



# Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter

April 2020

Volume 16, Issue 2



Yes, our plans were upset, but ...

We are still  
**SEATTLE  
BOUND!**

JOIN US  
June 10th-13th,  
2021  
followed by an  
Alaskan Cruise



## **REUNION POSTPONEMENT DUE TO COVID-19**

As you all know by now the 2020 Reunion had to be postponed due to Covid-19.

**We're re-booked for next year!**

**Same Location**

**Same Hotel**

**Same Itinerary**

The Registration Package will have to be altered — post covid — as we learn about any price variations from 2020 to 2021. We hope to know new pricing by October but we are at the mercy of Seattle vendors on the timing thereof.

***So please stay tuned!***

Again, we are offering the Alaskan Cruise immediately post reunion from: June 13th-20th, 2021. If interested please contact: Rob Ahrens '87 at:

[rahrens@dreamvacations.com](mailto:rahrens@dreamvacations.com) or call: 409-202-6006.

# HISTORIC TIES: ALLIED MUSEUM IN HANGAR 7, TEMPELHOF

THE AIRPORT TEMPELHOF is a mirror of German history of the 20th century. There could hardly be a more suitable new home for the Allied Museum. The airport, as an authentic place of contemporary history, matches the concept so perfectly that **the Federal Government has declared the relocation of the Allied Museum from Zehlendorf to Airport Tempelhof a cultural-political priority and granted around €27 million for the project in November 2015.**

The internationally recognized collection of the Allied Museum should become fully utilized in hangar 7 in a whole new way. It will be possible to move the large objects to the centre of the new permanent exhibition, including British transport aircraft of the airlift, the iconic checkpoint barrack of Checkpoint Charlie, the escort car of the French military train, a helicopter of the US Army, tanks, vehicles and the remnants of the legendary Berlin spy tunnel. The history of the Allied Forces and their special relationship with the Berlin population in the national history of

German partition and the global history of the Cold War is embedded in the exhibitions more strongly than before. Hence the museum also opens up more for the eastern perspective. This way, the Allied Museum has the potential of becoming one of the most prominent historic museums of Berlin and Germany.

Large objects should be presented, and permanent and special exhibitions should be staged on a total area of around 3,500 m<sup>2</sup>. For the first time, the Allied Museum is said to have archive and library rooms with workplaces for external users and in this way can offer new services in the future.

Tower THF and the Gallery of History will become the new tourist attractions in the direct vicinity at the southern end of the building — in the heart of Berlin, with optimal local public transport connections.

The symbiosis between the airport building, museum, events, and park is a significant milestone for the opening and revival of the place and development of a cultural and creative centre, from which the entire city will profit.



Source: Allied Museum



Source: Allied Museum

*The Allied Museum is still housed in the former Outpost Theater of the Americans; Source: Allied Museum*



*The current location of the Allied Museum is on Clayallee; Source: Allied Museum*



## The History of the Allied Museum – Timeline

### 1991

In the German Historical Museum, the idea for an exhibition on the history of the Western powers in Berlin arises.

### 1993

The United States of America, Great Britain, and France support the project. An international commission of experts receives an order from the Federal Government of Germany to develop a concept for an Allied Museum.

### 1994

The museum team starts work at the Outpost Theater and Nicholson Memorial Library.

In September, the Western powers leave Berlin. The exhibition “More than a suitcase remains. The Western Powers and Berlin 1944–1994” in the Outpost Theater will be opened by the incumbent Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl. With around 70,000 visitors in three months, it is a great success. For the first time, pieces from the collection of the future museum can be seen.

### 1995

The International Commission of Experts presents the “Charter for an Allied Museum, Berlin.”

### 1996

The non-profit organization Alliierten Museum eV is founded.

### 1998

The Allied Museum will be inaugurated on the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift. In addition to high-ranking representatives of the Western powers, there are also numerous veterans who served in Berlin. Founding Director is Dr. Helmut Trotnow.

### 2001

The Nicholson Memorial Library creates a space for special exhibitions. As part of this, the second part of the permanent exhibition will be redesigned.

