



Berlin Brats 2012

Washington, D.C.

Reunion Logo

It's Reunion time! **The Memories are all yours** but we bring them to life at our All Classes, All Years Reunion. While you rekindle those old memories you will be making some new ones. Reconnect, relax and rejoice with your former classmates over four glorious days.

WHEN: July 5th-8th, 2012

**WHERE: Fairview Park Marriott
Falls Church, VA (D.C. area)**

Washington, DC"Our Nation's Capital" ...the power city... is home to our Reunion this summer. No other city offers as many fun, free and cultural attractions to fill your days as this city! If you've never seen your Nation's fireworks come in early, metro to the Mall....and participate in "The Capital Fourth!"

Visit our website at: www.BerlinBrats.org for the full Reunion Itinerary and Registration Form.

Deadline for registration: **June 4th, 2012**
(before late fee kicks in)

Deadline for booking a room: **June 14th, 2012**

Berlin Brats Alumni Association 2012 Reunion



Washington, DC ... "Our Nation's Capital" ...the power city... is home to our Reunion this summer. No other city offers as many fun, free and cultural attractions to fill your days as this city! If you've never seen your Nation's fireworks come early, and celebrate "The Capital Fourth!" on The Mall.



July 5th-8th, 2012

The Fairview Park Marriott Hotel
3111 Fairview Park Drive
Falls Church, VA 22042
National # 800-228-9290
Local # 703-849-9400



The Hotel, situated inside the Capital Beltway, can be reached via Metro (subway) from Reagan National should you wish to avoid a rental car. Two miles from the hotel is the "Dunn Loring" metro stop. Please coordinate your arrival in advance with the Hotel for shuttle pick up and for your return trip.

Driving? Parking on site is complimentary.

Our group rate is \$95 per night. When booking by phone, inform the front desk you are with the "Berlin Brats Alumni Association 2012 Reunion." Or visit our website at: www.BerlinBrats.org and click on the Hotel Reservation Link designed specifically for us by Marriott.

Check-in time is 4pm. Check-out time is 12 noon.

Our group rate is effective three (3) days before and three (3) days after the Reunion dates for those wishing to add on vacation time.

Our "room block" will be released to the general public on June 14, 2012 so bookings must be made prior to this date.

Your nightly rate of \$95 includes: 24 hr fitness center, complimentary parking on site, free shuttle to/from Dunn Loring Metro for arrival/departure and 2 complimentary round trip shuttle trips within a 3 mile radius of hotel for shopping or dining off site, coordinated with the Hotel's front desk. A must do!

Flying? There are 3 airports serving the DC area.

DCA - Reagan National (12 miles from hotel)

IAD - Washington Dulles International (20 miles from hotel)

BWI - Baltimore/Washington International (50 miles from hotel)

WEEKEND ITINERARY

July 4th ~ Wednesday

(day before the official start date)

6:00PM: No official “Dutch Treat” Dinner is planned this year due to the assumption that everyone will want to head to the city for the “Nations Fireworks!” You’ll need to head to the Mall early to secure a spot!!!

July 5th ~ Thursday

12:00PM: Registration, Membership, Raffle/Auction and the PX tables open. Pick up your Welcome Package, view our Raffle & Auction items and browse our PX for Berlin Brat souvenirs and memorabilia.

12:00PM: After checking in visit your respective Hospitality Suite. There will be three: one for the ‘50/’60’s, one for the ‘70’s and one for the ‘80/’90’s. Bring your yearbooks and pictures. This is a place to sit around and talk while snacking on finger food, soft drinks, beer & wine. Each suite will be hosted by alumni from that decade.

5:00 to 7:00PM: Ice Breaker-Welcome Reception. Hot and cold hors d’oeuvres. Background Music. Cash Bar. Dress is casual.

6:45PM: Optional side trip to “Monuments” meet in the Hotel Lobby for bus departure.

7:00PM: Hospitality Suites re-open. Suites will be open all evening to come and go as you like.

July 6th ~ Friday

8:00AM: Optional Golf Outing to Army Post - Ft. Belvoir. Meet Golf Chair, Billy Jordan '76, in the hotel lobby for car pooling to Ft. Belvoir.

8:45AM: Optional side trip to “Mount Vernon,” meet in the Hotel Lobby for bus departure.

10:00AM: Registration, Membership, Raffle/Auction and the PX tables open.

10:00AM: Decade Hospitality Suites open.

1:00PM: Movie Time – 3 short features:

Main feature: “*The Ed Sullivan Show*” filmed in Berlin. After the Berlin Wall went up, Ed Sullivan showcased to America what it was like for the American soldier and his family living in Berlin. The Oct 8th & 15th, 1961 TV shows showcase The Outpost Theatre, TAR (which was both the elementary and high school at the time) and our teen dances at the AYA. See if you recognize any Berlin Brat Reunion attendees in attendance at the school or dancing at the AYA. Performers Connie Frances, Syd Caesar, puppeteer Shari Lewis and Berlin teen heartthrob at the time Peter Kraus also appear. 30 minutes.

Bonus feature: Ollie North's "War Stories" segment on the "Standoff at Checkpoint Charlie."

Learn what actually transpired in Oct '61 just weeks after the Wall went up. Prepared specifically for the Berlin Brats, view this frightening moment in history which involved a Stuttgart grad's young father. 10 minutes.

Special feature: "Berlin Brats purchase a Section of the Berlin Wall"... then truck it across America." 20 minutes.

6:15PM: Optional side trip to "Marine Tattoo," meet in the Hotel Lobby for bus departure.

8:00PM: Karaoke/DJ. In the banquet room. All Classes, All Years. Class competitions will surely develop! Plus the gals vs the guys! You're in for a treat. Dress: Casual. Grab dinner and be back at the Hotel by 8pm. Be prepared to be entertained!!!

