



Happy New Year!!



Wishing people a “good slide” is a common German way to phrase good wishes for the New Year – “Guten Rutsch.”

Admittedly, this figure of speech is a bit unusual – and no one is quite sure where the German language picked this up. Linguists suspect that it was derived from the Hebrew word for New Year / Beginning of the year. In Yiddish, people wish each other a “git Rosch,” as in a good beginning to the New Year. Over time, this might have been transformed to the German “Guten Rutsch.”

Another explanation is that “Rutsch” used to mean “journey.” “Guten Rutsch” would then mean wishing someone a good journey into the New Year. While “rutschen” has changed meaning to slide, the idiom remained. Whether one of them is true, OR a little bit of both, or the origin lies somewhere else completely:

Happy New Year! Wir wünschen Ihnen einen guten Rutsch!

If you’re looking for a German New Year’s tradition to participate in, we highly recommend watching a short film that many – if not most – German households will watch New Year’s Eve. A classic sketch aired every New Year’s Eve on German TV since 1972 – and many other European countries like Austria, Denmark, Estonia, Switzerland, Sweden – and on and on.

Dinner for One: The greatest cult film you’ve never heard of...

By: Henrik Eger February 12, 2018

Apéritif: A first encounter

Every two weeks, Stammtisch, the Meet-Up group for German speakers, gets together in various bars and restaurants all over the greater Philadelphia area. At their first meeting after New Year’s, the big topic was Lauri Wylie’s *Dinner for One*, the short TV adaptation of his quintessential British one-act comedy with a huge international cult following—except Britain and the US. Despite growing up in Germany, my years of living abroad kept me away from the *Dinner* phenomenon. After that Stammtisch meeting, I decided to see for myself what could excite millions of people around the world—year after year.



(Continued next page)

Amuse bouche (“mouth amuser”): Setting the Table

Dinner for One takes us into the mansion of Miss Sophie, a wealthy spinster celebrating her 90th birthday with her four best friends—all of whom, unfortunately, left the party for good many decades earlier. Unperturbed, and hardly allowing this detail to slow down the festivities, it falls upon James, her aging manservant, to play the role of each guest as he serves a classy, four-course dinner, each with a corresponding drink.

Emptying every guests' glass on each round takes its toll on James, especially as he obliges Sir Toby and his demands for more alcohol throughout the evening. By indulging Sophie's delusion, he increasingly gets sloshed.

Appetizer: A class-conscious British dinner

Despite her own constant drinking, Miss Sophie still insists that her butler continue to follow proper etiquette, even going so far as to demand that he salute Admiral von Schneider by clicking his heels and shouting “Skål!” [Swedish for “cheers”] whenever the Admiral receives another drink.

As the evening progresses, Miss Sophie maintains her control and composure, in spite of all the drinks, while James loses command of his physical self and his use of language. He wants to do his best but fails miserably.

The constant emphasis on procedure and pomp, allows this British farce to go beyond costume drama as it shows James, a member of the working-class among the rich and powerful, forced to serve even *invisible* members of the aristocracy—leading to hilarious scenes, especially at the end when the lady of the house unexpectedly blurs their strict class divisions.

(reprint from the Checkpoint Charlie foundation)

