Our 1st “regional” of the year - Phoenix/Glendale, AZ, was on January 12th at Haus Murphy! Billed as an “ALL BRATS” regional.... Berlin, Heidelberg, and Bitburg were the 3 largest schools in attendance!

Locations and dates for other “2019 regionals” which are in the “planning stages” are:

**April 13th** - Daytona Beach, FL

**May 11th** - in BERLIN (to coincide with the final year-long celebration ceremonies of the 70th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift (mid 1948 to mid ’49) at Tempelhof, on May 12th

**July 6th** - Columbus, OH

SO STAY TUNED!!!

Above: Back row: Diane (Green) Kempton ’72 and spouse Reed; Jackie Runyon (Jim Wright’s spouse); Ron (spouse) and Cheri (Bier- nesser) Romley ’70; Diane (Shaw) Orozco ’66 and spouse Bob; Chuck Hewins ’63 and spouse Linda; Karen (Stanturf) Furu ’68; Mike Friedrich ’79; and Karen’s spouse Bob. Kneeling: Jim Wright ’72 and Jeri (Polansky) Glass ’72.
Paradise, California, population 27,000, was a slice of heaven for those who lived there – until they lost everything in California’s worst wildfire. The Camp fire wiped out the town, killed at least 85 people, and scorched 150,000 acres. Paradise was also the hometown for three Berlin Brats: Jon Trivers ’61, Mike Turrene ’80, and Terry Turrene ’82. Mike was Sheriff’s Office Incident Commander for the fire, said his brother, Terry, who added, “We all lost everything. It was so fast. My back door was on fire as I went out the front.”

Jon’s house is now gone, as is A Simple Gesture, the non-profit organization he began when he retired (covered in our January 2015 newsletter, http://www.berlinbrats.org/newsletter/15Jan.pdf). The organization that provided 500,000 pounds of groceries through food pantries in 35 towns during the past three years was operated out of his home. But he is grateful that he and his wife got out with their lives. They are now living with their daughter in southern California.

In the face of a dark new reality, shellshocked residents, including our three Brats, are displaying resilience. And, two months since the fire and after weeks of soil testing and other preliminary work, crews embarked mid-January on the largest phase of the costliest disaster cleanup in California history: cleaning 14,000 properties burned in November’s deadly fire. Over the next year, more than 100,000 truckloads of debris and recyclable concrete and steel will be carted off the hill and brought to Northern California landfills and recycling centers. Each property will require one to three days of cleaning and scraping. Officials estimate they’ll remove an average of 350 tons of debris per property. Only then will the town be able to determine whether it can rebuild.
Reminiscences from my life in Berlin in the ‘80s

by John Higginbotham ’91 (TAR ’80-84)
Updated blog entry (original 12/8/11)

I lived in Berlin close to the end of the Cold War, which lasted roughly from 1947 to 1991. I hailed from a small city in West Virginia, so living in Berlin was magnitudes different from my hometown of Huntington. Prior to Berlin I lived in Göttingen, which is in the state of Badden-Württemberg, one of Germany’s sixteen states. Göttingen was more similar to my hometown than Berlin was… at least for me. Berlin was a big city, which seemed light years ahead of WV in technology and urban layout than the city where I was born. A lot of this was due in part to Berlin being rebuilt after the war.

Berlin was progressive back then and from what I can tell continues to be that way. Needless-to-say, I was very excited to explore Sundgauer Straße and travel the roads as I did as a child using the street view of Google maps. Yes, we did roam around pretty freely in the streets of Berlin and felt safe doing so. I have dreams to this day of catching the S-bahn over to the Kadewe (which still exists) and eating currywurst before getting onto a sparkling clean train. Yes, Berlin was a very clean city, I’m sure it still is to this day. It was a fascinating time to grow up in Berlin during the ‘80s.

I was lucky enough to experience a culture and an urban life that would never have been possible if it were not for my parents being in the military. Because of the richness of the German culture and me being directly in the center of it, there was never a lack of something to learn from others different than myself, to this very day. I believe I possess a deeper understanding from having lived in occupied Berlin. In the city I was born in, I would have rarely encountered people I loved. The city that taught me so much. The city so long. The city that opened my mind. The city whose people I loved. The city that taught me so much. The city that opened my mind.

