

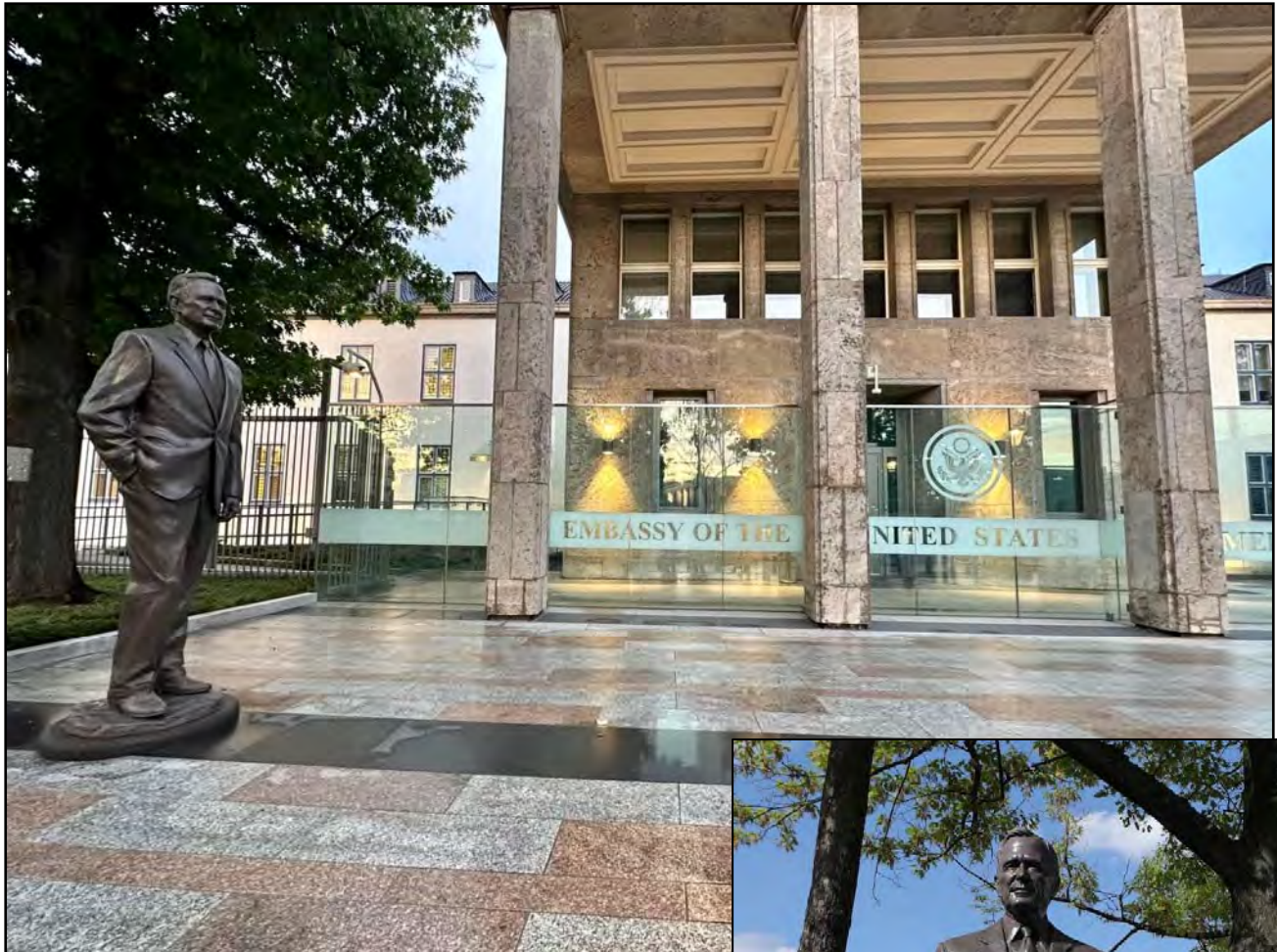


Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter

October 2023

Volume 19, Issue 4

The new "CLAY ANNEX" has opened...on Clayallee (former Berlin Brigade - Dedicated in August 2022)



President George H.W. Bush's statue was just added in May 2023.

Dr. Amy Guzmann (R),
US Ambassador

Continue next page...

Berlin Brigade in history:

Immediately after the airlift, the Berlin Senate honored General Clay with the renaming of Kronprinzenallee to Clayallee. General Clay died on 16 April 1978. Less than one month later, on the 30th anniversary of the end of the Berlin Blockade, 12 May 1979, the compound was named in General Clay's memory, Clay Headquarters.

Berlin Brigade – Repurposing...

In September 2015, a construction contract was awarded for \$81.6 million for the U.S. Embassy Berlin – Clayallee Campus, including major renovations, campus security upgrade, and Marine Security Guard Quarters (MSGQ) fit-out project. As noted on our cover the Clay Annex was officially dedicated in August 2022 with the statue of President George H.W. Bush this past May.

The site as we all know is located in the district of Zehlendorf (the former American Sector), southwest of Berlin. The portion of the site owned and occupied by the U.S. Government was one part of a larger compound of buildings constructed by the German Luftwaffe prior to WWII for use as an administration complex. This compound was taken over by the American Military after WWII and served as the Headquarters for the American Military Government.

Clayallee is an office annex as well as the location of Consular operations. The Annex has historic importance to the German government as it was a regional headquarter for the Luftwaffe during World War II AND historically significant as General Clay's Berlin Brigade Headquarters during the Berlin Airlift. It was originally constructed in 1937.

Following World War II, the building was the headquarters of the U.S. Army in Berlin. This was a Diplomatic Mission that existed during the U.S. Army's tenure as the governing authority for the post war reconstruction of Germany. As the Army demobilized, this became first the U.S. Embassy and then an Embassy office annex, a position which it occupies to this day.

