



FROHES NEUES JAHR 2025 !!!!

In West Berlin in the '60's and early '70's one would see "Chimney Sweeps" around the city with fair regularity. When they saw children, they would pinch our noses and leave a suet mark!

We would NOT wash it off until bedtime because it was considered GOOD LUCK!

Wishing all of you good luck in the New Year.

Happy New Year!



The first snowfall of the year is magical in every city. The city falls quiet under a thick blanket of white snow. Berlin is especially magical at this time!

There is rarely much snow in Berlin these days....but view this short vid from January 9th.
(Copy and paste in a browser) <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1109006834299825>

The record number of days with "SNOW" in Berlin was in 1969 - 119 days!

What kind of snow did you have during your timeframe???



Our December Reunion - December 2-5, 2024

(our 3rd return to Berlin)

Day 1: Registration Check-In and Reception



Teachers Honored :



Classes Celebrating Anniversaries:



Class of 1974 celebrates its 50th!



Class of 1979 celebrates its 45th!



Class of 1984 celebrates its 40th!



Class of 1989 celebrates its 35th!



Class of 1994 celebrates its 30th!



The Youngest and Oldest Brats, Class of '95
& Class of '59



Class of 1985 – always our LARGEST!!

Day 2: A Visit to BAHS now known as Wilma Rudolph-Oberschule (a German High-School)





You CAN Go Home

by Brenda (Ezell) Garth '71 (attended BAHS '65-'68; 7th, 8th & 9th)

As most know, the Berlin Brats celebrated yet another Reunion December 2-5, 2024, this was the third reunion in Berlin. However, it was the FIRST reunion I have personally been able to attend since the formation of the Berlin Brat Alumni Association. With the support and encouragement of my husband, Jim, this became a celebration trip for us, but most importantly a chance for me to revisit what has been beautiful, grounding and impactful memories throughout my entire life.



Like many Brats, I attended multiple High Schools due to my Dad's career. I'm a proud U.S. Air Force Brat. His 1965 orders to Berlin offered an abundance of opportunities as a family but for me, in the formative early teen years, it was so much more. The impact of the three years in Berlin, was and has always been deeply imbedded in my heart, and returning after leaving in tears 57.5 years earlier was beyond a "Bucket List" trip.

The sights, sounds, smells did NOT disappoint! I was immersed in all the moments, often filled with such warm emotions and a joy that was unexplainable. We arrived a few days prior to the reunion to take advantage of settling into a new time zone, or so my husband thought. Nope, my plan was taking this time to visit some of the most important parts of those days from decades ago. Walking along Kurfürstendamm, floral shops, quaint restaurants, strolling in the Grunewald, actually walking into "East Berlin" (that was surreal).



Curry Wurst, Bockwurst, Pomme Frites ~ OH MY!

We visited the home where my family lived on the Economy, the swimming pool at Andrews Barracks and the apartment in the Housing area, Friends of All Saints Church, the Cemetery, of course the school, the Outpost Theater (now the Allied Museum). I had so many moments of "I AM HOME"! ! !



Were there changes? Of course, but so very much was the same, exactly the same. The validation that this old gal's memory had not failed and that the many sweet teenage memories were real, only now they have become greatly expanded. It was wonderful to re-live even what was a rather short walk to the school via the cemetery from the Housing apartment. I'm still pretty sure it was much further in 1965-1968, (that is my story and I'm sticking to it). Sharing it all with my husband was a bonus, he thoroughly enjoyed my walk down memory lane often reminding me that "a lot can change in over a half a century" (thanks Dear).

I will say the BAHS Reunion was the icing on the cake! From the Welcome Reception to the Banquet on the last evening, it was evident that all the behind the scenes thoughtfulness and attention to detail made this a successful reunion. Planning, organizing and executing an event of this size, much less "across the pond", is a big task. Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72 along with a supportive team of exceptional volunteers insured that every single element was in place, planned to enhance the experience for all attendees and with purpose. Our lodging, The Dorint, was a perfect location with easy access to transportation, Christmas Markets, museums and historical sites. Yes, we took advantage of it all!



The visit to our former high school, Berlin American High School, was one huge treat for me! Again, a lot has changed since 1968 when I departed, but again much was also the same. The Wilma-Rudolph-Oberschule student guides did an awesome job escorting us as we shared how things were “back in the day”. The Tempelhof Tour was exceptional, as were the Guides and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

Every reunion connection made with a BRAT was exceptional, those shared experiences are unique and special in a way that few will ever know. Cherish each one for we are blessed.

Never let anyone tell you “You can’t go Home”.....because I did. As a BRAT, home has always been Berlin, it always will! You CAN Go Home!

Ironically, probably unbeknownst to Brenda, the theme of our 1st Reunion in Berlin....was Bon Jovi’s “Who says you can’t go home?!” J.P.G.

