



# Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter

July 2025

Volume 21, Issue 3

OUR JUNE 8<sup>th</sup> REGIONAL  
New Braunfels, TX



35 RSVPs/31 in attendance



Steve Brown '73, Henry McMinn '76, & Fred Dixon '73/'74



Laura (West) Niggles '73 & Michelle Estes '90



## List of Attendees

Kathy (Martin) Barnett '69  
 Margie Martinez '69  
 Bernie Beausoleil '72  
 Bev (LaCour) Whatley '72 & daughter Annette  
 Jeri (Polanksy) Glass '72  
 Steve Brown '73  
 Pat Clyburn '73 and wife Denise  
 Sandy McCuskey '73 and friend Pat  
 Laura (West) Niggles '73  
 Fred Dixon '74  
 Adrienne Kelker '74  
 Vickie (Hine) Metcalf '75 and husband Russ  
 Karen Martin '75  
 Spouse of BJ Jordan '76, Kathy Rose Ray -  
 Misawa Brat '74  
 Henry McMinn '76  
 Rick Martin '77  
 Craig Walker '81 & wife Alex  
 Elizabeth (Marston) Hoisington '84  
 Michelle Estes '90  
 Eric John '92 and wife Carrie

### Guests:

Michele Clifford and husband Kim  
 Deb (Henson) Winchester - Yamato '67  
 Diana (Bock) DuPree - Nurnberg '75  
 Dan Smith - Munich '77



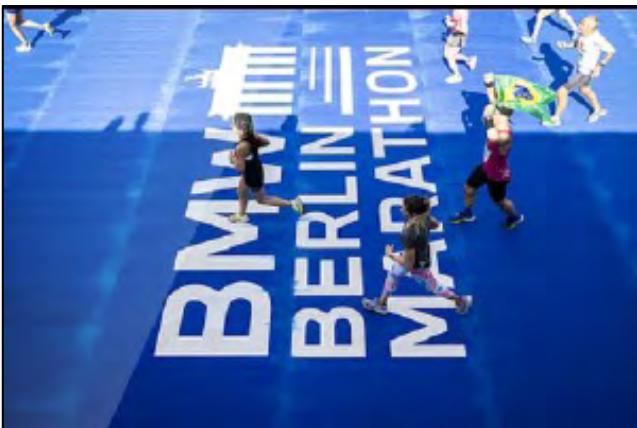
Bernie hamming it up!



**The BMW BERLIN-MARATHON is one of the largest marathons in the world.  
It began in 1974.**

You might NOT know that we had a BERLIN BRAT in that VERY FIRST EVENT!!!

(Maybe the ONLY BERLIN BRAT to run to date?)



***“Today I will do what others won’t, so tomorrow I can do what others can’t!!”***

(A quote that transcends every area of life! Absolutely Vital for Success!!)

*By Dieter Dauberman '74*

While attending Berlin American High School (BAHS) I ran both track and cross-country all four years. After graduating in 1974 I continued my running pursuits. We lived on the fourth-floor apartment on Flanagan Strasse, just meters from the beautiful and spacious forest that the city of Berlin has to offer! Running was my “escape,” my “passion!” The Grunewald beckoned, and I headed! Twice a day runs, sixty to eighty miles a week, sometimes more!

A few weeks after graduation I was pleasantly surprised with a phone call from Captain Miller of the United States Army. After an introduction, Captain Miller was wondering if I would be interested in representing the United States Army at the Third Annual Athens Marathon, to be held in Greece on Sunday, 10 November 1974. (*The Marathon race and course is based on the legend from which the race gained its name. Pheidippides, a messenger in Ancient Greece, ran from the Battle of Marathon to Athens to announce the Greeks' victory over the Persians in 490 BC. Proclaiming, “We Conquered” he promptly collapsed and died. There is more to the story, but we will let it go at that!!.*)

I was totally “Over the Moon”!! What kid at nineteen wouldn’t be?! While my teammates would be from the Army and Air-Force, I would be the youngest and only civilian on the team. As a team we had two “qualifying” races. I easily qualified with wins in both the 15 and 25-kilometer races and was “set to go”!! Or so I thought! Preparing for the Athens Marathon I began increasing the mileage to well over 80 miles per week. Training was going well until a running-related injury flared up in early August. My right arch was so tender that I was unable to bear any weight on it. Resulting in a complete four-week break from training. Early September, I resumed training! By the third week I was putting in double workout sessions, covering well over 100 miles a week.

Another call from Captain Miller. Conflicts were beginning to arise between the Turks and the Greeks. Out of an abundance of caution the decision was made to forgo the Athens Marathon! A huge disappointment, to say the least! Two days' later another call from Captain Miller, asking if I would be interested in running a local marathon right here in Berlin?

**A physical would be required. Great! Cakewalk, or so I thought!**

The marathon was organized by a group of runners from the Sports Club Charlottenburg Athletics Club. From 1974 to 1976 race organizers required runners to undergo a physical examination or doctor's note as part of the registration requirements. Out of the ten-member team I was the only one to fail!! The issue was the heart! Enlarged Athletic Heart at that time was not well understood by the medical community. Especially at my age! After submitting to an "Active EKG Test", the conclusion was that I was in possession of a Very Strong Heart!

