



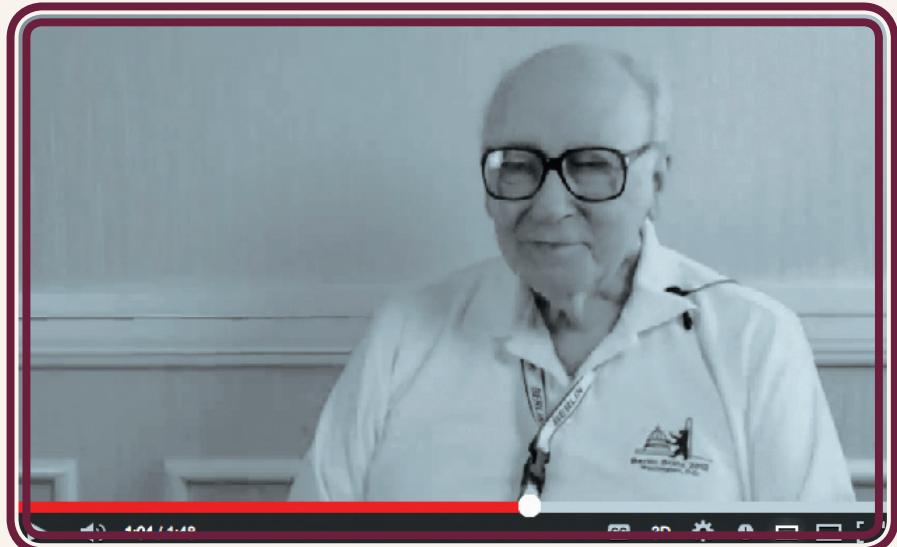
Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter

April 2013

Volume 9, Issue 2



Brats Overseas Book Project Trailer



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Berlin Brats Overseas Project Trailer

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6r1YeBk8JLc>

This is a short excerpt of the video my daughter shot for the Brat Overseas Project.
This is one of many interviews from last summer's reunion.

Interview with Dr. Mathis class of '47

Brats Overseas Book Project is still accepting stories for the upcoming book which is a compilation of stories of Berlin Brats like you! We need stories from every decade. Any stories you are willing to share would be great, whether they are about daily life or school life, we want everyone to know what it was like living behind the Iron Curtain. Some ideas: JFK's visit (1963), the LaBelle Night Club bombing, Reagan's visits to Berlin (1982 & 1987), Carter's visit to Berlin (1978), Muhammad Ali's visit (1978), Nixon's visit to Berlin, Ed Sullivan Show tapings (1961), Berlin Airlift (1948-9), Clinton's visit (1994), TAR School Opening (1946), BAHS School Opening (1965), School Closing (1994).

Send your stories of between 750 to 1000 words to: bratsoverseas@yahoo.com. Or mail them to: Yoshika Lowe, 8502 Star Hollow Ln, Houston, TX 77095. We look forward to sharing your memories with the world!

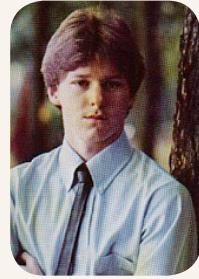
Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83



Engagement Announcement

An April 13th wedding date has been set for
Dawn (Abel) Krenning '87 & Robert Hayes '85

Congratulations!



In the Year 1985



Hey Berlin Brats and Friends: Check out my sister's latest interview "Hansel and Gretel Witch Hunters"...
Berlin, Germany is mentioned

Exclusive Interview with Stars Jeremy Renner and Gemma Arterton

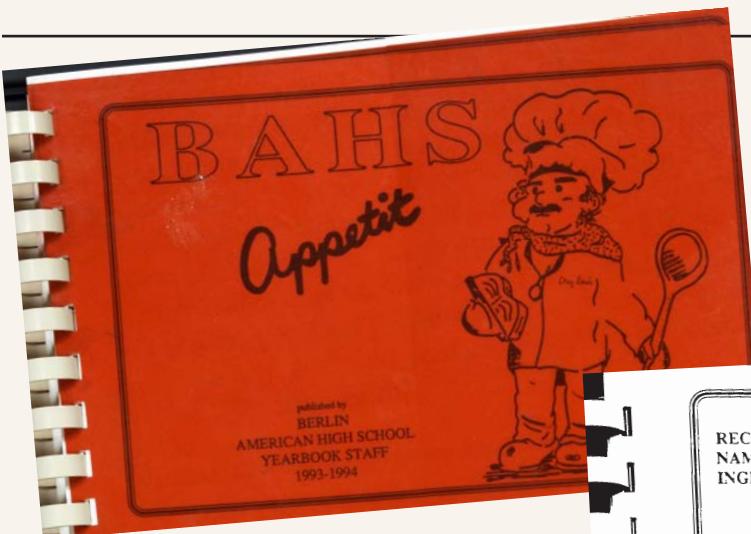
"Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters" will be released on March 1, 2013, and our own Penny McLean '88 had the chance to interview stars Jeremy Renner and Gemma Arterton about the film.

The film follows the classic story written by the Brothers Grimm that was published in 1812.

Check out our exclusive video! <http://www.facebook.com/photophp?v=10151410098306550>



Kim McLean Hunt '77



Recipe: For A Better Life

Page 93

New in our Scrapbook

A collection of 100 recipes by the Yearbook Staff of 1994 including recipes from students, faculty, parents and friends.

RECIPE	
RECIPE TITLE:	<i>For a Better Life</i>
NAME:	Wendy Wall
GRADE/TITLE:	School Psychologist
INGREDIENTS:	1/2 cup healthy anger 1 cup self confidence 1 tbsp savvy dash of determination pinch of purpose ounce of optimism
PREPARATIONS:	Let anger brew to the simmering point. Remove from heat before it comes to a boil. Combine with self confidence. Add savvy, determination, and purpose, and mix energetically with optimism till blended. Be careful not to crush, beat, or whip into a frenzy, or mix will turn sour. Top off with a generous helping of the sweetness of life. Shake yourself vigorously, then let settle. Serve anyone willing to sample it.

LTG Ferriter '75 takes command of Installation Management Command

San Antonio - Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter took the reins of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command from Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch during a change of command ceremony Nov. 17th on Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Army Cheif of Staff Gen. Raymond Odierno presided over the changing of the guard for the command, which relocated from suburban Washington, D.C. to South Texas during the past two years as part of Base Realignment and Closure.

Michael Ferriter and wife Margie have four children who understand Army life: Dr. Meghan Ferriter, Capt. Dan Ferriter, Capt. Paddy Ferriter and 1st Lt. Mary Whitney Whittaker.

"The Ferriters are a great Army Family and IMCOM is fortunate to have them," Odierno said.

**"Always remember that
The strength of our nation is our Army.
The strength of our Army is our Soldiers.
The strength of our Soldiers is our Families.
And that's what makes us Army Strong."**

Ferriter said,
"there are hundreds of thousands of Army Families that are exactly the same,
and that's where we get our inspiration."



Published on Nov 27, 2012

Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter, Commander of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command and Army Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management visited U.S. Army Garrison Japan during his tour of Army Installations in the Asia/Pacific Region with senior IMCOM leaders, including Command Sergeant Major Earl Rice.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N57pOpZLdOQ>

FOLLOW UP:

When we posted Richard Clarke '80 is the new commandant of WP cadets on our FB page we received this:

From Laura (Upchurch) Wiedemann:
Wow, small world! I was in the BAHS '79 class with Suzanne
and now my daughter is a yuk (sophomore) at West Point.
You never know where you'll meet a fellow Berlin Brat!!

Rich's wife, Suzanne Stovall '79, wrote:
Suzanne here, as I don't think Rich even checks his g-mail account or his FB page for that matter!
Thanks to the Berlin Brats for keeping the ties that bind us together strong!

Very proud to have been a BAHS graduate!
I will pass along your congrats to Rich, and be on the lookout for Laura's daughter.
Suzanne
BAHS '79

John Mitchell, US Commander of Berlin

and Colorado Springs resident passed away

March 06, 2013

KRISTINA IODICE kristina.iodice@gazette.com

Ret. Maj. Gen. John Mitchell, of Colorado Springs hosted President Ronald Reagan when he came to Berlin for the 750th anniversary of the city in 1987.

Reagan made his famous speech, saying "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"

Mitchell was the head of the command in Berlin from 1984 to 1988.

Mitchell will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Ret. Maj. Gen. John H. Mitchell was 79. Mitchell commanded U.S. forces in Berlin from 1984 to 1988.

He also served at posts around the world including Vietnam and Korea during his military career.

He had met his wife in Colorado Springs when he served at Fort Carson in the 1960s,

said his son, Colin Mitchell, 47. The couple retired to Colorado Springs.

Mitchell was the field commander of the U.S. Defense Nuclear Agency and oversaw efforts to clean up islands after nuclear testing, Colin Mitchell said.

Out of all Mitchell's assignments, his work in Berlin was the most important, his son said.

Most commanders only serve three years before leaving, and Mitchell served four years.

"I don't think they wanted him to leave," Colin Mitchell said.

Many of the images with then-President Ronald Reagan include his dad, Colin Mitchell said.