I developed a deep respect and appreciation for different religions, backgrounds, and ethnicities at a very young age. It was not uncommon to share a classroom with Muslims, Turks, Jews, and many more from backgrounds and ethnicities different than my own. I credit this to my parents, who had in different places.

I have such fond memories. It was in Berlin that my fascination with Mercedes started. I always had a unique smell that I find comforting with a huge Mercedes emblem on the front. The buses (and Mercedes) always had a huge smell that I find comforting. The buses (and Mercedes) always had a unique smell that I find comforting.

I remember catching the bus there after school (I stayed after school a lot to take an optional computer class) and going to a friend’s house who lived in Dippel. Update: Looks like Tru man Plaza has been replaced with housing. It has been torn down and replaced with modern architecture; this suits me perfectly. I’d want to be on the top floor of a building. You can visit the developer’s page at Bildau.de.

I was born near the start of the Cold War, which lasted roughly from 1947 to 1991. I hailed from a small city in West Virginia, so living in Berlin was magnitudes different from my hometown of Huntington. Prior to Berlin I lived in Göttingen, which is in the state of Badden-Württemberg, one of Germany’s sixteen states. Göttingen was more similar to my hometown than Berlin was… at least for me. Berlin was a big city, which seemed light years ahead of WV in technology and urban layout than the city where I was born. A lot of this was due in part to Berlin being rebuilt after the war.

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Mercedes Benz school buses
The ones I rode on were a military green (for lack of a better description) with a huge Mercedes emblem on the front. The buses (and Mercedes) always had a unique smell that I find comforting to this day. It was in Berlin that my fascination with Mer cedes Benz school buses.

Bending (articulated) buses
I loved, along with every other kid, sitting in the middle of this huge bus while it went around corners. It was always a treat to ride in.

30 years ago, this was a huge bus.

We always went on interesting field trips as a student in Berlin.

Remember the Volkfest they had across the bus stop at Tristan in the ‘80s! What memories! The click ing in the ventilation and the smell of the noise the meter would make in the German cars…

Plus many more, I could go on for awhile… but when I go back, I will surely be visiting these ones again and partaking in the awesome foods I enjoyed as a child! Not to mention walking around my old neighborhood!
I spent some valuable time with Jack Hannah in the National Veterans Memorial and Museum Thursday night. Jack is an Army veteran, as was his father. He told his story in our video booth. Best quote, “The best and most important destination in Columbus, Ohio, is the National Veterans Memorial and Museum. Better than the zoo and more important than them all.” -- from Michael Ferriter ’75

Remembering

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Spontaneous hook-up

On December 29th, Richard Jernigan ‘79 and Laura (Colangelo) Morris ‘79 happened upon each other for a great evening with each other, their spouses, parents, and Richard’s son.

Florida greetings!

Class of ’72 gals Pat (Martel) Little, Renate (Kowalski) Stehr, and Nancy Liepmann united in Melbourne, FL, November 18th. All three have German moms! Renate recently moved to FL, Pat lives there, and Nance flew in. They went kayaking — for manatees!

Photo on left (L to R): Pat, Renate, and Nance. On right (L to R): the gals in their kayaks; Nance, Pat, and Renate.

Wurstfest, San Antonio

Berlin Brats met up with Overseas Brats they had met/connected with during the Berlin New Orleans Reunion 2017.

Left: Connie (Arendale) Henry ’78 with Diana (Bock) DuPree, (Nurnberg ’75) and Debbie Chandler (Munich Brat). Right: Mom Arendale, Debbie, Santa, Deborah (Arendale) Lomerson ’72, and Connie.

Needless-to-say, it’s awesome to have lunch with Mark Britton ’84. Haven’t seen each other in over 35 years and it was like we had never been apart! BRATS rule!!! Safe travels, my brother!!! December 17th, Genghis Grill, Albuquerque, NM.

-- from Mike Friedrich ’79

Brat Get-Togethers

L to R: Laura’s dad, husband Andy, Laura, Richard’s wife, mom, and son, Richard, and Laura’s mom.

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Photo on left (L to R): Pat, Renate, and Nance. On right (L to R): the gals in their kayaks; Nance, Pat, and Renate.
New museum honoring America’s veterans opens in Ohio; Brat Mike Ferriter ’75 president and CEO

by Alex Palmer
Smithsonianmag.com, Oct 26, 2018

Whether during halftime tributes or hot-button political debates, United States military veterans can often be seen more as symbols than actual people. At a time when a shrinking proportion of the country's population is enlisting or even has a personal connection to members of the military, the concept of military service can seem like a distant one to many—something seen in the news or pop culture rather than among one’s peers.