**Another Green Light! Ready to go! Or so I thought!**

One final hurdle! There was the issue of age. Requirement was 21, I had just turned 19. Having run a number of long-distance events, ranging from ten to 25 kilometers, race director Horst Milde made an exception, allowing me entry into the race! Two weeks till race day!! Time to taper! (*From 1975 on, the age requirement has remained at 18 with a strict 6:15:00 "cut off time limit".*)

**The first Berlin Marathon was held on Sunday, 13 October 1974, in what was then West Berlin.**

First called the "Berlin People's Marathon" or "Berliner Volksmarathon". Race director and founder, Horst Milde; a local baker and passionate runner himself fired the 9:00 AM starting gun setting 286 runners into unknown territory. (*Milde, a middle-distance runner himself running personnel best of 1:49.8 in the 800 meters and 3:51.8 for 1,500 meters would play a pivotal role in the development and growth of the Berlin Marathon*). Horst Milde served as race director for the first three decades, then handing the leadership over to his son, Mark Milde in 2004.



Grunewald Forest: Dieter in his BAHS maroon track & cross-country jersey

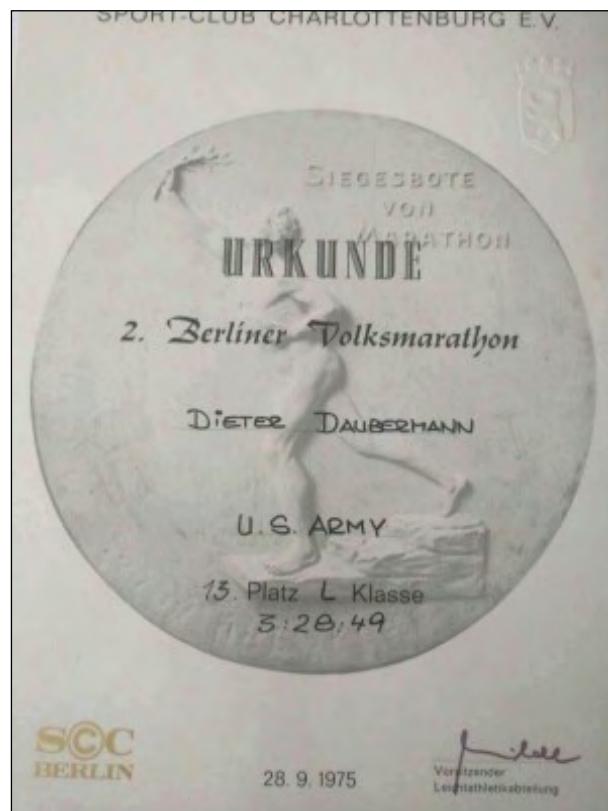
Unlike today's "Berlin Marathon" which is run in the city's center of West Berlin, the first "Berliner Volksmarathon" was held in the Grunewald Forest! Not until 1981 was it moved into the city streets. The 1990 marathon was held just days before Germany's official reunification, where runners were among the first to cross under the Brandenburg Gate, a symbol of the newly reconnected city. That same year the Berlin Marathon ran through both West and East Berlin.

The race consisted of two out and back loops starting at Mommsenstadion, Sports Club Charlottenburg training center, to West Berlin's public beach Strandbad Wannsee, then back to the stadium. Within the first kilometer, Günter Hallas and I separated ourselves from the rest of the field. Exiting the Strandbad Wannsee 1,200-meter loop we were informed by race officials that the third-place runner had just begun to enter the loop. Fifteen kilometers into the race, Günter Hallas began to advise me that we should slow down the pace. I'm not quite sure who was pushing whom into this torrid pace, but I was having none of it! Being thirteen years my senior, Günter Hallas began to take on the role of a mentor rather than a competitor. (*Something that one has to admire in endurance sports! While each individual is out to win and do their absolute best; yet at the same time encouraging the competition to do the same!*)

As we were nearing Sports Club Charlottenburg for the turnaround for the second loop, I began to feel the effects of the pace. Günter Hallas started to pull away. Putting all my energies into the first half of the race, I had nothing left. The 1962 British film titled The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Runner came to mind. Günter Hallas, All Alone! Me, All Alone. Each going through our own Physical, Mental, and Emotional Pain! Cheering Crowds had gathered as we were approaching the final few kilometers towards the finish line at Mommsenstadion, Sports Club Charlottenburg. Günter Hallas came across the line in 2:44:53. Struggling badly, within the final kilometer I was passed, first by one runner, (Rudolf Breuer 2:46:43) then another, (Günter Olbrich 2:48:08). Half a minute later I would finish in fourth place in a time of 2:48:40. Of the 286 starters, 234 men and 10 women crossed the finish line in the allotted 6:15:00.



'74 & '75 Medals



Continued page 23

## BRAT GET-TOGETHERS

The '72 & '73 Phoenix Brats did a luncheon at our teacher's house on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>

Jackie Runyon spouse, Diane (Green) Kempton '72, Mrs. Berta Echeveste spouse, Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72 and Carl Fenstermacher '73 in back row.

Up front Mr. Sam Echeveste – FAC '67-'69 Industrial Arts going strong at 92 years of age, and Jim Wright '72.



A weekend in San Francisco with my nephew followed by a mini-reunion with one of my fave Berliners followed by a land and sea Alaskan cruise. May 24, 2025



(M) Joy (Campolo) Turner '88 and Chris Marvin '89

In Anchorage,  
5/27/25 Joy linked up  
with Steve Kinzie '87



Joy, (a Bear in between) how fitting!  
& Steve

## BRAT LINK UP: IN MONTANA!!!!



Great way to start my summer! Dear friend from long, long ago (Berlin, Germany) came from AZ for a visit last month. It was GREAT to see Diana (Green) Kempton '72.

Always enjoy her company! Lots of laughs and looking forward to seeing her again. Thank you for coming Di.