July 7th ~ Saturday ~ SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY!

Wear Maroon & White! Reunion Polo shirts will be sold all weekend long at the PX table. Polos from previous Reunions are good to wear too!!!

9:30AM: Volksmarch. Meet on the Hotel's back patio for our "People's Walk" through the Hotel's forest property. 1-2 mile non-competitive walk. Enjoy German treats on the patio after.

11:00AM: Registration, Membership, Raffle/Auction and PX tables open.

11:00AM: Hospitality Suites open. Reunite with old friends, reminisce, share photos, view scrapbooks and yearbooks. Suites will be decorated with Berlin Memorabilia. Please bring your items as well!

1:00PM: General Session: Join Donna Musil, the Writer-Director of the award winning BRATS documentary, for an interactive discussion of growing up in a military family and how it affects you long after you've grown up and built families of your own. The discussion will feature clips from the documentary, which won 2010 G.I. Film Festival's Founders Choice Award. Also being discussed: Brats Without Borders, the 501©(3) nonprofit she founded in 1999 to help military brats and "Third Culture Kids" of all ages, as well as the new projects BWB is supporting. Come celebrate your culture with film producer, Donna, and see what you can do to be a part of Brat Nation! 90 minutes.

5:30PM: Class Photos & Group Panoramic

6:00PM: Cocktail Hour ~ cash bar

7:00PM: Banquet & Dance with presentation of U.S. and BAHS school flag. Special performances by Berlin Brats; special surprise ceremony, Raffle and Silent Auction, Scholarship Presentations, Golf Awards. Dress: Casual-elegance (no jeans). For those of you who do not burn the midnight oil on the dance floor our hospitality suites will reopen at 9:30pm.

July 8th ~ Sunday

Departure day! ...unless you're staying on for a few more days to take in the local sites.

ADDITIONAL/OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Monuments by Moonlight:

Evening tour of the Monuments with a step-on “Professional”- Military Brat/Spouse Guide. Will visit certain Monuments with some daylight to allow walls & plaques to be read. Others under the cover of nightfall and fully illuminated providing great night photography. (Our Guide is a real treat!) Dress: Casual.

Thursday, July 5th

Meet in Hotel lobby at 6:45pm/bus departs 7pm sharp. Returning between 10-11pm.

Maximum: First 54 people

Golf Outing:

Golf Chair, Billy Jordan '76

Friday, July 6th

Meet in hotel lobby at 7:45am for 8am car pooling to Ft. Belvoir.

Mount Vernon Estate:

Tour the historic estate of George & Martha Washington, to include wreath laying at tomb, with special VIP Guide/Chief Research Historian & Berlin Brat Mary Thompson,'73 and John Marshall. Enjoy lunch at the Colonial Inn from 12:30-1:30pm. Choice of two entrees to include salad, non-alcoholic beverage and dessert. Finish your day at the museum, education center and/or gift shop. Dress: Casual.

Friday, July 6th

Meet in Hotel lobby at 8:45am/bus departs 9am sharp. Return approximately 3:30pm.

Maximum: First 54 people.

Marine Tattoo:

The evening tattoo performance under floodlights is a 90 minute show by the U.S. Marine Band known as the “President’s Own,” the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps the “Commandant’s Own,” and the U.S. Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon. Like the famous military tattoo in Scotland, this show is only offered from May to August on Friday nights only. Reservations are very limited. Don’t miss this one. Dress: Casual-elegance.

Friday, July 6th

Meet in Hotel lobby at 6:15pm/bus departs 6:30pm sharp.

Return to Hotel between 11:00-11:30pm. Maximum: First 54 people.

REGISTRATION FORM

for the Berlin Brats 2012 Reunion
July 5-8th, 2012

Name: _____
(first) (maiden) (last/married)

Class Year: _____ or Teacher of: _____

Years in Berlin: (ie: 1970-1974)

FULL Name of spouse and/or guest(s) attending, please indicate which:

Address: (street, city, state, zip)

Email: _____ Telephone #: _____

I /We plan to arrive on (circle one): Wed Thur Fri Sat

# of people	Fee	Total
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Alumni/Teacher _____ @ \$135.00 _____

Spouse/Guest(s) _____ @ \$135.00 _____

(add \$25.00 per person after June 4th, 2012)

I/We are interested in the following **additional/optional** activities:

# of people	Fee	Total
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Monuments by Moonlight: _____ @ \$25.00 _____

Golf participation _____ @ \$70.00 _____

Mt. Vernon Estate: _____ @ \$66.00 _____

Marine Tattoo: _____ @ \$20.00 _____

Payment due by June 4th, 2012

Make Check Payable to: The Berlin Brats

Mail to: Berlin Brats
41910 N. Crooked Stick Road
Anthem, AZ 85086

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to call the Berlin Brats at:

623-764-1105

REGISTRATION FEE: Your registration fee for the Reunion includes the Welcome Reception, Saturday's banquet dinner, snacks and drinks in the hospitality suite all weekend long, the DJ for Friday's Karaoke and Saturday's dinner dance, the German treats after the Volksmarch, two memorabilia items with your registration package, decorations, name tag, printing, mailings and production costs.

Cost per person is \$135.00 if received by June 4, 2012.
Registration fee received after June 4th is \$160.00.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellation of your Reunion registration fee, with full refund of all fees, will be accepted until June 16th, 2012. After June 16th, the Berlin Brats will be required to finalize all payments to the various different vendors. Consequently, no refunds can be made for cancellations received after this date.