Day 3: Tempelhof Tour





Reichstag luncheon - organized by Michael (Smurf) James '87

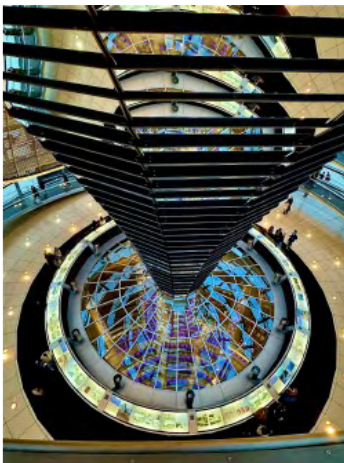
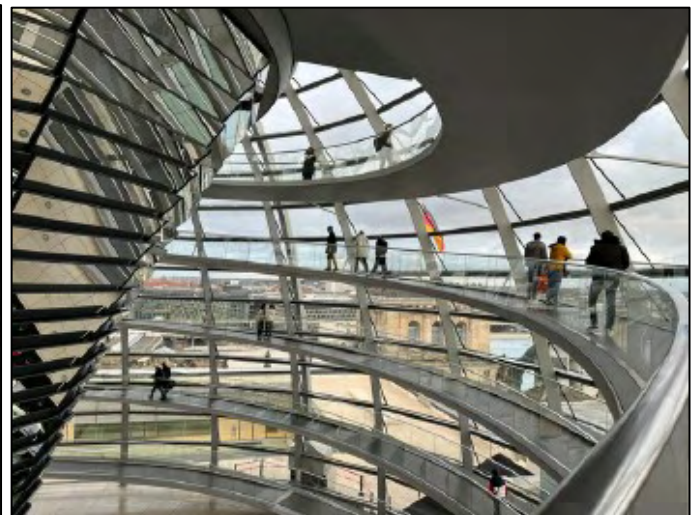
(late '80s & early '90s)

On Wednesday, December 4, 2024, the last day of the REUNION in BERLIN, a group of BRATS met at the Reichstag for an intimate Lunch. What was originally planned to be about 12 people turned into a group of 28. The idea was presented to me by Steve Kinzie '87. He and Rob Ahrens '87 had a tradition to have lunch with Mr. Bluem (FAC '69-'94) at the Reichstag when in Berlin. Hence, the three of them were there prior to our arrival and came over to say hi.



Honorary guests included Mr. and Mrs. Phillip and Kathie Schmoll (FAC '81-'94). Herr Schmoll, in his friendly way that we are all accustomed to, went around to all his former students and caught up. His charisma and charm filled the room as he went around the tables and met with BRATS and their families. In the end, he gave a heartfelt speech of appreciation and gratitude for his years as an educator. Mr. Schmoll, as well as many other people in the room, was brought to tears as he recognized just how many lives he had impacted thru the years as a teacher at BAHS.





Pictured above:

Natalie Wilson '86
Michelle (Brown) Floyd '89
Stephanie & Marc Abrams '86



Waving:

Anthony Sims '87 and Cindy Braun

Day 3: Scholarship Awards - awarded @ Banquet**2024 Scholarship Recipients**

Robert McCuskey – son of Samuel McCuskey '71

Alexander Rieper – son of Tracy (Fitton) Rieper '90

Kaitlyn "Katie" Shaw – daughter of Tim Shaw '85 and Jennifer (Hewitt) Shaw '85

Parker Thompson – daughter of Nicole (Clayton) Hutchison '92



PICS & BIOS of all four candidates can be found on our website's homepage.



Scholarship Committee: (L to R)
 Deb (Brians) Clark '74, Michelle (Brown) Floyd '89 & Michelle Estes '90-Chair
 John Latham '67 (could not attend)



The Shaws '85 w/Scholarship committee



Kyle & Nicole (Clayton) Hutchison '92 with committee

Berlin Brats Reunion Scholarship Award



Scholarships for Berlin Brats
and their Families

Scholarship Donors

as of November 12, 2024

The 1950's

Erik Sundquist

The 1960's

Mike Cleveland
Veanna "Kaye" (Stewart) Crawford
George Gilmore

Blair Good
Carol (Patterson) Hoyt
James "Jim" Polley IV

The 1970's

Wayne Bloebaum
Deb (Brians) Clark
Suzanne (Stovall) Clarke
Jeanne (Winslow) Durbin
Bonnie (Bates) Everett
Ken (Meyers) Farber
Brenda (Ezell) Garth
Glenn Goltz
Jolene (Shriver) Heller
Kim (McLean) Hunt
El Jordan
Charles Kelker
Clay (Coats) Keiton
Jill Langley

Kevin Lindroth
Joyce (Clark) Mallon (in memory
of Justin Mallon)
Shelly (Williams) Matthews
Greg Mattson
Marc Meyers
James Peoples
Kathrin (Lindroth) Planz
Gary Robinson
Laura (Coats) Satterfield
John Schleifer
Denece (Browne) Squires
Cindy (Schleifer) Streton
Steve Sullivan