(L) *Renee (Shipley) Knowles '71*

*May 2025*

The Kump's reunite for Mr.'s 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in the Orlando, FL area. Mr. Kump is the VP & Editor of the **BUSMVA** (Berlin U.S. Military Veterans Assn.) – our parent's organization. Tell your Dad/Mom about this group if they don't already know:

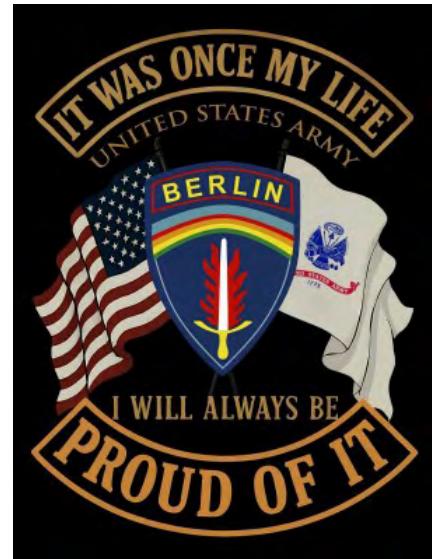
<https://berlinveterans.com/>



Left pic: (L to R): Mr. JB Kump, Linda (Kump) Simonsen '89, Jasper Kump '87 and Mom Shirley



Cool hoodie posted on the  
BUSMVA Facebook page



## MORE BRAT GET-TOGETHERS



April 18, 2025

Lunch in Durham, NC with Mike Haddock & Teddy Berlin4Life .

(L to R) Tess-spouse of Ken, Michael Haddock '89 and Ken Magee '88



These two – accidentally bumped into each other at Orlando (MCO) Airport on May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Kelly Willa '85 and Kerry Lastra '84



Twins John and Roma Freeman, c/o 1971, on their 72nd birthday.

They alternate yearly between Pineapple Upside Down and German Chocolate cakes.



## BRATS CRUISING

On September 8, 2024, I booked a Viking Danube Waltz River Cruise for me and my mom, who, at 89, said it was time to begin ticking off her bucket list. After booking this cruise on the Viking Embla for 4/6-13/2025, from Passau to Budapest, taking in Linz, Krems, Batislava along the way, I knew a couple of my friends from BAHS also had a Viking cruise on their respective bucket lists. I sent them an email with the details. That evening, I heard from Gary Robinson (BAHS '74) and his wife Susan, who had a few questions. Before hanging up, they asked, "Are you sure you would like for us to come? Be careful what you ask for!" I responded a resounding, "YES! But no pressure."



Gary Robinson '74, Mom, Pat (Martel) Little '72 and Me, Deb (Brians) Clark '74

"Angels" had blue skies the entire week and only one day of really cold weather. We were grateful. The cruise was awesome, from the Viking staff to the local ports we visited, and by day three on the cruise, my mom said to all of us: Can we do this again? Maybe the Rhine river next year?"

On March 19-26, 2026, the six of us are booked on the Viking Gersemi from Amsterdam to Basel. My dear friend Gary Robinson, had this to add once he and his wife booked, "Debbie, we've been friends for more than 50 years and our friendship is starting to get very expensive." Ha!!! I am blessed to have such good friends from BAHS who I have kept in touch with over the years. People still cannot believe when I tell them it's a small world, and that each of us

Susan & Gary '74, Mom, Pat '72 (standing), Deb '74 sitting, and Roger-spouse of Pat

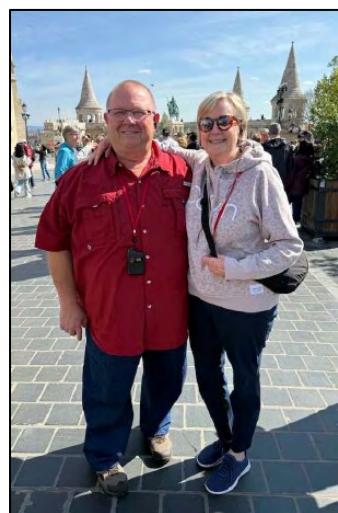


somehow are connected with a brat, and that my mom, who will be 90 next month, went to school with Pat's mom in the Lankwitz section of Berlin.

Both women graduated and went on to be hatmakers, married American soldiers, and had children who later attended BAHS. Gary's mom is from York, so he has a UK connection, and my husband and I hope to travel to the UK sometime with Gary and Susan and live like locals.

I'll save that for my next article!

By: Deb (Brians) Clark '74



Gary and Deb the '74ers!

The very next morning, I heard again from Gary and Susan, this time via email, with a confirmation of their booking on Viking. I was thrilled! Then, later that afternoon, I missed a call from Pat (Martel) Little (BAHS '72), who left a voicemail that said, "Hi this is Pat. We are in room 315." In a matter of two days, six of us with Berlin ties decided we would help fulfill my mom's dream of a river cruise, and ticking off multiple personal bucket lists.

There's a German expression one uses when traveling with perfect weather. It is: "Wenn Engel Reisen" (translated, When Angels travel). We



## Colorado Brats Club Luncheon

Annual event – every April (Apr. 26 this year) and always held at the famous Edelweiss Restaurant in Colorado Springs.

Hosted by: Chris Kyrios '75 Karlsruhe Brat. Open to all – all years-all schools. Sold out at 120 attendees!!!



Darla '88 and hubbie Jeff

Lonnie & MaryAnn (Cunha) Glover '76 modeling Darla (Tabor) Hung's '88 jacket



Father's Day weekend in Charlotte, NC: Michael Brians '78, Gary Robinson '74 and spouse Susan, and Deb (Brians) Clark '74



Kate (Murphy) Scrivener '88 found the Berlin Wall at Frank Lloyd Wright's Kentucky Knob House (in southwest PA).

#### THROWBACK PICTURE:

Do you ever think about the happiest days of your life? This is one of my Top Five, June 8, 2013.