SUMMARY:

1. Call the Marriott (or use our LIVE Booking Page on our website) before June 14th to make your room reservation. Please note: over 75 rooms were booked before this form went to print. Follow the booking instructions listed here or on our website to obtain our discount rate.
2. Fill out the Reunion Registration Form and send it in with your payment by June 4th. **PayPal is an option on our website (to include the PayPal fees).....but please make sure your footnote ie: INCLUDES ALL the information required on this form!!!!**
3. Call a Berlin classmate and/or friend and make sure they are coming too!

We look forward to seeing you in DC! Don't miss this one, as the next one is 3 years off!!!

THE BERLIN BRATS REUNION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

In light of these challenging economic times and in an effort to continue to encourage further educational pursuits, the Berlin Brats Alumni Association has created the Reunion Scholarship Award. The second set of awards will be presented at the All Class and Faculty reunion in Washington DC in July 2012. The intent of this award is to further the success of the Berlin Brat lineage.

ELIGIBILITY

The Berlin Brats Reunion Scholarship Award is available to the following persons:

- A Berlin Brat and their dependents (children, grandchildren or spouse)
- A faculty (teacher or administration) member and their dependents (children, grandchildren or spouse)

The sponsoring and named Berlin Brat must register and attend the 2012 Reunion in Washington DC/Falls Church, VA from July 5-8, 2012. For reunion registration information, please see www.berlinbrats.org or contact Jeri Glass at berlinbrats@gmail.com.

PROFILE OF A CANDIDATE

What does a potential recipient look like?

- A Berlin Brat who is pursuing a postsecondary educational degree and has been accepted to a fully accredited college, university or technical/vocational educational institution.
- A descendent of a Berlin Brat (child or grandchild) who is pursuing a postsecondary educational degree and has been accepted to a fully accredited college, university or technical/vocational educational institution.
- A spouse of a Berlin Brat who is pursuing a postsecondary educational degree and has been accepted to a fully accredited college, university or technical/vocational educational institution.
- A faculty member who is pursuing a postsecondary educational degree and has been accepted to a fully accredited college, university or technical/vocational educational institution.
- A descendent of a faculty member (child or grandchild) who is pursuing a postsecondary educational degree and has been accepted to a fully accredited college, university or technical/vocational educational institution.
- A spouse of a faculty member who is pursuing a postsecondary educational degree and has been accepted to a fully accredited college, university or technical/vocational educational institution.
- A Berlin Brat/faculty member or spouse who is pursuing a higher set of training or certification in their career field.

THE BERLIN BRATS REUNION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS AND RESTRICTIONS

We estimate a minimum of three \$500.00 scholarships, based on our proceeds from the Silent Auction/Raffle at the 2012 Reunion, will be awarded. The success of the silent auction allowed our inaugural awards to all be greater than \$700.00. Winners will be announced at the Saturday night dinner at the reunion.

Scholarship awards are restricted for use to assist awardees with their tuition, fees, room & board, and/or text books.

Scholarship awards are one time awards, and are non-renewable and non-transferable.

Email any questions you may have regarding the scholarship, eligibility, or the application itself to berlinbrats.scholarship@gmail.com.

BERLIN BRATS REUNION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

SECTION 1: APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Fill out the application form completely.
- 2) Attach a current resume or official school transcript.
- 3) Attach enrollment verification received from Awardees educational institution. Please note, the Berlin Brats cannot request enrollment verification.
- 4) Attach two letters of recommendation; one must be from a supervisor, faculty member, coach or other individual knowledgeable with applicants' qualifications. Family members are ineligible to write letters of recommendation.
- 5) Mail completed application with all attachments to:

Berlin Brats Scholarship Committee
7788 Preservation Court
Midland, GA 31820

Applications must be postmarked by June 15, 2012.

You may also email all entries to berlinbrats.scholarship@gmail.com.

- 6) Ensure your Berlin Brat is registered and attends the 2012 Reunion.

BERLIN BRATS REUNION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

SECTION 2: DISCLOSURE INFORMATION AND AGREEMENT

I hereby confirm that I am a Berlin Brat and that _____
(qualified applicant name) meets the eligibility requirements for *The Berlin Brats Reunion Scholarship Award* listed below.

(Berlin Brat's Full Name to include Maiden)

(Class of ?)

(Yrs in Berlin ie: '80-'84)

By submitting this application, I am authorizing, The Berlin Brats Alumni Association, and any of its Scholarship Committee Members, to verify any and/or all information provided on the application. In addition, the Scholarship Committee may disclose any and/or all information submitted on the application to a third party as deemed necessary, for purpose of facilitating the application process. This may be done with or without first obtaining permission.

I understand that should the qualified applicant become an Awardee, The Berlin Brats Alumni Association, will reserve all rights and privileges to display my name and the Awardee name, testimonial, and/or photo or image likeness on their website and Newsletter or in any manner the Berlin Brats Alumni Association deems necessary.

I/we understanding all essays, testimonials, photos, etc submitted to The Berlin Brats Alumni Association, will not be returned, but shall remain the sole and exclusive property of The Berlin Brats Alumni Association.

I/We understand that *The Berlin Brats Reunion Scholarship Award* is available only to the Awardee if the Berlin Brat or faculty member is present at the 2012 Reunion.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature, if applicable: _____

Applicants Signature: _____

Date Submitted: _____

BERLIN BRATS REUNION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

SECTION 3: PERSONAL APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Country: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____ Best Time to Reach Applicant: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Career Field of Interest:

SECTION 4: ESSAY

The following answers may be submitted via separate and clearly marked attachments.

- 1) In 500 words or less, clearly explain how this scholarship will assist you in achieving your educational goals. Essays MUST be typed or written neatly and submitted with completed application form.
- 2) If selected, what type of educational program would you attend? Please provide specific dates, locations, and expenses.
- 3) List what education you have to date.
- 4) Explain what a "Berlin Brat" means to you.
- 5) Explain your philanthropic views and your contributions to your community.
- 6) Is there anything that you would like to share with the committee?

