



FROHES NEUES JAHR

New Year's Eve in Germany is called Silvester. The last day of the year is the saint's day of Pope Silvester, who died 31 December 335.

New Year's Eve traditions often include old superstitions, which have been passed on for centuries. But customs and what is considered typical Silvester food vary throughout the country.

Fireworks to welcome the new year are very popular. Indeed, we Germans spend a lot of money on private pyrotechnics.

However,



Celebrations around Brandenburg Gate have changed over the years, but they are still marked by fireworks and joy. Above: 2017 New Year's party. Left: Berliners celebrate on the wall in 1989.



lighting firecrackers close to the historic half-timbered houses is prohibited by law, so they are banned in many old towns.

Why fireworks at all?

This is a result of the old pre-medieval belief to ward off evil spirits with a lot of noise. Now these days, the displays of fireworks are just for joy. Amongst all the noise of the fire-crackers you'll also hear the sound of church bells ringing around midnight.

Many cities and towns have their official fireworks that are safe and under control. The biggest is certainly the one in Berlin. Berlin celebrates its most spectacular and legendary New Year's Eve party each year around the Brandenburg Gate, as some one million visitors gather to christen the new year. The party extends for two kilometres under the open sky with multiple stages, party tents, food galore, and light and laser productions. Then, exactly at midnight, Berliners and visitors welcome the new year with breath-taking fireworks, after which the party continues until the early morning hours.

New Year's Eve celebrations

We Germans have a lot of choice how to spend the night and greet the new year. There are public parties with local music bands, Silvester dinners at restaurants, and parties amongst family and friends. Shortly

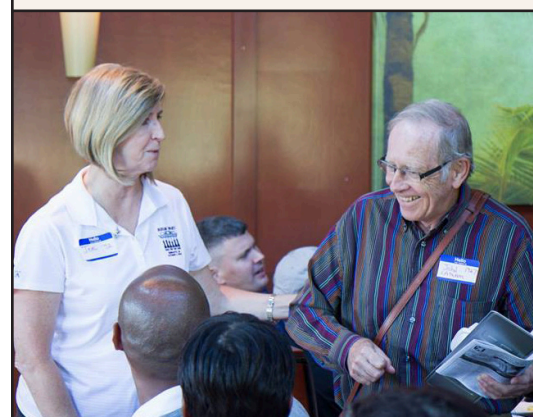
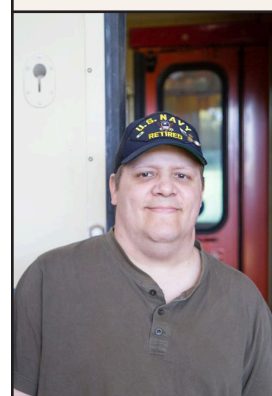
Continued on pg. 5

Newport News regional

On Sunday, October 16th, 2016, Berlin Brats met at the U.S. Army Transportation Museum (Ft. Eustis, Newport News, VA) to tour a passenger car and caboose from the Berlin-Frankfurt duty train. After the museum visit, they went to lunch at The Cove restaurant in Newport News, VA. Big kudos to Warren Knarr '77 for providing photos from this event.

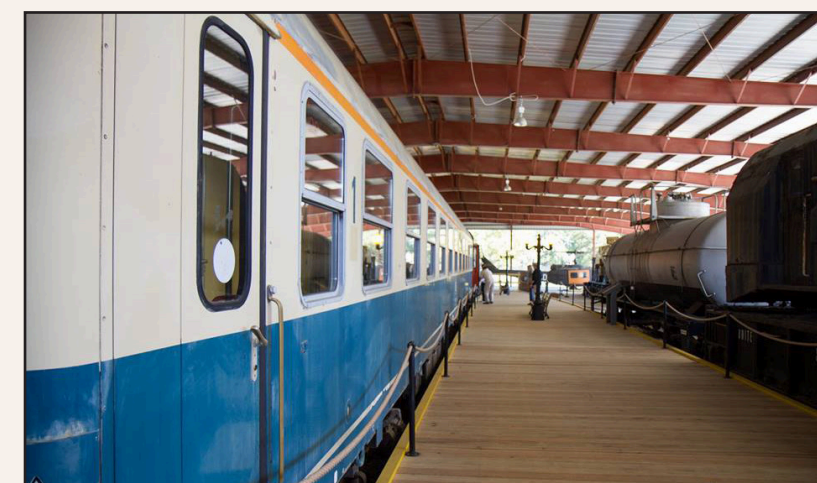


Top left: Orders for the duty train. Top right: Toni (Yar-brough) Combs '71. Above: The U.S. Army duty train caboose. Right: Brats back on the train again! Below left: Ken Magee '88. Below right: The group outside the U.S. Army Transportation Museum sign.



Top left: Some of the lunch tables at The Cove. Top right: Becky (Yar-brough) Bailey '69 and Sue (Jensen) Uzzell '69. Far left: Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72 and John Latham '67. Right and below: The duty train in the 1950s and now.

The duty train
... then,
and now



Regional in Newport News, con't

Top left: Brats reliving the past with the Berlin-Frankfurt duty train. Top right: Joyce (Clark) Mallon '72. Middle left: Deb (Brians) Clark '74 and Tessa Magee (Ken Magee's '88 wife) boarding the train. Middle right: Duty train passenger car. Bottom left: Exterior of The Cove restaurant area in Newport News, VA. Below right: Taking lunch orders at



Berlin Brat nominated: prestigious publicist award for high professional ideals

Barbara (Hermes) Hannegan '71, has been nominated to win the "Les Mason Award," which is given by the The International Cinematographers Guild to that publicist "whose achievements have been outstanding" and "whose work reflects the highest professional ideals worthy of being singled out by his or her peers for the highest honor."

Winners will be revealed at the awards luncheon on Friday, February 24 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

Les Mason Award nominees:

- Barbara Hannegan, Senior Publicist, Warner Bros. Pictures International
- William Hendley, Senior Publicist – Global Publicity, The Walt Disney Studios
- Ernie Malik, Unit Publicist
- Maureen O'Malley, Senior Publicist and Project Supervisor, Warner Bros. Pictures International
- Rosalind Jarrett Sepulveda, Executive in Charge of Publicity, Screen Actors Guild Awards

It was previously announced that Denzel Washington will receive the Motion Picture Showman of the Year award, Ryan Murphy, the Television Showman of the Year awards, DreamWorks New Media Chairman Jeffrey Katzenberg with the Lifetime Achievement Award, and BWR Founding Partner Nanci Ryder with the President's Award.

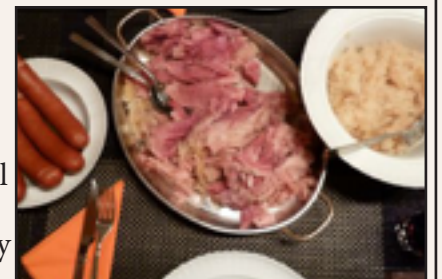
New Year's traditions, *cont'd from pg. 1*

before midnight, we open a bottle of sparkling wine (Sekt), or champagne. Then we count down the last seconds of the old year... *Prost Neujahr!* Hugs, kisses, and good wishes are exchanged, along with resolutions about personal changes in the new year.

Silvester traditions in Germany

There are some dos and don'ts for this special day. This list is by far NOT complete:

- Don't have washing hanging on the clothesline! This is an ancient superstition. It should prevent Odin (Wotan), the chief god in North Germanic tradition, from getting caught in the clotheslines when he wanders around at night.
- Eat Sauerkraut, or lentil soup, new year's eve and you won't run out of money in the new year.