My "little" brother Scott Freeman ('81 TAR) was on a business trip to Berlin and I stayed in Germany an extra eight days after my UF sponsored study abroad trip ended so we could celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and reminisce about the time we lived there as children, 1968 to 1971. We drove his rented Mercedes deep into the former East and shared lunch atop the Spreearche, a floating restaurant on the Müggelsee. The day was sunny, the beer was cold, memories flowed, and we were at peace with the world.

John Freeman '71



## 2025 Gary Powers Jr. Cold War Espionage Tour of England, Holland & Germany, April 22 – May 3, 2025

By: Lisa (Gore) Randle '75

**"Your mission, should you choose to accept it..." I did.**

Twenty-odd people did too. Our 12-day mission: to explore people, organizations, and sites associated with espionage during the Cold War era. Designed by Gary Powers Jr. and led by tour company manager and amateur historian Lance Shippey, this mission was not for the faint of heart. My compadres included ex-military, ex-CIA, ex-linguists, ex-DOD teacher, BRATS, and spouses. This group was up for the fast-paced twelve-hour days that began in London and ended in Berlin. We stayed in 4-star hotels and ate at 4-star restaurants.

Gary Powers Jr, the son of U2 pilot Francis Gary Powers is passionate about the Cold War. As a young boy, he was determined to learn as much as he could about the downing of his father's spy plane in the early sixties over the USSR, his subsequent show trial in Moscow, and his exchange at the Glienickerbrücke in Berlin. This was Powers' third Espionage Tour group and the second tour to England, Holland, and Germany. His other tour includes East Europe and Berlin. If you're interested, this tour is available this fall. Some of my compadres have been on all three!



*Gary Powers, Jr. standing next to photo of his father, Francis Gary Powers*

Lance Shippey's father served on the HMS Duke of York and was one of the Royal Marines who guarded German survivors of the 1943 sinking of the *Scharnhorst*. Shippey speaks (at least) three languages fluently and had a career in aviation with Lufthansa. Shippey was an eyewitness to the crash of British Midland Airways Viscount G-AVJA in 1969. Needless to say, Shippey is very knowledgeable about airplanes and brings his personal knowledge of history to every site.

**Day 1: Departure from the USA.** Every great mission begins with a meeting of its cohorts. Ours began at the Turkish Lounge (free drinks, thank you Gary) in Washington Dulles Airport for our overnight flight to London's Heathrow Airport.

**Day 2: Arrival in London.** Welcome to London! Our Tour Director Lance greeted us at the airport and escorted us by private motorcoach to Park Plaza London Westminster Bridge Hotel. After a very brief respite, Lance escorted us on a walking tour to Trafalgar Square to see Admiral Nelson's Monument, the Lion Statues, London Eye, Downing Street, and the National Gallery. We also witnessed protests against Brexit and the bombings in Gaza. Did you know that in James Bond's *Spectre*, Blofeld's helicopter crashes into the bridge? At dinner, we dined with fellow travelers at Searcy's Bar and Brasserie at Surveyors House near Big Ben and Parliament Square.

**Day 3: London-Richmond-Guildford.** This morning began with a spy-themed guided sightseeing tour of London highlighting Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, Whitehall and Downing Street. I was so excited to visit New Scotland Yard, the MI5 and MI6 buildings, fascinating Churchill War Rooms, the secret underground headquarters of Prime Minister Winston Churchill during World War II, so fascinating that I fell down the steps and injured my ankle. I

didn't get to enjoy these sites or the lunch at St. Ermin's, the Westminster hotel steeped in British espionage history. While nursing what I (and the doctor) thought was just a badly sprained ankle, I missed the morning and afternoon's sightseeing excursions to the National Archives to see its recently-opened exhibition on MI5, and the Iron Curtain Museum in Guilford to explore its collection of Cold War military vehicles and artifacts. Have no fear; I continued with the team the next day!



Gary Powers, Jr. in forefront, Lisa in wheelchair....

used by the USAF during WWII to support daylight bombing of Germany.

Afterwards, we drove to nearby Cambridge where we lunched at Brown's Brasserie and Grill for authentic Fish and Chips with "mushy peas." During a walking tour (I was wheeled around in a wheelchair by a 2-star general) we learned more about this renowned university town's history of spies including the infamous "Cambridge Five" Spy Ring, a British ring of Soviet spies. They included (with their code) Donald Maclean (Homer), Guy Burgess (Hicks), Kim Philby (Sonny, Stanley), Anthony Blunt (Johnson), and John Cairncross (Liszt).

**Day 5: Eurostar Train-Brussels-The Hague** This morning, we boarded the time-saving Eurostar train at London's St. Pancras Station that whisked us from London to Brussels, home to the European Union and NATO headquarters, in just over two hours. Upon arrival, we met our touring motorcoach and drove to the Parc du Cinquantenaire, built in 1880 to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Belgian independence. It is topped by a bronze quadriga with a female charioteer, similar to the one over Brandenburger Tor. At the complex's impressive arch and u-shaped arcade, we visited its excellent Autoworld (automobile) museum and the Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and Military History. Afterwards, we drove to the Hague, the seat of the Dutch government and home to the United Nations' International Court of Justice. We stayed at Hilton the Hague Hotel and dinner at a local restaurant was included.



**Day 6: Lelystad.** The morning began with a visit to the Louwman Museum, which houses one of the most impressive car collections in the world, including the original DB5 assigned to fictional secret agent James Bond in the film, "Goldfinger." This afternoon, several of the group traveled to Lelystad Airport to visit the fascinating Aviodrome Aviation Museum to discover the history of Dutch civil aviation where more than 100 unique aircrafts are on display. I couldn't look at more airplanes, so I returned to the hotel and explored the surroundings. Others took the opportunity to explore the Hague. Dinner was at du Boterwaag Café Restaurant.

