



IT'S FINALLY HAPPENING!!!!



JUNE 2 - 5, 2022

As you know our regularly planned 2020 Reunion was canceled due to Covid. Postponed a year to 2021, that one was eventually canceled as well. Then in November of 2021 we announced the Reunion was being relocated to Colorado Springs, June 2nd-5th, 2022.

Fast forward to earlier this month we found out our contracted Hotel was SOLD and the new buyers choose not to "honor" any of their group contracts. They immediately closed their restaurant and closed all conference services. Thereby going to a smaller very-limited-service property.

With some 40 Berlin Brat hotel reservations already made and the dates for the REUNION having been advertised since November 2020 we went into high gear trying to secure a new hotel that provided our basic needs, wanted us, and could offer the same dates. No small order!!!! COS is more of a smaller city than say a Denver.

We're pleased to inform that as of January 12th we have a new contract with the Marriott. Located on a hill in the Springs, it's the highest point in the city with it's windows framing the famous "Pikes Peak." (*we may not climb it but we will certainly view it!*)

Our formal announcement of the "New Hotel" and our "Private Hotel Booking Link" appear on the next page. As always one should make their Hotel reservation sooner rather than later.

NEW HOTEL ANNOUNCEMENT AND PRIVATE BOOKING LINK!

MARRIOTT
5580 Tech Center Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80919
719-260-1800

REUNION DATES: JUNE 2nd - 5th, 2022
Room Rate \$179
3 days +/- reunion dates
(Last day to book at this rate: May 1st)

Optional:

Breakfast Buffet coupons for our group will be \$12.62
(tax & gratuity included)

Click here:

[Book your group rate for Berlin Brats Alumni Association](#)

*(Credit card needed for reservation but not charged at time of booking.
72 hrs. needed for room cancellation).*

Should you have any issues booking online please call the Hotel at:
719-260-1800, Mon-Fri, 8am-4pm MT (business hours)

A bit of Berlin history:

DID YOU KNOW?
THERE WAS A BRITISH LANCASTER BOMBER
IN THE BOTTOM OF LAKE KRUMME LANKE?

(July 16, 2016 War History Online website)

Sgt. Arthur Pulman of Liverpool was 19 when the RAF Lancaster bomber that he was a gunner on was shot down over Germany in 1944. Over 70 years later, his grave has been discovered, and the Ministry of Defense's Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC) is looking for his family. Pulman grew up on Dane Street, Walton, UK. In 1943, at the age of 18, he enlisted in the Royal Air Force. He was the tail gunner on *Lancaster EE173*, a part of 207 Squadron Royal Air Force. On January 30th, 1944 at 5:18 pm, the plane took off for a bombing raid on Berlin.



Royal Air Force 1939-1945- Lancaster Bomber Command. Source: Wikipedia

The RAF lost contact with the plane during the raid, and it never returned. The rest of the crew had bailed out and were taken as prisoners of war. When the war was over, they gave their accounts of how Pulman had been killed in action.

In the 1970s, an RAF Lancaster was recovered from Lake Krumme Lanke in the American sector of Berlin. The engine numbers matched those of *Lancaster EE173*. The remains of one crew member were found and buried as an "unknown Airman of WWII" in Rheinburg War Cemetery, Germany.

Lately, experts have been re-examining records from 1944 and the 1970s. They believe that the airman buried in Rheinburg can only be Sgt. Arthur Pulman. The MoD is looking for any surviving relatives so that they can be invited to a service rededicating his grave in Rheinburg War Cemetery in September.

Louise Dorr of the JCCC said, "Arthur's records don't give us a great deal of information about him. We know he was a plumber's mate before he enlisted and that his last known address was in Dane Street, Walton. He was born in Liverpool on 31st of May 1924 to George and Evelyn Pulman, and we think he may have had an older brother, Peter, who we hope, may still have family living in the area. Unfortunately, that is about all we know about him and his family, and that's where the trail goes cold."

Did you know the DoDEA school system turned 75 in October 2021?

Many Brats attended multiple DODDS (DoDEA) schools overseas-- Of the 65 stories, facts, and commentary that could be identified by place in "SCHOOLING WITH UNCLE SAM", there are memories from the following:

- 25 Germany
- 15 Japan
- 4 England
- 4 France
- 4 Philippines
- 4 Turkey
- 2 Cuba
- 2 Okinawa
- 2 USA
- 1 each... Afghanistan, Morocco, Puerto Rico.



"Schooling with Uncle Sam" is available here: <https://smile.amazon.com/dp/B09FRZXP27>



Throwback pic:

Photo was taken in Hohenfels, Germany 1962 in front of the base chapel and across the street from the elementary school. These teenagers are boarding a military bus for transportation to their high school in Nuremburg. They were dormed there during the week due to the distances between the two locations, but came home on weekends and holidays. It must have been hard on those kids to be away from

their families, but this was part of the military "Brat" experience. There were several schools overseas that provided dormitories for military kids. Among them, in Germany were Frankfurt, Wiesbaden and Stuttgart (in addition to Nuremburg).