A new museum in Columbus, Ohio, opening today, October 27, in advance of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, is aiming to change that. The National Veterans Memorial & Museum (NVMM), a product of a local public/private partnership, sees itself as an institution devoted to highlighting the veterans’ voice. “We realized there is no national veterans’ museum,” says Amy Taylor, the chief operating officer of the non-profit Columbus Downtown Development Corporation. “We wanted to tell the story of all veterans and the similarities in their stories—across different times and branches, whether they served in conflict or during peacetime. We wanted to look at the journey that all veterans go through.”

Built on the Scioto River in downtown Columbus, the building’s stunning structure consists of a spiraling concrete pathway ascending to a green rooftop sanctuary, connected to a 2.5-acre grove. What sets the NVMM apart is its focus on the stories of individuals. “It’s not like a museum that really show the depth of their personality to their families and friends as they reflect on their experiences,” says Ralph Appelbaum, who oversaw the design of the museum’s layout. RAA has been behind exhibits at the Royal Air Force Museum and National World War I Museum, but for NVMM, Appelbaum says he and his team realized this more personal focus ‘could make for a very different kind of memorialization and response by honoring veterans’ living contributions.”

“The museum isn’t a collecting institution—no long hallways of historic objects or an expansive displays of military artifacts—but it has these stories. Beyond the letters, the museum has hours and hours of videos of veterans sharing their memories and thoughts about their time in the military. These films appear throughout the museum’s exhibitions, and the library of testimonials is expected to grow as veterans who visit the space record their own experiences and memories.

“We hope one day to become the clearinghouse of veteran voices,” says Samir Bitar, the museum’s director and an Army veteran himself. “You can imagine film producers or authors or podcasters in the future coming here for authentic from-the-veteran voices.”

“The stories are told in a compelling way or relatable way, but never in a sorrowful, woe-is-me way,” says Lieutenant General Michael Ferriter, who served 35 years in the Army and is now president and CEO of the NVMM. “Whether talking to foot lockers or listening to a veteran’s testimonial or seeing a stark picture of a funeral, visitors will not ‘just think but will feel,’ he adds. “There will be tears shed in this museum.”

Why Columbus? In many respects, it’s because that community stepped up to meet the challenge. Since the mid-1950s, the state capital had been home to the Ohio Veterans Memorial, which was really just a convention center with a name that honored the state’s veterans. As the downtown was being redeveloped, members of the business community, Lieutenant Governor and CEO Leslie H. Wexner and his wife, Abigail, as well as city and state officials, notably Senator John Glenn, himself an Army veteran and famed astronaut, saw an opportunity to tear down the existing “memorial” and build one worthy of its name.

The NVMM puts a particular emphasis on what veterans like Glenn go on to do after their time in the military and how they continue to impact their communities and culture in other ways. “We have a whole narrative to tell about the human who comes out of service and continues service in some other way or has a fascinating leadership role,” says Bitar, pointing to the range of veterans spotlighted in the museum, from artist Robert Rauschenberg to Edgar Allan Poe to the approximately 20 professional athletes who served in the Iraq war. “Veteran as fireman, veteran as civic leader, veteran as coach or school teacher — these stories haven’t really been told.”

Bitar added that the museum’s programming will also speak to veterans’ greater involvement in American society. He’s currently developing a lecture series and other programs that will feature veterans like Roman Baca, a choreographer and Fullbright Scholar who fought in the battle of Fallujah.

Bitar expects that the offerings will surprise those who might expect a more traditional military museum experience. “We want to hear people saying, ‘Wait, they have art there? They’re talking about science and public service and citizenship?’” says Bitar. “I don’t know if the world is going to expect that and we’re looking to change that conversation.”

“The museum is a chance to try and say something about the idea that many veterans express: that they want to do something meaningful back home,” says Applebaum.

“That gave this project almost an optimistic view because of the journey those veterans took. Yes, it’s about honoring the veterans, but it’s also a way to connect civilians and veterans together and try to educate people about that experience.”

This is where the NVMM further distinguishes itself from other museums or memorials: its call to action. It aims to inspire visitors—veteran and non-veteran alike—to leave with a renewed desire to dedicate themselves to “something bigger than themselves” as Bitar puts it.