**Day 7: Amsterdam-Bonn-Rhineland.** The day began with a drive to Amsterdam, Holland's picturesque capital, where sightseeing aboard a leisurely canal cruise introduced us to the city's scenic waterways. We stopped at Vondelbunker, a Cold War era bunker located under Vondelpark that now functions as a local community space. Unfortunately, the bunker was closed. Most likely because the city was recovering from the previous day's King Day celebration. I enjoyed lunch at an Irish Pub with the retired Russian linguist and his wife before our group set out to cross the Dutch border en route to Germany's Rhineland. We drove to Bonn, the capital of West Germany from 1949 to 1990 (and birthplace of Beethoven). We dined by the Rhine River before continuing to our hotel across the river. We stayed at the Steigenberger hotel located on the Petersberg, a part of the Siebengebirge overlooking the Rhine River. It was the seat of the Allied High Commission after WWII.

**Day 8: Ahrweiler-Unkel-Rhine River Cruise.** The day began with a drive to Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler in the Ahr Valley to visit the Regierungsbunker (also known as the Government Bunker Documentation Site), the once top-secret underground complex was built during the Cold War inside two abandoned railway tunnels to house the German government, parliament and federal personnel in the event of the breakout of war. Afterwards, we traveled to Unkel to visit the Willy Brandt Museum to learn more about the legacy of the former West Berlin Mayor and West German Chancellor. Finally, we drove and ferried to Kamp Bornhofen to board a late afternoon Rhine River Cruise ending at St. Goarshausen. We savored the Rhine Valley on a leisurely Rhine River Cruise eating lunch (bratwurst), passing fairytale castles, vineyards, and the Lorelei before returning to our Rhineland hotel where dinner was included.

**Day 9: Geisa-Leipzig.** We journeyed to Geisa to visit Point Alpha Memorial, a Cold War observation post overlooking part of the Fulda Gap, the prime invasion route for Warsaw Pact forces if the Cold War would have erupted into actual combat. The memorial serves as a moving reminder of the division of Germany and the confrontation between NATO and the Warsaw Pact during the Cold War. We were fortunate to have retired Sgt Applegate aboard our tour. Applegate provided us with a first-hand history of military operations that he experienced while serving in the Army. We continued our journey via the famous Autobahn (with traffic delays, accidents, and detours) to Leipzig, where we visited the Museum in der "Runden Ecke", the city's former Stasi headquarters. This was on my bucket list because I didn't have time to visit it two years ago on a previous trip to the city. We stayed at NH Leipzig Zentrum Hotel and dined at the Ratskeller this evening.



**Day 10: Potsdam-Berlin.** Today, we drove through Potsdam to Glienicke Bridge ("Bridge of Spies") where Gary Powers Jr. provided commentary about the exchange of his father, American pilot Francis Gary Powers, and Soviet KGB Colonel William Fisher that took place there on February 10, 1962. Later, we were unable to make a planned stop in Steinstücken Village, a small enclave of Berlin where the U.S. military built a secure post, a wall and helicopter landing pad during the height of the Cold War (General Clay landed here by helicopter), sealing it off from the western sector. Our tour coach was too large for the narrow Cobblestone streets. This is still on my bucket list; it's not accessible by S-Bahn. In Berlin, we lunched at Avis sur Martas Restaurant on Albrechtstrasse 8. I recommend visiting it; they have beautiful courtyard seating.

The afternoon was spent at Checkpoint Charlie Museum and the most famous border crossing point along the Berlin Wall that once divided the city from 1961 to 1989. Admittedly, after the many airplane museums, this was my least favorite site. The Allied Museum is much better. We stayed at the Hilton Berlin Hotel. Since we were on our own for dinner tonight, I took the opportunity to contact fellow BAHS Brat Jürgen Bailey '74. After 2 U-Bahn lines (with a transfer because work was being done on a portion of one line) and 1 S-Bahn line, we met up at Oskar-Helene-Heim station. I was Jonesing for Wiener Schnitzel! Instead, we settled for a beautiful outdoor Thai restaurant that Jürgen recommended in Zehlendorf. It was wonderful. Don't ask me where it was; Jürgen was driving.

**Day 11: Berlin.** This morning, sightseeing began with a visit to the DDR Museum for a glimpse of what life was like in the former East Germany by exploring the museum's hands-on, interactive exhibits filled with authentic memorabilia and artifacts. I have been there before but didn't mind going again. It is very well done and is next to the river. Afterwards, I checked off another visit on my bucket



Section of Berlin Wall

list: the Stasi Museum located in the former headquarters of the GDR and the East German secret police, where you can see surveillance and observation technology and tour the office of the Minister for State Security, General Erich Mielke. Yes, another Stasi site. I know. It's a little difficult to get to. It's in a very non-descript building (looks like a hospital) and is in the middle of a neighborhood. There's another Stasi site outside Potsdam that I want to visit too. Each site offers something a little different. Sightseeing continued this afternoon with a visit to the Wall Museum East Side Gallery chronicling the Wall's construction and its impact on the people of Berlin. The day ended with a visit to the imposing Reichstag, a historic legislative government building and the seat of the German Bundestag topped by an extraordinary glass dome offering incredible views of the Berlin skyline. I've been here before. It's free but you need reservations and your passport. At the Reichstag's Rooftop Käfer Restaurant we were treated to an aperitif with an assortment of sweet and savory snacks. Later that night, we celebrated our final evening in Germany at our Farewell Dinner, where I finally got Wiener Schnitzel!



40 years post U-2 incident  
Powers Awarded  
Distinguished Flying Cross

**Day 12: Departure for the USA.** We departed from Berlin Brandenburg Airport for our return flights to Washington Dulles International Airport.