The lentils represent pennies. Another traditional meal is carp, and you carry a scale of the carp in your purse.

- *Bleigießen*, literally translated "lead-pouring," is another old custom. You melt small pieces of lead in a spoon over a candle, pour the liquid lead into a bowl with cold water. The resulting shapes are fairly bizarre. Use your imagination to determine what the figures look like. A fun way of fortune-telling.



Of course you won't hear the expression Happy New Year in Germany. Instead we say "*Guten Rutch*" on Silvester Day to wish everyone a good slide into the new year. During the first day(s) of the new year we say "*Prost Neujahr*" as a general greeting, although this is very informal. In a more

formal way you would say "*Frohes Neues Jahr*." "*Viel Glück*" means good luck, and of course this is what we wish our loved ones.

It is common to give a pot of four-leaf clovers, decorated with a horseshoe, or ladybirds, as a gift when you visit friends. They all are considered lucky charms. Another symbol of good luck is a small pig, made of marzipan.



Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's visit to Berlin -- East and West

By Lars-Broder Keil
The Daily Dose, OXY.com,
January 18, 2016

"Where people break down the dividing wall of hostility which separates them from their brothers, Christ achieves his ministry of reconciliation." One speech, two locations and very different impacts.

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke those words in front of more than 20,000 people in the West Berlin Waldbühne amphitheater on Sept. 13, 1964, and triggered nods of agreement. Christians in the audience understood it as a metaphor. Just months before, King had celebrated the enactment of America's landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, which banned discrimination.

Yet the same words repeated a few hours later in two overcrowded churches in East Berlin produced breathless silence. Because for many citizens of the German Democratic Republic, the "dividing wall" was no metaphor.

King had the opportunity to see this with his own eyes, when, in the early hours of Sept. 13, Michael Meyer, a 21-year-old jockey from the GDR, was shot while crossing



A plaque commemorates Martin Luther King's visit to East Berlin



the border but pulled over the wall to freedom by a U.S. soldier. King rushed to the scene, gave interviews and talked to the inhabitants of a West Berlin apartment block that had been hit by numerous bullets.

While King had been officially invited to West Berlin by Mayor Willy Brandt to join a memorial ceremony for U.S. President John F. Kennedy, the invitation to East Berlin was private, from Provost Heinrich Grüber. Grüber had joined the church resistance against the Nazis and was imprisoned in a concentration camp. But by 1964 he'd become a critic of the restrictive church politics of the GDR's ruling party, the SED (Socialist Unity Party of Germany). He had been barred from visiting his parishes in the GDR since the erection of the wall in 1961. Perhaps Grüber sought a way to support his colleagues in East Berlin, some of whom had been driven to the west or arrested.

U.S. authorities had confiscated King's passport in West Berlin, possibly out of concern for his safety or because they intended to deny him a popular event in the east. However,

GDR border guards recognized the preacher and, after a quick phone call to superiors, allowed him to enter. King's American Express card was all the identification he needed.

What he couldn't have imagined at Checkpoint Charlie: The church (Marienkirche) in which he was to talk was overflowing an hour before he was supposed to arrive. This despite an SED order to newspapers not to mention the visit. Only a small board outside the church announced the event, and yet, around 3,000 GDR citizens showed up. The pleas of church leaders to the hundreds of people waiting to please leave fell upon deaf ears. After a short deliberation, they announced that King would hold a second speech in the nearby Sophienkirche.

King captured the audience with his first words. He delivered greetings to "dear Christian friends from East Berlin" from the Christians in the western part of the city and from the United States, and he thanked his parents, who had given him the name of the great German

reformer Martin Luther.

"We, who felt trapped and abandoned, were sent greetings from Christians in the west. This really moved me," remembers one member of the audience. King then talked about his beliefs, his philosophy of nonviolence and his vision, without commenting on recent events.

"Here are God's children on both sides of the wall, and no man-made barrier can destroy this fact," King shouted. "With this faith we will be able to tear out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope." In faith, people can stand up for freedom "in the knowledge that one day we will be free."

Of course, the SED regime needed to know what was going on in the church. Stasi spies joined and a photographer from the feared secret service took impressive pictures. In July 1964, GDR newspapers such as the Neues Deutschland had praised the "negro leader Dr. Martin Luther King" for denouncing the nomination of conservative Barry Goldwater for U.S. president. But the GDR press published only dry reports on the speech that day and failed to mention King's words about barriers and walls. There was a halfhearted attempt to portray King as a labor leader.

Stefan Appelius, political scientist and professor of contemporary

history from the University of Oldenburg, says that while King's criticism of the U.S. government and his fight against apartheid appealed to GDR leaders, King's campaigns for peaceful mass protest did not. "This was something to which the GDR leaders could not really relate," he said.

Martin Luther King's visit to East Berlin came to an end in the restaurant of the Hospiz an der Friedrichstraße. The Hotel Albrechtshof stands there today, and a plaque bears a reminder of the visit. Photos from the meal show the American minister at the table in enthusiastic discussions with the East Berlin pastors.

Memory of a lifetime for East Berliners

By Jane Paulick
DW.com, September 11, 2014

On a sunny September afternoon, Irmtraut Streit is revisiting the scene of one of the momentous experiences of her life. "We didn't know for sure if he was coming," she says as she gazes around the Marienkirche (St. Mary's Church) in the Mitte district of Berlin. "It hadn't been announced anywhere, but we all showed up just in case."



21-year-old Irmtraut Streit

The daughter of a Baptist minister, she was 21 at the time and just married. "In Communist East Germany, we'd stand in line at a store without even knowing what we were queuing for, just because there was talk of something special available. We'd learnt to be very 'let's just wait and see' about things."

The talk that day in late summer, 1964, was of an impending appearance by none other than the world-famous pastor and social activist Martin Luther King. The word on the street was that he would be crossing Checkpoint Charlie that evening to give a sermon in East Berlin. From listening to banned West Berlin radio stations like RIAS and SFB, many already knew that he

was visiting the "free" part of the city.

Invited by its charismatic mayor Willy Brandt, that morning he had spoken to a rapt audience of 20,000 at the Waldbühne and visited the neighborhood of Kreuzberg to look at the bullet holes in a house front where East German border guards only hours earlier had shot and wounded a young man called Michael Meyer, who was attempting to flee. But a trip across the Wall was on no official agenda, either in West or East Berlin.

Somehow, however, the news trickled through. "No one had a telephone, but the rumor spread like wildfire," says Irmtraut Streit. By twilight, thousands had gathered expectantly at the church on Karl-Liebknecht-Straße, among them a young Joachim Gauck, today's President and the nephew of Gerhard Schmitt, who had recently been appointed general superintendent of the East Berlin church.

To the younger generation in particular, Martin Luther King was a hero. "My friends and I heard that he was going to speak in Mitte and we knew we had to be there," recalls Hans-Joachim Kolpin, then a 15-year-old schoolboy. "We'd listened to his 'I have a dream' speech on the radio the previous year, and we loved everything to do with America, from chewing gum and Elvis Presley to 'Bonanza'. We couldn't believe that someone so prominent was actually bothering to come

Continued on pg. 8

Memory of a Lifetime, *cont'd from pg. 7*

and talk to us! The Wall had been built three years before, leaving us effectively imprisoned. We felt forgotten by the world, insignificant. No one ever showed any interest in us - but the great Martin Luther King was coming to East Berlin! We couldn't believe it."

King was one of the key figures of the era, having playing a pivotal role in persuading the US Congress to pass the Civil Rights Act only months earlier. On the international stage, Cold War tension was rife. The State Department was none too keen on the activist's plans to leave the American sector on the same day of the Michael Meyer incident, going so far as to confiscate his passport. Undeterred, he managed to cross the border anyway, recognized by border officials who accepted his American Express card as valid ID.