That call, however, only goes so far. As so many aspects of American life are viewed through the prism of politics, veterans have found themselves embroiled in controversy. From debates over funding for veterans’ services to whether kneeling football players are “disrespecting our troops,” veterans are often used as symbols—or weapons—in political debates. The museum doesn’t see itself as jumping into that fray.

Ferriter says he expects the museum would play “not a big role” in discussing political controversies of the day, but does expect that the museum’s programming will speak to veterans’ current concerns. He says he hopes the veterans spotlighted in the museum that “those actions speak for themselves... Controversy issues or discussions—we will likely address those at leadership symposiums. But we aren’t advocating anything other than what an awesome opportunity this is to honor our veterans.”

The ≈ lines before the number on your coin indicate this is the Berlin Brat family, has since organically grown to include Berlin American elementary kids, a handful of JFK students that Berlin American elementary kids, a handful of JFK students that...
by Wallace Beene

SANTA CLAUS may wear a slightly darker shade of red when he visits East Berlin, but the old boy is about as popular there as in the free world. Despite 15 years of Communist rule, there is no indication that East Berliners have any intention of giving up their Christmas observance. Since the Communist state has supposedly replaced religion among all the loyal satellite nations, some of the Iron Curtain areas have ceased to observe religious holidays, including Christmas.

Not so in East Berlin. However, there are some notable differences in the way the Weihnachtsmann is greeted on the opposing sides of the divided city. For example, you cannot buy a Christmas card on the East Side that contains a printed message linking the holiday greeting to the East German zone, not even one reading “Greetings from the People’s Democracy,” the usual salutation found at border points. Instead, the greetings are restricted to simple phrases such as “Merry Christmas.” A clerk in one of the state-owned HO stores explained that the only way to show it came from the East Zone was by using postage stamps from the zone. The idea seems to be that, while the Communists may quietly sanction the Christmas observance, they don’t want anything circulated to give the impression that they are endorsing it.

At Marx-Engels Platz, a large square, East Berliners have set up a Christmas carnival with all the bright lights, thrill rides, and the various booths found at fairs and festivals. Loudspeakers blare classical and popular tunes, but no religious Christmas music.

The carnival area is dominated by two sights. First, there is a giant Christmas tree visible besides the one at the carnival was a rather scrawny number in Alexander Platz, heart of the business district. And on Stalin Allee, the apartment-street showplace, there was not so much as a sprig of holly visible to mark the season. Less faithful members of the party provided a lively Christmas spirit even seemed to have prevailed over politics for the moment. Visitors from the West are sometimes something less than welcome in East Berlin, but not at this time of year. Polite smiles abound on all sides, and when The Stars and Stripes photographer asked an East German policeman about taking pictures, the answer was, “But of course. Why not!” Perhaps the most marked contrast between the two zones comes from the cities themselves. The shattered hulks of buildings that are still visible on every side in the East have a depressing effect on the visitor, while West Berlin resembles Times Square, noise, traffic jams, and all.

There is no question that East Berlin does offer one advantage for Christmas shoppers — there’s never any problem about finding a parking place.
Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter


Pre- and post-inurnment, the Murphy siblings Ann ’82, Tim ’83, Paul ’86, and Kate ’88 and their parents Pat and Ed, held two socials with Pete’s life-long friends and family to celebrate Pete’s love of life. Mark Millen ’83, wrote, “Pete MURPHY!” Thanks for being a long-time friend, my “brother from another mother,” my team mate, my child’s Godfather, and someone I respect and always wanted to be around! You were missed.

“To laugh often and much; to win the respect of the intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the beauty in others; to leave the world a bit better easier because you lived here. This is to have succeeded.” Pete carried this nugget, a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson, around in his wallet and his brother Tim read it to the gathering post-inurnment at the Ireland’s Four Courts restaurant in Arlington.