If you are interested in joining a future Gary Powers Espionage Tour, check out and let 'em know you are a Berlin Brat:

**CHA Educational Tours**  
325 Chestnut Street, Suite 205 • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106 USA  
Tel: 1-800-323-4466 • Fax: 215-923-5583 • Email: [info@cha-tours.com](mailto:info@cha-tours.com) • Web: [www.cha-tours.com](http://www.cha-tours.com)

Please contact Tina Falcione at  
CHA Educational Tours at 1-800-323-4466 or by email at  
[tfalcione@cha-tours.com](mailto:tfalcione@cha-tours.com)

My costs for this tour were: \$6,295 (full tour including flight from Dulles); \$600 (single supplement); \$439 (round trip Charleston, SC to Dulles). I'm not including the London doctor's bill for my ankle, which, by the way, turned out to be broken. The surgery in Charleston was \$94,000!!! Thanks to Medicare and insurance, I don't pay that much. Would I do the trip again? **You bet I would!**

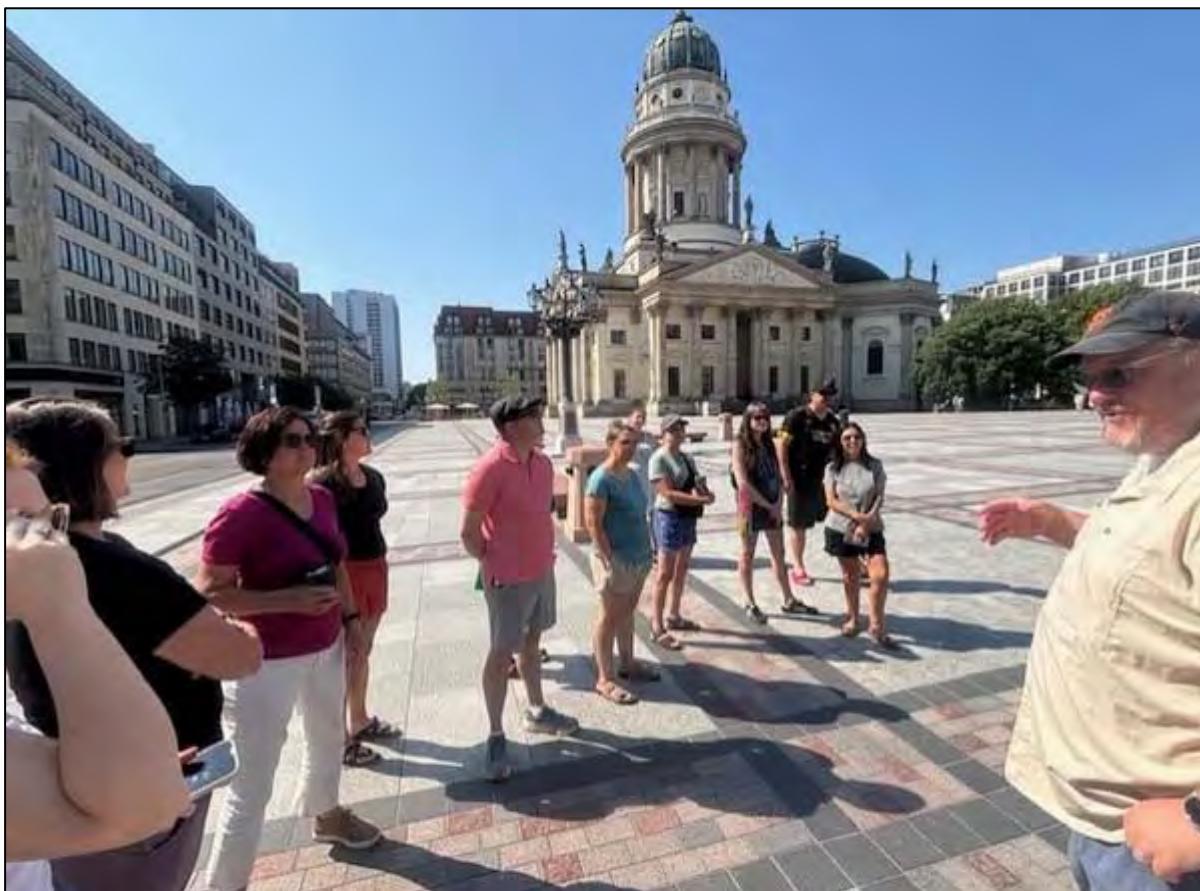
## Checkpoint Charlie Foundation

June 16, 2025

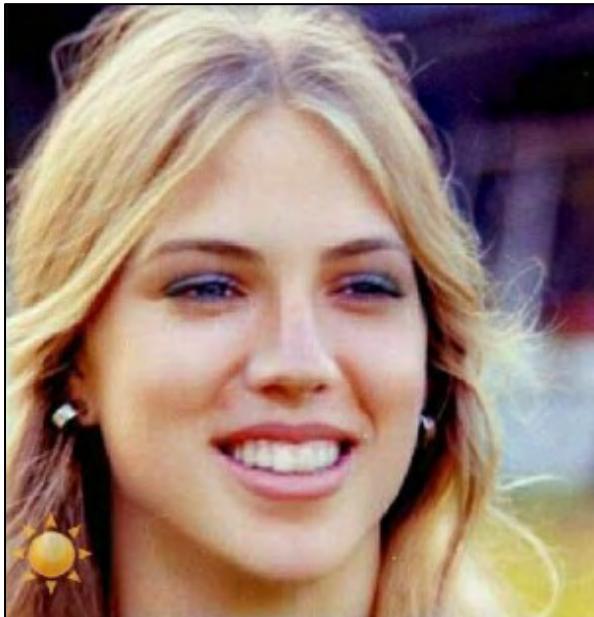
A group of 12 American teachers from New Mexico and Georgia started their two-week exchange program to Berlin with a three-hour tour of Berlin. The Americans learned more about the history of Berlin at the Gendarmenmarkt, at Humboldt University's Bebel Platz square where the Nazi book burning took place in 1933 as well as visiting the Gleis17, an abandoned rail track in West Berlin where some 40,000 of Berlin's 50,000 Jews were deported to Nazi death camps.