The commander greeted Reagan on June 12, 1987, as he exited Air Force One. He and his wife,

Joan Cameron Mitchell, were as surprised as anyone during the speech at the Berlin Wall

when Reagan said, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"



(Photo Courtesy of Mitchell family)

When the Wall came down in November 1989, the Mitchells were breaking ground on their retirement home in Colorado Springs.

Mitchell had Alzheimer's disease during the last few years of his life, Colin Mitchell said,

but he never lost his sense of humor, or his charm.

"He was a great leader of men. He was the general," he said. "I called him Dad."

Comment: from Jim Branson '64

General Mitchell's passing is just another reminder of the great connections that we Berliners have with amazing men in history.

General Norman Schwarzkopf was the Aide de Camp to BG Charlie Johnson in Berlin in 1960-61 as a young 1st Lieutenant.

General Johnson's daughter and son were Berlin classmates, Class of 1960 and Class of 1964 respectively.

General Barry McCaffrey is married to Jill Faulkner McCaffrey, Berlin Class of '61.

Kerry tells of boyhood East Berlin jaunt as he enters the State Department

By: Arshad Mohammed | Reuters –
February 4, 2013

WASHINGTON (Reuters) -

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry spoke on Monday of biking around East Berlin as a 12-year-old, getting a glimpse of life behind the Iron Curtain as well as a grounding from his father, an American diplomat.

Holding up the diplomatic passport he got as a boy when his father was sent to West Berlin in 1954, Kerry, 69, made self-deprecating jokes about how much he had to learn as he greeted employees on his first working day as secretary of state. "As a 12-year-old kid, I really did notice the starkness, the desolation," he told hundreds of foreign and civil service workers who thronged the State Department lobby where they bid farewell to his predecessor, Hillary Clinton, on Friday.

"If the tabloids today knew I had done that, I can see the headlines that say, 'Kerry's Early Communist Connections.' "But I would reassure them by saying I really noticed a difference between East and West. There were very few people. They were dressed in dark clothing. They kind of, held their heads down. There was no joy in those streets," Kerry said. "When I came back, I felt this remarkable sense of relief and a great lesson about the virtue of freedom and the virtue of the principles - the ideals - that we live by," he added. "I was enthralled." "Now, when my dad learned what I had done, he was not enthralled," Kerry said, prompting laughter.

"And I got a tongue lashing. I was told I could have been an international incident. He could have lost his job," he added. "And my passport, this very passport, was promptly yanked. And I was summarily grounded."

FIRST MALE SECRETARY OF STATE SINCE 2005

Kerry, who was formally sworn in as the 68th secretary of State on Friday, became the top U.S. diplomat after five terms in the U.S. Senate, where he served

ON HIS 1ST DAY IN OFFICE OUR NEW SECRETARY OF STATE.....TALKS OF "BERLIN!"



John Kerry, the new U.S. Secretary of State, greets employees of the State Department in Washington

on the foreign relations committee for some 28 years, the last four as its chairman.

Earlier in his career Kerry worked as a prosecutor and served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War, returning to the United States to testify before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee about his disillusionment with the war.

In following Clinton and her predecessor, Condoleezza Rice, Kerry will be the first man to lead the State Department since Colin Powell stepped down in 2005. "So here's the big question ... after the last eight years, can a man actually run the State Department?" he said.

Despite his extensive foreign policy background, Kerry joked that he had a lot to learn and would need plenty of help as he took over at the State Department. "If I'm wandering around the building later and I, sort of, wind up in your office, it's not because I'm there for a meeting. It's because I'm lost and I need directions," he said, again prompting laughter. "So just tell me who you are. Tell me what you do. And tell me where I am."

Kerry offered no hints as to his policy direction, though he pledged to do his utmost to protect U.S. diplomats following the deaths of U.S. Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens and three other American officials in the September 11, 2012, attack on a U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya.

(Editing by Mohammad Zargham)

THE HARNACK HOUSE
(U.S. Army Officer's Open Mess, Berlin)

1971

New in the Berlin Brats Scrapbook.....

<http://www.berlinbrats.org/scrapbook/71Harnack.pdf>



Berlin is a city of tragedies, a center of culture, a proud and beautiful metropolis. Few European cities have such dramatic histories, and none can boast of more magnificent architectural structures. What tales could be told by these buildings which have housed geniuses, withstood the ravages of war, and echoed with the sounds of cultural progress.

The Harnack House is one such distinguished structure. Named for the theologian and scientist, Adolf von Harnack, it was constructed in 1929 by the Kaiser Wilhelm Society now called the Max Planck Society. Harnack was the society's first president. The building was used during the period 1929-1941 as a guest house for such famous scientists as Max Planck, Fritz Haber, and Otto Hahn, who came to Berlin to do research work. Albert Einstein later served as president of the society, and it is believed that he delivered his first lectures on the "Theory of Relativity" in the Harnack House -- probably in the Leibnitz room, located upstairs between the Mozart and Humboldt Rooms.

During the scientific period, the building contained lecture rooms, meeting halls, dining rooms and a gymnasium, as well as apartments and single rooms for the visiting scientists who gathered from all over the world. The buildings around the Harnack House were primarily, part of the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institute, and many were later taken over by the Free University of Berlin.

The Harnack House is mentioned in Cornelius Ryan's The Last Battle and in Albert Speer's Inside the Third Reich as a meeting place for the hierarchy of the Third Reich during the war. Fortunately, it escaped with little damage, and in the summer of 1945 the building was taken over by the American Forces. It was then used as a billet and club.

Since 1946, many distinguished American leaders have visited the Harnack House. Two Presidents, Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower were among the most famous guests--Truman during the Potsdam talks, and Eisenhower while serving as the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe.

Now the Harnack House has been renovated for use as one of the most beautiful and functional Officer's Clubs in Europe. It contains on the lower floors a dining room, kitchen, bar, beauty shop, reading room, game room and cashier's office. Upstairs are the rooms for meeting and receptions, a theater room, library room, and 27 private rooms and three suites.

Outside, the structure is flanked by a beautiful garden and three tennis courts.

APPETIZER WINES		
<i>Prelude to a flavorful meal . . .</i>		
Paul Masson Madeira (U.S.)	\$.15	glass
Dry Den Sherry	.20	bottle
Dobremet	.20	
Martini & Rossi Sweet Vermouth	.15	

RED DINNER WINES		
<i>Toast to a roast, any red meat or game . . .</i>		
Taylor New York State Lake Country Red	\$1.60	glass
Paul Masson Rubion or Pinot Noir (U.S.)	1.60	bottle
Vieux Bordeaux (French)	1.20	
Chateau La Motte (French)	2.50	
Chateau De Mont Pelerin (Burgundy, French)	2.30	
Ruffino Chianti (Italian)	1.60	
Cotes du Rhone (French)	\$.70	
Beaujolais (French)	1.60	

WHITE DINNER WINES		
<i>With a lighter dish, such as chicken or fish . . .</i>		
Paul Masson Sauvignon Dry (U.S.)	\$1.60	glass
Liebfraumilch "Madonna" (German)	1.20	bottle
Bernkasteler Riesling (German)	1.20	
Ruffino White Chianti (Italian)	1.60	
Bordeaux Blanc (French)	1.00	

CHAMPAGNES		
<i>The sparkling choice before, with or after meal . . .</i>		
Taylor New York State Sparkling Burgundy	\$2.60	glass
Paul Masson Brut Champagne (California)	2.50	bottle
Moet & Chandon Champagne (French)	3.50	
Pommery & Greno Champagne (French)	3.00	
Chateau Gay Sparkling Wine (U.S.)	1.40	
Heskell Trocken (German Sekt)	3.00	
Rutger's Club (German Sekt)	1.75	