Back in the day!



Photo courtesy of: us-army-berlin.org/clay-hq.html



Rest in
Peace

Our hearts were broken as we learned of the passing of one of our pillars, Marianna (Lieurance) Mounsey '50 (in Berlin '46-'47) on July 1st. She was our Class Contact for the '50's, and the only Brat from the 50's still attending our Reunions. Since starting in 2001, she made all our reunions, the '03, '06, '09, '12, '14, '17 and our last one in '22. She drove her SUV (by herself) to each one of our stateside reunions. In Colorado Springs this past June (June of '22) we celebrated her 90th a bit early at banquet night. She was dearly loved by ALL

the decades. We will surely miss her!!!

Fast forward to Sept 15th (this year).... Marianna bequeathed \$10K to our Alumni Association "to utilize in the best way possible." What better way than to divide the funds equally between our "general fund" and our "scholarship fund" – in both cases paying it forward. Thank you Marianna!!!!



A HUGE TRAVEL FANATIC & FRIEND TO ALL....WE WILL SURELY MISS HER!

Postscript: This is the 2nd time the BBA has received bequeathed funds. In 2005, TAR-FAC Mary Muehring ('56-'58) left us \$5,000. Two weeks later a section (not a fragment, not a piece but rather one whole complete "section" of the BERLIN WALL) came up for sale on E-bay. We, the association, took it as a "sign" and purchased the Wall.

(read our story on our website at: <http://berlinbrats.org/wall.htm>)



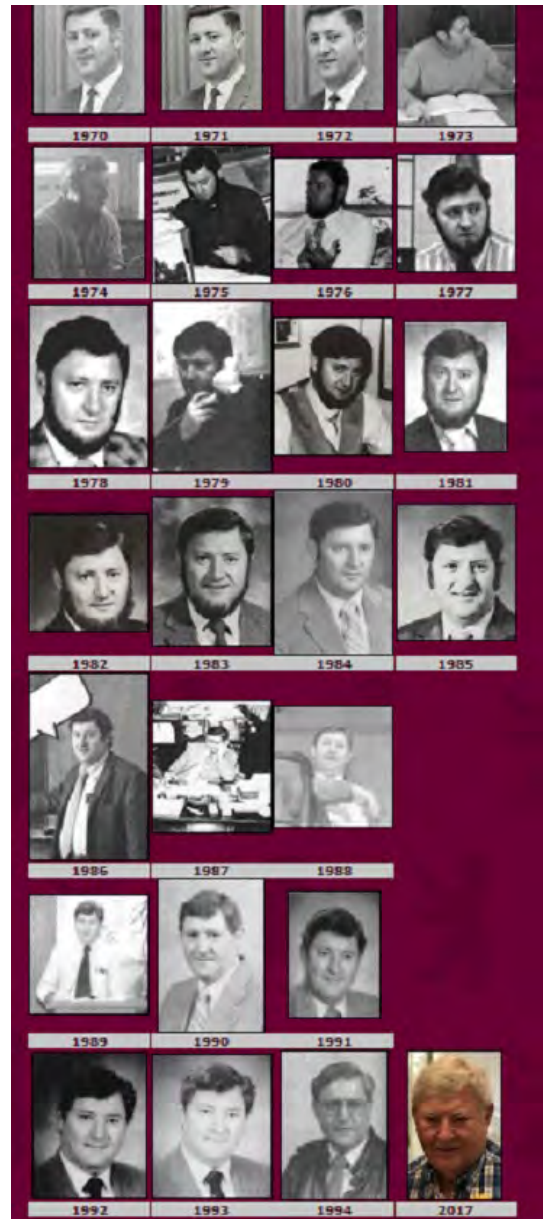
Update: Mr. Hildenbrand Memorial Scholarship!



Our "Memorial Scholarship Campaign" to honor Mr. Hildenbrand has ended....very successfully we might add! We raised \$3000 to fund not one but two scholarships for overseas Brats (via AOSHS) at small underserved DoDEA (formerly DoDDs) high schools. THANK YOU to all our Brats and Educators that made this possible!!! We are extremely grateful!!!

We think "Mr. H" would be thrilled!!!

Mr. Adam Hildenbrand (FAC) Yearbook pictures through the years 1970-1994



WWII – A Shoebill that survived the bombing of Berlin Zoo is housed and cared for by its keeper in her bathroom, ca 1943/44.
Photo: Scherf, Zoo Archive

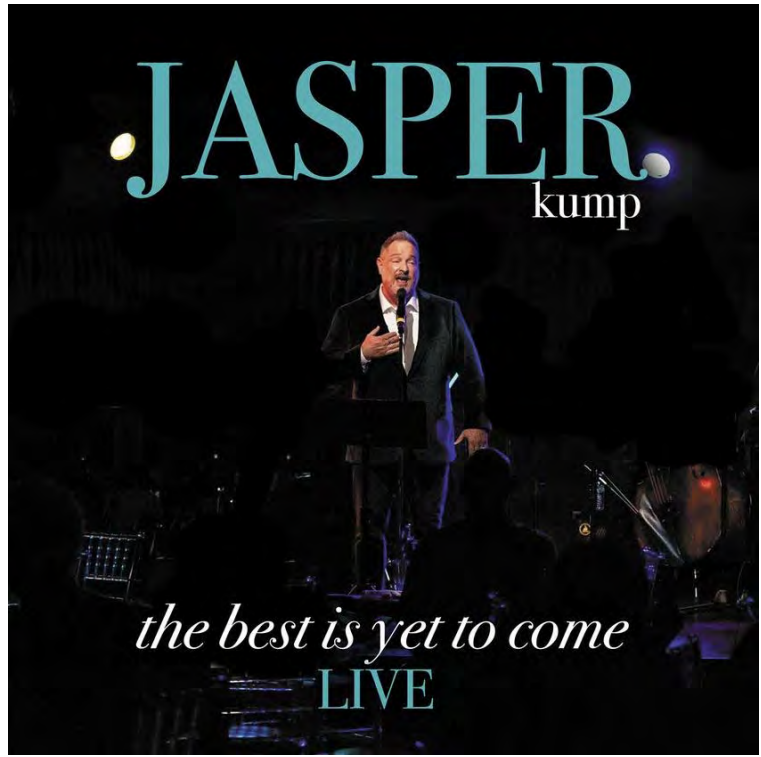
Thanks to Juergen Schaefer for 5/23 FB post.