### 2006

Half a million visitors have visited the Allied Museum since its opening in June 1998.

The “Berlin Brats” open an exhibit on themselves, designed around their 1st Reunion back in the city, July 27–30, 2006.

**EXHIBIT DATES: JULY 29, 2006 – OCTOBER 24, 2006**

Special Exhibition on the History of the Berlin American High School 1946–1994

July 28th will be a lively day at the Allied Museum, when former students of the Berlin American High School return to their old haunts.

The school was closed down when the Allies left Berlin in late summer 1994. As usual in the USA, the young Americans founded an alumni association, which bears the proudly ironic name of “Berlin Brats”. This year, for the first time, the association is holding its traditional tri-annual reunion in Berlin. Several hundred alumni are expected to attend. The venue will be the Allied Museum, which is taking the occasion of the visit by the “Berlin Brats” to explore the history of the school in cooperation with alumni and teachers. Many thousands of American students received their high school diplomas in Berlin. What became of them? What impressions do they retain of their school days in the “outpost” of freedom, as Americans called Berlin during the Cold War era?

The American base in Berlin offered the children of military families a complete education within the American school system. As was the case for other major U.S. military bases, the Pentagon was the responsible school authority. Only one year after the Second World War ended, instruction began in a requisitioned German school building in the Dahlem district. In 1953, the Thomas A. Roberts School moved to a new purpose-built school building on Hüttenweg. In 1965, the Berlin American High School then moved to its final location with the address Am Hegewinkel. After the withdrawal of American troops from Berlin the Wilma-Rudolph-Oberschule took over the school building.

The planned exhibition seeks to document the history of the American High School, to recall its teachers and students and school life, and to present its peculiarities as well as noteworthy events. Its location in the Four Sector City and one of the focal points of the Cold War made the Berlin American High School unique.

And yet the American base was a world largely cut off from its surroundings, which because of security concerns but also language barriers did little to promote German-American contacts. The example of the high school students will provide closer insights into this “Little America”. Former pupils as well as teachers have provided the objects for the exhibition.

**2009**

Founding Director Helmut Trotnow is retiring.

**2010**

Dr. Gundula Bavendamm becomes director of the Allied Museum. She writes the concept paper “From the Airlift Museum to the Museum of Freedom: A future for the Allied Museum”.

**2011**

For the first time a volunteer strengthens the team.

**2013**

The Allied Museum welcomes its millionth visitor since its opening in 1998.

**2015**

The federal government is providing funds for the relocation of the museum to the grounds of the former airport Berlin-Tempelhof.

**2016**

Change of leadership in the Allied Museum: Minister of State for Culture, Prof. Monika Grütters, comes personally to the museum to inform the director Gundula Bavendamm to say goodbye. From April, Bernd von Kostka will take over the acting direction of the museum.



## Chameleon Kids

I hope my children will grow-up to know:  
 They lived a life like no other.  
 It was hard,  
 But there was adventure,  
 There was sacrifice,  
 But there was beauty.  
 For now, I want to help them focus on,  
 how challenge can help them grow,  
 Not how it will beat them down.  
 Then one day,  
 when someone asks them where they grew up,  
 they'll be able to say:  
 My home? It was everywhere.  
 I was a military kid.  
 It wasn't always easy,  
 But I wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

February 29, 2016

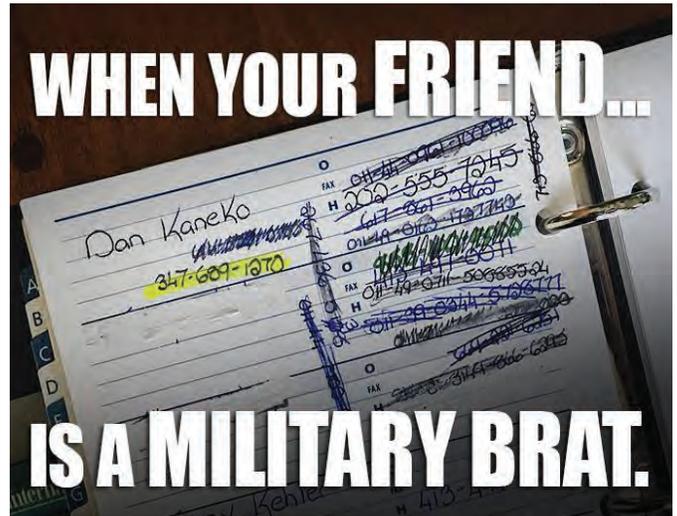
posted by: Overseas Brats: Kelly Coleman Nelson

There is an unspeakable  
 connection and bond that  
 exists the moment a military  
 brat meets another brat.