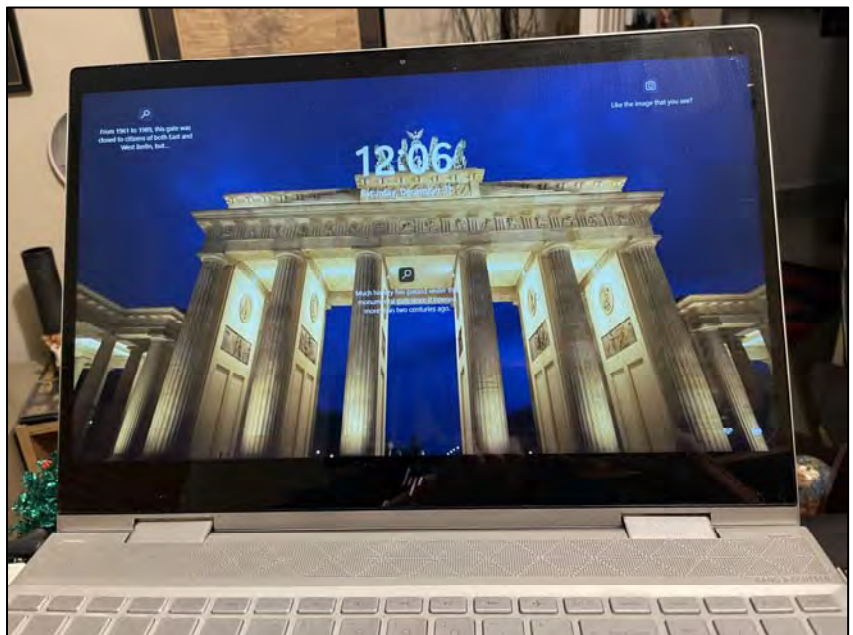
Click the link below to see the film if you are connected to the internet.

[Phindie.com](https://phindie.com)

Microsoft Windows Dec 31st, 2022
picture of the day:

WHAT A SURPRISE....AND GREAT
WAY TO: Guten Rutch!!!!

(slide into 2023!!!)



Most Googled: Why is New Year's Eve called Silvester in Germany?

By: William Nehra Updated: 31 December 2022 (from "I am Expat" site)

To most of us English-speaking people, the last night of the year is known as New Year's Eve. However, in Germany, this night is known as "Silvester". What does this mean and where did this German word come from? Find out in this special end of year edition of Most Googled!

Silvester: Saint or fun night out?

For most people outside of Germany, the name Silvester undoubtedly conjures up images of a certain Hollywood actor, or maybe of the adorable cat from the Looney Tunes that is constantly trying (and failing) to capture Tweety the Canary. However, in Germany, Silvester is used to refer to New Year's Eve, and for most Germans, evokes images of a sky being lit up by fireworks, friends and a raucous good time. So, why do Germans refer to New Year's Eve as Silvester? Well, it's actually rather simple.

Pope Silvester I (also spelt Sylvester) was the bishop of Rome in the fourth century AD. A contemporary of Constantine the Great, he served in his post during a very important era of Western Christianity. He was bishop at the First Council of Nicaea (although he did not actually attend in person), during which the Nicene Creed was formulated and adopted. In case you're not familiar with it, the Nicene Creed was a defining guide on mainstream Christianity, which had been adopted by the Roman Empire under Constantine. Silvester also oversaw the construction of the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome and the Old St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.

Pope Silvester was bestowed sainthood posthumously, with his feast day being promulgated on the day of his death - December 31. When the Gregorian Calendar was introduced in 1582 to make up for the inaccuracies of the Julian calendar, the last day of the year was set on December 31, thereby making Saint Silvester's Feast Day coincide with New Year's Eve - from which we get the German word.

Germany's hairy and smoky nights

While the above may explain why Germans refer to New Year's Eve as Silvester, it does not explain why certain traditions are observed on this day - traditions like fireworks, lead pouring and, bizarrely, not doing the laundry. These traditions actually stem from Germanic tribes, who observed the twelve *Rauhnächte* or *Rauchnächte*: nights that, due to there being a 12-night difference between the solar and lunar year, fell out of time. These nights ran from midnight on December 25 to midnight on January 5. As you can probably guess from the dates, these *Rauhnächte* coincide with the 12 days of Christmas.

Rauhnächte or *Rauchnächte* are usually translated as "smoky" or "hairy" nights, with the interpretation of "hairy" coming from the Middle High German word, *rûch*. There are several reasons why they could be referred to as this. "Hairy" could refer to the demons that were believed to stalk the earth during this time, while "smoky" could refer to the practice of smoking the demons out of one's home, something which was usually done on the last *Rauhacht*.

During these nights, wild spirits, the undead and the dreaded Wild Hunt (*Wilde Jagd*), a deathly procession of demons, were led by the god-king Wotan. These grim creatures brought about human suffering, plague, war and death. So, in order to scare them away, the Germanic tribes would make loud noises however they could. They would also light wooden wheels on fire and set them rolling down hills, and hit trees with flaming clubs. Maybe this was another way of scaring off the evil spirits, or perhaps it was a way of begging the sun to return, which they believed had left them during these dark nights. Either way, these practices eventually morphed into the tradition of setting off fireworks that we still observe today.

