



# Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter

October 2025

Volume 21, Issue 4

## Our favorite U-bahn!



....as depicted by our own Bryan Duckett '84

## Our favorite station!



Our station was inaugurated on December 22, 1929 with the last surface section of the line to Krumme Lanke station (as depicted in Bryan's drawing above)...



It was named after a nearby orthopedic hospital, a foundation of Oskar Pintsch and his wife Helene.

**Classmates from '94.**

**See their story on pg 6 ->**



Peter van Agtmael/Magnum Photos

## BERLIN'S 1951 LETTERJACKET!



....gifted by Chris Kyrios, Karlsruhe '75, to the BBAA

Chris' father was Alexander "Al" Kyrios - one of our first teachers in Berlin after the War. His tenure in Berlin was '49-'53, teaching P.E., History, Government and our Athletics Coach. He became the High School's 1<sup>st</sup> Principal in '52-'53. He chose our school colors after his Alma Mater: Harvard, ie: Crimson & White (maroon & white).

After displaying the jacket at a couple of our Reunions the jacket will be donated to AOSHS (see below) - for posterity...

### **AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY (AOSHS)**

NEW PRESIDENT – FRANK ROEHL

Is a Brat, Veteran and DoDDs Teacher & Administrator!



Talk about clicking off all the boxes.

Maybe you overlapped with him somewhere? Check out Years below:

1951-53 K-1st Grade, Hanau Army School, Hanau, Germany  
 1970-72 Officer US Army, Baumholder, Germany  
 1972-75 Teacher/Coach, Baumholder HS, Baumholder, Germany  
 1976-78 Teacher/Coach, Fulda (K-10), Fulda, Germany  
 1978-79 Teacher/Coach, Incirlik MHS, Adana, Turkey  
 1979-83 Teacher/Coach, Karlsruhe MHS, Karlsruhe, Germany  
 1983-85 Ass't Principal, Wuerzburg MHS, Wuerzburg, Germany  
 1985-89 Ass't Principal, Karlsruhe ES, Karlsruhe, Germany  
 1989-91 Ass't Principal, Mannheim ES, Mannheim, Germany  
 1991-93 Principal, Worms ES, Worms, Germany  
 1993-98 Principal, Mannheim MS, Mannheim, Germany  
 1998-00 Middle School Coordinator, DoDEA HQ (office in Heidelberg, Germany)  
 2000-01 Ass't Superintendent, Heidelberg DSO, Heidelberg, Germany  
 2001-02 Acting Superintendent, Heidelberg DSO, Heidelberg, Germany  
 2002-07 Ass't Superintendent, Heidelberg DSO, Heidelberg, Germany  
 2007-08 Ass't Superintendent, Bavaria DSO, Ansbach, Germany  
 2008-12 Superintendent, Heidelberg DSO, Heidelberg, Germany  
 2012-16 Superintendent, Isles DSO, Feltwell, England  
 2016-18 Superintendent, Europe West District, Brussels, Belgium  
 2018 Retired in July to Southern Pines, NC

Here he is attending the Karlsruhe Knights All Class Reunion – August 28-31, 2025 in Asheville, NC with Jeri:



Frank w/Chris  
 Kyrios '75  
 (Karlsruhe Alum  
 group leader)



Frank with Jeri (Berlin '72).

*(Jeri was asked to help run the KK Reunion as Chris has been diagnosed w/Stage 4 Kidney Cancer)*

62 Years Ago:  
**"JFK's Death Stuns Berlin's Outpost Residents"**

*By: Pat (Geaney) Kerrigan '66 ('63-'66)*

The assassination of President John F. Kennedy on Friday, November 22, 1963, had a unique and profound effect on both the American and German populations in West Berlin. Stunned by Kennedy's death, the Berlin Brigade honored, with events and observances, both solemn and official, the memory of the late president and commander-in-chief. The Berliners, who only five months earlier had so warmly welcomed the American president, mourned his tragic death by spontaneous outpourings of grief and sympathy.

The November 27, 1963 edition of The Berlin Observer reported on the various observances and memorial services held in the immediate aftermath of the assassination. Although Americans had learned of the assassination in the early afternoon hours of Friday, November 22, 1963, in Berlin darkness had fallen when the news was first reported that President Kennedy had been shot, then soon after that he had died. By midnight on Friday, November 22, only about four hours after the Berliners had learned of Kennedy's death, 50,000 mourners were gathered at the Schoeneberg Rathaus where Mayor Willy Brandt, with tears streaming down his face, said to them, "America has lost a president; Berlin has lost a friend."