There's no need for  
 explanations or justifications-  
 it's magical. They just get it.  
 And boy does it feel like  
 home.

-- A military Brat

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/MILITARYBRATMEMES/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/militarybratmemes/)



TAR – the Elementary School in Berlin

Has a separate Facebook page.

A closed group.....but ask to join

**Thomas A. Roberts Elementary School - Berlin, Germany**

Address is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/58681130863/>

# New Brat Book

Harris Faulkner, the host of “Outnumbered,” a Fox News morning program, has written a new book entitled 9 Rules of Engagement: A Military Brat’s Guide to Life and Success. Harris shares the lessons she learned growing up in a military family, paying homage to the military ideals that shaped her and showing how everyone can benefit from bringing the wisdom of military service into their lives.



Along the way, she also interviews current and former military families, as well as generals and other officers, and tells stories from her father’s career to illuminate how and why the message and mission of the military is so effective at changing lives both on and off the battlefield. Available on Amazon.

**Harris’ father is an Army Aviator**  
**She went to school in Stuttgart, Germany**  
**Class of ‘83**  
**And her husband’s name is — get this:**  
**Tony “Berlin”!**



# BRAT GET-TOGETHERS



Sarah Lewkowicz '79 and Laura (Colangelo) Morris '79

“Wonderful to see Laura (Colangelo) Morris from High School in Berlin! We had a delightful lunch in West Palm Beach at a cute tea café.” (Feb 15th, 2020)



Tessa Magee (wife), Ken Magee '88, Michael Haddock '89 and wife Trevorlyn sport “new tees!” (2/15/20)



Rob Ahrens '87 checked in to Back Unturned Brewing Co. with Marc Abrams '86.  
February 7 — San Antonio, TX ·  
Berliners and those recently back from Berlin!!!



Julie Langley – Berlin '77 joins Heidelberg Brats at Schnitzel Tour 2020 Nashville ~ it's all about gemütlichkeit...and bier. (Feb 2020)



The Shaws and Ladds meet up on Feb 9th.  
Tim Shaw '85, Jenni (Hewitt) Shaw '85, Malissa (Murray) Ladd '85 and hubby Greg.  
*(Excited to have Malissa Murray Ladd and Greg visit on a long break from watching Hailey Ladd swimming at the Auburn Invitational)*

# British Sector of West Berlin

*City of Berlin Weekly Facebook page Feb 16, 2018*

On July 4, 1945, the United Kingdom Army moved into British Sector of West Berlin. The Soviet Army withdrew out of the British Sector. The British Sector had the districts of Charlottenburg, Spandau, Tiergarten, and Wilmersdorf. Berliners welcomed the British with optimism. British troops were horrified by the Soviet soldiers' treatment of German civilians with violence. Some Germans were using a dead horse in Tiergarten Park for food. There were reports of Soviet soldiers stealing bikes and even murdering civilians. On May 22, 1945, Sir Bernard Law Montgomery was appointed to be the first Military Governor of the British Sector. Sir Montgomery ordered British military police to patrol the British Sector, find Nazi criminals, and arrest them. On May 1, 1946, William Sholto Douglas was appointed to be the second Military Governor of the British Sector. On November 1, 1947, General Sir Brian Robertson was appointed to be the third Military Governor of the British Sector. On June 24, 1948, Operation Knicker, later known as Operation Plainfare, went into action. Headquarters Group No 46, one squadron comprising