(Continued next page)

Other New Year's Eve traditions in Germany

The Germanic tribes of old believed that the sun slowed to a stop during this period of lost nights, due to their belief that the sun was actually a wheel that rolled around the earth. This phenomenon is what led us to the modern-day German tradition of taking it easy around New Year's, as the belief is people should be still, like everything else on earth at the time. In this same vein, don't even think about doing laundry during the *Rauhnächte*, lest Wotan and his Wild Hunt get caught in the washing lines and unleash their fury upon you. White sheets can also be used to cover undead creatures, making it easier for them to get to you.

Given the mystical nature of the *Rauhnächte*, it will come as no surprise to learn that this was a time when many believed the future could be revealed to them. This has manifested itself in the German tradition of *Bleigießen* (lead pouring). This is when small lead figurines are placed on a spoon and melted over a candle. The molten metal is then poured into cold water, where it hardens into a new shape. This new shape reveals a meaning for the new year - for example, an eagle represents success, whilst a flower denotes the beginning of new friendships. Just pray that your figure isn't an owl, as that means you're going to need glasses!

It should be noted, however, that the practice of *Bleigießen* has been officially banned by the EU, as handling lead is pretty dangerous. However, other materials are often used as an alternative.

Throwback pic:

Happy New Year – 1990:

01.01.1990: First overall Berlin New Year's run through both parts of the city:

Brigadier General Sidney Shachnow, Commander Berlin Brigade (in green sports clothes), among the participants: inside the Berlin center.



Source: Allied Museum / U.S. Army Photograph

Berlin's giant AquaDom hotel aquarium containing 1,500 fish explodes

December 16, 2022

Scenes of devastation after tank explosion at Berlin hotel
(<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-63996982>)

By: Michael Sheils McNamee in London and Jenny Hill and Michael Steininger in Berlin
BBC News



View prior to the explosion; diver cleaning the lobby tank.

A giant aquarium containing a million liters of water in the lobby of the Radisson Blu in Berlin has burst, flooding the hotel and nearby streets.

The "AquaDom" - home to 1,500 fish - is 15.85m high (52 ft) and was described as the largest free-standing cylindrical aquarium in the world.

Two people were injured by falling glass after the blast.

Police said there had been "incredible" damage. Video showed an empty tank with water pouring into the hotel lobby.

Guests have been moved out of the hotel following the incident at 05:50 (04:50 GMT). A spokesman for Berlin's fire brigade told

the BBC the vast majority of the fish had died, while the cold weather had made rescue attempts more difficult. The tank had contained more than 100 different species.

However, fire brigade official James Klein later told local media that "several dozen" fish had been found alive in places where residual water had collected. He said they were being rehoused in other aquariums.

Also, the Associated Press quoted officials as saying they were working to rescue another 400-500 fish in smaller tanks under the hotel lobby which had been deprived of oxygen because of the disaster.

Outside the Radisson Blu, a pile of debris lay in front of what were the front doors, which now hang into the street - twisted at an angle by the force of the exploding tank.

More than 100 fire fighters were in attendance at the incident in Berlin on Friday morning.

Paul Maletzki was staying on the fourth floor with his girlfriend. He described being woken up by a loud bang and shaking. When he looked down into the lobby, he saw water flowing across it. They and other guests were later escorted out of the hotel by armed police.

The Mayor of Berlin Franziska Giffey went to the hotel to see the damage and described the tank burst as being like a tsunami. She expressed relief it had happened so early in the morning - saying an hour or so later, and the lobby and street outside would have been busy with visitors, many of them children.



Sandra Weeser, a member of the German federal parliament who had been staying at the hotel, told local television that she had been woken up by "a kind of shock wave" and described the scene outside the hotel as a "picture of devastation".

She said fish which may have been saved had frozen to death and recalled seeing a "large parrotfish lying on the ground, frozen".