In stark contrast had been the bright, sunny day, June 26, 1963, when Kennedy spoke in front of the same city hall to a crowd estimated at around 450,000 people: "All free men, wherever, they may live, are citizens of Berlin, and therefore as a free man I take pride in the words: 'Ich bin ein Berliner.'" President Kennedy's commitment to the people of Berlin, to their will to remain a part of free Germany, and to their basic right of self-determination, had been welcomed, as Mayor Willy Brandt had expressed, on that day in June, with "gratitude and confidence."

On the evening of November 22, 1963, I was with a group of friends when a boy whom we knew to have a sense of humor said he had just heard on his transistor radio that President Kennedy had been shot. We laughed. As American teenagers in 1963, we had no thought that such a thing could be true. It was absurd and therefore seemed funny in its absolute absurdity. Finally, he convinced us and not long after, we heard that President Kennedy had died.

Three years later, when I had returned to the States and was a freshman in college, conversations often turned to "Where were you when the President was shot?" I soon realized that everyone I knew had had the same experience. They had been in a classroom and heard the tragic news from an official announcement. There had been for them no luxury of a moment of disbelief, no moment of forestalling that terrible knowledge.

Shortly after arriving in Berlin in August 1963, I was surprised to see a large poster displayed on a downtown building, bearing the image of President Kennedy and his now famous words, "Ich bin ein Berliner." Understanding the context and import of those words was the beginning of my understanding that freedom could never be taken for granted in West Berlin. My recognition of the significance of Kennedy's visit, and of the American presence in West Berlin developed over time.



In the late afternoon of Saturday, November 23, I witnessed further evidence of what the presence of the allies meant, and what the support of Kennedy had meant to West Berlin, the "oasis of freedom" surrounded by the threat of Soviet aggression. I saw a long line of people waiting, in a cold, damp, misty rain, to enter the U. S. Headquarters on Clay Allee in order to sign a condolence book. As well, I saw candles burning in the windows of German homes, solemnly expressing the Berliners' grief at the death of the American President. Over three days and nights, the U. S. Headquarters would remain open to accommodate the 40,000 mourners, young and old, who came to sign the condolence book. According to The Berlin Observer, a Berlin Brigade Honor Guard member, Private First Class Alfred Galdony, had volunteered to remain on duty for 15 hours a day in order to "assist elderly people in placing flowers at the base of a large picture of the deceased President in the main hall of the building." The Berlin Observer reported further that PFC Galdony had said, "After they sign the book they often won't move. They just stare at the picture.... It's as if he were one of their kin."



On Saturday morning, November 23, 1963, a parade was held at 4-Ring at McNair Barracks in honor of the late President. About 1,500 persons, including the three allied commanders, West Berlin Governing Mayor Willy Brandt, city officials and members of the diplomatic corps in Berlin attended the parade. About 2,000 soldiers marched, tanks passed in review, and flags representing the 50 states were displayed. Father (Major) F. Norbert Maguire, the Brigade Catholic Chaplain offered a prayer: "Heavenly Father, God of consolation, sustain us and our country in this hour of sorrow. As we lament the untimely death of our devoted President and Commander-in-Chief, ...."

In "I Remember... How Berlin Mourned John F. Kennedy," published online in June 2002 in American Diplomacy, Lucian Heichler, who in 1963 was a young Foreign Service Officer in Berlin, described how the American military review had been for him "deeply moving." He stated, "Never before or since have I witnessed the quiet measured step - more of a loping stride than a march step - of infantry marching to the beat of muffled drums." He described also the "exceptionally moving" effect of two buglers at opposite ends of the parade ground echoing the haunting melody of "Taps."

A special service was held on Monday, November 25, in the Sports Center Gymnasium. Major General James H. Polk, U. S. Commander, Berlin, spoke to the American community. As General Polk stated, similar services were being held by the United States Armed Services at the same hour all over Europe to "honor the memory of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, our late President and Commander-in-Chief." He stated further: "It is difficult indeed for us to comprehend the real facts of his death... The whole world recoils at the event." Also on Monday, proclaimed a day of mourning by President Lyndon B. Johnson, Protestant services and a solemn Requiem Mass were held at each of the five American military chapels in Berlin. About 3,000 Americans and West Berliners gathered before the U. S. Headquarters for a 21-gun salute in honor of the late President. In a special retreat ceremony at 4:30 on Monday, a 50-gun salute to the nation was fired. The flag was slowly lowered, and a bugler played "Taps."