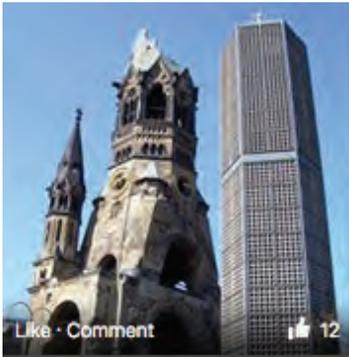


eight Dakotas and their crews, was to deploy to Wunstorf and be ready to commence operations at RAF Gatow Air Base, West Berlin. The Royal Air Force used all its aircraft that they could spare for Operation Plainfare. They used everything from transports to seaplanes! Seaplanes landed on the Havel River located in British Sector. On September 30, 1949, Operation Plainfare ended. The Western Allied Forces had won! Charlottenburg

has Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, the Europa Center, the Berliner Funkturm (radio tower), the ICC building, Charlottenburg Palace, Olympia Stadium, and the Berlin Zoo. Spandau has the Spandau Citadel, Gatow, and the Havel River. Tiergarten has Bellevue Palace, Victory Tower, the Reichstag building, the Soviet Memorial, Congress Hall, the Spree River, and Tiergarten Park. Wilmersdorf has the Berliner Mosque, the Greek Orthodox Church, the Route 66 restaurant, and the Interstate 100 freeway. It's funny—the U.S. Army had the second biggest sector, but the British had the best of all Berlin city sectors!



# SITES IN THE BRITISH SECTOR

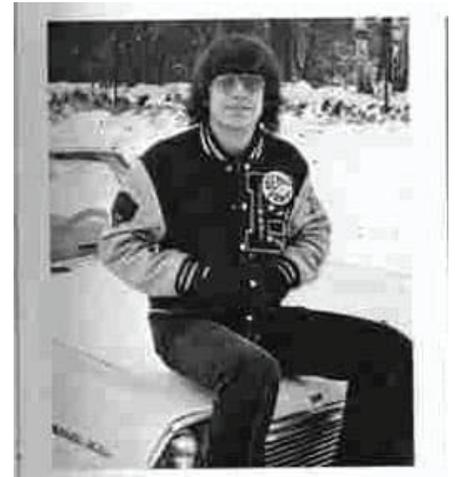


Who has one of these???? (I do, I do!!!)

Marlene (Garlewsky) Hoginski '66's: Berlin Charm Bracelet



Robert Bourbo – Senior Pic 1976



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July 2017.... Brats link up at Kelly (Murphy) Waymire '82's house after Pete Murphy '84 passing:

Scott Feldman '84, Robin Murphy '84, Jessica (Jacalone) Killpack '84, Kelly (Murphy) Waymire '82, Bryan Duckett '84, Cate Speer '85, Kerry Lastra '84, and Michelle (Barsh) Abbott '84. Front/kneeling: Larry Speer '83

# BRATS HELPING OUT during the Coronavirus crisis

Tammy (Peoples) Iverson '73 – making Masks!

Shirley (Rabasa) Dennis '77 – Meals – Feeding the Community!

We're sure many others helped out as well...these are just two working with with their communities.

**Tweet**

 **Brian Curtis** ✓  
@BrianCurtisNBC5

From the [#TexasConnectsUs](#) file...  
Thank you! And thanks to all of our brave healthcare workers and first responders. ❤️ @NBCDFW

👉 **Harvest by Hillwood** @HarvestTexas · 58m  
Hey @BrianCurtisNBC5 have you heard how our residents are helping DFW? They have cut, sewed, and made over 1500 face masks for the front lines including Dallas PD, @texashealth - request keep coming!



11:26 PM · 4/2/20 · Twitter for iPhone

Tweet text and picture was circulated by NBC Ch.5 in the DFW area about our Tammy and her neighborhood mask makers.

Her church is also making masks for Parkland Hospital, TX Oncology, and others. They have more requests than they can fill.

They get everything they need by raiding fabric stores, except elastic. Elastic is the new TP item that is becoming increasing hard to come by. Small thin, or cord elastic is needed.