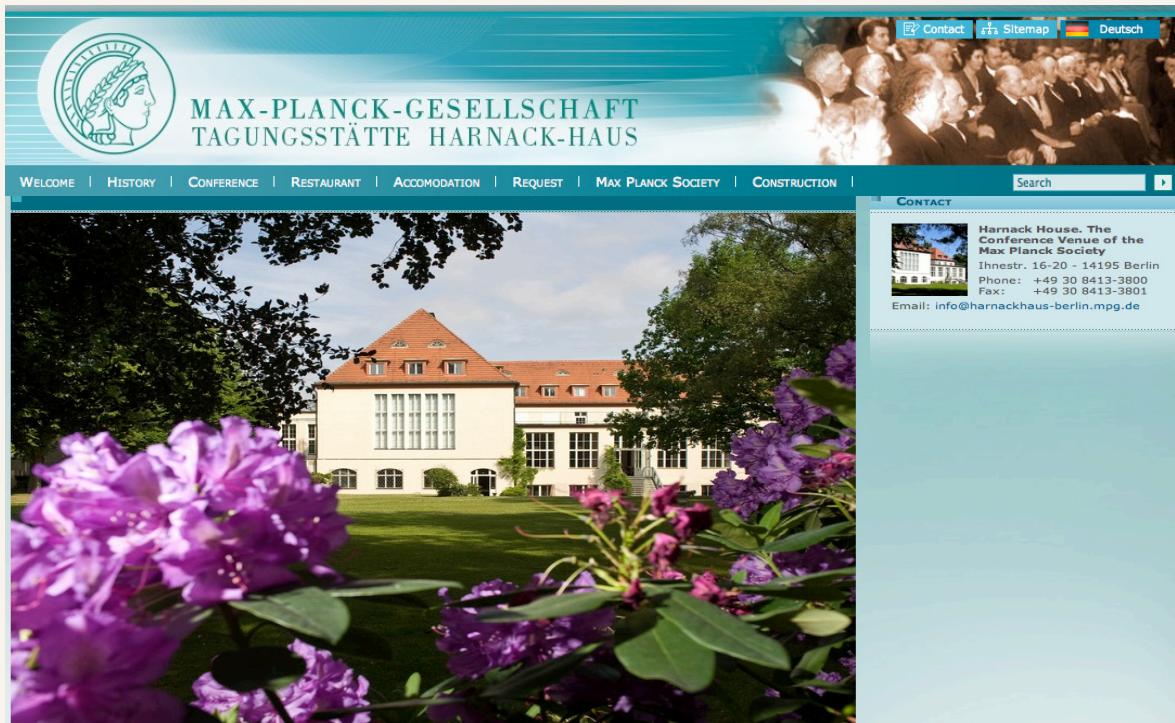
DESERT WINES		
<i>Sweet and smooth with dessert or after meal . . .</i>		
Taylor New York State Port	\$.15	glass
Sandeman 3 Star RP	.25	bottle
Sandeman Amontillado Sherry	.25	
Gallo Cream Sherry	.10	

ROSE DINNER WINES		
<i>Fresh and fragrant, delightful with any type food . . .</i>		
Taylor New York State Rose	\$1.60	glass
Matus (Portuguese)	1.30	bottle
Lancers (Portuguese)	2.00	
Bouquet de Provence (French)	1.30	

Shown at Left: Wine List Cover and Menu

The Harnack Haus today is in the process
of being renovated
to be completed near the spring of 2014. To see progress you can visit the Max-Planck Gesellschaft website.

2013 <http://www.harnackhaus-berlin.mpg.de/2316/en>



German on Mother Language Day

Feb 21, 2013

- To mark International Mother Language Day, we reveal the most popular German words abroad, plus a record-holder and some interesting facts.

German is the native tongue of more than 100 million people in the European Union, that is to say around 20 percent of the EU's population. Worldwide, some 14.5 million people speak German as a foreign language. In emerging economies such as China, Brazil and India, we are seeing growing interest in German. It is above all the country's economic power, political weight and leading position in key technologies which contribute to the significance of German. The German language plays an important role on the Internet: in the online encyclopedia Wikipedia, for instance, the German page ranks second only to the English version, offering around a million articles. In addition to the many regional dialects that are to be found across Germany, there are a number of sociolects in the German language. In urban districts with a high immigrant population in particular, young people can be heard speaking "Kiezdeutsch", a kind of local slang. Speakers of Kiezdeutsch create new sentence structures and like to leave words out. There are, after all, quite a few – contemporary German is estimated to contain 500,000 words.

The core vocabulary of an adult German is roughly 50,000 to 70,000 words.

Incidentally, the "E" is the most common letter in the German language.

Of course, German also has a number of idiosyncrasies.

The most prominent must be the language's compound nouns: with no fewer than 80 letters, the word "Donaudampfschiffahrtselektrizitäten-hauptbetriebswerkbauunterbeamten gesellschaft" even made it into the Guinness Book of Records as the longest published word in the German language.

- "The Most Beautiful German Word," an international competition initiated by the German Language Council and the Goethe-Institut, seeks out the world's favorite German words: "Habseligkeiten" – meaning belongings – is considered to be the most popular German word abroad, followed by "Geborgenheit," which means security, or the feeling of being safe, "lieben," which is the verb "to love," "Augenblick," a moment, and "Rhabarbermarmelade" – rhubarb jam.

With Heidelberg closure, DoDDS-Europe will reduce number of districts to four

WIESBADEN, GERMANY — March 7, 2013 — With the scheduled closure of the military installations in Heidelberg, the Office of the District Superintendent located at Patrick Henry Village and all three schools in Heidelberg will close at the end of June 2013.

Responsibility for the management of the eight Wiesbaden and Stuttgart schools, which have operated under the authority of the Superintendent, Heidelberg District, will be transferred to the Superintendents of the Kaiserslautern and Bavaria Districts.

The four Wiesbaden schools—Aukamm and Hainerberg Elementary Schools, Wiesbaden Middle School and General H.H. Arnold High School will report to the Kaiserslautern District Superintendent, Dr. Dell McMullen.

The four Stuttgart schools—Boeblingen and Robinson Barracks Elementary/Middle Schools, Patch Elementary School and Patch High Schools will transfer to the Bavaria District, led by Dr. Elizabeth Dunham.

During school year 1994-1995, DoDDS-Europe operated 155 schools in nine countries. At the end of the current school there will be 76 school on the rolls.

"Dr. McMullen and Dr. Dunham are both seasoned educational leaders," said Dr. Nancy Bresell, DoDDS-Europe director. "I am confident that they will continue the excellent support to the schools and communities provided by Steven Sanchez, Heidelberg District superintendent."

"Much of the preparation for this restructure has been accomplished and I am confident that this transition of oversight authority will be seamless to our communities and schools," Bresell added. "Many thanks to our staffs, who have gone great lengths to provide the best educational opportunities to our students as we begin the first steps in this major transformation."

SPREAD THE WORD.....

AOSHS (the American Overseas Schools Historical Society) has over 400 Yearbooks for sale!

Dating back to the '50's and spanning the ages all the way up to the current day. A wide assortment of books from schools and bases like Augsburg, Wiesbaden, Kadena, Yokohoma, Izmir—all over Europe, Japan and the Middle East. Duplicates come at the flat rate of \$50, and only while they retain a supply. Call 316-265-6837 or email: aoshsoffice@sbcglobal.net

For Berlin Yearbooks.....
Visit our "PX" page on our website at: <http://www.berlinbrats.org/px.htm>
They are \$32 while supplies last.

Military Working Dog Adoptions (from OSB Newsletter)

submitted by Gail Brown, Mannheim HS/Germany

Brats are pet lovers and respecters of the military.
Here might be an opportunity to do something for both!

<http://www.squidoo.com/how-to-adopt-a-military-war-dog>

Berlin Observer Archives - News

I have about 450 complete issues on the webpage, but with 52 issues per year X 45 years of Observers, I've a long way to go! McCollum's editions added 3 complete years or so, and I've had two or three other staffers who loaned their bound volumes also. But I only have a couple of 1950's issues. Walt Elkins, webmaster of the excellent <http://www.usarmygermany.com/> loaned me a bunch of early 45-47 issues (incomplete).

I borrowed via interlibrary loan, a few odd reels of film with incomplete issues from the 80's and 90's.

A few years ago, I exchanged emails with Florian Weiss of the Allied Museum/Outpost Theatre... proposing a mutually beneficial endeavor where I offered to scan and digitize the Museum's collection of Berlin Observers -they have paper and microfilm issues. If he would loan me bits, I would scan and return, both of us would benefit -the Museum would have their issues digitized and I'd have more for theberlinobserver.com -but after a promising discussion, the project never came to fruition. But at least my page -though limited, is the most comprehensive collection online.

--Joe Morasco '75

*Joe donated to our Allied Museum/School Exhibit in 2006 - telling the Museum to keep the items.
Below is what else he has done!*

I specified that all donations were to be kept by the Museum - for the exhibit, I sent a bunch of the soccer/basketball paper cutouts that the cheerleaders would stick on player's lockers before games with signatures and wishes for good luck, remember those? -along with some mounted sporting photos and who knows what else... they would just gather dust in my Berlin schrank, so if they can be preserved for future generations to know our history, so much the better.

And, a lot of my Dad's paperwork dealing with financial matters of BB, as well as misc other ephemera. Always after scanning, to have a copy of in my dbase. I also donated material to a few other "Museums" in Berlin run by Germans - McNair, Reinhardt's berlinbrigade.de and some private organizations.

Hollywood Al



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEUYKZ8dk18>

WUSA is a 1970 film.... The story involves a radio station in New Orleans which is apparently involved in a so-called "right-wing conspiracy". Paul Newman plays a cynical drifter, who gets a job as an announcer - A few minutes into the film, Joanne Woodward's character walks into a bar looking for a job... on her way out she passes..... -is it? -could it be?

I had always heard the old claim... but thought it a Berlin 'urban legend', it is also cited in a '78 edition of "Bearin Down" (our school paper) - <http://berlinbrats.org/newsletter/78BearinDown26MayV1N8.pdf> -page 7. It's Mr. Leonard!!!! FAC ('70-'87)

from Joe Morasco '75

Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter

NY Times Best Seller: Berlin Brat, Stephen Mansfield '76 sent the Berlin Brats his latest book, entitled:
"Lincoln's Battle with God"

Autographed it says: "To the Berlin Brats: To know how I feel about you, see page 237.
I am ever grateful for my years in Berlin and its friendships of Brats the world over. Love to all, Stephen Mansfield"

Dedicated to us the Book's inscription says:

Acknowledgements

Rare is the author who owes no debt to his high school teachers. I owe more than most.