The aquarium was modernised two years ago, and there is a clear-walled lift built inside for use by visitors. Some of the rooms in the hotel are advertised as having views of it.

Berlin's fire brigade said more than 100 firefighters were sent to the scene and it was not clear what caused the break.

It said it used rescue dogs to check the area inside the hotel for anyone potentially injured, with nobody found.

Police said "massive amounts" of water were flowing into nearby streets and people in the area should drive cautiously.



The AquaDom in Berlin contained about 1,500 fish and over a million litres of water.

A police source told local media there is no evidence the break was the result of a targeted attack. But there has been speculation that freezing temperature - which dropped as low as -6C overnight - may have caused a crack in the tank.

Berlin's public transport authority said Karl-Liebknecht street outside the hotel had been closed off due to "an extreme amount of water on the road". Trams service in the area was also stopped.

AquaDom was opened in December 2003 and was given the Guinness World Record for being the world's largest cylindrical aquarium. According to reports at the time of its construction, it cost about €12.8m (£11.2m) to build.

Clarification: An earlier version said the aquarium was operated by SeaLife. Although the aquarium is in the same building complex as Berlin SeaLife, they are not responsible for the AquaDom.



Provo Vet Center officially renamed for 'Candy Bomber' Gail Halvorsen



Marilyn Sorensen, daughter of Col. Gail Halvorsen, speaks during a ceremony dedicating the Provo Vet Center in Halvorsen's honor on Monday, Nov. 21, 2022, in Orem. At right, holding a photo of Halvorsen, is Jessica Schiefer, communications officer with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

By: Harrison Epstein, Daily Herald

The legacy of the Candy Bomber lives on in Utah County.

In his life, U.S. Air Force Col. Gail Halvorsen, known around the world as the "Candy Bomber," earned reverence and respect for his military service and flights during World War II, when he airdropped 23 tons of candy to German children. Halvorsen passed away on Feb. 16 at 101 years old.

Moving forward, the Provo Vet Center will bear the Halvorsen name. On Monday, military and government officials were joined by members of his family for a dedication ceremony.

"This dedication serves to continue Col.

Halvorsen's mission to share the values that have led his life '... gratitude, hope, service before self, and the power of little things adding up to big things,'" reads the center's newly unveiled plaque.

Marilyn Sorensen, Halvorsen's daughter, spoke about her father's legacy and life while revealing the plaque: "With the naming of this veteran center today, we as the Halvorsen family hope that our father's legacy will live on and he will inspire others still to remember the simple principles of love of freedom, love of nation and love for our fellow man," she said.

Sorensen discussed Halvorsen's time serving in World War II and his lifelong commitment to the military and his fellow service members. Despite his international recognition, Sorensen said she didn't know about the Berlin Airlift until the family returned to the city while she was in high school. (BAHS: Berlin American High School, class of '73)

"We just hope that it keeps his legacy going, that people can remember him and his good acts and what he stood for," Sorensen said. She also took time to recognize her father's humility, that he always saw himself as a "farm boy" and shied away from attention.

On hand for the ceremony were Utah Rep. Jefferson Burton, a retired major general in the U.S. National Guard and representative from Saratoga Springs, and Utah Rep. Gay Lynn Bennion. They were joined by staffers for congressmen John Curtis, Burgess Owens and Chris Stewart and Sen. Mike Lee.

Taylor Ricks, communications director for the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs, read a statement on behalf of Gov. Spencer Cox. In his remarks, Cox called Halvorsen the "embodiment of service, kindness, gratitude" and recognized his service and work inspiring others.

Lee also delivered a message via prerecorded video. "Very few Americans inspire the spirit of humanitarian community service quite like Gail Halvorsen. He represented the best of Utah through times of darkness," Lee said in the video.

The bill renaming the vet center was first introduced to the U.S. Senate by Lee in July 2021 and was approved by unanimous consent in December. It was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in May 2022 and signed into law by President Joe Biden on June 6.

Also in May, Halvorsen was honored at the Provo Airport when the U.S. Air Force named a C-17, which was used for humanitarian missions, "Spirit of the Candy Bomber." The next day in Spanish Fork, chocolate bars were dropped from a C-54, the same model plane Halvorsen flew, to replicate the Utah native's iconic candy drop.