# BERLIN BRAT HELPS OUT ANOTHER IN NEED

Doris (Sandoval) Dettmer '76:

April 10, 2020

Please HELP! This is a momma asking for her boy! Most of you know my son is a Physician at UNMH and they are in need of supplies. Mostly face masks. We were one of the last states to see the Corona virus so unfortunately finding supplies now is almost impossible or extremely overpriced!!! He is worried they are going to run out so this is how you can help. The N95 mask is the safest and most comfortable mask the doctors and nurses can wear. My husband happened to have 2 in his shop and my youngest son had an unopened package at his shop, and that gave me an idea. So, what I'm asking, is for my family and friends and anyone else who wants to help, raid your garages, shops or businesses and see if you have any N95 masks you would be willing to send me? I will pay shipping to mail them. Any pest control, body shop, paint shop, that might have these laying around, please send them to me. Thank you so much!!!! Please feel free to share. I don't care if it's only one mask!

My son is a Critical Care doc at UNMH and he expressed some concern about his team running out of N95 masks before the Covid19 is over so I put out the above post for help and received several packages in the mail including a couple from a fellow Berliner, Shirley (Rabasa ) Dennis '77.

I just got some more love in the mail today! A second shipment from Shirley. We were friends in high school, 45 years ago, in Berlin! She sent me these packages with N95 masks! Shirley is an Angel, she took the time to hunt down these masks all while working hard to raise money to support local restaurants that are struggling, to feed local shelters and Covid frontlines! If you would like to donate: [Venmo@walkingthewalk](mailto:Venmo@walkingthewalk) both of us would greatly appreciate it. Thank you, Shirley, I will never forget what you did, and I am proud to call you my friend!



# Woman Raising Money to Help Local Restaurants, Feed the Community

Posted: 9:47 PM, Apr 02, 2020

Updated: 8:27 PM, Apr 02, 2020

By: Katie Keleher

TULSA, Okla. — Many people are stepping up to help others during this tough time.

Shirley Dennis is "Walking the Walk." That's her organization that's raised more than \$4,000 to feed others. They buy meals from local restaurants and then feed different places from homeless shelters to hospitals.

"How good is it to fill your day when you're out from your own job and here you are able to bless a community of people on both sides," Dennis said.

So far, they've served more than 300 people. Friday, they're serving lunch to the Tulsa Health Department's COVID-19 response team. Saturday, they're feeding the ICU at St. John's Hospital.

Their biggest goal is to support local restaurants that are struggling.

"We want to support the businesses that are open because we don't know when they're going to shut us down," Dennis said. "We don't know when they're going to, if they're going to, quarantine us or what's going to happen after tomorrow. So, while they're open, let's get in the door and purchase some food from them."

Shirley partnered with Daniel Hughes to raise the money. They take turns doing a Facebook live each night, explaining what they're doing and where the money is going. Thursday night alone they raised more than \$600. Shirley says everyone should help out if they can.

"Get involved, right?" she said. "Now is the time to get involved and support your community."

Each meal costs \$10. To donate, you can send money to the Venmo account @walkingthewalk.

[https://www.kjrh.com/news/local-news/woman-raising-money-to-help-local-restaurants-feed-the-community?fbclid=IwAR0AM5o6T4pnoQ18a2aKYOmTzua4TX5Ztr3ft\\_UTTZpTYhN6E7J6k\\_OdeZo](https://www.kjrh.com/news/local-news/woman-raising-money-to-help-local-restaurants-feed-the-community?fbclid=IwAR0AM5o6T4pnoQ18a2aKYOmTzua4TX5Ztr3ft_UTTZpTYhN6E7J6k_OdeZo)



Shirley's Senior  
Class Pic 1977.



# Candy Bomber's Plane Damaged by Tornadoes

APRIL 13, 2020:

It is with a sad heart.... we learned that the Candy Bomber's plane was damaged in the recent tornados in the Carolinas.

Many of us had the opportunity to tour the plane as part of our Berlin "Regional" on Nov 10, 2018 at the Monroe, NC airshow.