LIVING HIS BEST LIFE.....

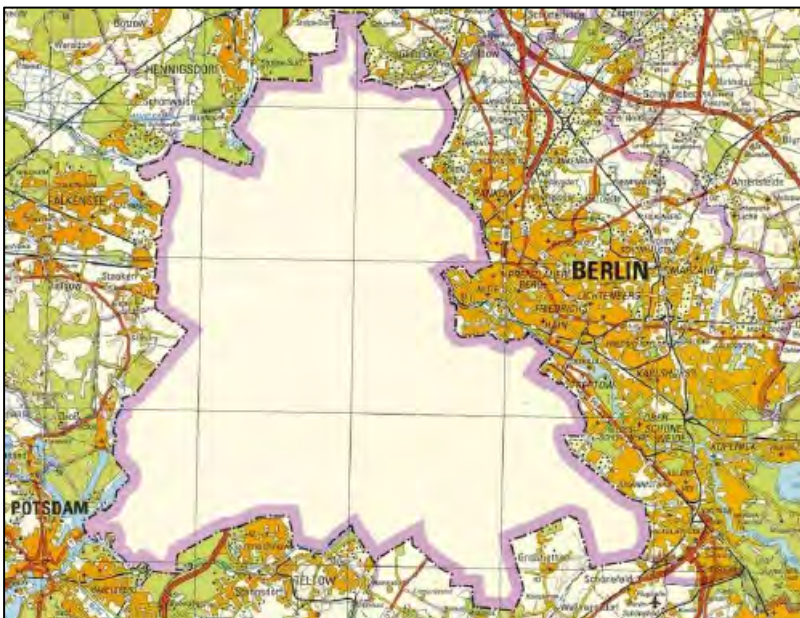
Jasper Kump '87 releases his below album on Aug 26th..... It was recorded a year ago on August 25, 2022 at The Green Room 42 (in the heart of the city's Theatre District) in NYC. *(We reported on this in our Oct 2022 issue, pg 8)*

IN HISTORY: Jasper sang for President Reagan: After he visited the wall, President Reagan visited Tempelhof and congratulated the '87 graduating class of BERLIN American High School who were present in cap and gowns. At this gala for the celebration of BERLIN's 750th Anniversary as a city, Jasper Kump '87 sang for President Reagan, the First Lady and 4,000 others in the Tempelhof atrium. His repertoire included Summertime (Porgy and Bess), Greatest Love of All (Whitney Houston) and Happy Days are Here Again (in English AND German!) while accompanied by the late Horst Jankowski and the RIAS Orchestra. Visit his tunes at: <https://jasperkump.hearnow.com>

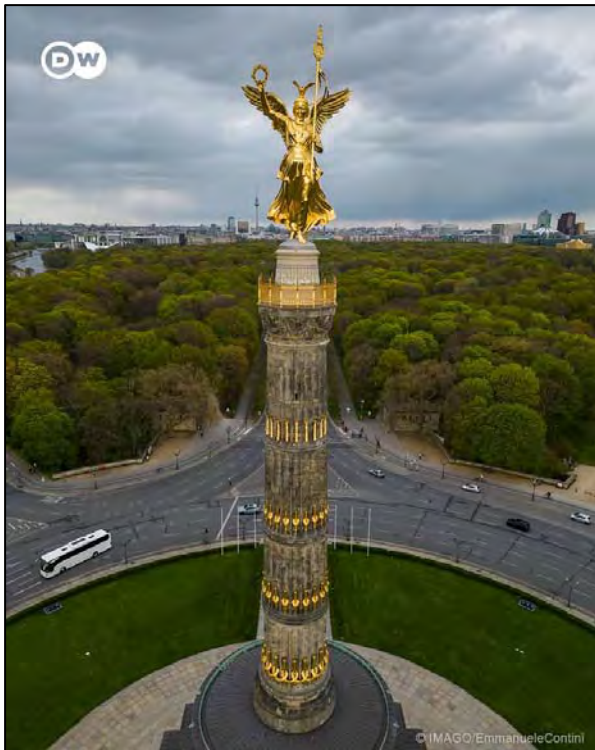


Archive Chuckles:

Map of WEST Berlin as seen by EAST Germans



The Victory Column in Berlin turns 150! (Inaugurated September 2, 1873)



The *Siegessäule* (Victory Column) was a symbol of the German Empire. The Nazis moved it to the Tiergarten. Decades later, it would become an icon of the Love Parade. The Victory Column in Berlin turns 150. There she stands, gleaming as on the first day: Victoria, the golden goddess of victory, enthroned on the Berlin Victory Column, which German emperor Wilhelm I inaugurated on September 2, 1873, after some eight years of construction. The court architect Heinrich Strack was responsible for the planning and construction of this "National Monument to the Wars of Unification"; the figure of Victoria with laurel wreath and Prussian eagle on the helmet was created by the sculptor Friedrich Drake.