Photos at top. Full military honors, urn placed in casket for procession to the Columbarium Wall. Middle photos, L to R: (1) Jen (Hewitt) Shaw ’85, Cate Speer ’85, Susan (Sams) O’Neill ’85, Mike Friedrich ’79, Larry Speer ’83, and Robin Murphy ’84 toasting Pete! (2) Front row: Kelly (Murphy) Wayne ’82, Steven McDonald ’84, Rose (Hanson) Neel ’84. Back row: Robin, Larry, someone’s child, and Mike. (3) Jennifer (Felker) Curtis ’82, Cate, and Mark Millen ’83. Bottom photos, L to R: (1) Pete’s brother Paul Murphy ’86 and Monica (Ramsey) Gagliano ’86. (2) Malissa (Murray) Ladd ’85, Jen, and Pete’s brother Tim Murphy ’85. (3) Tim Shaw ’85, Mark Britton ’84, Charlie Cleveland ’85, and Tim Shaw ’85, with Mark M in back right. (4) Pete’s sister Kate (Murphy) Scrivener ’88 and Jeri (Polansky) Glass ’72.

Berliners celebrate the life of our friend
Pete Murphy ’84

by Robert D. McAuliffe
excerpted from The New York Times, Nov 7, 2018
Christopher Lehmann-Haupt ’52, a nationally influential literary critic for The New York Times for three decades, who wrote some 4,000 reviews and essays, mostly for the daily column Books of The Times, died in early November in Manhattan, from stroke complications. He was 84.

In one of journalism’s most challenging jobs, Christopher was The Times’ senior daily book critic from 1969 to 1995, tackling two or three books a week and rendering judgments that could affect, for better or ill, literary careers as well as book sales. He was a critic until 2000. Readers and colleagues called him a judicious, authoritative voice on fiction and a seemingly boundless array of history, biography, current events, and other topics, with forays into Persian archaeology and fly fishing.

Late in his nearly half-century career with The Times, he began writing the obituaries of leading authors, editors and publishers, an assignment he relished as an opportunity to explore the lives of literati, not just their books. His subjects included John Updike, Elizabeth Hardwick, William Styron, and Peter Matthiessen. Several of his obituaries written in advance have yet to be published.

The Matthiessen obituary, published on April 5, 2014, conveyed insights that spoke of first-hand knowledge of his subject, and it brought Christopher an unusual personal pleasure—his first Page 1 byline. His book reviews, which invariably appeared in the paper’s culture section, were a mark of distinction for any author, even when the critic’s assessments were negative. He also wrote Critic’s Notebook and Literary Notebook essays for the paper and articles for The New York Times Magazine, The New Yorker, and many other publications. Over the years he corresponded with Maya Angelou, Anthony Burgess, John Cheever, E. L. Doctorow, John Kenneth Galbraith, Robert Gottlieb, Norman Mailer, Bernard Malamud, Joyce Carol Oates, John Steinbeck, and John Updike.

Christopher was himself a favorably reviewed author. His first novel, “A Crooked Man” (1995) focused on a United States senator who pushes legislation to decriminalize recreational drugs. His second, “The Mad Cook of Pymatuning” (2005), was a sardonic take on a 1950s boys’ summer camp gone chillingly awry, with undertones of “Lord of the Flies.” William Golding’s 1954 novel about British boys stranded on an island and their disastrous attempts to govern themselves.

His memoir, “Me and DiMaggio: A Baseball Fan Goes in Search of His Gods” (1986), recalled his childhood love of Yankee baseball games on the radio. “Mel Allen’s bronze gong of a voice would ring in the darkness around me with a description of a game being played hundreds of miles away,” he wrote. “I would lose track of the day and dreaming, I would discover again, as if we were a coin in tall grass, the hope that my team might win tomorrow.”

Christopher was born in Edinburgh on June 14, 1934, the eldest of three sons of Edmund and Letitia (Grierson) Lehmann-Haupt, who lived in New York City. Christopher was born on a visit to Scotland by his parents. He lived in Berlin as a boy with his father, during which time he attended RAHS. His father was a German-born bibliographer, the author of 200 books, including “Art Under a Dictatorship,” which joined the Allied Armies’ Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives section and returned to Berlin in 1946 to help reconstitute a cultural life all but destroyed by the Nazis. The 2014 George Clooney film “The Monuments Men” was loosely based on the exploits of the section’s operatives, who rescued troves of historic cultural treasures stolen and hidden by the Nazis during World War II. At his death, Christopher had completed a memoir, not yet published, about his discovery of his Jewish roots during his time in Berlin as a boy.

Christopher attended Swarthmore College, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in 1956. At the Yale University School of Drama, he received a master of fine arts degree in theater and dramatic criticism in 1959.

After Army service, he taught high school biology and math in 1960 in Middletown, N.Y. But, intending a career in publishing, he moved to New York and in the early 1960s, he was an editor successively at A.S. Barnes; Holt, Rinehart & Winston; and Dial Press.