“Silent Auction and Raffle”

to be held

at this Year’s Reunion

This year, as we did at the 2009 Reunion in Scottsdale, AZ, the Berlin Brats Alumni Association will be hosting a **“Silent Auction and Raffle Sale”** for the July 5 -8th, 2012 Multi-Class Reunion located in Falls Church, VA (a bedroom community of Washington, DC).

The Auction is to benefit **“The Berlin Brat Scholarship Fund”** and we need your help to make it a great success!

Here’s how you can help:

You can donate items for the Raffle Drawing!

We also need “Three high profile items” towards our “Silent Auction”.

Some items that have sold well at “other auctions” include:

Domestic Airline Tickets or Buddy Miles, Donating the use of a Time Share Property or Unused Vacation Rental Properties for a week, German Art, or any German Collectables such as: Hummel’s.

Please keep in mind the item can be donated by you, your employer, or both.

If you are able to donate any of the above items, please email: Jeri (Polansky) Glass a description of the donated item(s) and its estimated value to: BerlinBrats@gmail.com

Important Note: Please mail all donation items to:

Berlin Brats, c/o Joyce Mallon, 12427 Selkirk Circle, Bristow, VA 20136

When you arrive at the hotel and collect your reunion registration package, you will then be guided towards the “Silent Auction and Raffle Ticket Tables” to place your bids. Winners of the “Silent Auction and Raffle” will be announced at the Dinner Gala on Saturday, July 8th, 2012 (during dessert).

We encourage you to bring a friend or colleague and your checkbook!

Thank you in advance for your support of this important event, together

We can make a difference!

9-11

KIP TAYLOR



CEREMONY

PENTAGON MEMORIAL

Wed, July 4th at 9:30am

On Wednesday, July 4th (*the day before our official reunion kick off date*) early arrivals will meet in the Hotel Lobby at 9:30am to carpool over to the Pentagon Memorial and hold a small informal ceremony at Kip Taylor's, class of '81, Memorial Bench.

A 9-11 Honor Flag will be presented.

Kip, killed in the Pentagon on 9-11, left behind his wife Nancy, (*now deceased as well from cancer in 2003*), and two young sons. Kip and Nancy share a joint marker at Arlington National Cemetery, off of "Patton's Circle," section 64, grid NN14. Their marker sits on a hill at Arlington which overlooks the Pentagon Memorial should you wish to actually visit their gravesite some other time during our Reunion weekend.



Teen Canteen On The Air

by Ann (Worrell) Anderson



ANN WORRELL
"Anni"
Class President 3, 4
School Paper 1, 2, 3, 4 Editor 4
Drama Club, Secretary 4
Canteen Secretary 2, 3, 4
Annual, Layout Editor 4
G. A. A. 1, 3, 4; Vice-President 4
Cheerleader 3, 4; Head Cheerleader 4
Home State: Washington, D. C.
Ambition: Psychiatric nurse

John J. McCloy, United States High Commissioner, wrote in the 1951 Annual of the American High Schools of Germany, "You represent an American heritage. The strength of a nation to endure lies in its youth, and the youth of the entire world holds the key to everlasting peace. Your conduct and attainments here in Germany can be a living symbol of our democratic way of life."

And at that time in history, we wanted the German people to see and hear how our American democracy worked by really getting to know us as individuals, to see our families, our schools, our everyday lives. As we went about being who we are, they watched and listened.

For the American teenagers "living behind the Iron Curtain" in Berlin in 1950-1952, we couldn't be anything but ourselves - happy, friendly, having parties and dances, playing sports, cheerleading, and working hard in school, trying to make good grades. We were a very close group. None of us has really forgotten the feelings and memories we have from those days.

It was during these busy times that someone from the Armed Forces Network (AFN) in Berlin asked me if I'd be willing to be the mistress of ceremony for a weekly Saturday morning show for teenagers. They assumed the audience would be both American and German young people. I had no experience in broadcasting, but I thought the idea was good. I was assured, with the help of the AFN staff, I could do it. Dennis Dix, Nancy Leone, and Darlene (Skippy) Babbitt were the other regulars on the show.

"Teen Canteen On The Air," turned out to be a Saturday morning hit. We played all the latest records, we talked (never a problem) and joked with each other, we interviewed celebrities who were visiting Berlin, and we gave all the latest news of interest to young people. It was fun, and something I continued to do until I left Berlin in 1952 to return to the States to attend the College of William and Mary in Virginia. Now it's 2012, and I wonder if there's a German lady my age somewhere, who lived in Berlin and listened to our Saturday morning show? Until next week, remember "Teen Canteen On The Air."



LAUREL COLEMAN
"Miss Branchwater"
Annual Staff, Art Editor 1, 2, Editor 1
School Paper 3, Feature Editor 1
G. A. A. 3, 4; Honor Student 1, 2, 4
Chorus 1, 4; Drama Club 2, 4
Canteen 1, 3
Home State: Tennessee
Pet Peeve: Conceited girls
Ambition: Foreign correspondent for AP



DIANN SMITH
"Dee"
Class Secretary 2, 4; School Paper 2, 3
Drama Club 1, 4, Vice-President
Annual 3, Junior Editor
Photography Editor, 4
G. A. A. 1, 3, Secretary 4
Cheerleader 3
Student Council 1, 2; Secretary 1 Pres.
Canteen 2, 3, 4; Chorus 1, 4
Pet Peeve: Stubborn and moody people



ALICE LYON
"Alice"
Drama Club 1, 3, 4; President 4
Chorus 1, 3, 4; Bear Facts 4
Annual Staff, Assistant Editor 4
Pet Peeve: People who smoke big cigars
Home State: Washington, D. C.
Ambition: Dramatist, WAF's