They also visited the "Stumbling Stone" (Stolperstein) in front of the building where Henry Winkler's (The Fonz) uncle Helmut Theodor Winkler last lived in Berlin before he was arrested by the Nazis and later sent to the Auschwitz death camp, where he was killed on December 31, 1942 at the age of 33. Helmut Winkler's brother escaped a day earlier and fled to the United States, where Henry Winkler was later born.

The teachers rounded off a busy first day in Berlin with a dinner at the famous Cafe am Neuen See in Berlin's Tiergarten park. @STEP, **Checkpoint Charlie Foundation / Checkpoint Charlie Stiftung**



The 401 Berlin Brat Reunion attendees in 2006 may remember "The Checkpoint Charlie Foundation" sponsored our luncheon at the Allied Museum (the former Outpost Theatre).

**THROWBACK PICTURES: CLASS OF '75**

Janet (Virgilio) Chastain in 1975



Vickie (Hine) Metcalf in 1974



Vickie (Hine)  
Metcalf, Janet  
(Virgilio) Chastain,  
Sandie (White)  
Robinson and the  
bride is Lezlie  
(Smith) Daugherty in  
2021

Sandie (White)  
Robinson in 2021Sandie, Janet, Vickie, Lezlie at the DC  
(Greenbelt, MD) Reunion in 1987

**Beat Club**, the 1960s ('65-'72) TV Show That Brought Rock Music to 70 Million Kids in Germany, Hungary, Thailand, Tanzania & Beyond



Was the first music program with English-speaking interpreters. Was shown on German television starting in 1965.

**A Television program**  
[radiobremen.de/bremeneins/sendungen/beatclub/index.html](http://radiobremen.de/bremeneins/sendungen/beatclub/index.html)

Beat-Club was a West German music program that ran from September 1965 to December 1972. It was broadcast from Bremen, West Germany on Erstes Deutsches

Fernsehen, the national public TV channel of the ARD, and produced by one of its members, Radio Bremen, later co-produced by WDR following the 38th episode.

**Genre** Music

**Created by** Gerhard Augustin and Mike Leckebusch

**Presented by** Gerhard Augustin (1965), Eddie Vickers (1965–1966), Uschi Nerke, Dave Lee Travis (1966–1969), Dave Dee (1969–1970)

**Open Culture May 25, 2017**

It took a bit longer for the youth rock revolution to hit German televisions compared to the United States—where *American Bandstand* was already in existence pre-Elvis—and the United Kingdom, where *Oh Boy* debuted in 1958 as that country's first pop show. But when German television premiered *Beat Club* in September 1965, it would profoundly change the culture.

The show took its visual cues from both the UK—with its London Underground-aping logo—and the US, with its go-go dancers. It even borrowed some of its hosts from across the Channel, like Dave Lee Travis, who was working at pirate station Radio Caroline at the time.

The show's producer Michael Leckebusch was a more traditional man who preferred musicals to rock, but he knew his market, and he knew how to check the pulse of the scene, by attending The Star Club in Hamburg—one of the venues where the Beatles paid their dues.

Over its seven years of shows, which went into color broadcast right when psychedelia was taking off, *Beat Club* introduced German teenagers to the likes of The Kinks, King Crimson, The Grateful Dead, Captain Beefheart, Cream, Frank Zappa, The Small Faces, The Rolling Stones, Steppenwolf, Led Zeppelin, Jimi Hendrix, The Who, and David Bowie, among many others.

In fact, German acts did not appear on the show until 1971. But by that time *Beat Club* had also strayed from rock and was exploring jazz-rock, fusion, and other non-pop formats.

The impact on a country that was used to quiz shows and coffee and cake on a Sunday afternoon can't be overstated. It was, as the announcer Wilhelm Wiegen told the viewers, a show "by young people, for young people." That sounds like basic marketing now, but at the time it was a lifeline to an entire generation.

And soon the effect was felt beyond Germany, according to German site Deutsche Welle.

But Beat-Club kept the youth on its side, pulling in 70 million viewers from approximately 30 countries — from Hungary and Finland to as far as Thailand and Tanzania. At its peak, 63 percent of Germany's under-30s were regularly tuning in to the music show.

These were the beginnings of the youth that would become the Studentenbewegung ("student movement"), also known as the 68ers. With hits such as The Who's "My Generation" and the Rolling Stones' "Satisfaction," Beat-Club gave its "Beat-friends" the motivation to stand up and fight back against an out-dated generation. It was a soundtrack for a new life.

There is plenty of footage of the show knocking around YouTube and though the show stopped in 1972, a nostalgic radio version continues to broadcast with its original female host Uschi Nerke.

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## BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE ANCHORED!

By: Amber Mallory Kistler



### The Military Home

"The military home starts with a flourish of boxes and paper and tape.  
The scent of cardboard. The smell of sunshine.  
The sound of boxes being ripped open. The pop of the tape as each flap is raised.  
The joyful squeals as the details of your life are unfolded. One by one. Out of packing paper.  
The quiet celebration when you see your fragile family heirloom has survived yet another move.  
The disappointment you feel when your favorite set of curtains won't fit any window.  
The smack of an empty box as it hits the floor. The joy in squishing it flat.  
The careful and deliberate pile of cardboard. In the garage. In the spare room. On the porch.  
The determination to squeeze 3 dish packs of paper into one dish pack.  
You arrange. You sort. You organize. You store.  
You hammer nails and hang your favorite pictures.  
You celebrate as the last box is emptied, broken down and carried away.  
You delight in the absence of the cardboard odor in your home.  
In your Home.  
This is home now.