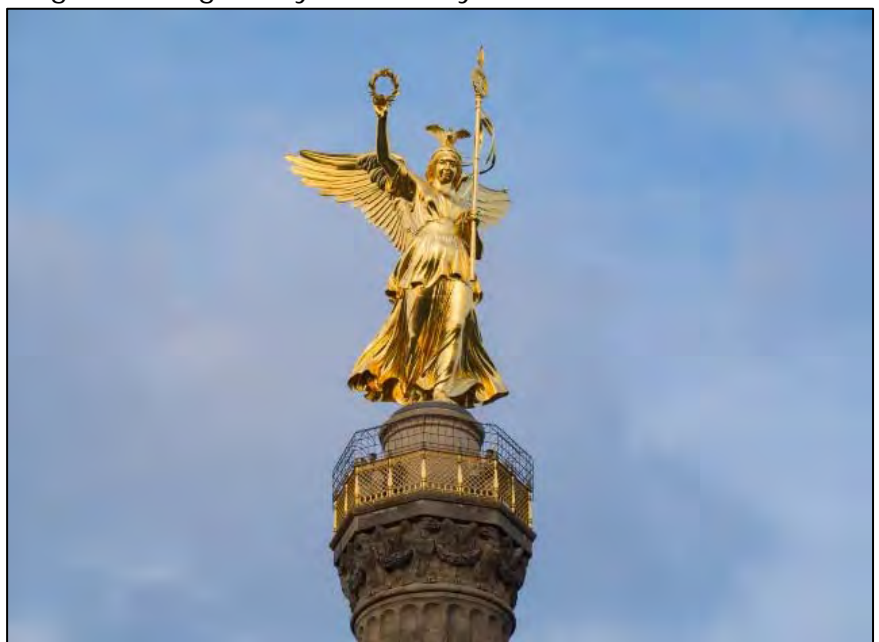
After the wars against Denmark (1864), Austria (1866) and France (1870), which were called the "Wars of German Unification," Wilhelm I, already King of Prussia since 1861, was proclaimed head of the German Empire in Versailles in 1871. Wilhelm had already commissioned the construction of the Victory Column after the victory over Denmark in 1864. The

day of its unveiling marked the third anniversary of the French surrender -- Sedan Day.

The Battle of Sedan took place during the Franco-Prussian War from September 1-2, 1870, which resulted in the capture of Emperor Napoleon III and his thousands of troops, effectively deciding the war in favor of Prussia.

At the time of its construction, the Victory Column stood about 1.5 kilometers (about a mile) away from its current location on Königsplatz, now Platz der Republik. It was erected on Siegesallee in front of the Raczynski Palace that housed the art collection of the Polish count and diplomat Atanazy Raczynski. The building was designed by the Victory Column architect Heinrich Strack. The palace was ultimately demolished, and, beginning in the mid-1880s, the new Reichstag building was erected and completed in 1894.

The Victory Column stood in the way of the plans of Nazi architect Albert Speer. For the "World Capital Germania" envisioned by the National Socialists, a huge congress hall was to be built in its place. So, in 1939, "Viktoria" -- who crowns the Victory Column -- had to move to her present location at the Grosser Stern in the Tiergarten. There, the column was enlarged by another drum from just under 60 to now around 67 meters (197 to 220 feet).



Gilded cannon barrels that were taken from war booty, relief depictions symbolizing the grandeur and superiority of the Empire, and a goddess of victory that even the Nazis knew how to appropriate:

No wonder the demolition of the Victory Column was up for debate after World War II. Polish soldiers, unaware of its significance, later regretted not having blown up the monument. The French occupation forces did request the demolition of the Victory Column, but the Americans and British voted against it, while the Soviet Union abstained.

Berliners quickly disabused with the historical symbolism of the Victory Column, taking away a bit of the grandeur of the goddess of victory by giving it the nickname "Goldelse" (the equivalent of "Golden Elsie"), which still persists in the vernacular.

Today, the monument is particularly popular with tourists.

But, that's no wonder, as the platform at a height of 51 meters offers an impressive panoramic view of the city. Along the "Strasse des 17. Juni" (Boulevard of June 17), one looks toward the Brandenburg Gate, which also showcases an image of Victoria, looking toward the east.

Since the mid-1990s, the "Goldelse" has been in the midst of the hustle and bustle once a year: the Love Parade traditionally holds its final rally at the Grosser Stern in the Tiergarten, at the foot of the Victory Column. Its successor, Rave the Planet, and Christopher Street Day pride parade also pass by here.



BERLIN WALL found in Suwannee, Georgia:



Photos shared by: Patricia Hein, Stuttgart Brat



Berlin's Free University Celebrates 75 years

In 1945 the world-famous Humboldt University in the Russian Sector of Berlin underwent the denazification and was re-opened with new dreams under the Russians. The instructors and students, some of whom had endured concentration and P.O.W. camps hoped for a new world of education. They soon realized this would not be as the Russians burned over 20,000 books and began classes based on Socialism, Marxism with compulsory propaganda. Students that were western sympathizers were dismissed or were by-passed for admission without academic considerations.

Like all citizens of the city the faculty and students endured the hardships of the four-power rule and the allies played no part in the problems of a University in the Russian Sector. In 1948 the students founded a monthly magazine "Colloquium" that attacked schools policies and the sector's leaders. Following an article critical of a student up-rising in Leipzig the three founding members of this were expelled, not by the school but by the Ministry of Education in the Russian Zone.

On April 23, 1948 while General Clay and General Robertson were dealing with the upcoming blockade the students met in the British Sector. Over 2,000 students crammed into the Hotel Esplanade despite the threat of being expelled from Humboldt. The issue was more than the school; it was the issue of personnel freedom, which was the whole issue in isolated Berlin.

Following a Magistrate's rejected request for the university to give the students the facility, they would need the approval of the Kommandatura. Students and Berliners were not willing to wait. In June the students sent out an appeal for anyone interested in helping. With the help of Ernst Reuter plans went forward. Students reached instructors outside of Berlin to come and help and they started to build a new university with ransacked furniture found in bombed out buildings. They quietly emptied the schools in the Russian zone of hundreds of books hidden under coats and in knapsacks.