I have the privilege of being the son of a U.S. army officer. There are many unique and valuable experiences that have come from this but chief among them were the years I spent in the Berlin, Germany, of the 1970s.

I attended Berlin American High School with hundreds of other American youth, nearly all the children of state department officials, diplomats, and intelligence analysts if they were not military brats like me. We lived, in many ways, the lives of typical American teenagers. Dates, sports, movies, dances, and mischief filled our lives. Yet we were also living behind the Iron Curtain and the Cold War ruled us. It was not uncommon for our sleep to be interrupted by the sound of tanks clanking through the city's streets or for our fathers to disappear from our lives upon occasion with the sole explanation that they were "on alert." Some of my friends who lived nearer the Berlin Wall occasionally heard machine gun fire in the small hours of the night. When our high school teams played against another American school, one of the two schools had to travel through East Germany on a "Duty Train." These were regularly stopped by heavily armed soldiers who used dogs and mirrors to search for escapees.

My civilian friends back home would only know such scenes from movies about Nazis.

We were isolated expatriates and so we became dear to each other. We are dear to each other still.

Our teachers naturally loomed large for us. The ones who influenced me were history teachers and had names like Beam, Ferguson, Sullivan and Kilpatrick. That they were teaching just miles from armies eager to destroy all they held dear made the lessons of western civilization more urgent, their craft perhaps more vital than they had imagined possible when they decided upon their profession.

This is what brought me to Lincoln. I remember discussing "government of the people, by the people, for the people" with Mr. Ferguson and thinking how immediate the words seemed. Our context changed everything and made Lincoln more relevant by far than the Nixons and Agnews who occupied the American stage at the time. Lincoln spoke of sacred sacrifices and the evils of slavery, of healing a nation's wounds and the better angels of our nature.

Peering over the Berlin Wall into a dismal, oppressed East, we knew Lincoln's words defined the American ideal. And I loved him for it. First, I became enamored with the romantic Lincoln of patriotic lore. Then the troubled, complicated man of Herndon's many interviews. Then the disturbingly racist and political Lincoln. Finally, I simply let Lincoln be his frustrating, often unknowable, inconsistent, maddening self. But it all came to me first through devoted teachers who elected to ply their trade among the children of Berlin Brigade. I am ever thankful.

Now, our high school is no longer an American school. Most of our teachers are dead.

There are no American troops in Berlin today. Still, in my mind, I stop by the Post Exchange on the way home from school. I buy pommes frites near the Clayallee Strasse U-bahn station. And I walk to football practice with the words of Miss Beam playing in my mind: "Lincoln lives today on the streets of Berlin."

I was aided in my research for this book by three devoted public servants in Springfield, Illinois.

The first was James M. Cornelius, Curator of the Lincoln Collection at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. He is a wise and gentle scholar. In fact, he is what we think of when we hear the words "Lincoln expert." He not only encouraged my pursuit of the spiritual Lincoln but read the manuscript and kindly made suggestions. Though all errors are mine, his kind input was invaluable. I was also well served by Timothy P. Townsend of the National Park Service. I have often thought that if I had another life to live I would love to be a member of the Park Service stationed at some beloved history site. Mr. Townsend set this dream aflame. He spoke with an obvious mastery about Lincoln sources, took me on a tour of the Lincoln home, and encouraged my work with grace. We need more like him.

In Springfield I also had the privilege of meeting Dr. Wayne C. Temple. I thought at first he was merely an Illinois state archivist who had written a book about Lincoln's religion. It turns out he is the "Dean of Lincoln Scholars," a man honored as a Life Fellow by the Royal Society of Arts in England and remembered as a valued member of General Eisenhower's staff during World War II. His counsel was like wisdom from on high and it was a privilege merely to be in his presence.

Many others were generous with their time and insights. Dr. Mark Noll of The University of Notre Dame gave treasured advice. Dr. Mitchell Yockelson of the National Archives and the United States Naval Academy offered perspective and resources. The amazing staff at Ford's Theater in Washington DC were generous and a credit to the cause of historical preservation. Both they and the theater they tend are national treasures.

Once again Chartwell Literary Group served me with research, scheduling, editing and counsel. Their staff, in particular Isaac Darnall, were skilled and encouraging. I don't know how I would do a book without them.

Finally, as with nearly all my books, my best counsel, most loyal opposition, most devoted advocate and most certain guide was my wife, Beverly.

It helps immensely that she is very easy to look at, but even if she weren't she has such a sophisticated literary sense that she has become fundamental to what I write.

Her wisdom is like air for the runner, melody for the finely crafted song.
She is my most welcome distraction and I cannot imagine life or literature without her.

Faculty Updates



The Harrison's, Glenna and Ron visited with Margaret and Byron Smith in late January of this year, and sent us this news of Coach Smith (FAC '70-'77).

"We visited Margaret and Byron Smith. They had both had the novovirus and so we did not stay with them and we were very cautious in our visit! Margaret and I spent a day in Marietta, GA shopping, lunching and seeing the "Gone with the Wind" Museum. It was great to see them. Byron is doing real well - but is cautious in getting around after the heart valve replacement. He walks - and keeps up with events on TV."



Coach Smith is an avid golfer and I suspect he watches all the golf tournaments.
So we Berlin Brats would like to know - who is
Coach Smith's favorite Pro golfer?



Berlin Brats and Mr Ech

at OSB AZ regional in February 2013.
Mr. Ech (FAC '67-'69), Jim Wright '72
and Diana (Green) Kempton '72

Jim Branson '64 has informed us via Facebook in reference to the duty train story in our last issue, that three of our Berlin High School teachers from the early 1960's were on that train.

Mr. Nick O'Neill, Miss Ruth Demel and Mr. John Fast. Jim spoke to Nick O'Neill and Nick told him that was quite an interesting experience.

In the article the duty train was stopped and detained by the Russians on Thanksgiving Day in 1961. A movie had been made about it back in 1964 and is gathering quite a bit of conversation lately at Fort Eustis, Va., where they have one of the Berlin duty trains on display.



Farewell to a Friend

by Cheryl Dearing Starich '85

"All the variety, all the charm, all the beauty of life is made up of light and shadow."
- Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*

Last summer, hundreds of Berlin Brats gathered at the 2012 Reunion in Washington, D.C., sharing memories and celebrating Independence Day in our nation's capital. One such Brat, Elizabeth Wood '85, a friend to countless Brats across the 70's, 80's and beyond, wouldn't have missed it. She loved Brat gatherings and particularly enjoyed meeting new alumni, sharing Berlin stories with old and new friends alike. But soon after the event, and just weeks after the devastating loss of her brother Rob (class of '83), Liz was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and would begin to face the fight of her life. After several courageous months, Liz lost her battle and we lost our friend on January 17, 2013, but not before she'd given a lasting gift to a handful of Brats and, by extension, our entire Brat family. In hindsight, it is easy to see that she knew what she was doing when she brought several of us together, in succession, to care for her...and in doing so, connected our hearts forever.

Dorothy Vogt, Liz's nearest friend in New Jersey (whom we later dubbed an Honorary Brat) was first to call in close support, helping Liz and her family wade through medical choices and logistics. Liz's parents came to stay with her at her home in Metuchen as her treatments and her battle intensified. After sharing Christmas and many weeks together, Liz insisted that her parents take some much-needed R&R. To make that possible, her sister Suzanne (Wood) Koziatek '82, helped "Little Bit" as they called her, rally the troops to come for a stay. Liz was fiercely independent (a Wood family trait, to be sure) and equally as private, so only a few would know for now. There would be no undue burdens on any of her extended Brat friends, she'd decided.

Each of us came to "pull shifts," caring for Liz by day and taking care of her home and personal matters by night. When Cate Speer '85 arrived, Liz was confronting the reality that she'd be hospital-bound until further notice. Knowing all too well how that felt, Cate set out to brighten Liz's hospital room, creating a bulletin board overflowing with photos of Liz's friends, past and present . . . glowing faces marking heartfelt reunions or triumphant celebrations with her. Cate and Liz had known each other in Berlin, but their friendship blossomed more fully over the years as they reconnected at BAHS reunions, competed in grueling races and explored reunion locales together. Now, as they faced this next challenge as a team, Elizabeth need only look across her small room to be reminded of the multitudes who were pulling for her.

We brought photos and mementos of happier times and shared with Liz when she felt up to it. I'd known my friend since 7th grade in Ft. Bragg, where we'd competed on the same gymnastics team, then later found ourselves on a whole other continent, leading the Berlin DYAs Yankee Doodle Dolls dance team. As I sat on the bed beside her now, I brought out a scrap of dark red velvet from our dance uniforms and placed it in her hands. We talked about our "Streets of Broadway" show and our disastrous opening day at the Volksfest (we were both injured on the slick stage), and then, in typical Liz fashion, she held up the fabric and said, "Oh, good grief, I hated this red fabric . . . it was not my best color."