August 27, 2025

## What You Should Do If You Ever Get The Chance

Why going back to where it all began was a blast.

by (Juanita "Dian" Holton '94)



So, here's the thing: my high school class never had a reunion. Not a 10-year one. Not even a casual "let's grab drinks and pretend we liked each other" meet-up. When I realized our 30th anniversary was coming up, I figured why not go big or at least go back to Berlin?

I graduated from Berlin American High School (BAHS) in 1994, just before the Allied forces packed up and left. That makes our class the end of an era — and possibly the last to eat schnitzel on a government meal plan. Since I was that student (cheerleader, student government, Model UN, HIV peer educator, travel addict), it only made sense I'd start the planning. I looped in a few fellow extroverts: Ivetza in New York, Winifred in Maryland and Ruben in Brazil, a State Department unicorn who'd even been stationed in Berlin previously. He knows everyone and their German shepherd.



Dian amongst her 1994 Senior year ephemera

The plan was simple: go back to where it all began. The venue? The Hotel Intercontinental, where we had our prom. Still there. Still glam. Just like us, but with better lighting. BAHS was a Department of Defense (DoD) school, so our class was basically the original UN. Military dependents, diplomats' kids, students whose countries didn't make the Eurovision cut and even a few German celebrities-in-the-making — like Tarek, a rapper-turned-director who was, let's be clear, my high school crush. And after seeing him in person 30 years later? Yeah... still is. Some things don't change.

Now, I'll spare the full project management saga, but know there were spreadsheets, surveys and heated debates about whether reunion swag should include a commemorative mug, tote bag or hoodie (spoiler: none of the above, because of budget).

My event planning background kicked in. I wrangled daily itineraries, booked restaurants and tapped local Berlin-based creatives from my day job (as art director of this platform) to help us out. Special thanks to The Girlfriend illustrator Christine Roesch, who didn't just offer suggestions — she straight up made the reservations. I thanked her the only appropriate way: over champagne at KaDeWe, the Neiman Marcus of Berlin.



Ruben, Christer, Ivettza, Tarek and Joachim

Only a small group could make it, but with this crew, it was all that was needed. We had Ruben (the global plug), Ivettza (plus her husband and sister), Christer (our Norwegian calm-in-the-chaos person), Tarek (you heard about

him), Joaquin (for nighttime only!) and my brother (five years younger, six inches taller and a retired airman who had a better memory than Internet search photos). And every single day, someone had to call someone else to wake them up because the hangovers were real. (Was that dreadful rose flower wine not rosé wine? Ew.) Sometimes the magic isn't the headcount. It's in the connections.

A few highlights:

- My brother and I arrived early and scouted a new hotel and restaurant. I found an illustrated coaster, messaged the artist and hired her the next day for a Girlfriend newsletter assignment on "When Middle-Aged Women Act like Middle School Girls." Look at me! I was making memories and making deals!
- Reunion night: We kicked off at the hotel bar, then dinner at Ja! Niko Ja!, a Greek restaurant across the street, where we closed the place down. We laughed until our faces hurt, rehashed stories that only get better (or less accurate) with time and stumbled back to our respective rooms like time travelers from the 1990s.
- Friday was Operation: Sneak Into Our Old School. We heard our alma mater was still standing, now renamed the Wilma Rudolf School, and obviously, we had to see it. Our first plan? Hop the fence. Very subtle. Very grown-up. As we crept around looking for an opening like the cast of Stranger Things: Reunion Edition, we noticed a door was ajar. Inside was a man who looked like he made and fixed furniture the same day. Turned out he was the wood shop teacher; they were doing summer repairs. School was out, but the tools were on. We tried to explain ourselves, luckily, Tarek and Christer spoke German, because the rest of us were just waving our hands and holding our 30-year-old yearbooks like confused time travelers. The teacher, once convinced we weren't just random nostalgic trespassers, gave us a full private tour. And y'all, the maroon floors were still there. The same echo in the stairwells. The gym, the home economics room (now featuring modern and vintage tools), the cafeteria. All of it.