They opened an office in Dahlem and hundreds of students poured in as did Professors and Lecturers from the Russian Zone Universities; with other colleges offering help, equipment and courses. Hospitals offered to open facilities to medical students. This was all happening despite the beginning of the airlift hardships, of coal, heat, and life itself. The will to have freedom was strong enough to overcome the adversities and the hardships of the Russian threat.

The effort did not and could not be denied by the British and the Americans. Some British in the Education Department were pointedly critical of this effort. General Clay was receptive to the idea and provided 2 million Deutschmarks from the sale of periodicals in his Zone to aid first year costs. He appointed a journalist to keep him apprised of their progress. The Ford Foundation also contributed and The Magistrate approved the foundation on September 22nd then classes began on November 15th in Medicine, Law, Economics and Philosophy. By 1949 they had registered 4,946 students, 20% from Humboldt and 20% from the Russian zone, 4,000 books, 30 professors and 70 junior staff.

The Free University of Berlin has survived and thrives today, joining the Berlin Airlift in a Diamond Jubilee celebration of 75 years. The airmen and the people of Berlin gave birth to a new city and a new University that is now a major world institution. **Congratulations Berlin Free University!**

If the Berlin Airlift had failed this great institution never would have happened.

Written by: Eddie Ide, BAVA

DoDEA Wall Murals Unveiled at the Pentagon, September 6, 2023

The Murals are located at APEX2, Second Floor of the Pentagon. The program called it: DoDEA's Wall Exhibit at the Pentagon. The keynote address was presented by The Honorable Gilbert Cisneros, Under Secretary of Defense with remarks by DoDEA Director, Tom Brady.

We had a tour of the Pentagon and went to the Memorial Room. There, I saw LTC Kip Taylor's '81 name. *(We didn't get to visit his bench in the Memorial courtyard however)* It was a great trip and great promotion of AOSHS. The map used at the Pentagon was adapted from the map we have at the AOSHS Museum in Wichita, giving us credit.

Glenna Harrison-FAC '70-'72



Brat – Kelly Longfellow (left) wrote: *“That moment you attend a ceremony at The Pentagon to honor your agency's history towards “Military Connected Students” and realize this is your story too! I attended three DoDEA schools on two continents, (Velsek ES in Germany, Arnn ES and Zama MS in Japan), my mom attended DoDDS schools too, and my dad worked for the agency as a JROTC at Mannheim Germany, and now I work for DoDEA HQ. Such a full circle moment! I'm pointing at the two elementary schools I attended.”*

Attending the unveiling were AOSHS President, Linda Connelly (3rd from left); Treasurer, Ron Harrison and wife, Glenna Harrison (Berlin FAC '70-'72) (1st & 2nd on left); in the very middle is DoDEA Director-Tom Brady; Historian, Rebecca Dunn (3rd from right); Membership Chair, Joel Hansen (2nd from right); and Secretary, Jamie Hansen (far right).



From the Archives...

School crossing in Frankfurt - 1949 STARS AND STRIPES (8 September 2023)



(Gerald Waller/Stars and Stripes)

Frankfurt, Germany, Sep. 28, 1949: Charles Brown halts a group of pupils from the Fuerstenberger Elementary School until it's safe to cross Fuerstenberger street. Brown, an eighth-grader, was a lieutenant in the Junior Traffic Patrol, a nationwide U.S. safety club dedicated to guarding dangerous street intersections crossed daily by schoolchildren. The organization extended its activities to the U.S. Zone of occupation in Germany in 1949 when 40 boys and girls attending the Fuersterberger Elementary School took up their special traffic control duties. The children escorted safely to school were, from left to right, Jonathan Lovell, Woody Ervin, Linda Graham and Sally Erikson.

"The Sentinel" (Field Station Berlin) Final issues January and February 1992



Who remembers these?

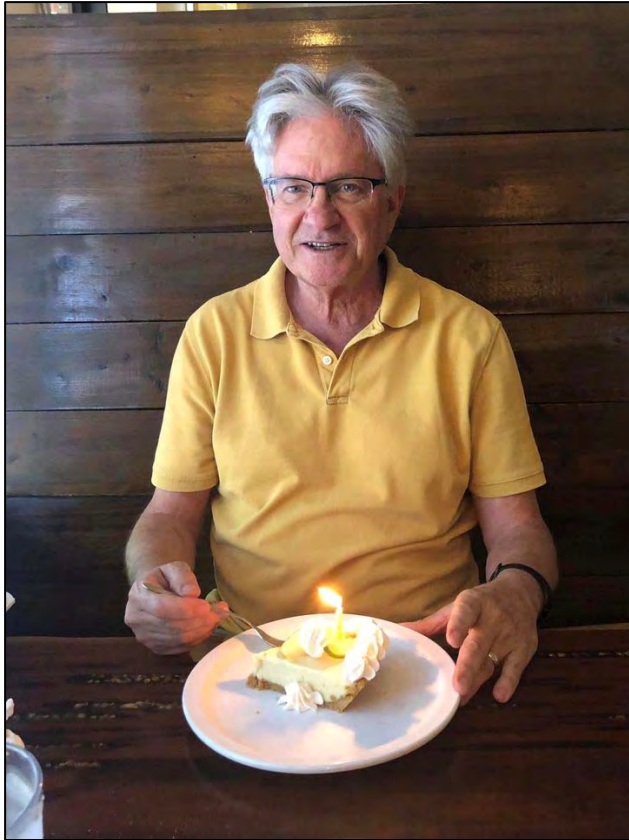
BTW: University of Wisconsin Library has back issues from '89-'92

"Field Station Berlin" has a Facebook page



BRAT GET-TOGETHERS

John Freeman '71....celebrates his 70th with twin Roma, both living in Florida....



Throwback pic 1988 Cheer Squad:



L to R standing: Erica (Riddick) Benison '88, Chantle (Marshall) Peoples '88, Gloria (Jones) Mike '91 & Stephanie Carney '89.