The Provo Vet Center, now the Col. Gail S. Halvorsen "Candy Bomber" Veterans Center, offers "confidential help for Veterans, service members, and their families at no cost in a non-medical setting," according to the facility's website. It offers counseling for depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and more, and is located at 360 S. State St. in Orem.

The call center is available 24/7 at 877-927-8387 and more information can be found at <https://va.gov/provo-vet-center/>.

German Youth Activities: A Safe Place for Children of War

History behind the GYA....leaving eventually to what we Brats know as the AYA/DYA

(Newsletter Brat note: This is a long article but worth the read!)

By: Kim Medders – Karlsruhe Brat

Most military dependent children who grew up in Germany can remember the presence of a youth club on base where they could go to play after school or on weekends. Most of these places had a variety of activities from games, sports, and hobby crafts. Some offered food and drinks at a reduced price.

In my time, they were referred to as the American Youth Activities (AYA), although I understand the name changed to Dependent Youth Activities (DYA) several years after I stopped being a dependent. The GYA (German Youth Activities) predated both clubs and made a significant difference in the lives of many German children, not to mention the relationship between Armed Forces of the United States and the West German people.



Berlin AYA in the '60s

In spring of 1945, American troops were beginning occupation duty in war torn Germany. All around them they stood in the ruins where once beautiful cities once stood. As the soldiers deployed through these cities and towns, they were watched with frightened curiosity by the crowds of war weary and hungry people, not knowing what to expect from the new military conquerors, if not a new political force governing their country.

At first, the American soldiers viewed these people with a jaundiced eye and were forbidden to fraternize with them without permission. After all, these people were not long ago the enemy and were trying to kill them! Most soldiers felt indifference towards the German poverty and desperate condition, if not outright hatred and contempt for the German people as losers of the great conflict. A few months after the end of the war, the occupation army attitudes began to soften towards the German people.

Most would agree that it was the children, who frequently gathered about our soldiers when they stopped in towns, first caught their attention, and warmed the soldier's hearts. Of course, G.I.s would also notice beautiful well-groomed young women, who would be dealing with a war depleted male population and found themselves without food or resources. The U.S. military found it hard to enforce the fraternization rule when their best soldiers and leadership was breaking it and was deemed unenforceable. The soldiers shared their military rations and off duty time with the Germans and began taking an interest in their new peacetime environment.

There are few feelings that are not more intensely heartwarming than to experience the feeling of delight when kids were given chocolate, candy, chewing gum, and especially food. Not many soldiers could resist the children's smiles! Conversations in broken German/English and attempts to include kids in recreational activities like sandlot ball games soon followed.

In Munich, for example, local children played every afternoon in a rubble filled yard with dangerous objects near a building the U.S. Army was using for a barracks. A few soldiers, watching the children play in these ruins, decided to get some heavy equipment, and clear the property. They turned it into a nice, safe playground for the German children. The same soldiers noticed the kids were stepping into an abandoned building to get out of the rain during their play. The building had been part of the army's property, but not being used because it had bomb damage. They "acquired" the property, materials and labor to fix it up and it turned into one of the first GYA (German Youth Activities) club houses. By the time the weather turned cold, all types of activities were going on inside the club house, consisting of games and handicraft work as well as reading and discussion groups under the supervision of soldiers who volunteered their free time. From these simple beginnings, the first efforts by U.S. military personnel came forth to win the hearts and minds of the German people. Without realizing it, these soldiers were starting to sort out what could have been an enormous social problem in the aftermath of the war.

In the beginning, the widespread violation of the non-fraternization between American soldiers and Germans caused command recognition of the situation and began to allow association with German children. These contacts were considered more wholesome than hanging out with German women in bars for our servicemen and dabbling in the black market. Chaplains and other military personnel were encouraged to organize youth activities that they be coordinated with local military government authorities, where necessary, and that they be conducted within the bounds of the fraternization regulations. Idle and restless youth, subject to possible subversive influences, were the concern of the program.