In 1965 he married Natalie Robins, a poet and nonfiction author. She survived him. In addition to her and his daughter, Rachel, he is survived by a son, Noah; a grandson; his brother Carl; a half-sister, Roxana; and his half brother, John. (His brother Alexander died in 2001.)
Berlin Brat Richard Clarke ‘80 nominated for 4th star

from SOF News SOCOM 1, August 20, 2018

LTG Richard Clarke has been nominated for a fourth star and is likely to be the next commander of the United States Special Operations Command (SOCOM) based in Tampa, Florida. He spent six years with the 75th Ranger Regiment and also served as operations officer for the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC). He has a strong background in airborne and infantry divisions, and is currently serving as Director for Strategic Plans and Policy, J5, Joint Staff at the Pentagon.

Clarke graduated from West Point in 1984 and entered the Army as an infantry officer. His first assignment was as a rifle platoon leader and in 1987, he was nominated for 4th star at the same time, SOCOM must adapt to the changing pressures on its military posture, reshaping its military role, and its allies, as well as the terrorist threat. The nominee discussed his vision for the future of the Army, as well as how it should be structured to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Berlin Brat joined by 4th star nominee for confirmation hearing

Army Lt. Gen. Richard D. Clarke ‘80 testified on Capital Hill during his confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee on December 4th, 2018. If confirmed, he will become commander of the worldwide organization next year.

The nominee discussed his vision for the role and mission of special operations in the future, among other topics: "Our world continues to evolve and increase in complexity," Clarke said in his testimony. "While violent extremism persists near-peer competitors grow in both capability and intent to contest our vital national interest."

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Berlin Brat joined by family for confirmation hearing

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Happy 30th Anniversary, AOSHS!!

I know it’s hard to believe that AOSHS has been in existence for 30 years, especially when so many of you have only discovered us in the past few years!

From 1946 until 1989, no attempt had been made to record (or preserve) the history of Department of Defense Dependents Schools students and educators who had lived overseas. Dr. Thomas Drysdale, prior to his retirement as Director of the Atlantic Region for DoDDS, researched this issue and all who he came into contact with agreed that there should be an archive and museum, so in 1989 with the help of Dr. Eugene Hughes, President of Northern Arizona University, the American Overseas Schools Archives (AOSA) opened on the NAU campus in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Following the end of the Cold War in 1991, U.S. leaders began reshaping its military posture and several installations began to shut down as troops were reduced overseas. This, then, lead to the closure of the dependent schools, and Dr. John Stremple, Director of DoDDS, issued permission for the schools to send their memorabilia to the Archives at the government’s expense. By now, AOSA had become the American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) and was incorporated as a non-profit organization by the Arizona Corporation Commission.

The memorabilia being sent to the archive soon exceeded the storage space that was available, and in 1997 Dr. Drysdale began a letter campaign to nineteen major cities within the continental U.S. seeking to relocate the Archives. Seven cities responded, a committee met and selected the best three choices, and Wichita, Kansas was accepted by an unanimous decision. The story continues (see our site at http://www.aoshis.org/).

Top photos: Suzanne and Rich during their RAHS days, and the couple more recently in Virginia. Bottom: Suzanne, third from left, at the BBA 2003 Reunion in Asheville with 79 classmates.

The U.S. must maintain pressure on terrorists and those who aspire to attack our country and its allies, he said. But, at the same time, SOCOM must adapt to the changing pressures on its military posture, reshaping its military role, and its allies, as well as the terrorist threat. The nominee discussed his vision for the future of the Army, as well as how it should be structured to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Being a non-profit organization, our very existence has been predicated on membership dues and monetary donations, and it’s only been recently that our Brat and TCK [Third-Culture Kids] community has become aware of AOSHS as the repository of their overseas schools’ memorabilia. As little as one year ago, the outlook for AOSHS was pretty grim, with the assessment that our only had maybe five more years left to financially maintain the Archive; and while its still very important that we continue to increase our membership and request donations to keep the Archive up and running, it is the Department of Defense Education Activity (or DoDEA, previously DoDDS) who has provided the means for us to develop our long-awaited museum!