Sitting: Josephine Lonon '91 & Nicole (Horn) Ohl '90

Sadly, we just lost Nikki (Horn) Ohl on September 11 this year.

Brats unite – August 25th:
 High-school friends' reunion
 today in Ormond Beach,
 Florida.
 Steve 'Tarzan' Starks '76 and
 Marvin Lindroth '75



Had dinner
 with Ma Patty
 Beech! Love
 her!!
 (Sept 2023)

Ms. Beech-
 FAC '80-'84
 and Leigh
 (Love) Roper
 '85



Mini Berlin Brat reunions...



While attending the Georgia VFW
 Annual Convention I ran into fellow
 Brat, Angela (Ott) Lamb '80
 Dave Barton '78



(L) Margaret (Stoltz) Green '77 and (R) Julie
 Langley '77 and the men who made us Brats!

Dads: Clarence Dean Stoltz and Arlen Lee
 Langley. Sept 7th, 2023

MORE BRAT GET-TOGETHERS

My Mom met this fellow while hiking near Yosemite. Somehow the subject of music came up, she was bragging about her son, and when the fella said he was in a band too, she asked which one. "The Red Hot Chili Peppers," he said. Mom, dumbfounded, asked his name. "Flea" he said! 🤔

Rob Hotchkiss '79

Rob won a Grammy Award (Best Rock Song) for "Drops of Jupiter", and was the musical force behind hits such as "Meet Virginia", "Free", "I Am", and "Get to Me". Rob founded the band "Train," and his songwriting helped to create their multi-platinum success. He left the band after their third album.



Brats unite: in BELGIUM!



Michelle Estes '90 and Bruce Sora, Jr '91

Blowing through south Florida...
 Marc Abrams '86 and wife Stephanie link up with Peter Stein '80 and Natalie Wilson '86
 10 September



"A Good Time Is Always Had When Berlin Brats Get-Together"



Left pic: Kneeling is Terri Geer '89. First row L to R is: Frank Davis '87, Stephanie Carney '89, Selina (Brown) Singleton '86 & Cherice (Carson) Smith '85!
Back row from L to R is Tyrone Benson '90 & Carla Carson '87. Atlanta Brat Bash 2023!



Right pic: Sunset after Sunset party, front row L to R: Terri Greer, Selina (Brown) Singleton, Stephanie Carney, Cherice (Carson) Smith.
Back row L to R: Tyrone Worlds '84, Frank Davis, Gloria (Jones) Mike '91, Carla Carson.

Greg Mattson '77 had the opportunity to LINK up with the Markey brothers....

"On 25 July 2023, I had the honor to attend a funeral at Arlington National Cemetery for the parents of a friend of mine and fellow Army Brat from Berlin American High School."



Steve Markey '78, Paul Markey '77 and Greg '77

Edelweiss Luncheon in Phoenix between Heidelberg, BERLIN, Bitburg & Karlsruhe!! 20 AUGUST 2023



**Thank you to Mike (Friedrich) for
the Berlin Banner!!**

BERLIN IM HAUS!

L to R: Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, Carl Fenstermacher '73, Jackie Runyon-spouse, Jim Wright '72, Mike Friedrich '79 and wife Naomi.



BRATS UNITE:

So excited to meet up with fellow Berlin Brat, Mina (Buenviaje) Tice '83 at Merrie Mill Farm winery (Keswick, VA) today! It was so good to catch up with her and to hear her incredibly talented husband play. He was phenomenal!

Kendra (Payne) Morgan '80, September 24, 2023

Kendra & Mina



Nurnberg/Munich Brat & Nashville Songwriter's Hall of Fame inductee in 2016
performs at the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix
July 19th, 2023
Beth Neilsen Chapman



Musical Instrument Museum

Beth is probably best known for penning Faith Hill's: THIS KISS!

We were alerted to Beth's performance by her Nurnberg classmate - Deb (Brians) Clark but we know Deb as Berlin Brat Class Contact '74!!

The following Brats attended and did a "Meet-n-Greet" with Air Force Brat Beth:

Carl Fenstermacher '73, Jeri (Polanksy) Glass '72, BETH, Evelyne (Carey) Christich Bitburg '73 & Jim Wright '72



Brats unite: this time in Alaska
@ no other than the “Moose’s Tooth!!”

DoDEA REUNION JULY 2023

Omaha, NE

Surprise: Berlin Brat '85 saves the day!



Steve Kinzie '87 (AK resident) and Julie (Davis) Morris '87 visiting from AZ



Just as DoDEA Director, Tom Brady, goes on stage...he has wireless mic issues. In rushes Berlin Brat Richard Cunningham '85, as an independent AV tech to the hotel. There's that 3 degrees of separation "thing" again! Richard was surprised to learn who his Client was....and we're told then gave them special attention for the balance of their Reunion weekend!

Throwback pic to the U.S. Army team when they were the "BEARS" (and we were still the "CUBS.")

Coles Sport Center background left.... TAR background right



Berlin Bears 1961

Brats converge on Ft. Worth for a dinner

Hosted by: Kim (McLean) Hunt '77

22 July 2023



Rick Martin '77, Donna (Jones) Crain '78, Kim (McLean) Hunt '77, Mike Givler '77, Doris (Sandoval) Dettmer '76, Billy Jordan '76 & Jolene Shriver '76 are ready for some great Margaritas @ Joe T. Garcias.

Doris, Jolene, Dianna Offutt '77 & Kim



Back at the Hotel....for those who drove in!

Rick Martin '77, Kim (McLean) Hunt '77, Joline Shriver '76 & Karen Martin '75





Jolene & Donna



Mike Givler '77 representing our old 1977 "Ita'Snack" on the Ku'damm. 🇮🇪

Brats Link up at Blarney Castle.....That's right – in Ireland !!