IRENE MAY
"Renée"
Bear Facts 4; Annual Staff 2, 4
G. A. A. 3, 4; Chorus 1, 2, 3
Canteen 3, 4
Home State: New York
Pet Peeve: Handshaking bonecrushers.
Ambition: Secretary



SIGFRIED SCHREYER
"Sig"
Ski Team 2, 3; Ski Club 3
German Club 3; Basketball 4
Football 4; Track 2, 3
Home State: Utah
Ambition: Olympic skier

CLASS OF '52



DON GRAY
"Bonny"
Football 2, 3, 4; Co-captain 4
Track 2, 4; Basketball 2, 4
Annual, Sports Editor 4
Canteen 2, 3, 4
Class Officer 2, 4
Home State: Texas
Pet Peeve: People
Ambition: To get rich



ROBERT PARTAIN
"Bob"
Football 1, 2, 3, 4; Co-captain 4
Track 1, 2, 3, 4; Basketball 4
Swimming Team 1, 2; Canteen 2, 4
Annual Staff 4; Chorus 1, 4
Home State: Texas
Pet Peeve: Shaving
Ambition: To be a hobo



TALMADGE GILLIAM
"Gillie"
Football 2, 4; Basketball 2, 4
Canteen 2, 3, 4; Track 2, 4
Class Officer 4
Chorus 2, 3, 4
Home State: Texas
Pet Peeve: Girls
Ambition: Air Force



JAMES BENDER
"Chief"
Football 1, 3, 4; Basketball 1, 2, 3, 4
Captain 3; Track 1, 2, 3, 4
Swimming Team 1; Canteen 2, 4
Annual Staff 4; Baseball 1
Chorus 2, 4
Home State: Pennsylvania
Pet Peeve: Dodgits
Ambition: To be a millionaire

SENIOR CLASS HISTORY

As the Berlin bound plane taxied out onto the runway, that brisk morning of January 17, 1962, a staff car pulled up to the well-guarded gates, and Irene May, special secretary to the commander of Allied Forces in Europe, stepped out and gave directions as to the disposal of her luggage. She was on her way to Berlin, the scene of her high school days, after her vacation in Italy. Much to everyone's surprise, Ann Worrell, famous social worker, and Diann Smith, pediatric nurse, had been watching her arrival with awe, for they, too, were members of the Class of 1952 at T.A.R. "Maybe," Anne ventured, 'this is going to be one of those unexpected reunions that everyone used to talk about.' "Nonsense" answered Diann. "It's just a coincidence." And so the three of them sat down in the waiting room until time to board the plane. As they walked, they gave accounts of themselves, Anne and Diann were both on a mission to help the underprivileged children of Berlin. Thus, up to date, they began wondering about the other members of T.A.R.'s Senior Class. Through the mist of nostalgia that veiled their eyes, they thought it was only their imagination when they saw a familiar face across the room. It was altogether real, however, as Don Gray checked in as pilot of the Berlin-bound plane. It was he stated, ready to go, and the stewardess Alice Lyon had given the o.k. for passengers to come aboard. Smiling and waving to the three former TARians, Don went back to his plane and checked over the flight list with Alice. She didn't tell him that their old classmate Bob Partain, had sneaked into the baggage compartment. She didn't want to expose such a distinguished stowaway and hobo, but upon hearing that Anne, Diann and Irene were also going to be on the flight, she was tempted to tell Don about Bob as soon as the plane took off. Checking the flight list, Alice noticed the name of Sig Schreyer, who was on his way to the big ski-meet in the Alps, and Talmadge Gillian great general of the Army, who was going to Berlin on an Inspection tour. Before she had read any further, she glanced out the plane window to see Jim Bender, irascible building contractor, on his way to the plane. He was going to the four-power city to build a bridge from East to West. As she surveyed the group of her old schoolmates, Alice realized that only one member of their former class was missing. "Where's Laurel" she said aloud, A calm voice right behind her startled Alice terribly, as Laurel Coleman, the "Maggie Higgins of the Week" took her place among the reunited seniors. Bob came out of the baggage room and the whole class was together once more. Gayly, with a sense of satisfaction, they sang their old school songs in the clouds above Berlin. As the strains of the singing floated over the city, a small bird turned his head to one side and gave the plane a questioning look. "What, he wondered to himself, "was that."

We, the senior class of 1951-52, collectively will, to Mr. Kyrios, the Berlin bear, should there be a shortage of man power next year.

A Young German Girl... Gretchen Lutzner

At the end of WWII, the allied forces of the United States, Britain, France, and Russia, converged on Berlin, and subsequently divided the city into four sectors. In 1948, the Soviets closed the city to all traffic prompting the Allied forces to undertake "Operation Vittles," also known as the "Berlin Airlift."

Prior to the Soviets closing the city, a young German girl, named Gretchen Lutzner, from Niederschona, a small village outside of Freiburg, was visiting relatives in Berlin by herself. When the Soviets suddenly closed the city, she wasn't allowed to go back to Niederschona and was stranded in Berlin. She was adopted by relatives there. Across the world in Iowa, a young American airman, named Raymond Ryan, was about to deploy to Berlin to assist in the Airlift. Once there, he met this pretty German girl, fell in love, and they eventually were married. A son was born in Berlin, named Mike, and after that, they embarked on a military lifestyle, traveling the world, and producing four more boys, Ralph, Robert, Ronald, Rex, and a girl, Renee.

With Gretchen's ties to Berlin, Raymond was able to secure three tours in Europe throughout his career. Even though they were in Europe, the Soviets wouldn't allow Gretchen to see her family in East Germany, until Raymond's last tour in Berlin from 1969 to 1972. The Ryan clan invaded Berlin American High School. Mike was a senior in 1969, and the Vietnam War was gaining momentum. He received his draft notice to serve in the Army, but after some controversy, he enlisted in the Air Force and was sent stateside. Ralph was the only sibling to graduate from BAHS.