The East German authorities might not have formally sanctioned his visit, which had been initiated by Heinrich Grüber, provost at the Marienkirche, but they did nothing to impede it.

"King was opposed to the Vietnam War, he was an advocate for unions and workers' rights," points out Streit. "The Americans didn't want him going off to talk to 'the Communists', but for its part, the

Party didn't mind at all."

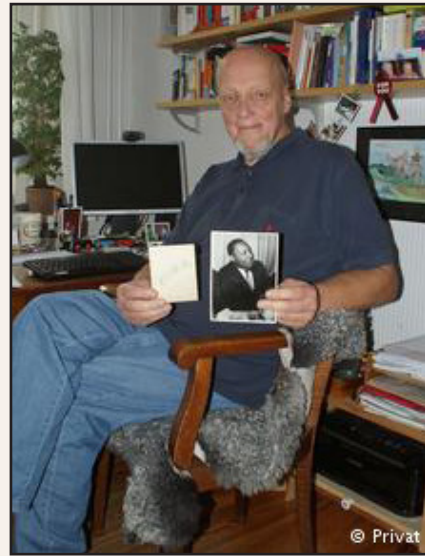
"East Germany had nothing against anyone who showed the US in a bad light," says Kolpin. "So we knew all about the March on Washington and racial segregation. King was seen very positively."

But he had the rare distinction of appealing both to the communist leadership and to people critical of the system. "He stood for revolutionary change but believed in nonviolent resistance," remembers Streit. "He knew how to galvanize people, and that made him a role model to us."

Yet the church was unprepared for the crowds who turned out to hear him speak that evening, and a second appearance in the nearby Sophienkirche was hastily arranged.

Here too, there was standing room only, but what he actually said barely registered. Referring briefly to the "symbol of the divisions of men on the face of the earth" and stating that "here on either side of the wall are God's children, and no man-made barrier can obliterate that fact," his sermon concentrated mainly on the "great social revolution taking place in the United States of America," and, according to Kolpin, was most probably barely understood by his audience.

"I had a good view of him in the pulpit from where I was sitting and there was no mistaking his passion," he says. "I can remember the sound of his voice to this day. But although what he said was obviously rousing, none of us



Martin Luther King's autograph (on the left) is one of Hans Joachim Kolpin's most treasured possessions

spoke English and his interpreter's delivery was so flat and expressionless that you stopped listening after a while."

King was inspirational nonetheless. People flocked around him as he made his way out of the church, eager to shake his hand or get an autograph. Hans Joachim Kolpin was one of the lucky ones, leaving with a signed napkin he would treasure for decades to come.

To him, King's visit was powerful evidence that the lines of communication to the West weren't entirely severed. "It was an uplifting experience," he says. "That night, the big wide world paid us attention. He made us feel better about ourselves."

A year earlier, President Kennedy's legendary "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech reassured the people of West Berlin that America would stand shoulder to shoulder with them. Although largely forgotten by the history books, Martin Luther King's 1964 stopover in East Berlin gave hope to the half of the city that perhaps needed it even more.

Looking back, Irmtraut Streit traces the roots of the peaceful uprising of 1989 to that balmy fall evening. "It still amazes me that not a drop of blood was shed," she says.

Overseas military brats march in inaugural parade Raise awareness of military families and learn about government

After President-elect Donald Trump's inaugural committee released a list last week of parade participants for the Jan. 20 event, some were confused by the listing of a group that no one could at first confirm existed — "Kids Overseas."

The list of 40 groups marching in Washington included "Kids Overseas," allegedly from Richmond Hill, GA, prompting Georgians to wonder who exactly it was that would be filling Georgia's tradition of sending a band to perform in inaugurations.

A local news reporter wrote in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution: "People in Richmond Hill, a city in southeast Georgia between Fort Stewart and Savannah, were stumped. Nobody at City Hall had heard of Kids Overseas. The local chamber of commerce was equally mystified."

The group, it turns out, is not from Georgia at all. It consists of 20 eighth graders in a history class at a Defense Department school whose parents are sailors stationed at U.S. Naval Air Station Sigonella in Sigonella, Italy.

Two active-duty service members, two military spouses, and two teachers will accompany the group, who come from 17 different states.

The class' teacher, Shawn McCarthy, said when filling out the on-line parade application, the digital form required a "stateside" address, so they used a relative's mailing address in Georgia.

"The Presidential Inaugural Committee selected the group to acknowledge the sacrifices of families serving worldwide. They are hoping to bring awareness to the thousands of kids serving abroad while also celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Department of Defense Education Activity," McCarthy said in an email to The Hill.

This is the second time the group has participated in a presidential inauguration. McCarthy's class in 2012 also attended the January 2013 inauguration for President Obama, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at the Kids Inaugural Concert.

Encouragement from Obama to heighten awareness

Although they attend a DoD school, the school, understandably, cannot fund their trip. Every cent of travel, food and lodging are being paid out of pocket by our families. No federal funds are being used to fund their trip or operate this GoFundMe account.

Our students have been working hard to pay for the costs associated with this trip. They have hosted bake sales, bagged groceries, and mowed lawns. And now we would like to ask friends, family, and fellow Americans for that extra "last bit."

All funds will be used to equally benefit the 20 students. No funds will be used to support the adult chaperones.

We are so thankful for the friends, family and kind neighbors who are supporting us in this endeavor and we greatly appreciate the financial help!

✓ DONATE



of military families prompted the group to apply. Last year, military parents asked McCarthy to apply for this month's event.

He said there are nearly 50,000 military and Department of Defense children who attend school on U.S. military bases around the world, and he hopes appearing in Trump's inauguration can highlight them.

"The toughest question for a military kid overseas to answer is 'Where are you from?' Ironically, this is the same challenge our group faces. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused our friends in Georgia and to your readers," he said.

"Though our group will not specifically be representing Georgia, we will be representing the rich military tradition and patriotism for which Georgia is known," he added.

During the trip, the students will also be laying a Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, touring the Pentagon, visiting the U.S. Capitol, attending a presentation at the U.S. Supreme Court, visiting the National Archives, and exploring the Smithsonian Museums.

They are raising funds for the trip through a GoFundMe page at <https://www.gofundme.com/DoDkidsOverseas>.

As of printing, the group had raised a little more than half their goal.



Dear fellow Alumni,

We need you!

In 2006 during the reunion in Berlin I volunteered at the Registration table and BRAT PX. It was my first Berlin Brat reunion and I was anxious to reconnect and make new friends. I worked shifts every day during that reunion and loved every moment of it. Jeri, (our BBAA Director), needed help in 2009 at the Phoenix reunion and I volunteered to do whatever was necessary...and the rest is history. Over the years both Brats and their spouses have contributed to the success of a smooth registration and the sales from the BRAT PX. The feedback I hear is always that it is a positive experience for them. In fact, some of the same volunteers return each reunion.

What we ask is a commitment of two hours of your time. Please contact Joyce (Clark) Mallon '72 at jjjmall@aol.com if you would like to join the Registration/PX Team.

I will develop a schedule and will work with you to accommodate a time slot based upon your availability. No prior experience or special skill set required, just a friendly face!! See you in NOLA!!



Pssst! Pssst! Did you Hear?

It's Here!

What's Here?

The Scholarship Committee is so excited to announce the 4th offering of the Berlin Brats Alumni Reunion Scholarship. This scholarship will be offered at our reunion in June 2017 in New Orleans. Application and details are available now via your class contacts and the website at www.berlinbrats.org. However, with that said, we have already started to receive funding dollars for the program via the Reunion application form.