#### Dian Holton (Juanita "Dian" Holton '94)

is a New York Times Bestselling Art Director and contributing writer for *AARP The Magazine* and independent designer of textiles, sneakers and experiences.

*This Article was sent to us by Kate (Murphy) Scrivener '88 whose older sister Ann '82 found it in the AARP weekly newsletter "The Girlfriend."*



Peter van Agtmael/Magnum Photos (3); Dian Holton (3)

And the giant Berlin Bear mural in the lunchroom was still proudly standing. Slightly faded, still majestic like all of us. We attempted to recreate our senior photo, minus, you know, 39 people and tried to locate our time capsule which none of us could remember. Just before we left, we found the school's front lobby, which now includes a literal shrine to Berlin American High School. There's a display with an old locker, photos, a desk and ephemera from an era long ago. It was beautifully weird. Like stumbling across your teenage diary, but behind glass and on display for strangers.

It was inside those hallways that everything clicked. We weren't just looking at walls, we were seeing the younger versions of ourselves. The games, the school clubs, the travel, the friendships, the chaos. The magic that only international schools have.

We wrapped the weekend with a Love Parade detour, an emotional trip to the Allied Forces museum (where my dad, Colonel Walter Holton, is honored for helping lead the U.S. drawdown) and one last schnitzel dinner that turned into another late night of jokes, memories and mild dehydration. In the end, there was no time capsule to dig up and no need to make a new one. We are the time capsule. Every story. Every laugh. Every "OMG, remember when..." that we brought back with us. And that we're carrying forward.



Dian Holton, Peter van Agtmael/Magnum Photos



Peter van Agtmael/Magnum Photos

### The moral?

If you ever get the chance to go back not just to a place but to the people who knew you before the world got loud, take it. Hug hard. Dance like no one's livestreaming. Berlin was the background, but the real reunion happened in us.



**BERLIN AMERICAN  
HIGH SCHOOL**

# **HOUSTON MEETUP**

**Bayou Heights Biergarten  
Sunday, November 23  
1:00 - 3:00PM**

**Prost with your fellow Berlin Brats —  
old friends, new stories, and lasting memories!**

*Wear your Berlin tee or school colors!*

**RSVP by Nov 15 to [BerlinBrats@gmail.com](mailto:BerlinBrats@gmail.com)**

*RSVP with # in your party.*

**3905 Washington Ave  
Houston, TX 77007**

# BRAT GET-TOGETHERS

## Brat Run-in:

**J-E-R-I** is screamed from across the Asheville, NC airport terminal check-in! It's Theresa Ledbetter '80!!!

Jeri had just wrapped helping the Karlsruhe HS with their Reunion and Theresa was returning from attending a "college football game."



Asheville, NC terminal bar:

L to R: Jeri-Berlin '72, Diana DuPree-Nurnberg '75, Judy Bygott-Karlsruhe '72 and Theresa-Berlin '80.

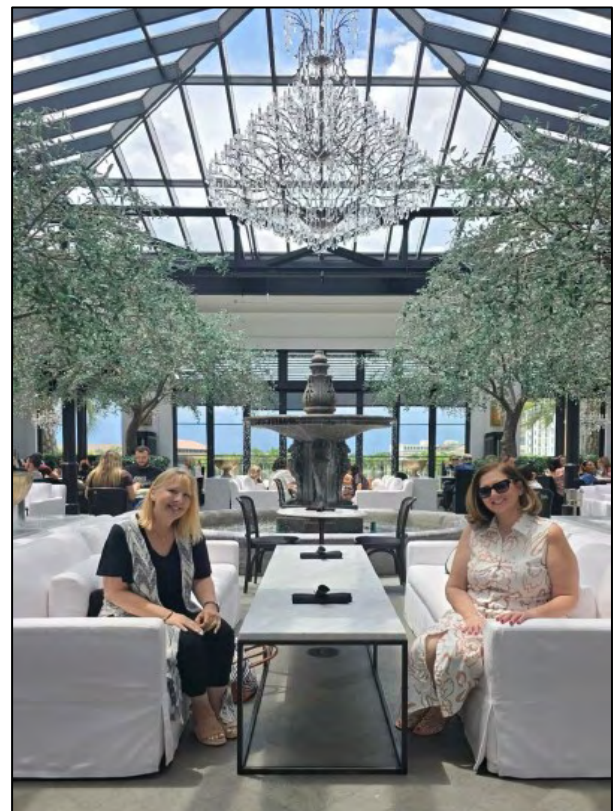


## Brat link up:

What makes lunch even more enjoyable? Lunch with my good friend and fellow Berlin BRAT Kim (McLean) Hunt '77 in West Palm Beach, FL.