We'd all kept in touch with Liz in the years since Berlin, and I felt, as we all did, that if anyone could beat this thing, it was Liz. She'd proven her mettle training and competing in triathlons and numerous races, and once she set her sights on something, there was no stopping her. Win or lose, she would finish strong--and on her own terms (another well-known Wood trait).

When Suzanne arrived toward the end of my stay, I had the delight of listening to these two beautiful sisters, Suzanne and Liz, as they alternately bickered (the way sisters, under any circumstance, will naturally do after hours on end together) and laughed with them as they retold famous family stories...one involving a particularly funny series of events that led to a stockpiling of original Coca-Cola when New Coke came on the scene. As we offered comfort and conversation to her, inevitably, emotions would bubble up, but it was often Liz who iced the situation by sending us on missions to find particular foods for her (you should have heard the sarcasm about her hospital food) or simply drifting off to sleep.

Elizabeth had said she hoped everyone's overlapping stays could be a time of rekindling old friendships since most of us had not seen each other in decades. We had, after all, shared a love of Berlin, some mutual friends and Elizabeth herself! Of course we had not known then that our time there would have increasing urgency and carry the weight that it did. Together in pairs, as Liz's health and strength continued to decline, we shared tender moments nurturing and comforting her and, eventually, each other as the difficult conversations came. We talked with Liz and one other about our faith and what was to come. We spoke of old friends, old teachers, trips on the Duty Train (and the shenanigans pulled even under the watchful eye of Russian and East German guards), the unique way we grew up in our military families, how very fortunate we were, how fleeting it all was, and yet how grateful we were (again) at that moment to be able to share as though we'd never left Berlin.

We wore "Team Liz" pins, and so did she, each with a dangling, sterling silver boxing glove to show her that we were right there in the fight with her. The pins were passed from one caregiver to the next, and came to symbolize a sort of changing of the guards.

Elizabeth's dear friend Kim Keravuori (JFK '85) was the next Berliner to arrive. She and Liz had shared sleepovers and secrets during their young teenage years together in Berlin, and later enjoyed city life in America as young college grads. But it was Kim's experience practicing law that now came as a tremendous help to Liz as she encouraged her friend and walked her through the unwelcome legal matters that accompany a long illness.

Another close Brat friend, Laura Williams '85, arrived to care for Liz that final week. Laura and Liz had had the good fortune of taking their BAHS friendship with them as they traveled from Berlin to their fathers' next duty station in Hawaii, where they navigated new halls, met new teachers, and forged new friendships together. Laura's "shift" taking care of Elizabeth now was without a doubt the most difficult, but it was their lifelong friendship and their love of family which brought them full circle through Elizabeth's passing. Together with Liz's beloved Aunt Ellen, Laura had the privilege of spending Liz's last days with her.

As our friend's journey had come to a close, at least 20 Berlin Brats descended upon the tiny town of Metuchen to attend Elizabeth's memorial service, along with her close family members, friends and many co-workers from her post-Brat "civilian" life. The night before the service, nearly a dozen Brats gathered to toast our beautiful friend and come to grips with our own heavy hearts. She'd been voted "Most Shy" in our class in Berlin, and we laughed now at the irony of it since she'd grown to become a quintessential New Yorker when she launched her healthcare career there. She was graceful, sophisticated, and had a penchant for Russian literature . . . Tolstoy, Nabokov, even Solzhenitsyn, whose books were introduced to her by our World Regions teacher, Mr. Bluem. By all accounts, she was the kind of pupil who learned something once and never forgot it. She fell in love with Shakespeare, courtesy of another favorite teacher, Mr. Pinschmidt. She loved the theater, the opera, fine wine and travel, yet in her heart she stayed grounded by her deep love of family and friends.



COL Robert Wood, Tim Shaw '85, Jennifer (Hewitt) Shaw '85, Cate Speer '85, Bryan Duckett '84, Vince Lingner '82, Timothy Snow '85, Melissa (Stewart) Johnson '85, Susan (Sams) O'Neill '85, Liz Wood '85, Suzanne (Wood) Koziatek '82, Ken Reed '85, Kimberly Keravuori '85 JFK, Cheryl Dearing Starich '85, Dorothy Vogt Honorary '85er, Laura Williams '85, Sharon (Sams) Sopp '82, Tim Murphy '85 & Larry Speer '83

So many who knew her wanted a way to honor her memory in a meaningful way, and so James Tolson, with whom she'd shared many memories, stepped in to find a way to memorialize our friend. A park bench in memoriam of Elizabeth will be placed this summer in Central Park, where Liz truly loved to be. It is a place where those who loved her can come to sit and simply be with her memory a while, contemplating, as she did,

"all the variety, all the charm, all the beauty of life..."

We wish to memorialize Liz by giving to The Central Park Conservancy through their adopt-a-bench program.

Little Bit - She will be remembered & missed by all who knew her; our hearts will forever be fractured by her absence...

For 20 years Liz had her own personal love affair with Central Park; it had been the setting for her laughter, exertion, culture, passion, wonder, and love; an oasis from the city that was also the feature that defined her city.



Central Park, ultimately, became an element that helped to define her character; Central Park grew with her, comforted her, challenged her, enlightened her, and nourished her very soul with its duality of frenetic energy and pastoral tranquility.

We know that part of Liz's soul,
that part that was always drawn to Central Park, now resides there;
it resides on the running & bike paths that challenged her;
in the Delacorte Theater and on The Great Lawn that touched her heart with
performance and music; in the halls of the Metropolitan Museum of Art
that fed her visually; beneath the trees that bloom the cherry blossoms
in the Spring and then paints the city's Fall canvas when the air turns cool;
along 5th Avenue where her Irish red locks framed a smile brought upon by the St.
Patrick's Day pipers; and about The Boathouse where Sunday brunch
always made her feel just in the right place at just the right time.

Liz expressed a desire for people to come visit her in the places she loved and Central Park was at the top of her list where she felt part of her essence would be dwelling, enjoying her favorite places, hoping to see the familiar face drop by for chat; and with that desire, we, her friends, her family, we who loved her so, want to honor her life by giving back to The Park that gave her so much, and want to give her a small sliver of The Park dedicated to our love for her, a place she knows we who love her will find our way to; find our way and sit for a spell, making complete New York Fools of ourselves as we talk out loud to our dear Liz knowing full well she's listening and chuckling at our earthly foibles...

-James Tolson

We have set our "goal" at \$10,000.00 to be donated to The Central Park Conservancy on behalf of Liz, however our donation need only meet the \$7,500.00 minimum to secure her bench memoriam. All donations made through this site will be transferred directly from this site to The Central Park Conservancy by Razoo.com and Razoo.com will provide all donors with an emailed receipt for their 100% tax deductible donation.

UPDATE ON THE BENCH: March 12, 2013

I have to apologize, after searching for an available bench in the triangle area of The Delacorte Theater (Shakespeare in the Park), The Metropolitan Museum, The Great Lawn (Summer Concerts by The Metropolitan Opera and Philharmonic), The Reservoir (where she walked and ran for exercise), 5th Avenue (where the pipers can be heard during the St. Patrick's Parade), and the Bike and Running Lanes (where her races were run), I have been told that all the benches that appeared available are actually already adopted, they just do not yet have their plaques.

After looking at a number of alternative areas I realize none of them would be in the right proximity of all of Elizabeth's favorite areas and activities. However, Central Park is installing 13 brand new benches right along the side and rear of the Met which is in this area I was searching, however they won't be installed until probably July. I have been told that we have our choice of any of these 13 benches and I believe that one of these will be the best choice so I am going to head back out to Central Park this week to scout the new locations based on the blueprints I was forwarded and choose the best of these. The dedication will therefore be held some time in July or August, not on May 4th and we will have a small reception afterwards at The Met in either the The Petrie Court Café and Wine Bar or the Roof Garden Café depending on which they are better able to accommodate us in. I will also be sending out information via an email list (based on the list of donors' emails) to keep everyone up to date as things progress.



Hello,

This is Dino (Diane) Westrom (Allen) class of 1979. I am going to host a gathering in Helen, GA on Sept 27th and 28th. I have rented a cabin that sleeps 12 and have the option to rent the one next to it while available. Sleeps additional 5.

This will be Oktoberfest in Helen. The Cost will be \$75.00 pppn First come basis. The Lodge/Cabin has 6 bedrooms-4 king beds w private baths 1 queen w private bath and one bunk room w bath, single? I'm thinking slumber party!! If there is enough interest we have the option of another cabin. Plus lots of local hotels and rentals available. If anyone wants to come for just one nite let me know which nite, Friday or Saturday. We will try and fill up for both nights to keep our cost down if possible.

The \$75.00 will get you your room plus - Breakfast both Saturday the 27th and Sunday the 28th. With coffee, juice, fresh German pastries and Broetchen and eggs and meat! Dinner Friday nite will be a cookout at the lodge with Great Food, Oktoberfest beer Brewed by Strawn Brewing in Fairburn GA, Jagermeister, Schnapps and much more! Lunch on Saturday will be German breads baked local and lunch meat-cheese plate with fresh fruit and salad, and more beer! If we fill up at the lodge and cabin and others want to get a local room and just come for the meals-just let us know about how many and you can just pitch in whatever you think is fair! Cabin Cleaning is included in this also.