Monroe, NC airshow Nov 10, 2018



In the C-54 — one used in the Airlift is: Deb (Brians) Clark '74, Jeri '72, Tim Chopp, Founder/President of the Berlin Airlift Historical Foundation (BAHF) and Eddie Ide, the publicist (and our guest speaker) for the Berlin Airlift Veteran's Association. Plane was at the Monroe, NC Warbirds Airshow.



C-54's mascot the "Bear-Lynn! (in the cockpit window)

Lots of pics of the damaged plane in article.... click on.

<https://www.obxtoday.com/top-stories/candy-bombers-plane-damaged-by-tornado-in-south-carolina/>



*C-54 damage to wing,  
April 2020*

*C-54 tail resting on han-  
gar, April 2020*



*C-54 damage, April 2020*

### Official Statement Regarding the C-54 Tornado Damage

To our loyal and dedicated support group: It is with a heavy heart we announce our Douglas C-54, the "Spirit of Freedom" was severely damaged early in the morning of Monday April 13, 2020 by tornados that ravaged the Carolinas causing wide spread destruction and loss of life. Our Douglas C-54 was parked at the Walterboro, SC airport on December 18, 2019 for the installation of a new Stratus Transponder to comply with the FAA mandate for transponders meeting the ADS-B requirements by January 1, 2020. Thanks to Swamp Fox Avionics at the Walterboro Airport, our C-54 is now in compliance. It is too early to assess the extent of the tornado damage; however, photographs reveal the leading edge of the right outer wing and the rear left center wing

flap area received substantial damage. Due to the many restrictions now in place regarding the Covid19 virus epidemic, it will take some time to reach a full evaluation. A sincere thank you to everyone for your continued support over the years to the Berlin Airlift Historical Foundation to help keep the Douglas C-54 and our Boeing C-97 flying on their missions of history, education, and remembrance about the great Berlin Airlift of 1948 and 1949.

If you want a way to help, as some have asked, go to <http://www.spiritoffreedom.org/donate.html>

# Farewell & Good-bye ... Hello & Welcome

by Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72

With this issue we say "Good- bye" to Newsletter Brat Kimberly Keravuori '85. Kimberly has been with us since April 2016! Due to family and medical issues its with great sadness that she leaves us. Thank You Kimberly for your tireless effort in getting each quarterly issue out the door.



AND now "Hello," to David Spiech '83. David is brand new to us as he's never attended a Reunion nor regional...but eagerly answered our Ad for a new Newsletter Brat. David attended 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades at BAHS along with his older sister, Debbie '78. Younger sibling, Todd, was at TAR. David has a wealth of experience creating newsletters and editing books. Welcome Aboard David!



Scout patches from Berlin

**Next Reunion  
2021**



The best.....Keep Calm.....  
we have seen yet!!!!!!

## Contact Information:

### Berlin Brats Alumni Association

41910 N. Crooked Stick Road  
Anthem, AZ 85086  
623•764•1105 tele

[BerlinBrats@gmail.com](mailto:BerlinBrats@gmail.com)

Director: Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72

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

### Find us on Facebook:

"Berlin Brats Alumni Association"  
(the official Fan Page site)

"Berlin American High School (BAHS)"  
(an Open Group chat page)

**WebBrat: Cate Speer '85**  
[WebBrat@BerlinBrats.org](mailto:WebBrat@BerlinBrats.org)

**Newsletter Brat:**  
**David Spiech '83**  
[davespiech@gmail.com](mailto:davespiech@gmail.com)

### Early 60's Site

By invitation only

Contact: Jim Branson '64  
[jbranson01@hotmail.com](mailto:jbranson01@hotmail.com)  
for an invite

### American Overseas School Historical Society

Contact: Gayle Vaughn Wiles -  
President

Email: [overseasschools@aoshs.org](mailto:overseasschools@aoshs.org)

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

### Overseas Brats

Joe Condrill, President

Email: [joeosbpres@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joeosbpres@sbcglobal.net)  
Website: [www.overseasbrats.com](http://www.overseasbrats.com)

**Order your Brat Memoirs Book at:**  
[www.createpace.com/4863532](http://www.createpace.com/4863532)

Just \$24.99 with \$1 of each book sold  
going to the BB Scholarship Fund