Raymond retired from the military while at Edwards Air Force Base, and moved to Sacramento where he worked as a counselor. He was the best dad anyone could have and he was very active in many fronts as a serviceman. He passed in 2006.

Gretchen realized she had a talent for art and began a career dabbling in every medium of art throughout her life. She is still actively involved in Art and has quite a few accomplishments in the field. She has been recognized nationally for her talent. She also teaches art in her studio in Sacramento, California.

Mike '69 served his tour during the war, and spent his entire life working for various government agencies until his retirement in 2010.

He married a beautiful Chinese girl when he was stationed in Taiwan, and they have two wonderful girls, Shawna, and Tina.

Mike has been a marathon runner all his life and still pounds the pavement every year.

Robert '74 graduated from Edwards Air Force Base High School, and worked at various jobs until he found a love for wildlife and is now employed by the US Forest Service in McCall, Idaho, as a wildlife specialist. He is married to Susan, also a Forest Service employee, and they have two children, Keegan, and Caeley, who were adopted from Guatemala.

Ronald '76 served in the Air Force, and is currently a Registered Nurse and married to Tracy, also a Registered Nurse. They have two children, Paige, and Jack, and live in Sacramento.

Rex '77 pursued a few jobs after high school in Sacramento, until he found a career working with the State of California's Department of Corrections. He is retired and now works as a Probation Officer. He is married to Jenny, and they have two children, Blake, and Heather.

Renee graduated from Los Sierra High School in Carmichael, California and is the Director of a Child Care Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She is married to Brian and they have a daughter, Kelsey, who is going to college.

Ralph '72 stayed in Berlin when Raymond's tour was up, so he could graduate a Berlin Brat, and then went to college in Lancaster, California and received a degree in Forestry. He discovered the world of wild land firefighting and spent 14 years serving on Engines, Helicopters, and ultimately Smoke Jumping. After 10 years of jumping out of planes, he received another degree in Horticulture, and has worked for the City of Redding for the past 24 years as a gardener and Water System Specialist. He has two sons, Eric, and Sean.



Ralph with his grandson



Wrestling

First row: Britt Ball, Ed Ritter, Robert Ryan, Jim Short, Bob Halvorsen. *Second row:* Mr. Hildenbrand, Pucky Short, Mark Oliver, Larry Garrels, Kirk Hine, Ralph Ryan, Coach Pepoy.

RALPH RYAN
Soccer 1
Wrestling 1, 2, 3
Sacramento, California



Berlin was the most memorable place the Ryan clan was ever stationed at and over the years, many of the Ryan's returned to Germany. As recent as 2011, Gretchen, Ralph, and Robert traveled to Niederschona, where Ralph was able to see many relatives for the first time. They visited BAHS, which hasn't changed over the years, being a German school, now, and the memories of playing sports, partying at the lakes and the AYA, and intimidating the Soviets manning the machine gun towers along the wall, will be cherished forever.



The Ryan Residence while in Berlin



East German relatives during our trip in 2011

Summering in '71 with the Ryans (Ode to Gretchen)

Okay, yeah, I'm old...er to many of you. But my youth will never be not forgotten—maybe that's my problem... or my fortune...or **yours**.

It was the summer of 1971. Seventeen. I was full of vigor and testosterone; a boy who thought he could fill a man's jeans, and tried to on every level. My dad was in *Viet Nam*, and I had been transplanted back to a strange world in southern California after three years of delight in *Berlin*. By way of impressive academics (after the teacher-commandants of BAHS, I could literally sleep through classes and get an "A"), and following months of diligence in yard keeping, I managed to convince my mom that I *needed* to go back to Berlin, after only a year away from there. I think the round-trip ticket cost was \$148.

I had not reconnected with California the way I'd thought I would (but that's another story that many of you have already read). Through snail-mail contacts, I landed the Ryan's, Ralph, specifically. His brother Mike and I had had a "McPherson" thing in common a few years before, among other things, like roaming the *Kurfürstendamm* at bewitching hours, hunched in our Pea Coats, 'looking' for the right score. But Ralph and I had connected very soundly as well, as we still do from time to time on his mountain-top home in Redding, CA, along with our brother Mark McPherson '72, now in Stone Creek, OH.

I landed in Frankfurt in the middle of a warm June night, and had to await a 12-hour delay for my flight into the East. Back then, it was coat-and-tie for flying, especially when your hair was shoulder-length and you were carrying contraband. I'd sewn a little something rolled into my coat cuff...for the stress, don't cha know. It went up in smoke that night, and like a dream therefrom, the next day I was ...home.

I don't really recall all the details of actually getting there... but a hard-cased leather-brown Samsonite suitcase, U-Bahn maps and double-decker buses, I know were involved. After a smoky visit to Ralph's room in his third-floor den, I tried to connect my brain to my knife and fork as I was suddenly seated at the Ryan's dinner table. Gretchen (Mrs. Ryan) was definitely in charge. All the R's were seated around me: Rex, Renee, Robert, Ralph, Raymond. Amidst the clamor, I somehow kept my manners in check, and went from calling Gretchen, Ma'am to Mom.

I spent two months with her and them that summer at 118 Buchweiler Strasse, and one of my many memories—aside from the simply charismatic *smell* of Berlin—was that of her pungent oils. She had an area in their three-story where she studied and toiled, although with four kids and a husband to care for, I don't know how she did it. But this was a woman determined, chaos was normal. What she didn't know then was that the aromas of her work had engaged me. I've been collecting oils ever since.