We will meet in Helen Friday the 27th around noon at King Ludwig's Beer Garden in Downtown Helen. We will drink Beer and have lunch and maybe do some sightseeing and shopping until 4, check in at the Lodge to get situated into rooms, they will be first arrive first pick basis! We will have a cookout and Beer, there is a hot tub at the Lodge so bring your suit, pool tables, foosball, darts and other games. A great outdoor fire pit! Just relax and enjoy the Mountains in GA. Also, the Festehalle will be open if anyone wants to go!

Saturday after breakfast we will be going on some excursions! Ruby falls is a great state park with hiking and water falls, just a short 5 miles drive away. Cost is 3.00 pp to enter park. Lunch at the lodge for whoever wants to join in. I'm thinking a winery tour after lunch, about 5 min drive up the road and then we can all meet at the Goofy Rooster Corn maze to get lost while we are all a little tipsy! Just a 2 mile drive up the road! Around 4pm or so- cost is 8.00 pp There are lots of shops and eateries in Helen so you can explore or join us! We will meet back at the Lodge to get dressed in our German apparel and head to the Festehalle at around 6pm for Beer and Great German food! Cost is 9.00 pp to enter, food and drink extra. We will have our hot tub, beer and beds waiting for us at the lodge!

Sunday morning recovery will be breakfast and Goodbye! Check out is 11am--I will be working on a late checkout!!

web site for Eagles Eye Lodge is - pinnaclecabinrental.com - cabin w 6 bdrms
Helen is - HelenGA.org

We will be driving up on Friday at 10am. We would love to have anyone come stay if you want to fly into Atlanta Thursday nite or Friday morning. We can drop you back off at the ATL airport after 2 on Sunday. Or come early and stay a few days!!

Looking forward to seeing everyone that can make it!

Diane Westrom- Allen Phone # 678-977-7933
e-mail Ladydino@live.com

Please R.S.V.P --- A.S.A.P !!!! Call me or send an e-mail.

Helen is a 1&1/2 hour drive from Atlanta
2 hours from Greenville, SC
3 hours from Chattanooga, TN



“A NIGHT TO REMEMBER”

“I can’t believe we just did that”. This is what I said to Wayne Taylor, a fellow Berlin American HS Brat, as we stumbled down the steps of the S-Bahn station at the Friedrichstrasse Bahnhof! It all started on a cold Friday evening in January 1962. We were in a partying mood and decided to look for a new watering hole. We were familiar with all of the hot spots like the Resi Bar at Alexandria Pl. or the “Eierschale Club,” (Egg Shell), at Breitenbach platz, Etc; so we headed across town over to the British Sector to try out the British “Naafi Club”. When we arrived we were pleasantly surprised to learn that a large mug of cold beer was only 40 pfenning! Needless to say, we drank all night and partied with the British soldiers and their German girlfriends. By the time Midnight came, we felt no pain. The Naafi Club was closing, so we decided to head back to Berlin Command to our apartments to crash. The weather was rather cold but at this point we were not feeling it. We managed to hop on the “autobus” heading back toward Zehlendorf, but found that we had to transfer to a different bus near the border at Friedrichstrasse. The time was now approaching 1:00 am, and we had waited for nearly 45 minutes for another bus. The neighborhood was completely dead at that time of the night, so we went in search for another mode of transportation. After walking west on Friedrichstrasse for another 15 minutes, we came upon the infamous S-Bahn railway station.



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-B0614-0020-001
Foto: Eckleben, Irene | 14. Juni 1963

The S-Bahn train was not to be used by Americans as it was maintained and operated by the East German “DDR”, or in other words, it was strictly “Verboten,” as in “Off Limits”. Being that we were not of sound mind and body, due to all of the alcohol and extreme cold setting in, we decided at that point to try the S-Bahn train. After purchasing our tickets and running them through the turn style, we jumped onto the first waiting train car we saw. It was extremely warm inside the car, which felt so good, that it promptly caused us to fall asleep. I had no clue as to how long we were asleep, but the constant drone of the train motor and the sound of hissing steam caused me to awaken from my deep sleep. As I peered out the window, I was shocked to see that a Russian soldier, in full battle gear, had defected over to “our side.” I started punching Wayne in the shoulder shouting “wake up! We got a Russian who just escaped to the west.” We were both so excited that we ran off the train, up to the soldier, and grabbed both his hands, shaking them, shouting “Willkommen Nach West Berlin Kamraden.”

The soldier, dressed in a full length long brown overcoat, with his PPSh41, Kalashnikov Machine gun slung over his left shoulder, appeared to be in his late thirties. He also appeared to be in shock! He looked as confused as we were when he turned around and pointed to the writing on the train station wall that said "Ost Friedrichstrasse." He then regained his composure and shouted at us "Das ist Nicht West Berlin. Das is ost Berlin."

Wayne and I looked at each other and suddenly realized that we were in deep trouble! We also became instantly sober. Fearing the worst, we stood on the platform thinking about what was going to happen to us, or worse yet, our fathers military careers were at stake! At this point, the Russian soldier kept looking up and down the train platform, and as he pulled out a pack of German smokes from his coat pocket, he stated "Haben sie Amerikanischen Zigaretten?" We reached in our shirt pockets and immediately handed over two packs of Winston cigarettes. The Russian took the cigarettes, dumped out the German smokes and stuffed the American smokes back in the empty German pack. He then stuck out his hand and pointed to his wrist and muttered "Uhr." We seemed to know exactly what he wanted, so we handed over our wrist watches. Suddenly, he glanced up and down the platform once again, and then led us over to the train car which we came out of. He then directed both of us to crawl underneath the seats on the floor of the train and stay there! As we crossed over the border through a wall of barbed wire, we were once again back in West Berlin and FREEDOM! As we ran and stumbled down the steps of the S-Bahn station, we both realized how lucky we were to have been released by that Russian soldier on the other side. Had we been American GI's instead of a couple of teenagers, I am sure that things would have turned out a lot differently! As we found our way to a German taxi, I turned to Wayne and stated "I can't believe that we just did that!"

Several days later, while doing the laundry, my mother found the S-Bahn ticket in my pants pocket and scolded me for riding on it. I told her what had happened and she replied "What ever you do, don't ever tell your father what you two did!"And you can bet that I never did!!!

Jules A Denitto
Class of '63

"Did you spot the S-bahn ticket in the above photo?"

Are there any formermarble players out there?

Lewis Walls
BERLIN BRATS posted on FB 2/6/13

When we lived in Berlin in 1964-1967
we didn't have any Armed Forces TV,
so we always played outside and 75% of the time
we played marbles in the grass and sand area
in the middle of the parking lot
(which explains the close gathering
of us Brats in this photo).



The sandy grass area in the middle of the parking lot in front of 13 Taylor Street (we didn't call it strasse back then) taken in the Summer of 1965 or 1966.

The poster reads 'Berlin is not buyable.'

(Photo: Markus Schreiber, AP)

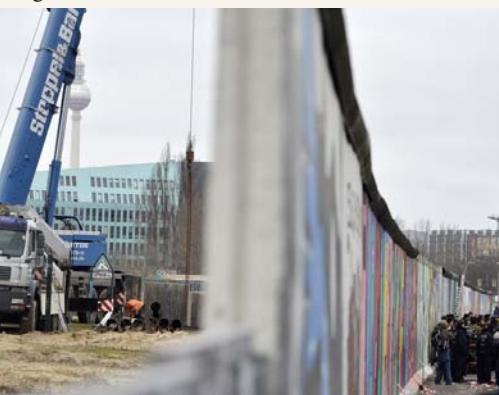
Don't tear down this wall,

Berliners urge developers

- Developers are removing parts of the Berlin Wall to make way for a high-rise, luxury apartment complex.
 - Complex owner says pieces of the Wall will be available for public viewing
 - Critics say Berlin is trying to erase traces of its communist past
- BERLIN -- "Tear down this Wall!" President Reagan once demanded of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Two decades later, developers are the ones knocking down the Berlin Wall, this time to make way for luxury apartments. And they are facing steep resistance.

Jennifer Collins, Special for USA

March 3, 2013



Construction workers try to remove a part of the Wall with a crane in Berlin on March 1. Florian Schuh, AP



Police in riot gear stand guard at a section of the Wall Sunday in Berlin. (Photo: Sean Gallup, Getty Images)

"I'm outraged by the decision to tear down this monument," said Hildegard Heyer, a Berliner who joined the protest. "The East Side Gallery belongs to the history of Berlin and everyone."

On Friday, protesters managed to block a crane set to rip out a 73-foot section of this part of the Wall, which is Berlin's second-most visited tourist attraction and is covered in world-renowned murals.

Those murals include a passionate communist kiss between Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and his East German counterpart, Erich Honecker, as well as the image of the Trabant car bursting through it. They were painted by more than 100 artists from around the world in the spring of 1990 and restored in 2009 at a cost of 2.5 million euros.