Shared by Kim Medders, Karlsruhe '73

1948 Memories

Erik Sundquist '59 (did 1st & 2nd grades in our very first school '47-'49)

I found these among my father's photos when I was clearing out his apartment. I don't remember the occasion, but I think he took them for his own collection as they don't look like formal class photos.



My guess is that this is my first year at Thomas A. Roberts. He may have had me dress up because he was coming to take a few pictures of my first day or so. That would have been 1947. I was five then.



Easel in the pic reads: "Bruce said, Look, look Come and see. The Chimney sweeper is here. He is up on the roof...His brush goes down and up."

School opening was delayed because of fear of a polio outbreak. When classes did start, I refused

to go on the bus the first day. The olive drab army van that served as a school bus came to the door, and a German monitor who rode with the children in the back came to the door to pick me up. I made a great scene and hit her in the face with my fist. Everyone was completely shocked. She left with the bus and I stayed home that day, got a stern talking-to and felt contrite. When she returned the next day I apologized grudgingly and joined the others in the "bus." We sat on benches in the back of the van with only the light from the windows in the double doors in the rear.



This must be my first-grade classroom. I don't remember the name of the teacher. I left Berlin after second grade in September 1949. My second-grade teacher was Mrs. Glaser. Her son, about my age, and daughter, Chris, were at the school. Her husband had run off with a Fräulein, I was told.

BRAT GET-TOGETHERS



December 23, 2021

Like the finest of wines...Class of 84 represents! Kerry Lastra always killing it! Brat lunch meet up in Orlando with Mark Britton '84.



December 27, 2021

Nice surprise- Richard Spain reached out to us blowing through town! Glad to have met his sweetheart of a wife, Traci too. C/O '87 x 3! Melvin Rodriguez and wife Angela (Coleman) Rodriguez



Chriskindl Markt Denver, CO Dec 4th, 2021

The Colorado Brats Club.....can you find Darla (Tabor) Hung '88 representing "BERLIN"???



18 DEC 2021, YBOR CITY—TAMPA!!!

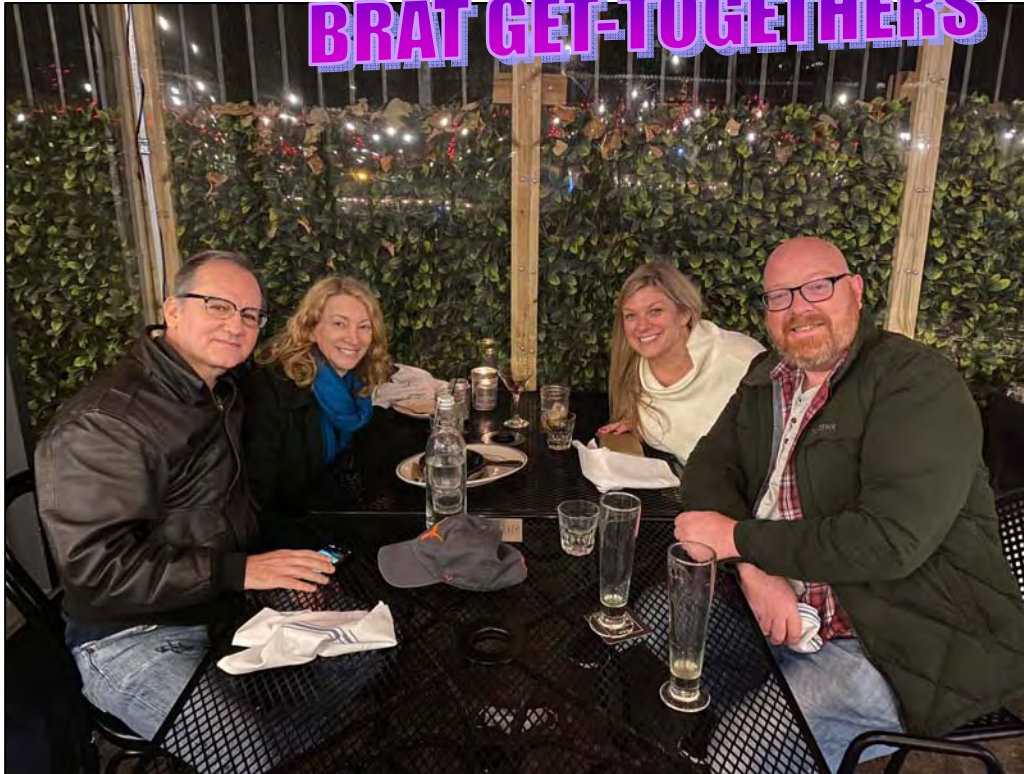


Above - L to R: Kerry Lastra '84 , Sylvia Alexandria '84, Peggy Van Gorder '84, Kelly Willa '85, Steven McDonald '84, Jessica (Jacalone) Killpack '84 and Rose (Hanson) Neel '84.



Panama City Beach girl's trip in September 2021. Shellie (Lamb) Iossa '89, Keri (Cutting) Mullis '89 and Joy (Campolo) Turner '88.

BRAT GET-TOGETHERS



December 10, 2021
Vince Lingner '82 & wife Rebecca met up Rob Ahrens '87 & wife Holly while the Ahrens were in NY.