Enter Raymond, post World War II. He was a jovial Air Force sergeant from the mid-west who was transformed into a caring husband and father by a short but staunch German *fräulein* from the East. They met in '48 after a haphazard relatives' visit by Gretchen to the West had gone suddenly and horribly wrong. The Soviet Blockade. The *bad* luck of the draw. The Cold War. The right place at the wrong time. Word it any way you want. Imagine being merely on the wrong side of the street at

the very wrong time of day.

I looked at my own daughter Tanna (who just now at 28 gave birth to her first son) and reflected upon Gretchen to be such a frail thing, too, way back then: young, scared, but with a grit and hope and a determined, unbowing attitude I've never before known, even stronger than my own mother's, who was from the real 'grits' of east Tennessee. Like a new mother, somehow, Gretchen had hung on and pushed forward—not merely adapted—but doing so while having to leave her East relatives behind. What she clutched for hope I will never know, nor will you when you try to put yourself in situations similar. Little did I know or appreciate that back then, but in my future and present, she has raised the bar of respect by her every deed.

Fast forward, thirty years or so. Thus became The Gretchen Ryan, Frau Ryan, a renowned artist, now 'from' Sacramento, California. Her work has been displayed both locally and nationally. Her artistic talent and advice is sought not only by the students she teaches, but also acclaimed and accredited by City Council and magazines. She now, appropriately, lives in a German-styled house in the northern-California community of Carmichael on the outskirts of Sacramento. Her quaint art studio sits on the back of her property. She reflects on fond memories of her beloved, deceased Raymond, her extended family, and lets her Pug follow her around with his leash intact—so she can "catch him if he runs too far." I visit every time I am able, and can't help but smile at her reflection.



Back track, again. Years ago, on the bad and whimsical advice of an ex-wife who said she'd never hang it in "our" house, I sold a painting that I treasured, one that had been painted by an unknown East German artist and had been bought in East Berlin by my parents and handed-down to me. A year later, the wife and I were divorced, but my desire to have the painting back never waned; I wanted to hang it in *my* home. I knew the new owner, who unrelented in selling it back to me, but he did give me photos and dimensions. With mom-Gretchen in mind, that's all it took.

With a little resizing and some impressive Photoshop work by Diane (Ralph's "then"), the commission was under way. Gretchen, *Mom*, charged me what I thought to be a pretty penny to do the remake, but what's somewhat affordable money when you're going to have a piece of history, a re-work by a... by a... famous artist, and an adopted *relative*? I would not sell it now for \$10,000! It's a bit naughty, but come on, let's have some fun (note the troll on the left!). After yards of research the painting nor the original artist has ever been identified, thus it's an original to me ...from my second *mom* to me. The meaning of life is to make a positive difference and influence on others. Long live her proud and memorable journey, with many brush strokes of love and caring to come.



—Gary (Ryan) Carpenter '72

You can learn more about my second-mom Gretchen Ryan at: <http://www.sacfinearts.org/gretchen/about.html>

You Can Leave The Military, But It Never Really Leaves You

By Ken Burger
Thurs, March 4, 2010

The Charlestown Post and Courier

Occasionally, I venture back out to the air base where I'm greeted by an imposing security guard who looks carefully at my identification card, hands it back and says, "Have a good day, tech sergeant." Every time I go back onto Charleston Air Force Base it feels good to be called by my previous rank, but odd to be in civilian clothes, walking among the servicemen and servicewomen going about their duties as I once did, years ago.

The military, for all its flaws, is a comfort zone for anyone who has ever worn the uniform. It's a place where you know the rules and know they are enforced; a place where everybody is busy but not too busy to take care of business. Because there exists behind the gates of every military facility an institutional understanding of respect, order, uniformity, accountability and dedication that becomes part of your marrow and never, ever leaves you.

Personally, I miss the fact that you always knew where you stood in the military, and who you were dealing with. That's because you could read somebody's uniform from 20 feet away and know the score. Service personnel wear their careers on their sleeves, so to speak. When you approach each other, you can read their name tag, examine their rank and, if they are in dress uniform, read their ribbons and know where they've served.

I miss all those little things you take for granted when you're in the ranks, like breaking starch on a set of fatigues fresh from the laundry and standing in a perfectly straight line that looks like a mirror as it stretches to the endless horizon. I miss the sight of troops marching in the early morning mist, the sound of boot heels thumping in unison on the sidewalks, the bark of sergeants and the sing-song answers from the squads as they pass by in review.

To romanticize military service is to be far removed from its reality, because it's very serious business, especially in times of war. But I miss the salutes I'd throw at officers and the crisp returns as we crisscrossed on the flight line. I miss the smell of jet fuel hanging heavily on the night air and the sound of engines roaring down runways and disappearing into the clouds. I even miss the hurry-up-and-wait mentality that enlisted men gripe about constantly, a masterful invention that bonded people more than they'll ever know or admit.

I miss people taking off their hats when they enter a building, speaking directly and clearly to others and never showing disrespect for rank, race, religion or gender. Mostly I miss being a small cog in a machine so complex it constantly circumnavigates the Earth and so simple it feeds everyone on time, three times a day, on the ground, in the air or at sea. Mostly, I don't know anyone who has served who regrets it, and doesn't feel a sense of pride when they pass through those gates and re-enter the world they left behind with their youth.

Face it guys [and gals], we all miss it. Whether you had one tour or a career, it shaped your life.

One Nation Under GOD.

We Honor our Vets!!!!

A friend sent this previous article.
 I believe the author captures it completely. I am always at home
 on a military
 installation no matter where and if it is a new part of the country
 the military base makes me feel more comfortable.
 Peace of mind is there for me. Hope you enjoy and if you never
 served
 well this may explain some things
 about those of us who are serving or have served.

I think this nicely sums up a lot of old retired guys feelings.
 Especially for the veterans out there...
 I think this applies to most **Brats** too....