Kristen (Ahrens) Lewis '82, Rob Ahrens '87, Karrie (Kotcher) Wymer '86 & Kristy O'Hearne '86 with spouses and family members.....rumor has it they all kissed the Stone!



Still more Guinness in Galway! Karrie '86, Holly (Ahrens) Touchstone & Kristy '86



The Brats are not revealing how their images appeared in their pints of Guinness!!!



SUPRISING NEWS!!!

While visiting her German relatives in Stuttgart (an annual event) for Deb (Brians) Clark '74, she discovered her 2nd cousin Peter Bonus, whom she knew was a chef for the U.S. Air Force in Berlin during the '70's, was actually the personal chef to Col. Halvorsen, a/k/a the Candy Bomber, and Tempelhof's Base Commander from '70-'74.

She had no clue until this May's trip when he ventured from Berlin down to Stuttgart to visit and the two starting discussing "their fondest memories." He said his boss was the "nicest man" and would often come into the kitchen and chat. Small world!

Peter and his sister (May 2023)



Virginia Beach Brat Bash

by Heidelberg Brat: Alan Manning
Berlin Brats represent!



Back row: David Clifford '90, Chris Marvin '89, Joy (Campolo) Turner '88, Ken Magee '88, Mike Haddock '89, Cilla (Batchelor) Lang '89, Keri (Cutting) Mullis '89, & Dawn (Halinski) Anglin '88.

Front: Chantle (Marshall) Peoples '88 standing next to Eldred Ramtahal '89 seated



Chris Marvin, Shellie (Lamb) Iossa '89,
Cillia (Batchelor) Lang, Joy (Campolo)
Turner & Keri (Cutting) Mullis

"Celebrate all month long...."



This Just In...

Gary Powers Jr's next Cold War Espionage Tour of Austria, CZ Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary is April 14-25, 2024.

Airfare from DC, ground transportation, lodging, attraction fees, and two meals per day are included in the tour price. Not only will he be sharing some of the stories associated with these sites, but will also provide another "European historian guide" for additional historical details on sites visited.

The flyer link: <http://garypowers.com/european-cold-war-espionage-tour-april-2024/>

November 30th is the date to register and pay the deposit thereby avoiding a late fee.

Gary Powers' Cold War Espionage Tour of Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia & Hungary

Travel Dates: April 14 to 25, 2024

12 days/10 nights



Join author & historian Gary Powers Jr. on this 12-day tour of Cold War and espionage related sites in Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia & Hungary

What's Included:

- Round-trip air transportation from Washington, DC
- 10 nights in centrally located, four-star hotels
- Full-time CHA Tour Director
- Valuable insight & informative commentary by Gary Powers Jr.
- On-tour transportation by private motorcoach
- Breakfast & dinner (or lunch) daily
- Sightseeing tours & visits shown in itinerary (subject to change based on availability)

Tour Prices:

Full Tour Price: \$5,695 per person

Land Tour Price: \$4,645 per person (does not include round-trip airfare and airport transfers)

Repeat Gary Powers travelers will receive a \$200 discount!

Price based on double occupancy. A \$600 single room fee will apply for travelers without roommates.

The deadline to enroll is 11/30/23 with a required deposit of \$495. Final payment is due 12/30/23.

Questions? Call 1-800-323-4466 or email info@cha-tours.com.

Enroll Online at:

www.cha-tours.com/GaryPowers

GARYPOWERS.COM
Author | Historian | Speaker

CHA
Educational Tours

Day 1: Departure from the USA

Day 2: Arrival Vienna Welcome to Vienna, "Spy Capital of Europe." Meet your CHA Tour Director at the airport and transfer to your hotel. Begin your exploration of Vienna on a walking tour. Later, check into your hotel. Tonight, get to know your fellow travelers at our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Vienna This morning, enjoy an espionage themed sightseeing tour of Vienna. Learn more about the history of postwar Vienna and secrets of the Cold War. Explore sites where the 1949 film noir classic, "The Third Man," starring Orson Welles, was filmed. See Harry Lime's apartment, the Hotel Sacher and Café Mozart, and hear stories about the film's production. Included is a visit to *The Third Man* Museum. Later, visit Vienna's *Prater Park* where you can ride the grand ferris wheel featured in one of the film's most famous scenes. You will also have the opportunity to attend a screening of "The Third Man" at Burg Kino, one of the world's oldest cinemas.

Day 4: Vienna-Misov-Rokycany-Prague Journey across the Austrian border to the Czech Republic. Stop in Misov to visit the *Atom Museum*, the world's only nuclear weaponry open to the public. Lunch at a nearby restaurant is included. Continue to Rokycany to visit the *Museum on the Demarkation Line*, the largest non-state military museum in the country. Proceed to Prague, the Czech Republic's historic capital, where you spend the next three nights.

Day 5: Prague Learn more about Cold War politics and espionage during your sightseeing tour of Prague. Visit the *Prague Museum of Communism* and explore *Bezovka Nuclear Bunker*, one of Prague's largest fallout shelters hidden beneath Parukarka Hill. Later, enjoy a walking tour of Prague to see the 500-year-old astronomical clock.

Day 6: Prague-Rozvadov-Pilsen-Prague Enjoy a full-day excursion from Prague. Travel to Rozvadov to experience what life was like in the former Czechoslovakia in the days of Communism as you visit the *Iron Curtain Museum*. Stop in Pilsen to tour the famous *Pilsner Urquell* Brewery. Enjoy a brewery lunch before returning to Prague.

Day 7: Prague-Brno-Bratislava Journey to Brno, the Czech Republic's second largest city, to tour the *T-2 Bunker*, a highly classified Communist era nuclear fallout shelter, originally built as a shelter during the Nazi Occupation during World War II. Continue to Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, located along the Danube, where the Austrian, Slovak and Hungarian borders meet. Check into your hotel where you spend the next two nights.