City officials have given permission for a high-rise complex to be built between the wall and the Spree River, as well as a new bridge next to the site. Maik Uwe Hinkel, owner of Living Bauhaus, the company building the complex, says no piece of the wall will be lost.

"As a Berlin company, we are just as interested in retaining the East Side Gallery as a historic monument – all of the pieces of the Wall will be available for the public to view, as well as the corresponding artwork," he said in a statement. "They will be reconstructed just a few meters behind the East Side Gallery." In many ways, the fight over the Wall and other city landmarks is one over the future of Berlin, locals say. In spite of being the capital of Europe's economic powerhouse, the city has double-digit unemployment and it lacks the industry, sparkling tidiness and restored structures of richer German cities such as Munich. It was famously crowned as "poor but sexy" by Mayor Klaus Wowereit a few years ago.

With its cheap rents and low cost of living, the city has lured thousands of young Germans and expats over the past two decades, in particular

artists and other creative types. But city officials want Berlin to take its rightful place among other glitzy world-class capitals, which means more jobs and less urban decay as well as

higher rents and luxury offerings. To do so, city officials have dismantled squats such as Tacheles, which was also an arts center in a high-rent district that attracted tourists before it was closed in 2012. Famous landmarks from the city's East German past have not been spared amid long-running complaints that Berlin has been determined to erase any trace of its four decades of communist rule. The city demolished the landmark Hotel Unter den Linden and the Palace of the Republic, the former seat of the East German parliament, and has let other buildings fall into disrepair.

The Berlin Wall itself mostly disappeared in the months after the communist regime fell. Still, Berliners who once lived within the Wall say it is important to preserve it to remind future generations of the division of the city.

"The remainder of the Wall is being removed in pieces and people come here expecting to see it, but it is slowly disappearing," said protester Helga Garduhn, 67, who was a biology teacher and environmental activist in communist East Berlin.

Protesters — who are trying to collect 50,000 signatures on an online petition to present to the Berlin Senate — have vowed to fight until officials intervene.

For many foreign visitors to the city, the Berlin Wall is an enduring symbol of the city's past and should remain. "The wall is the biggest association I have with Berlin," said Curt Ganeles, 23, a Boston native on an internship in the city. "To take that away is completely at odds with the spirit of the city, its history and people."

BERLIN -- David Hasselhoff has put his name behind a campaign to preserve one of the few remaining sections of the Berlin Wall.

And in Germany, The Hoff's name carries weight.

The American actor best known for starring in "Knight Rider" and "Baywatch" is fondly remembered by many Germans for releasing a schmaltzy song called "Looking for Freedom" shortly before the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

Hasselhoff said Sunday that a real estate developer's plans to move part of the Wall was "like tearing down an Indian burial ground" because of the great historical importance it had.

Berliners have rallied against the plan they say is part of a wider trend of steamrolling Berlin's tumultuous history to make way for gleaming developments in the now unified capital.



(Luca Teuchmann/Getty Images)

David Hasselhoff Joins Protest to Save Berlin Wall

By Jennifer Abbey
Mar 18, 2013 12:05pm

David Hasselhoff's new mission is to save what remains of the Berlin Wall. The "Baywatch" star joined thousands of protesters in Germany Saturday to stop developers from knocking down the longest-surviving part of the Wall to build apartments.

The Hoff also performed his song, "Looking for Freedom," which he performed from the Wall on New Year's Eve 1989 and shot him to fame in Germany.

"This last piece of the Wall is really sacred. It's the last memorial to the people who died and to the perseverance of freedom," Hasselhoff said during a press conference.

"It's [the Wall] about the people and it's about hearts that were broken, hearts that were torn apart and lives that were lost. That's what these people are talking about today. It's not a piece of real estate."

He urged fans via Twitter Saturday to join him in the protest.

"BERLIN WALL MEMORIAL Please show your support come to say hi as we walk the Wall at 2pm. Be a part of History YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE !!!" he tweeted.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ko8PjDc0cp0>
Abendschau news cast

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lZbHI-tDOYg> Michael Knight uploader



AOSHS' Visionary Passes.....

Dr. Tom Drysdale Founder of the American Overseas Schools Historical Society, headquartered in Wichita, KS, in 1989.

Dr. Tom Drysdale

I first met Tom Drysdale in 1979 when I became principal at SHAPE High School in Belgium and Tom was director of the Atlantic Region of the DoD schools. He started as my boss, and over the years became my friend. When he retired in 1981 I thought it unlikely that we would meet again, but when I was later assigned as Superintendent of the Heidelberg District in Germany who should pop into my office but Tom Drysdale.

It was about 1990 and Tom was an adjunct professor at Northern Arizona University (NAU) and was in Europe supervising student teachers from NAU in DoDDS schools. At that time he told me about AOSA, the American Overseas Schools Archives, which had been established at NAU in 1989.

Due to the collapse of the Soviet Union, the military mission in Europe had changed and many schools were being closed. Tom and Dr. Eugene Hughes, president of NAU, felt the history of this unique school system was too important to lose, so the archives were established. When the space at NAU became too small, Tom took possession of the materials and the American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) was incorporated in 1995.

Tom's dedication to AOSHS and the history of the schools was evident to all. He worked tirelessly to find a home for AOSHS and attempted to get funding for a museum to house the memorabilia and artifacts sent in by schools, educators and former students.

Following meetings with Senate staffers and a member of the House of Representatives, he was hoping to receive some Federal funding for the project, but September 11, 2001 brought a halt to any such plans. So the museum was put aside and a building was bought in Wichita to house the archives. From being a totally volunteer organization, to having several part-time employees, AOSHS has grown to have a full-time office manager/archive director, and is actively pursuing joining forces with other museums representing military life.

None of this would have been a reality without Tom Drysdale's vision and tireless efforts over the past 18 years. There were at one time over 200 schools in Europe; the count in 2013 is 76. The loss of schools in the Pacific is far less, primarily all the schools in the Philippines and a few in Japan. He has left a wonderful legacy that will keep the memory of those schools and the quality of education they provided alive. We have much for which to thank him.

Dr. Ann Bamberger
(the 2nd AOSHS President following Tom)

Memories of Tom Drysdale

by Diana (Green) Kempton '72 (friend, Berlin Brat, Overseas Brat, and former board member of AOSHS)

I first met Tom Drysdale at Joe Condrill's Overseas Brats Homecoming in 1999 at Covington, KY, when I attended his presentation on the proposed American Overseas Schools Historical Park, complete with architectural renderings and model. I heard of proposals by architectural committee members, AOSHS members, Overseas Brats members, and various Brats who belonged to individual school alumni groups. This white-haired gentlemen stood tall and proud as he shared his background of having been a teacher in California, then an overseas schools principal and superintendent, and later an adjunct professor at Northern Arizona University, working with the overseas schools teaching program.

As he spoke of his vision for a museum and park, a home for people who were teachers, administrators, and/or students at schools around the world--people who felt at home in many places, yet had no singular place to call "home"--his vision became mine. I saw a circle of flags representing all American overseas schools to date waving in the wind, surrounding the open globe metal sculpture.

I envisioned a place to call "home" for those who lived in many more places than I had. I attended Dept. of Defense schools in West Berlin from 6th grade in 1965-66 through graduation in 1972. Prior to that I'd been in the Accommodation Schools at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona since Kindergarten, attending only one very uncomfortable year at a public school between the two. I joined then and there, and offered my services on the Architectural Committee, which Tom took me up on immediately. Soon I was editing and laying out the Quarterly newsletter, which kept me involved and up to date on everything happening with AOSHS. I was surprised to be named the "AOSHS Volunteer of the Year for 2001" during the dedication week of the AOSHS Historical Park in Wichita, KS, and was even more proud to serve two terms alongside fellow alumna and classmate Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72 as the first overseas Brat alumni on the AOSHS Board of Directors.



Chuck Willis, Dr. Dysdale, Margaret Palmer and Dr. Bamberger (seated) signing the purchase documents for the new building in 2005.

From taking on the Archives to founding today's AOSHS in 1989, Tom was the spearhead of an effort to preserve the history and memories of America's grand experiment to send military families overseas instead of just those who served, thus showcasing American life and providing their children the highest quality education experience. We owe his memory so much.

Without him, we would not be on this path, and much of the memorabilia of the overseas schools experience would be scattered to the wind.

Personally, I have lost a friend, a great mentor and a source of inspiration, not to mention a champion in my career track. Because of Tom, I'm now also an adjunct faculty member of two colleges as well as pursuing some dreams that involve writing and photography, dreams that might have been left on the back burner without his inspiration.

Tom's wife, Norma, once forwarded me their tongue-in-cheek retirement plans for when Tom turned 85: to take up residence on a Princess Cruise Ship, since the accommodations were far better, and less expensive, than those of senior care facilities. But Tom kept on going, sailing on his own course till the end, working tirelessly to preserve our histories and memorabilia so they may live on in perpetuity.

Thanks, Tom. We will keep your dream alive.

Speaking as a former DoDDS student on behalf of other DoDDS former students and alumni, we all have had great teachers who inspired us. These wonderful women and men helped to form us and show us a path to life. This includes YOU! Over the years a number of Brats have had the opportunity to reconnect/reunite with these dedicated professionals. Some have become friends or like family to us now that we are adult Brats.