Michael (Smurf) James '87
and Marcus Tingle '88 in
Oahu (12/21)



December 9, 2021
Michael James '87 far right with more Berliners in
HI!....(2nd from L) Wendy Stiver '90 then Marcus
Tingle '88

(more Hawaii next page)



Where are you from?

Really - I'm from nowhere. And everywhere.

My parents used to say that home was wherever we were. I was born here. On Oahu. I grew up with this crazy wonderful family of people who are always there — wherever I am.

Today, I had this wonderful experience. Marcus Tingle taught me to “surf” on this amazing beach. And Papa Smurf pushed me. I got to watch the baby smurf and cousin smurf (the offspring of Kevin James) actually surf. Mary Houston '87 popped in. Rachel Talbot (TAR, c/o '01; mother is Mrs. Francis Talbot, FAC BAHS '87-'92) is on her way here.

Many moons ago, we all lived on the other side of the world in another paradise. On another island (West Berlin). And here we are. Playing in the ocean, goofing off at the Hard Rock Cafe, reliving Cure concerts and celebrating life.

Home is wherever your (Berlin) Ohana is.

* and I got to watch Papa Smurf fly into action and save some lady from drowning in the surf.

Wendy Stiver '90

Wendy was in Honolulu to run the US Air Force Marathon – December 12th, 2021

**AIR FORCE
MARATHON**

P.S. When the James' left Hawaii.... Sara Fitch (c/o 87) was the first officer on Kristen James' flight out. Kristen is the younger sister of Michael and Kevin James — another TAR kid and is now a captain at United. Sara and the James' were all Pan Am kids. The Brat world just keeps getting smaller and smaller....that 3 degrees of separation thing – once again!

A NEW BRAT MARRIAGE:

Lezlie Smith, Class of '75
Randy Daugherty, Class of '74

Were married on October 16, 2021
(October 16 was the 50th anniversary of our first date in 1971.)



They met in Mr. Fenstermacher's class in September 1971. She was a freshman and played clarinet. He was a sophomore and played baritone sax.



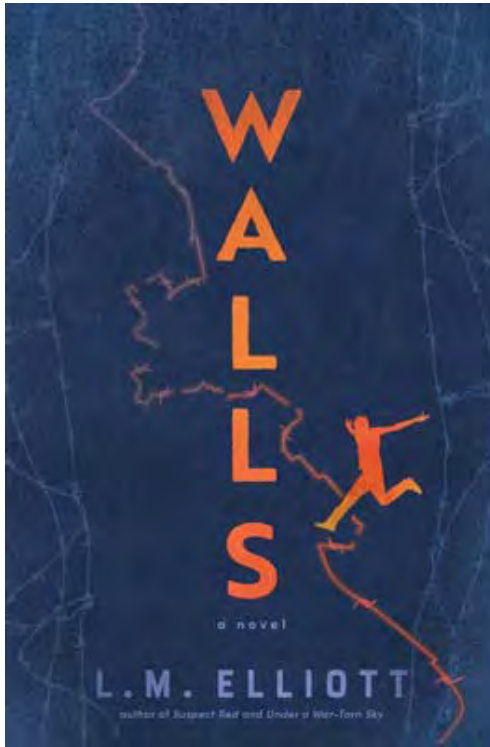
They arranged a first date at a home football game on October 16, 1971 and dated until Randy moved to Bitburg in October of '73. The last time they saw each other was in June 1975.

Then 45 years later in January 2021 they found each other again. Randy was living in Tennessee and Lezlie in California. That March they had a visit in Tennessee. They got engaged shortly after and on April 1st Lezlie gave 2 week's notice at work and Randy arrived in California on the 15th. They spent 2 weeks packing her up, visiting family and friends and on April 30th took a red eye flight together to Tennessee.

On the 50th anniversary of their first date, October 16, 2021, they married on a beautiful fall day. The nuptials took place at the family church in Wartburg with brother Darrel Daugherty ('76er) officiating. The ceremony was live streamed so that family members and friends could witness remotely. We can hardly believe it ourselves!

"Love Always", Randy and Lezlie Daugherty

P.S. Aubergine and Ivory were their wedding colors.....looks like divine intervention of "Maroon & White" to us!



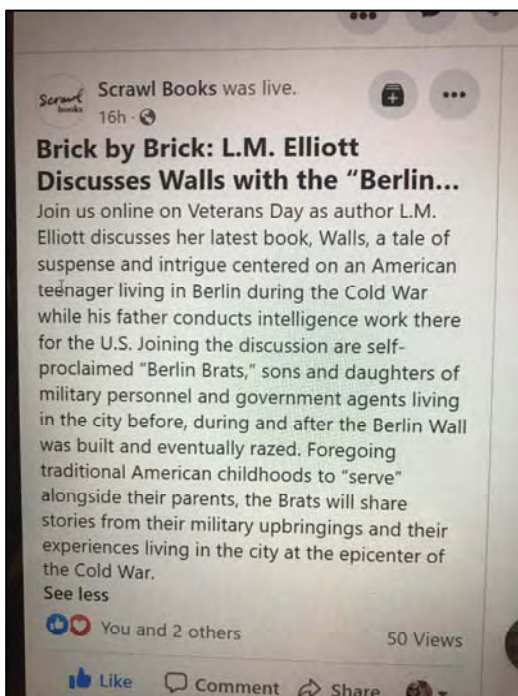
(George Gilmore '67 and Jim Branson '64 were interviewed exclusively for the Book)

Berlin Brats were Webinar/Zoom panelists!