Aug 21, 2025 Rooftop Restaurant at Restoration Hardware – West Palm Beach, FL

(L) Laura (Colangelo) Morris '79, Kim on right



**Brat link up:**

From: Linda (Kump) Simonsen '89 and wife Lisa Sheldon on right



Had a great time catching up with Jennifer (Brocius) Gardner '90 (blond) and Calvin Gardner! Port St. Lucie, FL (8/16/25)

Then again for my birthday get-away at Chimney Rock Park, NC:



These two:



Michael James '87 and Rob Ahrens '87 (then and now!)

And these two:

Brats 17 years apart – meet in New Braunfels, TX (6/8/25)

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



**Berlin Brats.....oops we mean "Steelers" invade Dublin!!!!**

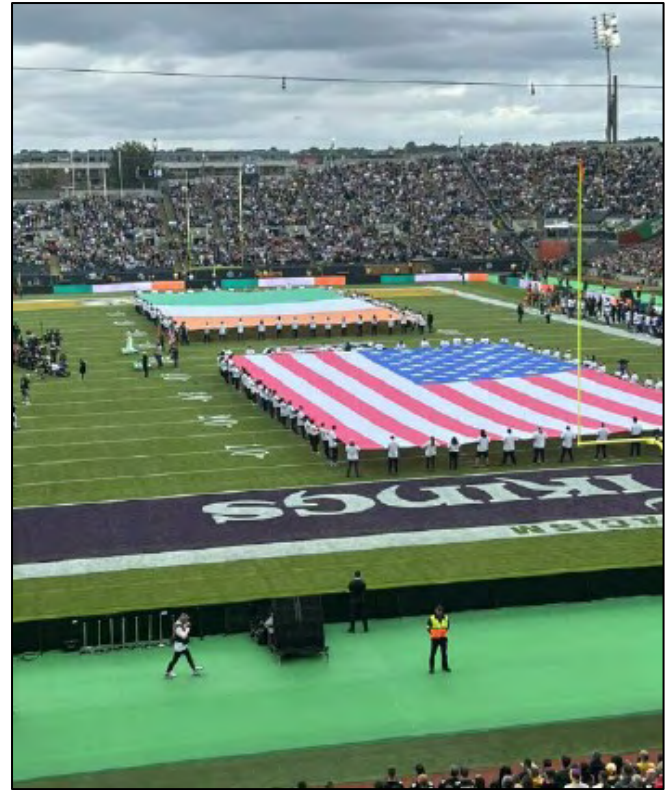


Jenni (Hewitt) Shaw '85, Malissa (Murray) Ladd '85 and Tim Shaw '85

Tim, Malissa, Hailey Ladd (*a 2017 Berlin Brat Scholarship Recipient*) and Jenni take over the streets of Dublin!



**Steelers vs. Vikings:** Pittsburgh holds off Minnesota to win **THE first NFL game played in Ireland!** And of course Berlin Brats were there for the Game!!!! The Steelers led by 18 before having to hang on for a three-point win. (9/28/25)



Irish & USA Flags



(L) Steve McDonald '84 was in Dublin too and linked up with the Shaws and Malissa.

Marc Abrams '86 celebrates his 58<sup>th</sup> Birthday in NYC.....look who connects with him: Stephanie & Marc, Cindy Braun & Anthony Sims '87



Jan (Johnson) Carmean - FAC '66-'67 (TAR) and husband Clayton with the Berlin Wall at the Imperial War Museum - London (Sept 2025)

**Brat-get together:** July 20, 2025

The Cocoa Village Playhouse in Cocoa, FL continues the premiere of its 35<sup>th</sup> season of: ***Hot Pink: We're Doin' the 80's Again!*** The most unforgettable decade of music, a high-energy celebration of the rock and pop anthems that made the 1980s legendary.

Super fun time at the "Hot Pink 80's show!!!!"



Brats: Linda (Kump) Simonsen '89 and Joy (Campolo) Turner '88



## OUR 1<sup>st</sup> EVER ON-LINE AUCTION

Was held for 3 weeks on our official Facebook page (BBAA). We auctioned off a Brand New "BERLIN" Swatch Watch.