In OVERSEAS BRATS (OSB)'s history, one - out of many - such educators stands out. Not because anyone of us were his students or we were at the same schools he was at, but because what he did for many Brats in recent years. This was Dr. Tom Drysdale.

Dr. Drysdale was an educator/administrator with DoDDS between 1956 and 1981, an Air Force Reserve officer, and a veteran of World War II. He and his wife, Norma, raised six Brats of their own worldwide.

In February 1989, Dr. Drysdale called me to share his dream of an archive/visitors center/museum that would house/preserve/showcase artifacts of our Brat past. This dream became reality when the American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) was formed. But above and beyond AOSHS -- Dr. Drysdale became a father figure to many Brats, attending Brat events, welcoming Brats into his Phoenix and Wichita homes, befriending us, spending some long hours listening and helping us. Many Brats looked up to him.

On February 28, 2013, Dr. Drysdale died of a heart attack. He was 91. March 8 would have been his and Norma's 70th wedding anniversary.

OSB is now developing plans to remember Dr. Drysdale. Stay tuned!

Joe Condrill
OSB President



What are a couple of nice Brats doing in a niche like this?



*More on the
Brat owners and
the store:*



My sister and fellow Military Brat, Gina (Abbondandolo) Green, and I often want to pinch ourselves when we stand in the middle of our large (33,000sf) modern warehouse packed from end to end with German and European food specialties. 15 years ago becoming an online merchant was considered very “cutting edge”. Back then most households didn’t even own a single computer and those that did were using slow-as-molasses “dial up” connections to access the Internet. Google wasn’t available, yet. We didn’t know how to show up in a Yahoo search.

Back then, Gina and I were clueless about importing German food, clueless about retailing, and clueless about computers. However, growing up as “Military Brats” (Westover AFB, Ramey AFB, Greenham Common AFB, K. I. Sawyer AFB, and Wiesbaden, Germany) we were compelled to forge ahead anyway. After all, overseas brats have always had to face their fears head on.

Living in Germany our German mom taught us all about German food and we soon realized how difficult it was to find German groceries here in the USA. It was a niche we felt needed filling. Only 40 products were available through importers when we first started back in 1998. Gina, who does the purchasing for GermanDeli, soon increased that measly inventory to over 4,000 products and we became the largest online merchant selling German products, employing over 50 people who package and ship our products all over the USA and Canada.

We continue to grow our business by adding staff, expanding our product lines, and making plans for more walk-in retail stores around the country. Is it a scary proposition? Yes! But we’re BRATS so we’ll get this done.

Inga Bowyer
President
www.GermanDeli.com

Gina graduated from HH Arnold in 1967 (name Regina Abbondandolo at the time she graduated). Her name was officially changed to Gina Green in the eighties. My maiden name is also Abbondandolo, but I never attended HH Arnold HS. I graduated from German Realschule in 1965. In 1962 I went to a Realschule in Bad Schwalbach (Taunus Mountains) and then to a different Realschule in Wiesbaden (1963-1965). I met and married my (then) USAF husband, Jim, in Wiesbaden in 1967. We have been married for almost 46 years.

We always had a tiny retail store as part of our warehouse but then we decided to open a REAL store in 2008 and that’s when we moved the retail store out of the warehouse and into a 5,000 sf space along a major highway near DFW airport. Technically the store is in Colleyville, Texas: <http://www.germandeli.com/visitintexas.html> Additionally, we will be adding a sit-down Deli to the store this summer.

Gina reminded me that while we ship primarily in the USA and Canada, we also ship to any APO or FPO address. We’ve been shipping to our troops since 2003. AND THE FURTHEST we’ve ever shipped a package was to the International Space Station!!!!!!

NASA had us put together a package of German foods for the German Astronaut, Thomas Reiter, for his ISS mission in 2006.



In 2012, FedEx produced a short video about **GermanDeli.com** and it shows both Gina and Inga in the store:
<http://youtu.be/uN4hp9pMzWE> Take a look!

By Ingrid Bauer, About.com Guide

The following are some frequently asked questions about a celebration popular throughout Germany, Switzerland and Austria.

Fasching in Germany And Other German-Speaking Countries

1. What Is Fasching?

Actually, a more precise question would be: What is Fasching, Karneval, Fastnacht, Fasnacht, Fastelabend? They are all one and the same thing: pre-Lenten festivities celebrated in grand style in mostly the predominantly catholic regions of the German-speaking countries. The Rhineland has its Karneval, Austria, Bavaria and Berlin calls theirs Fasching, and the German Swiss celebrate Fastnacht.

2. When Is It Celebrated?

The carnival season in Germany (also called the "Fifth Season") officially begins on November 11th, at 11:11 a.m. In this magic hour, the "Council of Eleven" comes together to plan the events for the upcoming festivities. The actual celebrations of the German carnival take place 40 days before Easter.

Fasching culminates the week before Ash Wednesday.

3. How Is It Celebrated?

Soon after Fasching season opens, a mock government of eleven guilds (Zünfte) are elected, along with a carnival prince and princess who basically plan the carnival festivities. The biggest festivities are held the week before Ash Wednesday as follows:

Weiberfastnacht - Thursday before Ash Wednesday. This is mainly an event held in the Rhineland. The day begins with women storming into and symbolically taking over city hall. Then, women throughout the day will snip off men's ties and kiss any man that passes their way. The day ends with people going to local venues and bars in costume.

Parties, Celebrations and Parades - People will celebrate in costume at various carnival community events and individual parties. Carnival parades abound, it is literally the weekend for people to live it up.

Rosenmontag - The largest and most popular carnival parades take place on the Monday before Ash Wednesday. These parades come mostly from the Rhineland region. People throughout the German-speaking countries will tune in to watch the biggest German carnival parade of all which is held in Cologne.

Fastnachtsdienstag - Besides some parades which are held on this day, you have the burial or burning of the Nubbel. A Nubbel is a life-size doll made of straw that embodies all of the sins committed during carnival season. It is buried or burned with great ceremony on Tuesday evening before everyone partys one more time till Ash Wednesday arrives.

4. How Did This Celebration Originate?

Fasching or Karnival celebrations stem from various beliefs and needs. For catholics, it provided a festive season of food and fun before the Lenten fasting period would begin. During the late medieval times, plays were performed during the Lenten period called Fastnachtspiele.

In pre-Christian times, carnival celebrations symbolized the driving out of winter and all of its evil spirits. Hence the masks to "scare" away these spirits. The carnival celebrations in southern Germany and Switzerland reflect these traditions.

Further, we have carnival traditions that can be traced back to historical events. After the French Revolution, the French took over Rhineland. Out of protest against French oppression, Germans from Cologne and surrounding areas would mock their politicians and leaders safely behind masks during carnival season. Even today, caricatures of politicians and other personalities can be seen boldly portrayed on floats in the parades.

5. What Do The Oft Repeated Expressions 'Helau' and 'Alaaf' Mean?

Basically these expressions are carnival cries to state either the begin of a carnival event or greetings declared among carneval participants. See more about these cries and related carnival vocabulary in the Fasching Glossary.

We know we have a lot of Brat marathoners and half-marathoners out there.....

so.....Be a Champion for Military Families: **TEAM FISHER HOUSE**
Team Fisher House had a fantastic 2012 Military Race Season!

They set new participation, volunteer, donor, and sponsorship records at the Air Force Marathon, Army Ten-Miler, and Marine Corps Marathon.

Here's their race line up for 2013:

Marine Corps Historic Half (5/19/13 Fredericksburg, VA),
Air Force Marathon (9/21/13 Dayton, OH),
Air Force Half-Marathon / Navy 5-Miler (September, 2013, Washington, DC),
Army Ten-Miler (10/20/13 Washington, DC), and Marine Corps Marathon & MCM10K (10/27/13 Arlington, VA).



Go to TeamFisherHouse.org to sign up for their mailing list and be notified when team registration opens.
Be a Champion for Military Families by raising funds and awareness for Fisher House Foundation in 2013!

THEN SEND US A RACE PICTURE FOR ONE OF OUR UPCOMING ISSUES!

The History of the World: In Flash Photos (2 minutes)

Watch this Remarkable Flash Video going round the web!!!!

A high student's final project: <http://marcobreyc.perso.neuf.fr/history.html>

It can be paused, but let it run through on the 1st viewing. BERLIN made the cut!!!!

Upcoming Events:

"Brats Beach Bash"
(aka Homecoming 2013)
August 8-11, 2013
at the Plaza Resort & Spa
Daytona Beach, Florida

Details at:
www.overseasbrats.com/OVERSEAS_BRATS_Homecoming_2013.htm .

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www.bratsoverseas.com

Submit to:
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Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83 &
Trisha Lindsey '82



Thanks!

Next Reunion

BERLIN
2014

WebBrat: Cate Speer '85
WebBrat@BerlinBrats.org

Early 60's Site
By invitation only
Contact: Jim Branson '64
jbranson01@hotmail.com
for an invite

Find us on Facebook:
"Berlin Brats Alumni Association"
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(an Open Group chat page)

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