11-11-21 on Veteran's Day.....as Brats serve too! On Veterans Day, author L.M. Elliott honored the military children who travel the world, move often and make sacrifices alongside parents serving the United States. Based on her latest book, *Walls*, the suspenseful tale of an American "military brat" living in Berlin during the Cold War, the event included a panel discussion with the real-life "Berlin Brats," sons and daughters of military personnel and government agents living in the city before, during and after the Berlin Wall was built and eventually razed. Foregoing traditional American childhoods to "serve" alongside their parents, the Brats shared stories from their military upbringings and their experiences living in the city at the very epicenter of the Cold War.



Top row: Molly McMahon from Scrawl Books, author Laura Elliott, followed by Berlin Brat panelists: Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72; 2nd row L to R: Colin Bender '92, George Gilmore '67, Deb (Brians) Clark '74. Jim Branson '64 missing from photo.



Don Drach '67 comments:

What a terrific session. My heart is full and my memories --- all good --- of my four years in Berlin are flooding in. And thanks, George, for the Peace Corps shout out. I'll be talking with Kathy Jones next week, and if she wasn't on the zoom I'll let her know. Kathy was in Ghana when I was in Liberia.

Rose (Hanson) Neel '84:

It was interesting to hear the different generations in Berlin from post war to the fall of the wall.

KONGRESSHALLE (The Congress Hall)

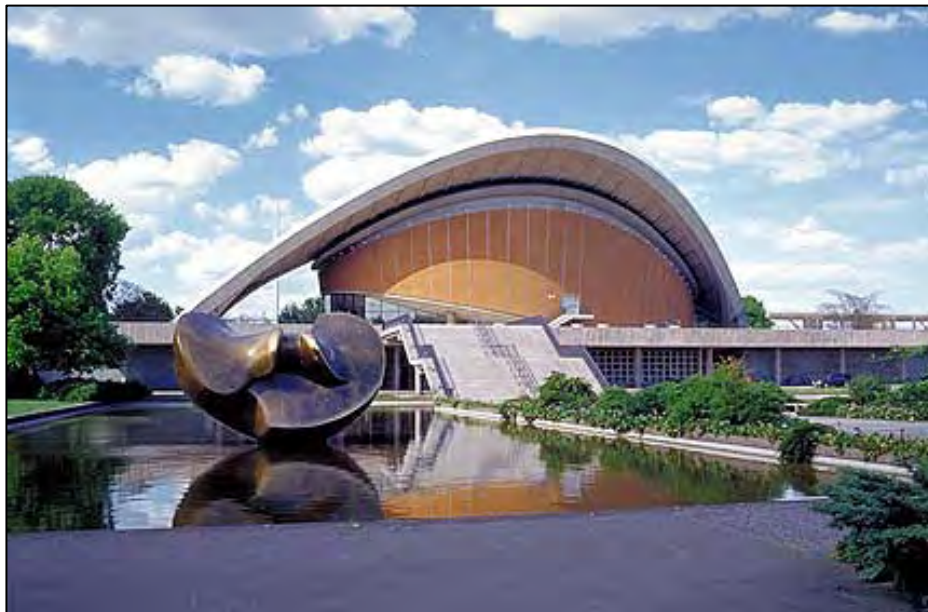
Known to many of us as “the pregnant oyster”

Can oysters be pregnant? In Berlin they can!

The former Congress Hall, amidst the “Tiergarten” – Berlin’s most famous inner-city park – directly located at the river Spree, is often referred to as “pregnant oyster.” This alludes to the building’s characteristic rooftop as well as the creativity of Berlin’s citizens. Nevertheless, journalists and tourist guides are mostly accountable for the neologism.

WAS A GIFT FROM THE U.S.

(we had no idea)



The Congress Hall was the USA’s contribution to the INTERBAU 1957 building exhibition in Berlin. For the exhibition, the designs of many renowned architects were constructed in the nearby *Hansaviertel*.

In 1955, Hugh Stubbins started work on a design for a building that would soon become a remarkable landmark in the cityscape of post-war Berlin. Stubbins, who had been Gropius’s assistant at Harvard before the Second World War, was familiar with Germany. Wanting to make a statement on that conflict between the systems commonly referred to the Cold War, Stubbins planned a building with a hall to hold cultural events and congresses. It was intended to serve as a symbol and beacon of freedom with its message reaching the East too. The former Zeltenplatz square was chosen as the site. To ensure its contours would be clearly seen from “Communist-ruled” East Berlin, the Congress Hall was erected on an artificial mound.