*submitted by: Billy Jordan '76
 (and retired LTC)*

BRATS OUR JOURNEY HOME - the documentary.....

Can now be rented on line for just \$5!!!

“BRATS” is the first documentary about growing up military, narrated by Kris Kristofferson, featuring General Norman Schwarzkopf, Mary Edwards Wertsch, and others. All proceeds go to the 501(c)(3) educational non-profit, Brats Without Borders, that supports military “brats” and other “third culture kids.”

If you’ve already seen it – just pass the link along to other Brats!

<http://bratsourjourneyhome.filmfinder.com/>

Click the “RENT NOW” button on the left side of the screen.
 Pay via Paypal or credit card.

You’ll receive an email from Filmfinder with the link to the film.
 Sit back and enjoy!



Former AOSHS Board Members unite at the recent Overseas Brats regional in Phoenix, AZ on Feb 18, 2012.

SO many in one place?

*Berlin Brats: far left Diana (Green) Kempton '72
 and 3rd from right Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72*

Check out the the below link to a tour of the “transparent” VW auto plant in Dresden. (6 min video) that starts and ends in Berlin, but it’s a tour of the VW plant which is an engineer’s dream. Talk about modern advancements....

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nd5WGLWNlIA>



Also check out on You Tube Volkswagen “Hitchhike with a like” Teaser-
 A Travel the world in a Volkswagen Game



News from Cambodia

Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, our Director, just returned from Cambodia.

She flew to Cambodia in mid to late March to help access the needs of a young-needy school started with the support of a local (local to her) Heidelberg Brat/Doctor, Rick Connell, class of '75.

Some of you may recognize the name.

Rick, wrote the theme music for BratCon radio. Ta Touck School (pictured here) is just outside of Siem Reap, where one can find the 8th wonder of the world, "Angkor Wat."

Some 60-100 students attend this open air school. The school delivers "hope" through education.

Pictured below one of the top 7 students receives a framed Certificate of achievement,



Dr. Rick Connell, Heidelberg '75, awardee, Dennis Campbell, Heidelberg '75 & Host of BratCon Radio.

\$USD 10, and a CD written by Rick with lyrics tied to one of the letters each student wrote (in English) about their lives.

Stay tuned for more information to come on this upstart school.....



Living on the Water

Truman Plaza: Construction begins on new housing development

Since the end of October, Stofanel Investment AG, began clearing the site of the former Truman Plaza. In Summer 2012, the first of the actual construction will begin on this 100-unit complex located along Clayalle and Argentinischen Allee. The houses and apartments will be built around a man-made lake with 5 islands. There will be an open Piazza with a super- and bio-market (grocers), as well as smaller stores, restaurants, doctor's offices, and a fitness center. The complex, called "Five Morning Dahlem Urban Village" will be a premier example of combining both city and country living: the residents will live in Berlin central, but surrounded by water and greenery. There will be no fences or gates, but rather, more natural land dividers such as hedges. There will be a quiet street meandering through the community, and a portion of the private forrest (I assume Grunewald) will be a permanent part of the community.

submitted by: Deb (Brians) Clark '74

Da Vinci portrait looted by Nazi returns to Berlin

Published: 24 Aug 11 16:43 CET



Leonardo da Vinci's treasured painting "Lady with an Ermine," a work belonging to Poland that was stolen by the Nazis, has gone on display in Germany for the first time since World War II.

The 15th century portrait of a young woman holding a white ermine - otherwise known as a stoat or short-tailed weasel - has pride of place in a major exhibition of Renaissance art to open Thursday at Berlin's Bode Museum.

Along with the Mona Lisa, the work is one of just four paintings of women by the famed Italian Renaissance master.

Stolen by Hitler's troops during World War II, the masterpiece was later returned to Poland.

The Culture Ministry in Warsaw was initially hostile to the idea of the painting on wood leaving the country, fearing it could be damaged.

But a personal appeal by its owner, Polish aristocrat Prince Adam Karol Czartoryski, convinced the ministry to allow it to go on display in Madrid earlier this year, then Berlin and later London.

The German press called the loan a gesture of "reconciliation" between Poland and Germany.

Around 1800, the Czartoryski family acquired the 54x39 centimetre (21.25x15 inch) portrait painted by da Vinci between 1488 and 1490.

The work is believed to depict Cecilia Gallerani, the mistress of an Italian nobleman, Ludovico Sforza, the Duke of Milan and the son of one of da Vinci's patrons.

USO - lifts the spirits of America's troops and their families through centers, entertainment and innovative programs and services!

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USO Honored with National Medal of Arts



Until everyone comes home

The USO received a tremendous honor February 13, when President Barack Obama presented the National Medal of Arts to the USO for its 71 years of entertaining America's troops.

"We are humbled by the president's recognition of our mission to lift the spirits of troops and their families through exceptional entertainment around the world," USO President Sloan Gibson said. "Most importantly, we have never done this alone. From our celebrity friends who have worked with us over the years, our military and corporate partners, and our hard-working entertainment staff, we all share in this honor."

It is the only time in the medal's 28-year history that it has been awarded to a military charity.

Contact Information:

BRATCON radio
can be found at:

BRATCON.com

Listen to a whole year's worth of the
LIVE weekly broadcast
at:

<http://www.bratcon.com/archives.htm>

Upcoming Events:

OUR REUNION

July 5-8th, 2012

All Classes-All Years Reunion
Fairview Park Marriott
Falls Church, VA (DC area)

OktoberFest

October 6, 2012

Charlotte, NC

Hosted by: Deb (Brians) Clark '74

Gathering

25-28 October 2012

Overseas Brats
All Schools - All Years
Sheraton-Reston Hotel
Reston, VA

Hosted by
OVERSEAS BRATS

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