It can only be purchased in BERLIN and was donated by:

**Mike Friedrich '75.**

The auction closed on August 9<sup>th</sup>.



Our winner was:

**Katrina (Brailsford) Higham '93** ('87-'90) at \$185.00.

Her freshman yearbook picture posted below.



We had 3 active bidders: One from the '60's, one from the '80's and our winner from the '90's. Oh, and our donor was from the '70's, so we hit all the active decades.

Congratulations Katrina!!! - Wear it well!

**THANK YOU MIKE!**

As advertised, the winning bid goes to our "Scholarship Fund!" Stay tuned for another item to be auctioned off in November or early December.

**JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!!!**

### A 2024 Berlin Brats Scholarship Awardee

Alex Reiper visits the Ft. Leavenworth, KS Berlin Wall display and the Reichstag building and dome back in 2017.



Tracy (Fitton) Rieper '90 and little Alex in the Reichstag Dome 2017



Little did Alex or we know he would grow up, apply and be awarded one of our Scholarships but so fitting he took in our history at a young age!!!!

Alex is attending Kansas State University.  
**Go ALEX!!!!**

This piece of the Berlin Wall was presented to the Honorable Ronald W. Reagan by US Commander Berlin MG Raymond E. Heddeck on behalf of the dedicated men and women of the United States Army serving in Berlin 20 Sept 90

- BERLIN WALL MEMORIAL**  
Design Concept
1. The Berlin Wall Begins to crumble
  2. The Berlin Wall Falls
  3. Democracy Remains



These three sections of the Berlin Wall near check point Charlie were donated to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

**BERLIN SHOES – EVERYONE NEEDS THEM:**



Adidas launched its original "City Series" in 1972 featuring sneakers inspired by European Cities. Small batches – for local markets. The BERLIN edition debuted as part of the originals in '72. Later reissues and collaborations took place in 2018.



The new BERLIN "City Skyline" sneakers!



Berlin Brat Keds with our mascot and sports!

Random throwback pics:



1961 Sight-seeing bus looking over the Wall from West Berlin to East

Commissary Baggers – 1977  
Tim Craig '79 on the right (?)



Denver....kinda post Covid – Sept 2020.

My husband Dean and I met in 1961 at BAHS. His class was less than 20 students and mine less than 30. This was when the Wall was first erected. Even during the sadness of the days surrounding us, we were able to have a happy and normal high school life experience. This is our first prom together held at Kongresshalle.. We have been married now for 62 happy years.

Pat (Burwell) Boyd '63 and hubby Dean '62



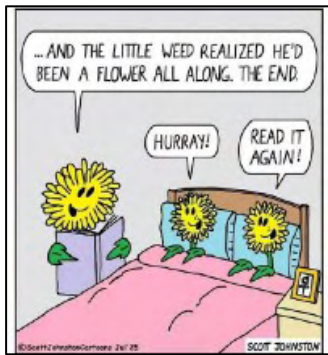
MORE Throwback pics:



1966 Classic photo - US Army Bus, German double-decker bus and VW's all in the same shot



Berlin Wall construction near the Gate



Brat Regional – Houston (Pearland), TX April 3, 2016



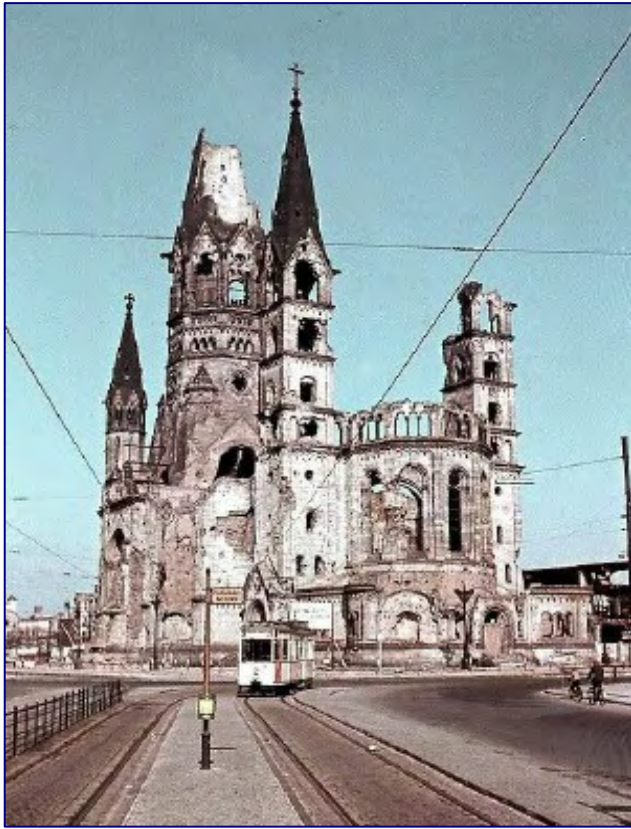
Maggie (Ellithorpe) MacPherson '63, Sharon (Golder) Kulig '62 and Veanna "Kaye" (Stewart) Crawford '62 are celebrating Kaye's birthday.....back in?????