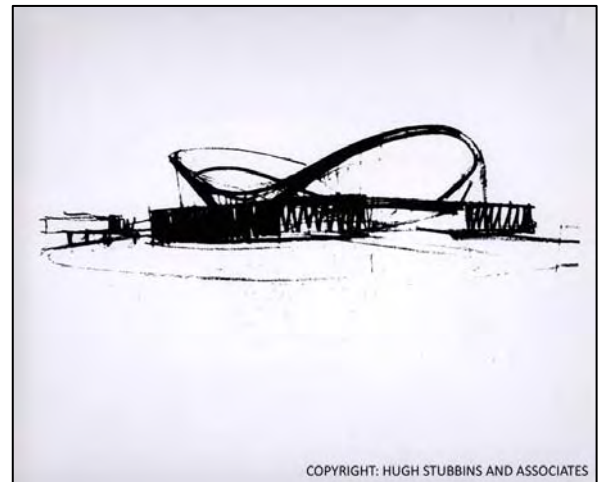
Stubbins described the symbolic value of his architectural design as “completely free.” The form of the curved roof bore a striking resemblance to that of wings. In Stubbins’s view, the roof upheld the promise that there would be no restrictions on the freedom of intellectual work – a political vision shared by the Benjamin Franklin Foundation which commissioned the building.



Haus der Kulturen der Welt © Sebastian Bolesch

The structural implementation of the program's claim, however, met with difficulties: Stubbins's original design was for a free-floating roof supported by only two pillars. The idea of a roof resting only on a few points corresponded to the zeitgeist of organic building of that time. In 1953–1956 Eero Saarinen had constructed a roof for the Kresge Auditorium of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge that rested only on three supports.

But the freestanding roof designed by Stubbins for the Congress Hall was not feasible. They stuck to the idea but an auxiliary structure was needed. The support of an additional ring beam over the outer walls of the auditorium was necessary to shore up the roof on its two points. This structure not only found advocates among architects, but also fierce critics. "Never before has there been a suspension roof with such expensive and cumbersome construction," wrote Frei Otto in 1956, who had, however, built similar roof shapes as early as 1955 in his Music Pavilion in Kassel. There were safety concerns about the technique given the extremely complicated and delicate structure of the Congress Hall roof.



1955 | Early sketch by Hugh A. Stubbins © Hugh Stubbins and Associates

A gift to the City of Berlin

However, the construction took only one year. On 19 September 1957, after the building had been completed, the US government gave the Congress Hall to the City of Berlin as a present. The artistic program of the opening ceremony reflected the Congress Hall's future program: combining theatre, symposia and concerts, it brought together prominent artists, scientists and politicians engaged in an international dialogue between the New and Old Worlds.

Roof collapse and reconstruction

On May 21, 1980, 23 years after completion of construction, the disaster happened: the roof of the Congress Hall collapsed, burying a journalist under its rubble. The report on the partial collapse of the Congress Hall came to the following conclusion: "The collapse of the southern outer roof and edge arch of the Congress Hall in Berlin was caused by structural deficiencies in the planning and construction of the outer roofs and, as a consequence, by corrosion-induced fractures in the tendons bearing the arch."

In 1982, the Senate of Berlin decided to rebuild the hall. Reconstruction, which aimed to implement Stubbins's essential ideas but also to meet technical requirements and safety regulations, took five years. The reconstruction therefore required some technical modifications. The functions of the roof to both enclose the space and serve as an architectural symbol were separated.

Although building such an unusual roof was still a bold undertaking in the 1980s, a solution was devised that met long-term safety requirements. The Congress Hall was reopened for the 750th anniversary of Berlin and for the same occasion, the sculpture Large Divided Oval: Butterfly by Henry Moore was erected in the mirror pond in front of the Congress Hall. Two years later, in 1989, the building became the headquarters of the newly founded Haus der Kulturen der Welt (HKW).



*In the 1980s: After the collapse on 21 May 1980
Photo: Eberhard Lindemann*

Since 1989 it has been used under the name "House of the Cultures of the World" as a site for events and exhibitions. The "Haus der Kulturen der Welt" is in the eastern part of the Tiergarten near the Reichstag. Take Bus 100.

Note: BBAA has compiled a list of Prom locations....to date our most popular location has been Kongresshalle with the '61, '62, '66 & '69 proms being held there. This list may grow as we learn of other years presently missing.



Throwback Picture:

1965 Prom Queen – Linda Stingel and her date
Andy Younger '65

Held at: Tempelhof/ D-11 Conference Room
May 16, 1965

Bowie in Berlin: 12 things you should know

BY JACEK SLASKI JANUARY 7, 2022

A David Bowie street sign appeared in front of the late singer's house at 155 Hauptstraße shortly after his death in January 2016.

No expat star has left such an indelible impression on Berlin as David Bowie. When the British musician arrived in the enclave of West Berlin in 1976, he found himself in a divided city. Subcultures were emerging, drugs were rife and there was little glamour. But away from the hype and flashbulbs, Bowie flourished during these influential years.

Following a wild phase in LA, Bowie was artistically burned out. His longing for peace and a deep enthusiasm for the Weimar era and its artists, particularly Bertolt Brecht and the 'Die Brücke' expressionists, drew him to the Hauptstadt.



Photo: Imago/Peter Homann

In 1976 he moved to Schöneberg, hung out in discotheques, bars and cafés, befriended Berlin's underground royalty and stayed until 1978, during which time he produced three albums: *Heroes*, *Low* and *Lodger*, which went down in music history as the 'Berlin Trilogy'.

