

bunker is off-camera to the left. Although Westerners could approach the wall up to any distance, East Berliners were kept beyond a control zone that extended about to the tram. At this time, the Wall was still made of crude blocks topped with barbed wire.



Photos from Brats: Center: Residents of West Berlin show their kids to their grandparents in East Berlin, 1961, before the Wall is completed. **Above:** Jim Palmer '64 (R) and Tom Post '64 (L) on top of the Wall at Potsdamer Platz. The buildings were being torn down to create no man's land; too many East Berliners were getting out by jumping out of their windows or tunneling under.

We traded fruit and cigarettes with guards on the duty train for uniform parts and pins [a practice that continued for decades, as the swim team traded gum and candy from the duty train for uniform parts and pins in the '80s]. We also explored the FLAC bunker and found an MG42 on a field trip. **Left:** Jim Palmer '64 (L) and Tom Post '64 (R).



BRAT GET-TOGETHERS



Bratuitous timing



Theresa Ledbetter '80 is a truly charmed Brat. First, she bumped into David Pilson '81 in Las Vegas on August 18th. Fireballs down the hatch!!! Then, on August 30th, she ran into Kerry Lastra '84 at the Sanford International Airport, near Orlando! Theresa was on her way to Virginia Beach and Kerry was going to work in Toledo, OH. It was such a surprise to see each other come around the corner.

Margarita magic

Mike Redenbaugh (Deneese's sweet man!), Deneese (Browne) Squires '78, and Mike Friedrich '79 linked up in Arizona!



NYC cool

Vince Lingner '82 catches up with Rob Ahrens '87 (BB goodwill ambassador) during a New York City visit on August 17th, 2019.

Breaking Bratfast

Breakfast with an old friend this morning in Denver. It's been 44 years and it was very cool! Good to see you again, Johnathan Jung '77 (L).
--- Dan Sisernos '75 (R)



Salut!

Tyrone Worlds '84 and Marc Abrams '86 raise their glasses in Brat solidarity, in San Antonio.

BRAT GET-TOGETHERS

Baby brings Brats

Mark Johnston '85 went to upstate New York and caught up with his gang on September 15th, 2019. Kevin Schutz '85's son Brian and his wife Brooke had a wedding party/ baby shower. Significantly, four Berlin Brats at the same event! L to R: Kevin Schutz '85, Chandi (Peterson) Schutz '85, Carrie Abel '86, and Mark Johnston '85.



Do you remember??



Putzfrau dresses

Here's another quick memory of Germany. I think every German woman owned one of these "putzfrau" dresses. These were worn by female janitors and by housewives to protect their clothes from the rigors of cleaning.

Lufthansa old-school in-flight service

In addition to the beer barrel and the "glass Steins," look closely at the food.



Upcoming Events

30th Anniversary fall of the Berlin Wall

November 9, 2019

**Stay tuned here for
2020 regionals
TBD!**

REUNION

June 4-7, 2020



Seattle

Mark your calendars now!
add on our
Alaskan cruise
June 7-14th, 2020

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Find us on Facebook@
"Berlin Brats Alumni Association"
(the official fan page site)

"Berlin American High School (BAHS)"
(an open group chat page)



follow us on Twitter
@BerlinBrats

Newsletter Brat: Kimberly Keravuori '85

Early '60s Site

By invitation only
Contact Jim Branson '64
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for an invite

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