We are also preparing to bring our much dated website into the 21st century (those of you who have visited it knows it’s atrocious)! It will be totally revamped and (the content that we choose to keep) updated, and will include a digital library of every yearbook in our possession as well as the digitized copies of yearbooks loaned to us, photographs of the memorabilia we have in the Archive & Museum, and links to other great sources.

So, as we begin our year-long anniversary, we go forth with our new motto: COMMITTED TO THE PAST, PLANNING TOWARD THE FUTURE, and hope that you will join us by supporting AOSHS.
Brat backs unite

Look at the cadre of letterjackets at the Colorado Brats Club get-together, December 1st, at the Denver Christkindl Market! We need to get a BERLIN BRAT there with a jacket!!!

Not enough “Bear hugging”

Stephanie (Hale) Wiley ’80 in Berlin, 2017, with one of the city’s loveable bear figures.

PhD hooding!

Lisa (Gore) Randle ’75 receiving her Doctoral hooding from USC, in January.

Buffalo bash

Mrs. Glenna Harrison FAC ’70-’72 and Mr. Adam Hildenbrand FAC ’69-’94 connected this past July at the DoDDs teacher’s reunion in Buffalo!

Cruisin’

Above: Kelly Willa ’85 and Kerry Lastra ’84 take photos in the bathroom of their sumptuous berth at the start of their cruise on January 6th. Right: It’s too hard to duplicate our boarding photo when we’re all dressed up!!
Finding Berlin

Los Angeles, California and Berlin, Germany have been sister cities since 1967. To commemorate the 25th anniversary, the cities exchanged some local flora in 1990. In L.A., they got Griffith Park’s Berlin Forest – a small grove of pine trees above Griffith Observatory. The trees are emblematic of the stability, strength, and fortitude shared by the people of the United States and Germany,” says the plaque at left, which was installed on the 50th anniversary in 2017.

After a few short minutes of easy hiking on a 0.3-mile path, you’ll reach the Berlin Forest. This small, pleasant grove of pine trees is great for a relaxed lunch after a visit to the Observatory or just a nice place to sit in the shade and soak in views of the sunset or city below. It also has free wi-fi.

Philadelphia

“While walking in Philly, I came across this!! I didn’t know we had a section in Philadelphia!”

-- Paola Meimaris ‘79

Officials at the German Society of Pennsylvania added a piece of history to their garden when they unveiled a section of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 2014.

While the garden at 7th and Spring Garden streets isn’t completely finished, Vice President of the German Society Tony Michael said it was important to unveil the piece of the Wall on the 25th anniversary of the day it was brought down.

It was a day that Michael, who lived in Germany at the time, never thought would come.

“Things got a very positive dynamic at that time, and it came down. It was opened, and the entire German history changed since then,” he said.

When everything is finished, Michael says the piece of the wall will be on a platform that spins every 5-minutes.

“It will come with a video and audio show related to the position of the wall,” he said. “So you can have scenes from East German history when you see the East side of the wall, and scenes from West German history when you see the West side.”

Newseum, D.C.

The Berlin Wall Gallery in the Newseum tells the gripping story of how news and information helped topple a closed and oppressive society. Featured are eight 12-foot-high concrete sections of the original wall; the largest display of unaltered portions of the wall outside of Germany. They used to be outside in the Rosslyn area of DC. A three-story East German guard tower stands nearby. However the Newseum is closing for good in January 2020! No info yet on where the segments will go.
**Variation of an old TV show generates a Brat Facebook page**

**DO YOU have any to add??**

Donna Reed (and several others): “Standing in the movie theater when they showed the flag and played the national anthem.”

DanLegaspi: “When moving, you said you were ‘short’ and clipped curtain rollers on your shirt.”

Robert Jones: “Using terms like ‘three squares’ and ‘a flop,’ ‘field day.’ And also having a proud yet sad feeling go through you when seeing flags at half mast because you know someone that paid the ultimate sacrifice.”

Andrea Spiczynski: “What I miss hearing and seeing....the guys running in formation doing their drills....it’s hard to explain to civilian friends....”

Jeri Polansky Glass: “17 days and ‘a wake-up!’”

Marjorie Taylor Johnson: “Answering the phone, ‘Maj. Taylor’s quarters!'”

Fred Carlo: “Calling all 7-11 type places either ‘Groshes' or ‘Shopettes’ Hal!”

Dennis Jewell: “Gotta be the 24-hour clock.”

Day Lee: “Ration cards.”

Tammy A Bartlett Matthews: “Knowing your father’s social security number.”