Keen to retrace the steps of Ziggy Stardust himself? *tipBerlin's* Jacek Slaski rounds up 12 things to know about Bowie in Berlin.

1. The Hauptstraße apartment

David Bowie lived here at Hauptstraße 155 (Hinterhof, 1st floor) from 1976 to 1978.

Hauptstraße 155, Schöneberg: an inconspicuous building, then as now. When Bowie moved to West Berlin in 1976, he found the large, empty



Photo (from 2015): Imago/Schöning

apartment there and made it his home for two years. Although he probably never really furnished it – the rooms remained sparse, and his circle usually ate out or at friends' houses.

For a while Bowie had a famous roommate, Iggy Pop, until the godfather of punk was instructed to leave again for stealing food from the fridge. And so the Stooges front man relocated to a smaller place in the building behind.

2. Hansa Studios



Meistersaal Hansa recording studio in 1975. Photo: public domain

The Meistersaal in Kreuzberg, not far from Potsdamer Platz, had become an important venue for Berlin's creative community in the 1920s. Readings were held here, chamber music was played, a gallery lay below, and Austrian satirist Karl Kraus gave lectures.

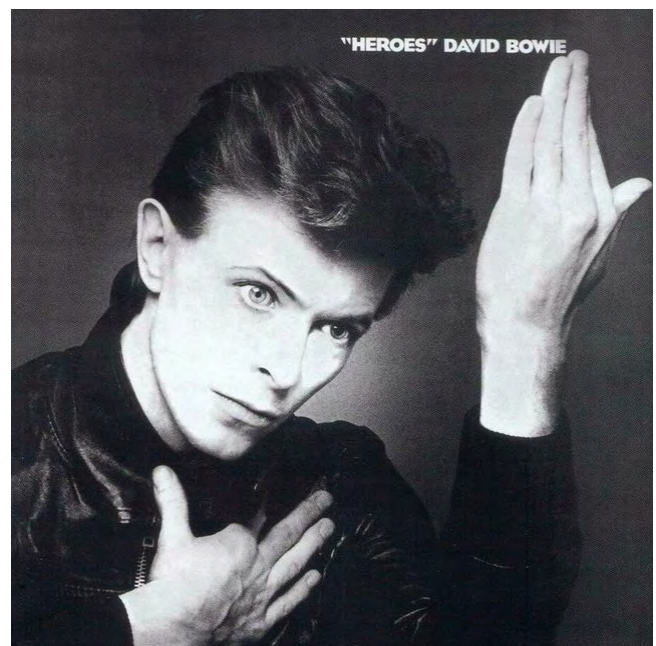
The Nazis also used the building for concerts, and after the war there were revues, balls and cabaret. It wasn't until 1961 that the space was used for recording: first for the Ariola label, then from 1976 onwards, Hansa Tonstudios.

This was the start of the now legendary success story of the studio at Köthener Straße 38, where, alongside David Bowie with his Berlin albums, U2, Depeche Mode, Nick Cave, Jack White, Nina Hagen and Eartha Kitt recorded important works.

3. The Berlin Trilogy

David Bowie came to Berlin seeking respite from all-consuming hype and addiction, but also to forge new musical paths. He was already enthusiastic about German avant-garde pioneers Neu!, Kraftwerk and Can, and he began dabbling with electronic sounds in partnership with Brian Eno.

The technological quantum leap took place in Berlin, with Bowie's lyrics inspired by the gloomy, detached mood of the walled city. His records *Low* and *Heroes* are among the most important of his career.



David Bowie *Heroes*, 1977, album cover

4. Romy Haag and new Berlin friends



Romy Haag circa 1987. Photo: Imago/BRIGANI-ART

Despite the presence of Iggy Pop and an international network of acquaintances, collaborators and cooperating musicians, Bowie made new friends during his time in Berlin.

He often met with club owner and under-ground queen Romy Haag as a guest at her restaurant Chez Romy. Berlin fashion designer Claudia Skoda and her friends were also part of Bowie's new Berlin circle, while he also maintained friendly relations with Wolf-Dieter Trewer, a former sailor and his landlord.

5. West Berlin bars, discos und cafés

Memorable discotheques and bars were thin on the ground in 1970s West Berlin. Bowie frequented the queer café Anderes Ufer, now known as Neues Ufer. He danced at Dschungel and dined at Oswald Wiener's Restaurant Exil in Kreuzberg.

He was seen at Chez Haag, and Paris Bar in Charlottenburg's Kantstrasse. But his favourite place was arguably the Brücke-Museum. Bowie was particularly enamored with the expressionist paintings of Brücke artists Ernst Ludwig Kirchner and Erich Heckel.



The Paris Bar in Kantstrasse in 2020 - Photo: Imago/Stefan Zeitz

6. Fame and glory in Berlin

June 6, 1987: thousands of fans await a David Bowie concert in front of the Reichstag in Berlin. Don't kid yourself – Bowie's time in Berlin was significant, but not actually that long. In fact, the third and final installment of his famous 'Berlin Trilogy' wasn't even recorded here: *Lodger* was produced mainly in Switzerland and the USA.