Kings Biergarten



Berlin Steglitz-Zehlendorf - Friedenau Gruppe (Facebook page)  
1972 / Berlin-Lichtefelde, 279TH STATION HOSPITAL U.S. ARMY. UNTER DEN EICHEN 44-46

STILL MORE Throwback pics:



The Ruins of the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, 1954

Photographer: Edmund von Nordeck  
© Robert Rynerson



Both Stephen and Steven are Class of '96 – but picture is Oct 21, 1993



The Massive Tempelhof Airport Eagle. Originally the main building had an eagle sitting atop the globe - this remained until the 1960s when it was scrapped. Only its head remains. It was designed by Albert Speer in 1936. From FB June 2025: History & Military II... Photographer unknown

## TUNNEL 57

Tunnel 57 was a tunnel under the Berlin Wall that on 3 and 4 October 1964 was the location of a mass escape by 57 East Berlin citizens to West Berlin. It was built from the basement of an empty bakery at 97 Bernauer Straße in West Berlin, under the Berlin Wall – which at that time and place consisted of empty, bricked-up apartment buildings on the east side of Bernauer Straße – all the way to a disused outhouse in the rear courtyard at 55 Strelitzer Straße in East Berlin. At a depth of 12 meters (39 ft) and a length of 145 meters (476 ft), Tunnel 57 was the longest, deepest and most expensive flight tunnel built in Berlin. Thirty-five West Berliners, including Wolfgang Fuchs, the future astronaut Reinhard Furrer, and many students from the Freie University in West Berlin, helped to build the tunnel from April to October 1964, until on 3 and 4 October 57 people fled the GDR via the tunnel.



Did you know you could:

Have a private Sightseeing Tour in Iconic Old-timer VW Bus while in Berlin?



Enjoy an individual and exclusive sightseeing tour in a pristine original VW Bus T1 Samba from 1965. Discover, in two hours, almost 50 famous and unknown sights in Berlin. Learn all about the fascinating history of the city.

<https://www.getyourguide.com/berlin-l17/berlin-sightseeing-tour-in-an-iconic-oldtimer-vw-bus-t203308/>

## 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday ride!

**Mr. Bluem (FAC '70-'94)** is back in the states-from his permanent residency in Berlin (the month of September) and did a 20+ mile bike ride through Minneapolis on his birthday with his son Greg. **He rocked it!**

*In August we put out the word we were holding a BBAA 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Card Campaign. Mr. Bluem reported he was overwhelmed by the cards and emails recognizing his milestone!*



(Brats from the '60s & early '70s will get this!)

Continued from page 5

On Saturday, November 23, in another solemn display of grief, 20,000 Berlin youth, holding lighted candles and torches walked, as The Berlin Observer reported, in "dead silence" from the Airlift Memorial near Tempelhof Airport to the square in front of the city hall, the Schoeneberg Rathaus. This was the same route that Kennedy had taken five months earlier. In the same windows from which cheering Berliners had welcomed Kennedy in June, lighted candles were now evidence of the Berliners' grief.

On Monday evening, November 25, 1963, as the funeral Mass for John F. Kennedy was being celebrated in Washington, D. C., a crowd of 260,000 Berliners gathered in the square in front of Schoeneberg Rathaus. Beneath a large picture showing Kennedy at the city hall the previous June, the crowd observed silence as the square in which they were standing was renamed "John F. Kennedy Platz." The Berlin Observer reported: "An American soldier who was present said that after the playing of taps at the end of the dedication he could not find a dry eye among the surrounding Berliners."