Many of you have generously donated or "rounded up" to this great cause and we are thankful for your generous support!

The Scholarship Information Sheet and Application can be downloaded from our website at www.berlinbrats.org.

All applications are **due by May 15, 2017**. We are accepting applications via email and postal mail. Postal and other delivery options must be **postmarked** by May 15, 2017. Only complete application packages will be considered. You will receive a confirmation email of the receipt of your completed application package.

While we hope you all can make it to New Orleans, for those unable to attend: you are still able to contribute to this wonderful cause, which offers scholarships to our alumni and their children for furthering their education. Just mail your check to:

Berlin Brats Alumni Association
41910 N. Crooked Stick Rd.
Anthem AZ 85086

Your contribution is greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged in June when scholarship awards are presented. Should you have any questions or inquiries, please contact us at

berlinbrats.scholarship@gmail.com.

Great things continue to happen through our wonderful alumni and faculty support and we are thrilled to continue this scholarship in honor of our amazing alumni.

Bratfully yours,

The Scholarship Committee
 Jenni (Hewitt) Shaw '85
 Michelle Estes '90
 John Latham '67



THE BERLIN BRATS REUNION SCHOLARSHIP REWARD

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 fourth set of awards will be presented at the All Class and Faculty Reunion in New Orleans, Louisiana, in June 2017. 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 is encouraged to attend the 2017 Reunion in New Orleans, Louisiana from June 5-7, 2017. For reunion registration information, please visit 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 pursuing a postsecondary educational degree who has been accepted to a fully accredited college, university or technical/vocational educational institution.
- A descendent of a Berlin Brat (child or grandchild) pursuing a postsecondary educational degree who has been accepted to a fully accredited college, university, or technical/vocational educational institution.
- A spouse of a Berlin Brat pursuing a postsecondary educational degree who has been accepted to a fully accredited college, university, or technical/vocational educational institution.
- A faculty member pursuing a postsecondary educational degree who has been accepted to a fully accredited college, university, or technical/vocational educational institution.
- A descendent of a faculty member (child or grandchild) pursuing a postsecondary educational degree who has been accepted to a fully accredited college, university, or technical/vocational educational institution.
- A spouse of a faculty member pursuing a postsecondary educational degree who has been accepted to a fully accredited college, university, or technical/vocational educational institution.
- A Berlin Brat/faculty member/spouse pursuing a higher set of training or certification in their career field.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS AND RESTRICTIONS

We estimate a minimum of three \$500.00 scholarships, driven by our Scholarship Award fundraising efforts, will be awarded. Awardees will be announced at the Saturday night banquet at the Reunion in New Orleans.

Scholarship awards are restricted to assist awardees with their tuition, fees, room and board, and text books.

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

Award winners are not eligible for a re-award of scholarship monies for the same educational program.

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



Download a scholarship application packet at www.berlinbrats.org.

2009 was the start of our Scholarship Program. Each Reunion cycle (typically every 3 years) we will continue to accept applications, evaluate them via committee and announce our winners at the Reunion Banquet. The Scholarship Fund is solely funded by private donations and the Silent Auction held on site during the Reunion.

2009, 2012, and 2014 awardees:

Name: Marc Bullock
Berlin lineage: Son of Donna (Berry) Bullock ‘65
Berliner Years: 1961-1963
Committee impressions: Marc’s package was that of a student with clear career and educational goals with dual degrees, one obtained internationally. Having started working at the age of 14 and with an impressive resume already in his back pocket at the age 21, this student aims to be the best in the uber-competitive field of real estate. Marc’s understanding of a Berlin Brat as “a person who has made a connection, shared a memory or lived a moment in life with another person in a similar situation.” He is the kind of person who will leave you with the feeling of “money well invested.”

Name: Jessica Bee
Berlin lineage: Daughter of Kim (Graves) Bee ‘77
Berliner Years: 1974-1977
Committee impressions: Jessica’s package was the complete package. It was well thought out and you felt like you knew her personally when you were done reading her essay. Her philanthropic commitments to Relay for Life and the youth and the seniors of our society are commendable, but what really touched us was she got it. She knows what it means to be a Berlin Brat and as such she is an “ambassador” for the Berlin Brats. We trust Jessica will use this scholarship to continue her education and the ROI will be triple-digits as she attains her dreams of becoming a brilliant research scientist at the CDC.

Name: Nathan Lowe
Berlin lineage: Son of Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe ‘83
Berliner Years: 1980-1983
Committee impressions: Nathan’s package was the fresh start package. The young freshman entering his first official year of college. Wide-eyed and full of anticipation, we believe in his dream of earning a medical degree and practicing Psychiatry and believe he fully understand the time, emotional and financial commitment that career path requires. His commitment to his church and furthering the beliefs of the youth of the church are paramount to the core of who Nathan Lowe is. His understanding of what a Berlin Brat is “about never forgetting a special and proud time and place in our nation’s history. It is about the love not only of the people but of the culture of Berlin.” In 2012, nearly \$5,000 in scholarships was awarded to four outstanding scholars and servant leaders. The Scholarship Fund was solely funded by private donations and the Silent Auction held on site during the reunion.

Name: Wendy Stiver
Berlin lineage: Berlin Brat
Berliner Years: 1986-1990
Committee impressions: We awarded our first Brat scholarship (versus dependent)... from the class of 1990, a Lieutenant on the Dayton Police force, who is pursuing a masters in Criminal Justice. She works the night shift, and supervises other cops on the night beat in the most violent area of Dayton and has earned the utmost respect from her peers and supervisors.

Name: Heidi Martin
Berlin lineage: Daughter of Frederick H. (Rick) Martin ‘77
Berliner Years: 1973-1977
Committee impressions: a hard-working young lady, active in her church and the Girl Scouts, earning the exclusive Gold Award in leader-

ship, with a 4.0 average (all years so far in college), while working a part-time job. We determined she just never sleeps to accomplish all she has already, and what she plans to take on in her future.

Name: Hannah (Liz) Jordan
Berlin lineage: Daughter of Billy Joe Jordan ‘76
Berliner Years: 1975-1977
Committee impressions: A talented young lady, a dual major candidate, on the President’s honor roll, with a goal to graduate debt-free, her definition of a Brat was spot-on: “Being a Berlin Brat means you have thousands of family members, scattered all across the world that would be willing to do almost anything for you. They feel the connection with one another just as intensely from thousands of miles away as they do when they are sitting next to one another, celebrating the times they shared in past years.”

Name: Chris DeVilbiss
Berlin lineage: Son of Melvin L. DeVilbiss ‘71
Berliner Years: 1967-1970
Committee impressions: We also awarded a scholarship to an upcoming scientist whose specialty is the earth’s energy forces, and we were blown away by how smart he is! He plans to use the scholarship to study in Italy under an infamous mathematician and scientist in the study of a new mathematics called fractional incipient calculus.... It all conjures up the image of The Da Vinci Code.

Name: Gretchen Krenning
Berlin lineage: Daughter of Dawn (Abel) Hayes ‘87 and step-daughter of Robert Hayes ‘85
Committee impressions: Gretchen is working towards her degree in American Sign Language and working with the deaf. She has real life experiences working with the deaf and really impressed the committee with her analogy of the Berlin Brat community to those she has studied and worked with in the deaf community. “I know “the deaf community” grows very close to its own kind as they can empathize with each other. There is a big difference in empathy and sympathy. These communities know what it’s like to be them and reach the deepest levels of understanding, communicating, and connection.” Being a military brat herself, she knows what that means, but also sees that being a Berlin Brat is an honor and visible it in those who claim it.