Photo: Imago/Peter Homann

Nevertheless, Bowie always returned to his former adopted country from later homes in London and New York, and was received as a Berliner of honor at concerts, with only Nick Cave garnering similar levels of adulation.

Bowie's concert in the summer of 1987 at the Reichstag was a major event and his last appearance in the divided city.

7. The final Berlin performance in 2003

David Bowie's last-ever Berlin performance took place in 2003, stopping at Max-Schmeling-Halle as part of his 'Reality' tour on November 3. At the age of 56, he was already a forerunner of the pop revolution and an established legend, but few would have thought this would be his last gig in Berlin.



Bowie performs at Berlin's Max-Schmeling-Halle in 2003.
Photo: Imago/BRIGANI-ART

In 2004 he performed at the Hurricane Festival (Eichenring, Scheeßel, Germany), but ill health prevented him from playing any further concerts. He spent the last decade of his life in seclusion and only returned in 2013, then finally 2016, with new albums.

8. Where Are We Now?

After years of silence, Bowie returned with a bang. On his 66th birthday – January 8, 2013 – he announced that *The Next Day* would be his new album. On the same day, he released the digital pre-single *Where Are We Now?*.

In the song he reflects on his Berlin years with arguably his most personal and biographical lyrics. He mentions **KaDeWe, Potsdamer Platz, Dschungel in Nürnberger Straße and the Bösebrücke** between Wedding and Prenzlauer Berg.

9. The big exhibition

Although he wasn't to return to Berlin in person, a spectacular exhibition of Bowie's life and work brought his legend back into the spotlight. Opening first at London's Victoria and Albert Museum, the Bowie show, packed with costumes, instruments, videos, pictures, posters and sound installations, was a huge success.

At Martin-Gropius-Bau, the exhibition focused particularly on his time in Berlin. Many artifacts from the era were on display, including items relating to music recordings alongside Bowie's Berlin front door keys.

The show's curator, Victoria Broackes, said in a 2014 interview that Bowie was at his happiest during the Berlin years, overcoming addiction and reaching new creative heights. "Here he succeeded in banishing his demons", she was quoted as saying.



The multimedia David Bowie exhibition at Martin-Gropius-Bau in 2014. Photo: Imago/BRIGANI-ART

10. A star is mourned

David Bowie died on January 10, 2016, two days after his 69th birthday. In Berlin, overwhelmed by the occasion, hundreds gathered outside his former home in Schöneberg to lay flowers, photos and candles on his doorstep. Bowie's songs played from loudspeakers for an impromptu and emotional sing-along.

When local station Radioeins counted down the 100 most iconic Berlin anthems of all time in the summer of 2017, the hundred-strong jury voted Heroes into first place.



Many Berliners bid farewell to David Bowie on January 15, 2016. Photo: Imago/ZUMA Press

11. Ziggy in Berlin

In addition to athletes, politicians and film stars, legendary musicians also have a place at Madame Tussauds. In autumn 2017, an alien being appeared at the Berlin branch of the waxworks empire. Ziggy Stardust had landed.

Not a must for every Bowie fan, but the only opportunity for a selfie with the man who fell to earth.



*The wax figure of David Bowie as Ziggy Stardust is unveiled at Madame Tussauds, 2017.
Photo: Imago/A. Buqqe/Future image*

12. A hero's plaque

Who knows if Berlin's mayor at the time, Klaus Schütz (SPD), gave even a passing thought to the fact that an English pop star – a drug-addicted, sexually ambivalent one, no less – lived in Schöneberg.

When the official Berlin commemorative plaque was unveiled in 2018 at the former home of David Bowie at 155 Hauptstraße, Berlin's then-mayor Michael Müller (SPD) was, at least, on hand to utter the remarkable words: "You have to imagine that David Bowie came to West Berlin in 1976 to get off drugs".

In fact, 1976 was not a drug-free period in West Berlin. 1978 saw the publication of infamous novel *Christiane F. – Wir Kinder vom Bahnhof Zoo*, and soon afterwards, a film adaptation of the tragic tale of a young Berlin addict, to which Bowie contributed the soundtrack. Berlin's dark fame as the heroin capital of Europe was thus sealed.



David Bowie was unfazed; he got clean and moved on.

*Memorial plaque at the former Berlin home of David Bowie in Hauptstraße.
Photo: Imago/Joko*

Berlin Vets visit the former BAHS

(reprint from the Wilma Rudolph Oberschule)

We got a visitor!

About 40 years ago, many American soldiers in the US Army were sent to the Federal Republic of Germany for military service. "West Berlin" was the name of the destination back then. This time they returned to a city that is only called Berlin and also to our school.

Back then, the men came at a time that many Germans associate with pain and uncertainty, but also with hope and resuscitation. Our parents and grandparents also share similar emotions and experiences. However, what sets these men's stories apart from the accounts of our parents and grandparents is that they offer us a change of perspective. So history from a different point of view.

We were very lucky that we were able to perceive this change of perspective. Four of the former soldiers visited us in our school at the beginning of October to talk to us about their time in West Berlin.