Day 8: Bratislava This morning's sightseeing tour of Bratislava highlights the city's Communist era past. Included is a visit to the *B5-B Bunker* and a tour of the remnants of a pre-WWII Czechoslovak fortification system and the border with Austria, known as the "Iron Curtain."

Day 9: Bratislava-Budapest Travel across the Slovak border into Hungary as you make your way to the capital city, Budapest. Upon arrival, get acquainted with Budapest on a leisurely cruise along the *Danube River*. Later, check into your hotel where you spend the next two nights.

Day 10: Budapest Learn more about Cold War and Communist history on your morning sightseeing tour of Budapest. Included today are visits to the *Museum of Terror* housing exhibits related to Fascist and Communist regimes in 20th-century Hungary, and *Memento Park*, a striking collection of statues from Hungary's past as part of the Soviet Bloc.

Day 11: Budapest-Sopron-Vienna This morning, journey to Sopron to visit the *Fan-European Picnic* site where a peaceful meeting of Hungarians and Austrians took place on August 19, 1989. This history-making demonstration at the border of the two nations caused a chain reaction in the region, leading to the collapse of the Iron Curtain, the Berlin Wall, and the eventual reunification of Germany. Return to Vienna to enjoy some free time in the Austrian capital. This evening, celebrate the last night of your tour at our Farewell Dinner.

Day 12: Departure for the USA This morning, you will transfer to Vienna Airport to board your return flight.

German-American Folk Festival / Deutsch-Amerikanische Volksfest 2023

Was held at: Marienpark in Berlin

When: Friday, August 25, 2023 - Sunday, August 27, 2023

As most of us know, the festival that started in 1961 focuses every year on an American theme typical of a specific region in the United States, where a model of "Main Street" is built. The fest visitors experience a sense of being in an American city in a festive atmosphere of varied rock and country music, food and drink, playground facilities for children and more. The festival attracts, every year, more than 100,000 people.



*Historic US Army
Photo: MAKY OREL*

The first German-American Volksfest was co-sponsored by U.S. military stationed in Berlin. It took place in the summer of 1961, at the height of the Berlin Crisis. The situation was tense but the Volksfest went on – right through until its planned closing on August 13th, the day the first bricks of the Berlin Wall were laid.

Themes Year one thru 1994:

1961 – 1st Year – No Theme

1962 – 2nd Year – Laramie Town

1963 – 3rd Year – Old Santa Fe

1964 – 4th Year – Pilgrim Village

1965 – 5th Year – Gold Rush Days/Sacramento

1966 – 6th Year – Alamo

1967 – 7th Year – St Augustine, Florida

1968 – 8th Year – New Orleans

1969 – 9th Year – Bridge to the Stars

1970 – 10th Year – The Old Wild West

1971 – 11th Year – The Wild West

1972 – 12th Year – Hawaii

1973 – 13th Year – Las Vegas

1974 – 14th Year – Fiesta San Antonio

1975 – 15th Year – Coast to Coast

1976 – 16th Year – Spirit of '76 - Birth of a Nation

1977 – 17th Year – Tombstone, Arizona

1978 – 18th Year – Old San Francisco

1979 – 19th Year – Oklahoma

1980 – 20th Year – American Railroad

1981 – 21st Year – Dakota Badlands

1982 – 22nd Year – Northwest Wilderness

1983 – 23rd Year – The Mighty Mississippi

1984 – 24th Year – California - Land of Contrasts

1985 – 25th Year – The American Frontier

1986 – 26th Year – Broadway in Berlin

1987 – 27th Year – America does Berlin

1988 – 28th Year – Dallas in Dahlem

1989 – 29th Year – Mardi Gras in New Orleans

1990 – 30th Year – Alaska

1991 – 31st Year – The Native Americans

1992 – 32nd Year – Sing USA - Memphis

1993 – 33rd Year – Reno, Nevada

1994 – 34th Year – Montana - Big Sky Country



NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK!!!!

(A NEW PODCAST FOR BRATS)

Punk Brats is a podcast brought to you by the Quintero Sisters (Rose and Lisa- both '80's Brats) connecting with military Brats around the world sharing experiences unique to Brat life.

Two of three close sisters who grew up as Army Brats overseas most of their childhood including in Seoul, South Korea, Camp Zama, Japan,

and Rheinberg, Germany. Prior to moving overseas, their dad was stationed at Fort Hood, TX. (a U.S. Army Retired Master Sergeant who served 26 years). He met their mother in Seoul, Korea.

Rose was born in Seoul, South Korea on Yongsan Garrison Army post and Lisa was born on Fort Hood Army post, Texas.

They both graduated from the International School of Düsseldorf. Since there wasn't a Department of Defense Dependents School (DoDDS) nearby, the military bussed the students to an international school, an hour away.

Their pilot episode was July 31st and they podcast once a month. Log on to catch the next one LIVE on October 30th @: PunkBrats.com (Previous episodes are "parked" on their Archives page)

This is yet another POSITIVE step in enhancing your Brat heritage!!!!



Upcoming Events

2023 Regionals:

December 1-2
Colorado Brats Club @
Denver Christkindl Markt
BBAA Flyer coming w/more
details

Other Reunions
OSB Gathering (Reunion)
19-22 Oct. 2023
San Antonio, TX

DoDDs/AOSHS Reunion:
July 15-19, 2024
Lexington, KY

BERLIN BRATS Reunion

Possibly: December 5-7,
2024 IN BERLIN,
w/optional 4-6 day
Christmas Markts/City
Highlights bus tour added
on. Still TBD

More info at year end.

Contact Information



Berlin Brats Alumni Association

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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)

Newsletter Brat: Carl Fenstermacher '73

Early '60s Site

By Invitation Only

Contact: Mike Cleveland '61:
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