Name: Anastasia Lowe
Berlin lineage: Daughter of Yoshika (Loft in) Lowe ‘83 and sister of Nathan Lowe, 2009 Scholarship Recipient
Committee impressions: Not only does she have a 4.0 GPA and is on track to graduate early, this recipient is the daughter of a Berlin Brat graduate from the early 1980s and attributes her hard work and dedication to her mother. This recipient spends her summers volunteering with a Houston based non-profit soccer training and summer camp program for 5-8-year-olds called Sports Quest Training. Her favorite sessions are working with the inner city camps. In addition, she has led sports camps in Ecuador and Chile. She said in her application: “I’ve learned that just like math and music, sports are universal and bring people together regardless of language, faith, or experience.” Those words epitomized the qualities of a Berlin Brat.

Name: Monica (Moni) Brians
Berlin lineage: Daughter of Michael Brians ‘78 and niece of Deb (Brians) Clark ‘74
Committee impressions: Monica is currently a freshman discovering who she is and discovering her passions and desires. She is one of four family members currently in school. She is very active in her church and in her community with SAFE Animal Haven. She found her true niche as a volleyball player where her team won the state championship. Reflecting back on that experience, she states she learned “what it is like to be confident and humble; what it is like to be talented and gracious; what it is like to be a champion and a competitor; what it is like to fight and persevere; and what it is like to be a teammate and something greater than myself.”



Things to do in NOLA: The Road to Berlin

From faltering first battles in North Africa to the bloody struggle at Germany's doorstep, the immersive galleries in Road to Berlin: European Theater Galleries recreate actual battle settings and villages—with crumbling walls, bomb-torn rooftops, icy pathways, and a chillingly realistic soundscape—as the evocative backdrop for period newsreels, video histories, interactive kiosks, macro artifacts, and tag-able digital displays that dive deeper into the story.

The result is a richly layered, multimedia experience that invites exploration and connection: Visitors walking in the shadow of Normandy's brutally dense hedgerows can imagine the challenges that followed D-Day; attending a mission



briefing with the Bomber Boys brings visitors inside America's all-important air strategy; seeing personal artifacts—cigarette boxes, photographs—scattered over real Normandy sand is a touching perspective on the human cost of the war.

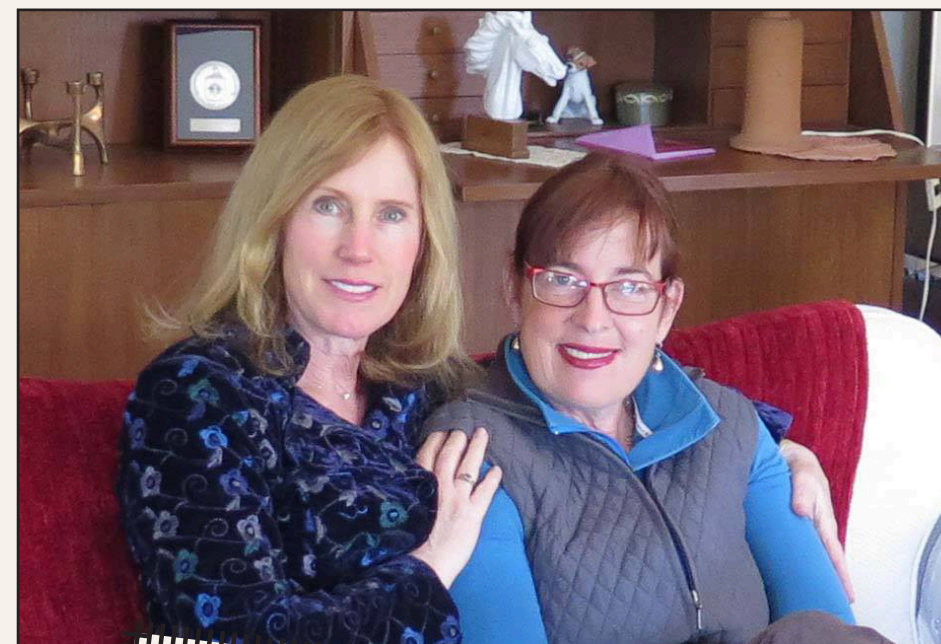
Expansive in its scope, exhaustive in its detail, and captivating in its innovative design, Road to Berlin is a whole new way to understand America's story of the war in Europe, Africa, and the Mediterranean.

Pictures shown from the Briefing Room gallery (left) and the Air War gallery (above).



HOLIDAY CHEER

Sarah Lewkowicz '79 enjoyed a great holiday visit in Santa Barbara with Julie (Ely) Jones '79. She said, "It is so special to still be in contact with my dear friend from the most unique time in Berlin behind the Iron curtain in the 1970s. Julie's parents and mine ended up living 1 mile from each other here in Santa Barbara, so it is extra special to see them often too."



BRAT GET-TOGETHERS

Rockin' their dance steps!

Deb (Brians) Clark '74 and hubby Michael met up and enjoyed a breezy day in Indian Rocks Beach, FL, with dear friends from BAHS, class of '74.

Pictured are Michael, Deb, Angela (Thomas) Lewis, and Gary Robinson.

Thanks to Susan Robinson, spouse of Gary, for the photo.



One of first grads from BAHS building returns to Berlin

By Dan Rau '66

I'd been back to Europe several times since leaving Germany in 1966, but never to Germany, where my family lived for nine years between 1954 and 1966.

Returning to Germany and Berlin for the first time in almost exactly 50 years evoked powerful feelings, but did not produce a lot of surprises. I'd kept track of developments in Germany, and did a lot of looking at aerial views of the city while planning my trip with my son, who had wanted to see my old high school stomping grounds for a long time. We stayed at a modest hotel just off the Ku-damm near the Adenauer Platz U-Bahn station, with a nice *Bierstube* restaurant across the street with good German food. The U-Bahn and S-Bahn served us well for transportation, plus walking an average of six miles a day.

The first day I'd planned to go to the Brandenburger Tor, and follow the course of the Wall to Checkpoint Charlie, with a particular stop

glimpse of it between the buildings. The role of the bombed steeple of the church as a landmark and memorial was prominent in my mind even as a high-schooler there.

The stories of remembrance and reconciliation now on display inside the ruins of the old church impress me with the lengths to which the Berliners have gone to keep the horrible events of World War II in mind as a lesson. The relationship between the Coventry Cathedral in England, destroyed during Nazi air raids in 1940 and 1941, and the Kaiser Wilhelm Church, nearly destroyed in several allied raids from 1943 thru April of 1945, seemed particularly important.

Brandenburger Tor without the Wall, seen from the east, Pariser Platz, was a particular treat for me, having never been in the East while I lived in Berlin. My son and I hiked south from there, following the course of the Wall to Checkpoint Charlie, with stops at the new US Embassy, Hitler's bunker (a plaque new this year shows the location), and Potsdamer Platz, the site of the first East-European revolt against Soviet occupation after WWII.

The scattered handful of old Wall sections standing in their historic place in the middle of Potsdamer

Platz presented a striking contrast between the somber reminders of the division and isolation of the city under the Soviet occupation and the current vitality. A number of



people contemplated the memorial displays posted on the Wall sections. I struck up a conversation with one of them, an older resident of the former DDR, who seemed quite moved to be there.

The Topography of Terror museum, just a couple of blocks west of Checkpoint Charlie, was the site of Hitler's Gestapo and SS headquarters from 1933 to 1945. Part of the foundation of the building, that includes some of the cells used to torture and execute political prisoners, survived the WWII bombing and has been incorporated into the museum.