At the beginning of October the veterans returned to Berlin for the first time after their departure. On this trip they also made a detour to Zehlendorf - a district that belonged to the former American sector - and visited us at our school. In preparation for this meeting, the students in classes 10.4 and 10.5 looked at documentation, read reports and discussed the topic in class. Based on this, they came up with questions that they would like to ask the former soldiers. A few school days later, on October 6th, 2021, our headmistress Ms. Hinrichsen and the students Noah, Jana and Anika welcomed the guests in our school building and gave them that tour of the school grounds. They already knew the Wilma Rudolph Oberschule, which had previously been the Berlin American High School.

** Fun fact: At that time one of the veterans lived with his family here in Zehlendorf and his daughter went to school here - just like us. He said that nothing really has changed. **

After the tour, we went to the classes, where the veterans reported on their time in West Berlin. Some had photos and other souvenirs with them.

Your experiences are super fascinating and unimaginable at the same time. While they were talking about Berlin, it seemed to many as if they were talking about a different Berlin. If we're honest, that's not so wrong at all. Berlin has changed a lot over the past 40 years. This is also shown by the following quote from one of the men present. He said: "You guys are lucky, you are free. Back then it was very different!". In other words: "Be grateful, you are doing very well here."; and he has no wrong with that.

We were able to learn a lot from our guests and take away a lot. The students had a lot of fun getting to know new perspectives and broadening their horizons. We will remember this meeting for a long time!

Celine Gürkan



WHAT A GREAT IDEA – IN BIKE FRIENDLY BERLIN!!!!

!

In [#Tegel](#) there is a new "first aid station" for bicycles. This is a bicycle repair station that has all the necessary tools to repair a [#bicycle](#). It also has an integrated air pump. The purchase was decided at the Reinickendorf Town Hall by the District Ordinances (BVV) two years ago. The free service offer makes Tegel a little bit more bike-friendly!



West Berlin, 1950. Poster for the reopening of the famous KADEWE on Tauentzienstraße



RARE PHOTOS IN HISTORY:

The Good Soldier

On the night of August 12, 1961, Berlin was separated into East and West Berlin, and whatever side someone was on that night, that's the side they were supposed to stay in. Anyone who dared cross the border would be shot. This picture captured a German soldier disobeying orders and helping a child cross over to the other side to be with his family. We don't know if the soldier survived this, but we hope he did.

A little Bit of this and a little Bit of that...

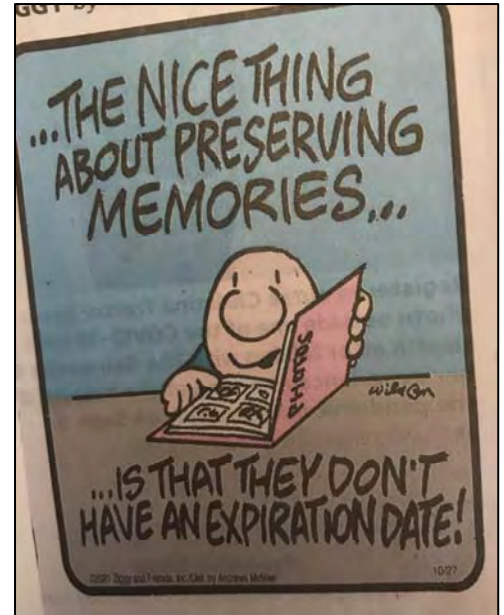
Berlin tried to use mimes to deal with drunken tourists in the streets at night.



The mimes would go out in groups of four and let people take photos with them while exerting "social pressure" on tourists "to act appropriately."

CRACKED.COM

NOW YOU KNOW



Brats stumbled on the Berlin Bear....donated by the City of Berlin on the occasion of the '68 Hemisphere in San Antonio..... (located on Hemisphere Plaza).



This bicycle path in Berlin.

Only in Berlin!

Way to go Candace! Rotarian of the Month recognition, November's honoree is Candace Wyman '73. She was presented a certificate of appreciation for her contributions and leadership in club administration, membership, bulletin and website management.



Upcoming Events

2022 Regionals:

20 February 2022
Bier Garten Luncheon
Cocoa, FL
(details on website)

OSB Gathering
August 18-21, 2022
Crowne Plaza
Dulles Airport
www.overseasbrats.com

Next Reunion
All Classes-All Years

2 – 5 June 2022
Colorado Springs, CO

(more details on our website)

Contact Information



Berlin Brats Alumni Association

Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, Director

41910 N. Crooked Stick Road
Anthem, AZ 85086
telephone: 623•764•1105
email: BerlinBrats@gmail.com
website: 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)

Newsletter Brat: Carl Fenstermacher '73

Early '60s Site

By invitation only
Contact Jim Branson '64
jbranson01@hotmail.com
for an invite

American Overseas School Historical Society

Linda L. Connelly, President
email: overseasschools@aoshs.org
website: www.aoshs.org

Overseas Brats

Joe Condrill, President
email: joeosbpres1955@gmail.com
website: www.overseasbrats.com

Communication Brat:

Peter Stein '80
pstein80@msn.com

WebBrat:

Carl Fenstermacher '73
WebBrat@BerlinBrats.org