Following the assassination, a letter dated November 24, 1963, from Headquarters United States Army, Berlin, was distributed to "provide guidance to all members of this Command, including their dependents, as to our conduct, actions, and the scope of our activities during the 30-day period of National Mourning for the late President of the United States, John F. Kennedy."

The letter stated further that this was a "solemn period in which every United States Citizen in Berlin is expected to conduct himself in such a way that he cannot fail to reflect the innermost feelings of all Americans in our hour of National sorrow. The loss of our President is not only a grave loss to all Americans but to the entire free world. This is particularly true in Berlin...." As the letter stated further, "our conduct will be subject to careful scrutiny during this solemn period."

Certain activities during this 30-day period were canceled. Honor ceremonies, official entertainment, formal parties and receptions, private parties such as cocktail parties and pre-season Christmas parties were not held. Clubs (Officer, NCO, EM, Service) could remain open, but any entertainment, music, or dancing was to be kept within "the realm of good taste." Sports facilities could remain open and normal competitive activities were resumed. Theaters could resume operation, but with no live entertainment such as USO shows. The Thanksgiving Day Dinner to be hosted by the Commanding General, Berlin Brigade for German guests which was to be held at the Harnack House on November 27 was canceled.

However, Thanksgiving Day Dinners in Unit mess halls for special German guests were held as planned, as was catering of Thanksgiving Day Dinners for hospitals and orphanages planned by NCO and EM messes and the TAR (Thomas A. Roberts) School (*for our readers TAR was both elementary and high school back in '63*). In terms of AYA (American Youth Association) activities, normal scouting and athletic activities did continue. The AYA snack bar did remain open. Informal dancing was permitted, but was limited mainly to "the moderate rhythm of normal ballroom dancing." No special parties, dances, or banquets were held. Moderate Christmas parties were permitted at the TAR School during school hours; formally organized dance parties were not held. Normal competitive athletic activities continued as scheduled. Above all, members of the Command and their dependents were reminded that in regard to dress and personal behavior, they "should be particularly sensitive to the need to maintain the highest standards of decorum and dignity when appearing outside the geographical limits of the military community."

In 1966, during my senior year at Berlin American High School, a film, which I believe was entitled A Thousand Days: A Tribute to John Fitzgerald Kennedy, was shown after school. I stayed to watch it; it was the first time I had seen any footage of President Kennedy's funeral. I would come to realize in later years how much Americans had shared a moment of national grief, watching across the country as the funeral was broadcast live on tv.

Postnote: visit our (the BBAA) website's **In History 1963** page for published articles (to include pictures) on JFK's visit to Berlin and then the Mourning just a few months later.

**In History 1963**



U.S. President John F. Kennedy visited West BERLIN on 26 June 1963. "Ich bin ein BERLINer!"

[Click here](#) for a .pdf copy of the BB HQ memo, map & ticket courtesy of Maggie (Ellithorpe) MacPherson '63.

[Click here](#) for a .pdf 3.5MB copy of a booklet of JFK's visit.

[Click Here](#) JFK speaking to Berlin Brigade, American families/children

[Click Here](#) for JFK's Death Stuns Outpost Residents

[Click Here](#) for "Mourning Instructions for the American Community"

**THE BAHS 1964 YEARBOOK WAS DEDICATED TO JFK**  
The following pictures were extracted:



## HAPPY HALLOWEEN - BERLIN STYLE



### Upcoming Events

#### Our Next: "regional"

Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Bayou Heights  
 Houston, TX

#### Next Reunion

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

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

[Texas-Osb-2025](#)

### Contact Information



#### Berlin Brats Alumni Association

Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, Director

41910 N. Crooked Stick Road  
 Anthem, AZ 85086  
 telephone: 623•764•1105  
 email: [BerlinBrats@gmail.com](mailto:BerlinBrats@gmail.com)  
 website: [www.berlinbrats.org](http://www.berlinbrats.org)



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

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

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

Berlin U.S. Military Veterans Assn.  
 (BUSMVA) - Our parent's org.

[berlinveterans.com](http://berlinveterans.com)

Overseas Brats  
[BratJoeCondriill@gmail.com](mailto:BratJoeCondriill@gmail.com)

#### Communication Brat:

Peter Stein '80  
[pstein80@msn.com](mailto:pstein80@msn.com)

#### WebBrat:

Carl Fenstermacher '73  
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