It is highly ironic that the north wall of these cells stands directly beneath the longest surviving section of the Wall, juxtaposing monuments of two horrible periods in German history.

Checkpoint Charlie itself was like a parody of the real thing.

On the U-Bahn to the former Berlin Brigade the next day, we had to transfer lines at Fehrbelliner Platz. Some of you will remember that one of the hottest night clubs in West Berlin in the mid sixties, the Riverboat, was at this station. I had to check it out.

The building looks almost exactly as it did 50 years ago, no signs or lettering indicating anything about the function of the building, no indication whatsoever if there is still a nightclub on the top floor of the building. The courtyard looks a little tidier than I remembered

it, but otherwise it is still a nondescript four-story office building/warehouse facing the platz.

On to Oskar Helene-Heim station. We walked across Clay Allee and up Saargemunder Strasse to the side gate of the old Berlin Brigade to check out the old library, a popular "study" and socializing spot for us high schoolers. Most of the buildings of the former Berlin Brigade appear to be apartments now, but the old US Consulate on Clay Allee has been upgraded to a branch of the main US embassy at Pariser Platz.

I was a member of the BAHS Explorer Scout Post, which had several rooms in the basement of the main Berlin Brigade HQ building in the '60s. Tom Jackson '66 was a friend and one of the leaders of our Explorer Post.

The Outpost Theater brought back lots of memories, especially since my family lived directly behind it at 5A Taylor Strasse. The theater is now a museum for the Allied Forces during the post-war occupation of Berlin, especially of the Berlin Airlift.

From Taylor Strasse, we walked

into the Grunewald, then past the site of the AYA (replaced), past the old gym (still there but not well-maintained), and along Am Waldfriedhof to BAHS itself, hoping to find some connection to my classmates of that distant era.

My class of 1966 was the first graduating class from this building; I had attended 10th and 11th grades in the old Thomas A Roberts high school.

During a very pleasant visit with the assistant principal, Herr Schreiter, I learned of the Berlin Brats for the first time. I was pleased to see on the BB website a couple of people I had fond memories of, Edward 'Skip' Jiru '66 and Ann "Beth" Jones '66, and hope to make contact with more friends from that interesting time and place in history.

Our third day's objective was the Headquarters of the East German Secret Police (Stasi) in East Berlin.

When the East German government collapsed in 1989, the secret police just walked out of the buildings, leaving them as they were on their last day of work, and the buildings were essentially untouched until sealed by government investigators.

Much of the headquarters building has been preserved as a museum just as it was at the time, same phones on the desks, same furniture, same carpets on the floors, etc. One of the meeting rooms adjacent to the director's offices has been turned into a refreshment room. As I sat there sipping on a Sprite in a heavy glass returnable bottle (apparently used only in East Berlin), a powerful sadness penetrated me, thinking of all the horrible things that had happened in that room and in that agency during just the three years I was living a few miles away, not to mention during the entire history of the DDR. A video playing in the room informed us that East Germany had the highest percentage of



Above: The Riverboat nightclub from the 1960s.
Middle left: Dan by the stairs at the former BAHS.
Bottom left: The Wall at Potsdamer Platz.

domestic spies monitoring their own population of any country in the world. Simon Wiesenthal, the famous Nazi hunter, said the Stasi was worse than the Gestapo. How long does it take a people to recover from treachery and terror like that?

On our last full day in Berlin, I wanted to see Spandauer Zitadel, an old fortress I'd never known of while my family lived in Berlin. The historic massive fortress, begun in the 13th century on the site of earlier fortifications, and captured by Napoleon in the 19th century, offered an historic aspect of Berlin I was not familiar with. On my walk back to the U-Bahn station, I had a pleasant stroll through Alte Spandau and a nice lunch next to the U-Bahn.

The next morning, we took the metro bus to Flughafen Tegel and caught a plane to Frankfurt, then on to Chicago, with a spectacular view of west Greenland enroute, and home.

After graduating from high school in Berlin I moved to Minnesota, settling in Duluth. My wife and I have lived here for over 40 years, and raised two kids. I was a commercial fisherman for 16 years on Lake Superior and in Alaska, then worked as an environmental science researcher, research vessel captain, and lecturer in math and astronomy at the University of Wisconsin-Superior until retiring in 2012. You can reach me at dan.rau24@gmail.com.



at Potsdamer Platz for the 17 Juni (1953) memorials there.

We caught the S-Bahn for Pariser Platz, but had to stop at Kaiser Wilhelm Church when I caught a



AFN-TV presented Election 74

by Danny V. Gates

For those brave souls who were ambitious enough to rise and shine at six o'clock Wednesday morning, AFN TV, Berlin, presented Election 74. The news staff, production crew, and engineering section combined forces to bring the community up-to-the-minute election coverage.

According to Army Staff Sergeant Charles Rickard, AFN-TV News Director, the early sign-on time was chosen to coincide with the closing of the polls on the west coast. Throughout the two hours and forty-one minutes of election coverage, results from the various Senate, House of Representatives, and Gubernatorial races continued to pour into the AFN-TV news room. With the help of a group of student volunteers from Berlin American High School, the results were broadcast to the community as soon as they came in.

Air Force Staff Sergeant Bruce Dortin, Senior News Editor for AFN-TV, Berlin, and Producer of Election 74, explained the concept of the program. He said the idea was not only to present election

results as fast and as accurately as possible, but at the same time, to provide some insight into the different races and some background on campaign issues and candidates.

SSG Dortin also praised the work of the volunteers from the High School. The students, who acted assistants to the news staff, gathered election facts and results as they came in on the teletype machines. They also prepared tabulation boards used by the production staff in presenting the final election news. Dortin said that the students began work at four o'clock in the morning, and worked tirelessly throughout the coverage.

Master Sergeant John O'Connor, the AFN-TV Berlin Station Manager, said that the immediacy of the election results, and their final impact on the people in the community, prompted the station management to carry Election 74, another step forward in providing news and information to the Command and the community.

(Reproduced from original)
Submitted by Paul Markey '77



Throw back photos

UP-TO-THE-MINUTE election returns were received from U. S. wire services and telecast immediately by AFN-TV. Volunteers from the Berlin American High School senior class reported at 4 a.m. to help tabulate the results. Left to right are Jackie Strickland, Karen Martin, Karen Totman, Elisa Huston, Kevin Lindroth, Bryan Wallace, and Peter Walsh. (Photo by Danny Gates)

Berlin Braves 1960 team had unusual uniform element

Author unknown

A very cool story of which I'd not been aware was recently brought to my attention. The story of the 1960 Berlin Braves. Who were the Berlin Braves?

On July 2nd 1945, the Tempelhof-Berlin Central Airport was given over to the United States Army 2nd Armored Division. Though the United States Air Force base in Tempelhof may have never had an airplane assigned to it, it became rich with American culture and quickly gave rise to intramural sports programs. This cornerstone project kicked off in 1954 and led to varsity teams on the Air Force base participating in

many sports to include marathon running, baseball, basketball, soccer, volleyball, and softball. Many of them playing competitively and representing the Air Force under the name Berlin Braves.

In 1960, a group of little league baseball players ages 11 and 12 were selected to the All-Star team to represent the Braves outside of their home base. This 1960 All-Star team traveled by train to multiple other countries throughout Europe with only their coaches and the camaraderie of their teammates (no parents) to compete in the European Championship. After winning and being crowned European Champions, they traveled to Williams-

port, PA to compete in the Little League World Series.