Helga Ort: “Polishing my dad’s mess kit ... brass and spit-shining his boots for inspection.”

Donna Tatum: “Policing the area....”

JoAnn Nielsen: “Living on the economy. Leaving your beloved pets stateside because quarantine was too long. Military dentists (hello phobia!) Growing up with white walls in every room. Choosing whether you got your allowance in dollars or pounds/marks (kept me up on the exchange rate). Ration cards, the smell of a transformer, and how many immunizations did YOU have! All good memo-

**Berlin nostalgia**

Top left and diagonal: England/Ireland class trip itinerary, 1985, Mr Schmoll’s class, and cover of required 1,000-word journal from the trip. Submitted by Brian Guzik ’89.

Top right: Off-limits Bulletin, Berlin Brigade, August 4, 1959-February 4, 1960. Submitted by Lamar “Skeebo” Gilbert ’60. “I felt it was my duty to check all these places out, just in case anyone at BAHS wanted to go there. I had fun!” Above: Recognize this address??

Far left: Christine Turner ’89’s parents did a clean-out and found her letterjacket, with letters for band and women’s varsity soccer.
My oh my, what an extraordinary surprise to hear from you Mary Nell! I happened to check my private e-mail account just before walking into a work meeting and was nearly dizzy with surprise after seeing your message! I've worked with computers and the internet for years, but the idea of typing something into a screen and so quickly connecting with you, after these forty-some years, is really astonishing.

Before providing you an update, I want to tell you that you really were my favorite teacher. I adored my son and daughter, consistently, that fourth grade was my favorite year because you were my teacher. Perhaps you'll remember that, once a month, you would take a boy and a girl to an after-school activity. You took me and a classmate to the Berlin Ballet. I remember what a joy that day was, which is funny, as I'm not one for clothes. We saw Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty. What a treat! I specifically remember the part by two extraordinary dancers dressed up as bluebirds as well as the raucous standing ovation they received. How many kids can say they went to the Berlin Ballet and saw a world-class performance as part of a school function?

But aside from that generous experience, you struck me as accessible and a sincere, authentic person. You was life-changing as well. The Gulf War changed the mission in Berlin. The Berlin Wall came down and the family moved from Berlin and we moved to Washington State. My dad retired from the Air Force several years after leaving Berlin and we moved to Washington State. I grew up in a place called Puyallup, Washington, after saving up enough money, I moved to Guatemala, where I learned Spanish and worked in a medical clinic for nearly two years. After that I studied global health in New York at Columbia University. After a couple more jobs, I moved back to Seattle, went to law school and I now work leading operations at health organizations in Seattle.

Sixteen years ago, someone introduced me to my wife, who is originally from Colombia, as they knew I love the Latin American culture and that I speak Spanish. We are extremely happy and have two kids, Thomas (12 years old) and Juliana (10 years old). Sadly, both my parents have passed away, but my brother and sister (BAHS Brats Brad Malloy '74 and Diane Malloy '76) both live in the Seattle area and they have kids - and my wife has three sisters (each with two kids) and a Mom, and all live within ten minutes from our house. So I am blessed with a big family.

So that's about it for me ... a summary of the past 44 years in several paragraphs. I'm so pleased that you reached me and in particular, that it touched your heart that I remember you. How could I not? I believe I have a picture of our fourth grade class at home, inherited from one of my parent's photo albums. I will look for it and if I find it I'll send you a scanned copy.

Please tell me more about your life; it would be wonderful to hear what you have been up to.

Thank you so much for writing, Mary Nell. I am still in a bit of shock to have been able to connect. I can't wait to tell my wife and kids about our exchange. Warm regards and Merry Christmas!
(L) Eddie Ide, Berlin Airlift Veteran’s Association Reunion Chairman and historian for the group was in Wichita, KS, on January 10th, pre-planning for the Association’s Sept 26-28th reunion.

We told him about our Berlin Wall section at the Museum of World Treasures ... and he made a trip to see it.

Eddie was met by Ron Harrison (R), husband of Mrs. Glenna Harrison BAHS FAC ‘70-’72. Ron is now the Treasurer of the American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS). Eddie also paid a trip to AOSHS to see all our memorabilia there.

As a result of his visit, Eddie is adding a “trip to the Berlin Wall” -- our Wall -- to the Veteran’s Reunion itinerary in September!!!!