The 1980's

Rob Ahrens
Kathy (Sams) Berch
Jill (DeBerry) Bonds
Scott Brady
Michelle Brown-Floyd
Lisa (Begue) Carey
Tom Carey
Charlie Cleveland
Sara Fitch
Michael Haddock
Regina (Williams) Hanson
Michael James
Steven Kinzie
Malissa (Murray) Ladd
Danica (Charlton) Lehner
Gilbert Lopez
Ken MaGee

James Miller
Kendra (Payne) Morgan
Tim Murphy
Kristy O'Hearne
Susan (Sams) O'Neill
Eldred Ramtahal
Clyde Serna
Jenni (Hewitt) Shaw
Tim Shaw
Anthony Sims
Tim Snow
Larry Speer
Cheryl (Dearing) Starich
Christina Tucker
Dave Whitney
Mark Workman

The 1990's

William "Bill" Adams
Michelle Estes
Jennifer (Brocius) Gardner

Sasha Horner
Nicole (Clayton) Hutchison

Guests and Other Brats

Michele Clifford (Guest)
Diana (Bock) DuFree (Nuremberg)

Kathy Rose-Ray (Misawa)
Dan Smith (Munich)

Marianna (Lieurance) Munsey Memorial Scholarship

Adam Hildenbrand Memorial Scholarship

Day 3: Banquet Couples and Candid Shots











Speakers:



<- Rob Ahrens '87
- host of Teacher's Q & A session

Erik Sundquist '59 ->
(Berlin Airlift Brat '47-'49)



<- Dr. Charles Kelker '73
(European Chief of Staff DoDEA)

Teacher's Panel :



Left to right:

Werner Prigge - FAC '72-'94

Mechthild Flohr - FAC '93-'94

Charlie Bluem - FAC '69-'94

Phillip Schmoll - FAC '83-'94



Kathie Schmoll - Tour operator/Christkindl Markt tour

Post-Reunion: Christkindl Markt Bus Tour Day 1: Leipzig





Day 2-3: In Nürnberg



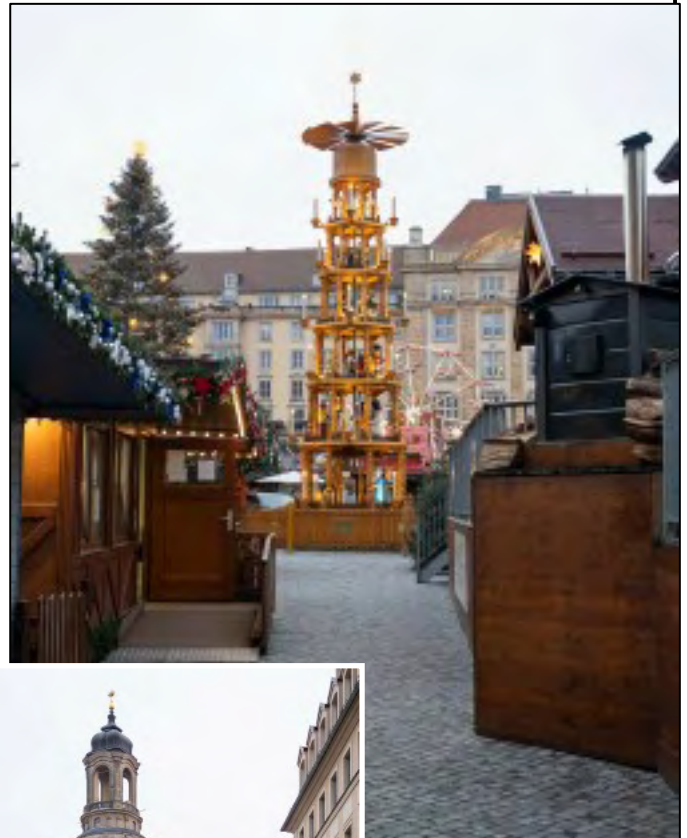


Day 4 – Olbernhau





Day 4-5 - Dresden





For more REUNION PICTURES to include "Class Pictures" please visit our website at:

BerlinBrats.org

The Reunion Photo Album is constantly being expanded...so keep coming back for a VISIT.

THANK YOU to our "Reunion Photographer-Greg Mattson '77 for our official pics accompanied by other Brat submissions!

There's no greater blessing than
having your school friends still
in your life.

Those bonds are rare and truly
a priceless gift.

Upcoming Events

Next Reunion

Summer of 2027
We rotate to "eastern" U.S.
Location TBD

DODDS & AOSHS REUNION

July 14-18, 2025
Reno, NV

MyDoddsReunion.com

Overseas Brats
Gathering (Reunion)
October 2-5, 2025
St Charles, MO

Texas-Osb-2025

Contact Information



Berlin Brats Alumni Association

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website: 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)

Newsletter Brat: Carl Fenstermacher '73

Early '60s Site

By invitation only
Contact Mike Cleveland '61
clevelandmb@yahoo.com
for an invite

American Overseas School Historical Society

Frank Roehl, President
website: www.aoshs.org

Overseas Brats

Joe Condrill, President
email: BratJoeCondrill@gmail.com

Communication Brat:

Peter Stein '80
pstein80@msn.com

WebBrat:

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WebBrat@BerlinBrats.org