This in and of itself is very cool. But when I looked into this a bit more, I noticed something different — the caps the team wore. The uniforms seem pretty standard for 1960, but those caps are definitely not the *normal* little league caps. Instead, they look more like military-style caps, which makes sense, given the team played on an air force base. But it's odd to see a little league team wearing it. Of course, if you read the history (above) of this team, they went on to win game after game, eventually making the Little League World Series, and representing all of EUROPE at that tournament. Of course, even back then, teams were given geographical identifiers on their uniforms, so the Berlin Braves wore "EUROPE" on the front of their uniforms. But it looks like the team (or at least some of them) kept their military-style caps for the World Series photo. I love that.

But there's more to the story: In 2012, Joey Elgersma founded a new Berlin Braves project to keep the same spirit alive and offer the local youth in Berlin the same opportunities to enjoy recreational sports and overall fitness. Even cooler is a few members of that (1960) team were brought to Fenway Park to honor their achievements. (See story in the last issue of the BBAA newsletter).

Found on www.uni-watch.com/



BRAT GET-TOGETHERS



Left: Nancy (Robinson) Ware '81, Roo (Eargle) Moran '73, Julie Langley '77 and Tamara (Murdock) Cooper '88. Photo below: Nancy (Robinson) Ware '81 and her husband Richard. Bottom photo: The two planners: Mike Cannon (Heidelberg) and Roo (Eargle) Moran '73 (Berlin & Heidelberg).

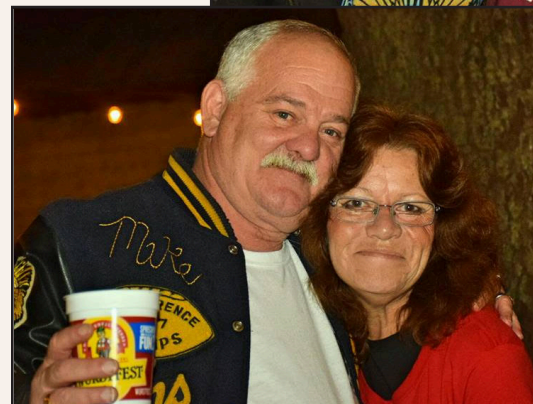
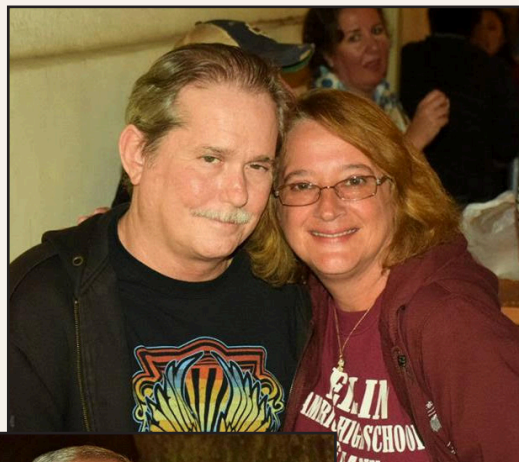


Leroy Lopez '86 and Michael "Smurf" James '87 hooked up in Santa Fe this month! Leroy saw Smurf's family pics on FB, said he was close by....so he IM'd and they connected for dinner! Thank you FB!!

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Wurstfest

New
Braunfels,
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Nov 11-13,
2016



Berlin Brats memorial at the Christkindl Markt

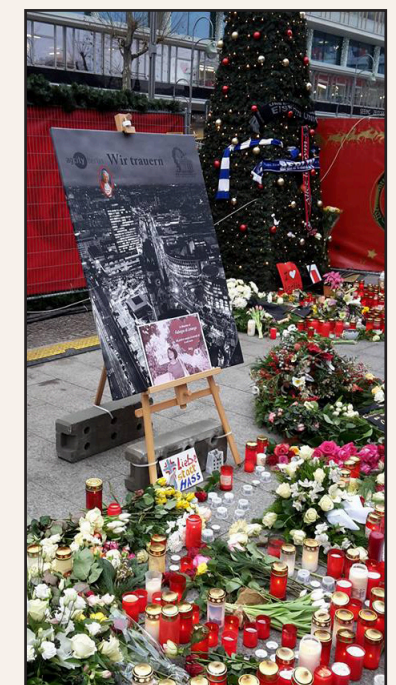
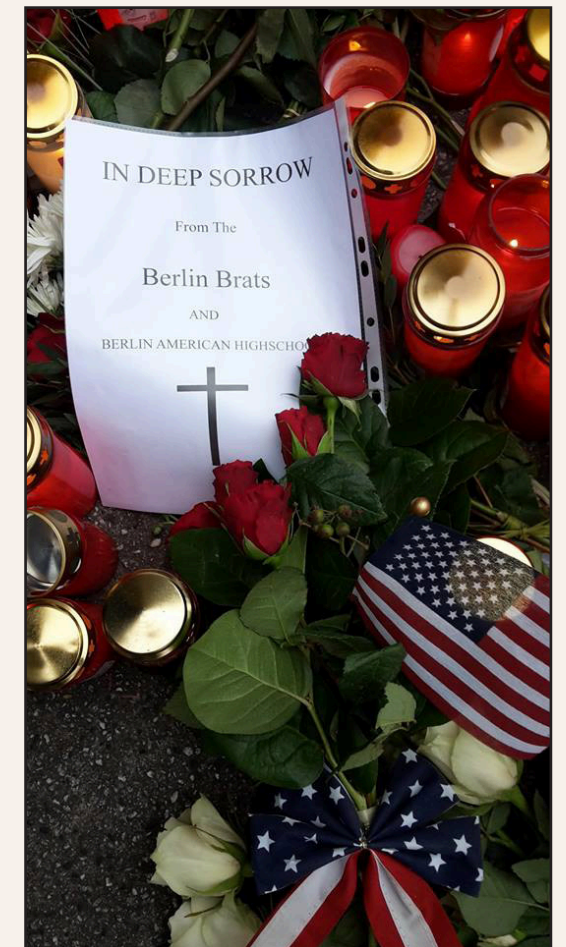
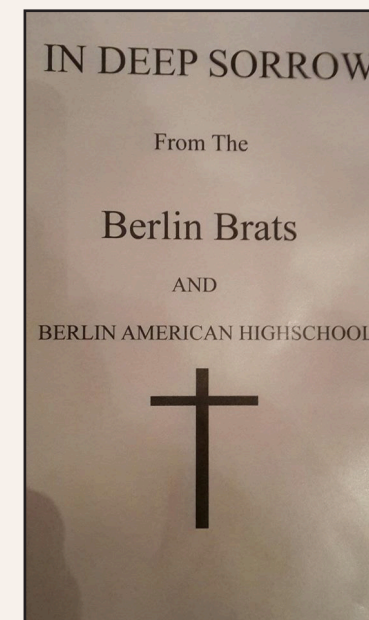
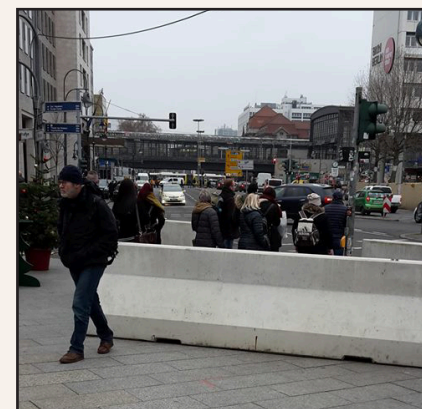
We were all stunned and saddened to learn of the terrorist attack on the Christkindl Markt beside Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church on December 19th.

Berlin Brat, Gary Planz '74, still resides in Berlin and graciously offered to represent us at the make-shift memorial that followed in the days after.