You drive with intention through your new neighborhood.  
You smile as you realize there are children for your kids to play with down the street.  
You prepare meals in your kitchen to feed hungry bellies.  
You sometimes watch plates of food go cold while waiting for your spouse to get home.  
You bake cookies and brownies and cakes.  
And burn a few batches.  
You make lasagna for the new neighbors.  
Then find out they are vegetarians.  
You welcome friends on your porch.  
You kiss boo boos on the stool in the bathroom.  
You realize you have lost a piece to a jigsaw puzzle that you put together on a rainy Saturday.  
You celebrate the seasons.  
You plant flowers. You rake leaves.  
You shovel the driveway. Again.  
You joyfully unpack and repack the bins of holiday decorations.  
You blow out the candles on 3 of your own birthday cakes.  
You celebrate a long-awaited homecoming.  
And then the day comes.  
The roar of the moving van.  
The arrival of boxes. The fresh packs of paper.  
The squeal of the tape as boxes are assembled.  
The crunch of the paper as the boxes are packed. Again.  
The mixed emotions you have seeing the "parts box".  
You take down your pictures.  
You clean off your refrigerator.  
The dust blows from behind your furniture as it is moved.  
And you find that lost puzzle piece. And a crayon. And an old, sticky peppermint candy from Christmas.  
And the cardboard smell fills your house again. You breathe it in like an old friend.  
The cardboard dust swirls in the air.  
And in the light of the evening, it almost begins to sparkle.  
The last box is loaded.  
The sound of the Diesel engine fades in the distance.  
You walk through your empty house.  
One. Last. Time.  
And you smile. And you cry.  
And you remember.  
And then you head out to find your home.  
Again."



Happy Belated Birthday to  
the U.S. Army  
250 years this past June 14

*Continued from page 7 – Dieter Dauberman Marathon*

A year later I would return to the “Berliner Volksmarathon” which was moved to the last Sunday in September. Goal was simple, to win the race!! The gun went off, immediately I took a commanding lead, hitting the 10,000-meter mark in 35:45 (3:34.5 per km or 5:45.1 per mile). A pack of six runners were closely on my heels. Learning from the last year’s mistakes, I decided to let them go, settling comfortably into seventh place. Maintaining my pace, I finished the first out and back loop in 1:15:25. Running strong, slowly one by one, I caught up to the six runners that were ahead of me. By thirty kilometers I had regained the lead in a time of 1:52:30 (3:45.0 per km = 6:02.0 per mile). Unlike last year’s cool 20° Celsius (68° Fahrenheit), the temperature now climbed to an uncomfortable 26° Celsius (79° Fahrenheit). Humidity was also rising! Shortly after passing thirty kilometers, I began to slow down dramatically. Like last years race I took in no fluids or nutrition and paid dearly for it. Eventually finishing in an Extremely Disappointing 51st place with a time of 3:28:49.

That year 325 runners started, 231 men and 4 women finished. A West German husband and wife duo won their respective races. Ralf Bochröder taking the men’s race in 2:47:08 while Kristin Bochröder the women’s race in 3:59:15. Due to the heat and humidity, finishing times, along with those who would finish, were much lower than the year before. The first year there were 42 runners that did not complete the course. The second year the number doubled to 90 runners that did not cross the finishing line.

Late December of that year I moved to the United States where I would continue my running adventures. Eventually improving my marathon time to 2:38:40. On the first of April 1979 I ran my first Ultramarathon, placing second at the 100-kilometer distance (62.1 miles) in 11:16:58. Bringing that time down to 8:14:49. Eventually entering races as long as 100 miles, 12-hours, 24-hours and 48-hours. Even competing in the “Edward Payson Weston Memorial Six-Day Track Race”, placing fourth out of 20 competitors with a distance of 390.00 miles.

### **Find a Passion! Pursue it Passionately! You may Succeeded! You may Fail!**

Does it Really Matter?! In Tom Jones words: “To Dream the Impossible Dream! To Fight the Unbeatable Foe! To Bear with Unbearable Sorrow! To Run where the Brave Dare Not Go!” For Today, I will do what others won’t, so tomorrow I can do what others can’t”!

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THROWBACK PIC:

Flashback to Fall 1962. John Freeman '71 with a West Berlin policeman.

“Before we were stationed at Tempelhof in 1968, our first Germany assignment was at Ramstein AFB. When the Berlin Wall went up in 1961, Dad wanted to see it, so the family drove through East Germany in our 1956 Ford. I have been back many times since, but because of rebuilding, an “after” photo is not possible. Dad always wanted us to dress nicely.”



## OUR NEXT "REGIONAL"

We're looking at the Houston area

Possibly the Sunday before Thanksgiving

I.e.: November 23<sup>rd</sup>

Scouting locations now...

We will send out a FLYER as time nears.

Stay Tuned!!!!

### 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](http://MyDoddsReunion.com)

#### Overseas Brats Gathering (Reunion)

October 2-5, 2025  
St Charles, MO

[Texas-Osb-2025](http://Texas-Osb-2025)

### Contact Information



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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  
[clevelandmb@yahoo.com](mailto:clevelandmb@yahoo.com)  
for an invite

#### American Overseas School Historical Society

Frank Roehl, President  
website: [www.aosh.org](http://www.aosh.org)



#### Overseas Brats

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