Gary placed flowers with a patriotic ribbon, a mini U.S. flag, and a solidarity note on our behalf. All reflected in the pictures below.

Our heartfelt sorrow to the victims and their families.

Thank you, Gary!



Left: Gary places the Brats flowers. Far left: Cement barriers were dropped in order for the Markt to re-open for the remaining Christmas season.

Former BAHS teacher honored with street in England

Polly (Croom) DeYoung was a faculty member at BAHS from 1968-71, during which time she taught mathematics. After leaving Berlin, Mrs. DeYoung taught at London Central for 34 yrs, retiring in 2005. In 2007, when the school closed, they invited her to be the guest speaker.

Last week, London Central Brats and teachers posted about the development of the property where London Central was located at RAF Daws Hill in High Wycombe, England, and that the City Council and property developer agreed to honor the school's legacy by naming streets and a building after important members of their faculty, two residence halls, and a park after their mascot, the Bobcat.

Mrs. DeYoung was one of those teachers! If ever in the High Wycombe area of England check out her street!

From British news article:

RAF Daws Hill in High Wycombe was a former United States Air Force base and latterly a United States Navy base until its closure as part of a Cold War drawdown in 2007. The base was also home to the London Central High School (LCHS) that operated there from 1971 until the base closed. The school was established for the education of both military dependents and American civilian students living overseas.

To commemorate the relationship between the US Military and the town of High Wycombe, key historical United States and British military names – together with select names of the teaching faculty associated with the LCHS school – have been incorporated into the street naming for a new British residential housing development now emerging on the site.

Taylor Wimpey, the developer of the former High Wycombe Air Station USAF/RAF Daws Hill site located 34 miles to the

west of London and bordering the M40 motorway (freeway), submitted and has had approved 17 street names, one building name and one park name—all of which are designed to reflect the history of the area both as a key

WWII and Cold War base and also reflect the presence of London Central High School. These will complement the Penn Window in High Wycombe Parish Church in the center of the town sponsored by the pupils of LCHS.

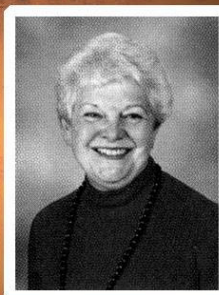
Additional new names are related to the educators who taught at the school and were suggested following an effort to commemorate the site led by former student Tamara Palmer, who attended London Central High School in 1971 when it first opened at the High Wycombe location.

DEYOUNG WAY

Polly DeYoung



London Central High School Tenure
1971 - 2005



Polly DeYoung yearbook photos 1968, '69, '70, '71, and 2005. Also, 2007 photo from her visit when Central London H.S. closed.



Though she was only at LCHS for one year, Tamara Palmer, who lives in Atlanta, Georgia, had lasting memories of her school and managed to contact High Wycombe Councillor Lesley Clarke OBE who put her in touch with the relevant developer and town officials.

Comments Palmer:

"I'm delighted to see that the development is recognizing the legacy of the site through its road-naming programme. The base had a distinguished military history stretching back to WWII, but additionally, thousands of American youngsters attended school and lived on the campus for over 35 years in what was a unique educational institution with some remarkable educators. We only wish we could honor many more of them to create a place that has a significant heritage. Not only was the road-naming process about recognizing the educators, but also our way of leaving our legacy forever tied to the community of High Wycombe and England. It is our way of saying 'Thank You' to them and to the little piece of England that was to us a remarkable experience. We cherished being there and have fond memories of what will now be the future homes for so many people."

Comments Cdr Clarke OBE:

The new names of streets for the "Pine Trees" development being delivered by Taylor Wimpey include:

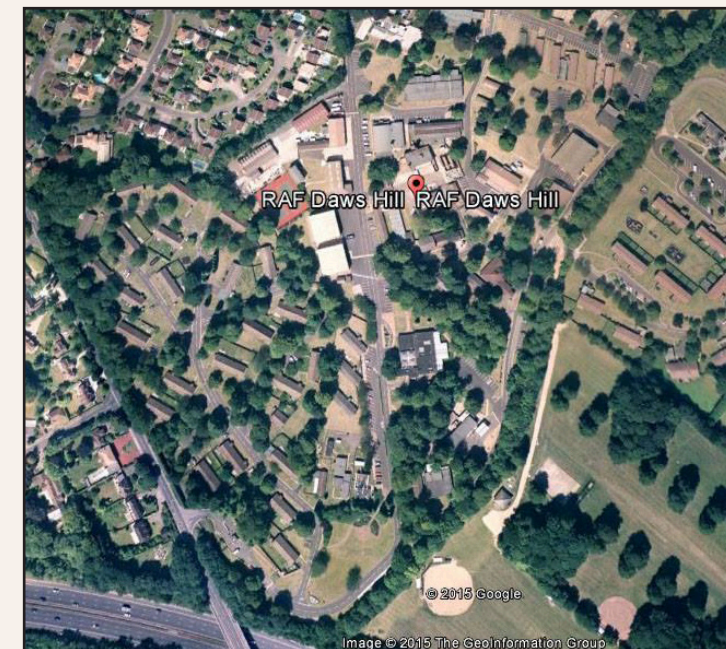
1. KENNEDY AVENUE
2. ARIZONA WAY
3. CALIFORNIA WAY
4. UTAH WAY
5. LEIGH PLACE
6. DEYOUNG WAY
7. EAKER STREET
8. DOOLITTLE AVENUE
9. ROBERTSON PLACE
10. MANSFIELD CLOSE
11. TRINITY CIRCLE
12. KELLY ROAD
13. THRELKELD CLOSE
14. KILTY PLACE
15. WERNETTE WAY
16. EISENHOWER LOWER CLOSE
17. BEECH STREET
18. BOBCAT PARK

"It has been an honour to have been involved with assisting our American friends and Allies with maintaining their links with the Daws Hill base. I am particularly pleased we have been able to acknowledge those people who were influential during their time on the base. We do so need to ensure we observe the very special historical links this base serves to everyone."

DeYoung Way is named after Mary Pauline ("Polly") DeYoung, who taught at the school from 1971 to 2005. DeYoung came from Macon, Georgia, and returned to live in the United States after her retirement in 2005. She returned to High Wycombe in 2007 to be the VIP speaker at the closing ceremony for the base. DeYoung, who taught Mathematics and Physical Education, was also a cheerleading coach and had involvement in choreographing a number of

the school plays. She additionally worked with students who participated in the popular Model United Nations programme.

Thank you to Monica (Mack) Tiller '73 of London Central High School for sharing this information with us.





Bears everywhere

"Found a familiar symbol of the city of Berlin while we were out shopping on Wednesday."

-- Jim Branson '64
December 22, 2016

Jim's house:



2017 REGIONALS

Feb 18th:
OSB AZ regional
with Berlin Brat attendance,
in Phoenix.

~~~~~  
**Oct 8th:**  
San Antonio, TX  
regional

~~~~~  
More added as the year
unfolds!

Next Reunion

June 8th-11th, 2017
New Orleans



Visit: www.BerlinBrats.org
for the Reunion itinerary and
registration form!

If you haven't read *Cold War Memories: A Retrospective on Living in Berlin*,
you can view and purchase it on Amazon.com.

Contact Information



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Find us on Facebook@

"Berlin Brats Alumni Association"

(the official fan page site)

"Berlin American High School (BAHS)"

(an open group chat page)



"NEW"

follow us on Twitter
@BerlinBrats

Newsletter Brat: Kimberly Keravuori '85

Early '60s Site

By invitation only

Contact Jim Branson '64

jbranson01@hotmail.com

for an invite

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