There had been a lot of worry about problems arising from the youth by the Allied Expeditionary Forces. Thoughts of delinquent or orphan gangs roving the streets and a possible revival of organizations based on Hitler Youth programs might have caused all German youth organizations to be prohibited by the occupation. Military commanders were specifically directed to prevent the reconstitution or activity of Nazi youth groups. All militaristic, nationalistic, or totalitarian practices were forbidden. By July 1945 religious groups were allowed to conduct youth, sports, and welfare activities and to receive contributions for their support. In the same month the military government required local German officials to prepare a work program for children before the reopening of the schools. This included cleaning public buildings and streets, clearing rubble and gathering salvageable construction materials, and assisting in crop harvesting and other agricultural work.

Finally, it was realized that funding and personnel to run a formal program would be required. With this level of involvement, the military government gave serious thought to the formation of a program intended to assist in the reorientation of German youth into a democratic model similar to U.S. values. This would be achieved by acquainting the young people with such activities and interests as movies, crafts, hobbies, athletics, singing, dancing, and summer camps that were normal to youths of similar age in the United States. The oversight and necessary funding would come mostly from U.S. Army sources.

Some notable help and resources came from Mrs. Jouett Shouse, one of the leaders of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. She was responsible for a great deal of the organization and funding of the early program. General Lucius Clay, the Commander in Chief of the United States Forces in Europe, set up the Clay Fund for the GYA. General Omar Bradley, Army Chief of Staff, was instrumental in obtaining the necessary departmental approval. Other groups such as CARE (Cooperative for American Relief in Europe), The American Legion, Darien Book Plan (for library books), and scouting programs (the Girl Scouts of America provided a great deal towards sewing and related hobbies for young girls) rounded out the list of initial supporters.

By December 1945 some districts in the U.S. Military Zone had organized its own youth committees, and resources were maintaining several small clubs in the U.S. Zone of Germany. U.S. personnel were requested to participate in the youth activities program with a view to applying the highest democratic ideals and most effective methods to the German youth program. By the end of July 1946, these committees had approved the formation of more than 70 youth groups with about 100,000 participants.

One program of note was in the Nuremberg area. Established by Major Mark Selsor, he with several other like-minded soldiers set up groundbreaking programs though out the city. They celebrated Christmas parties, created a city-wide sports program and created a library system for kids that had more books than the city library, with over 100,000 book checkouts. There was a dramatic arts program using the city opera house featuring plays such as Emil and the Detective. Also of note was an introduction to American culture through movies. The movie program was well liked by the community. For a mere 30 pfennig (about 7 cents) kids could see an American film with an American there to explain the cultural nuances. After the first year, over 60,000 kids attended.

Another GYA program in Nuremberg was the Meistersinger Contest. This was a revival of a historic middle age German competition held in the city to choose the best singer in opera, theater, ballet, concerts and stage. Amateur singers from all over the U.S. Zone could try out and sing at the Nuremberg Opera House. The winners of the final contests generally received cash prizes, scholarships for further musical training in the United States, and opportunities for concert tours and performances with leading opera companies.

At other locations, there was another manifestation of American culture through the GYA was with the creation of Soapbox Derby races. In 1950, approximately 20,000 boys throughout the U.S. Zone competed from a translation of the General Motors rule book. The Opel motor company supplied the official wheels and axles for the racers through their dealers. Opel also paid for all other expenses. The German Soapbox Derby through Opel and GYA met all the requirements for the All-American races. The finals were held in Stuttgart with a huge success. There was even a kid from the East Zone who snuck over the border. He didn't win, but they gave him a prize anyway for risking his life. The first prize winner of the derby won a trip to the United States and the right to compete in the All-American Soapbox Derby in Akron. While GYA abandoned the program in 1950, the Opel motor company continued it and it is one of the few vestiges of the GYA program still around today.

Handicrafts were a big part of GYA also. Each of the 12 military posts in the U.S. Zone sponsored contests and selected the best entries in art, needlework, woodwork, sculpture, plastics, and several other types of handicrafts. Winning items from these contests were sent to the final zone-wide contest, which was usually held in Heidelberg. The boys and girls were presented with prizes such as trips to Switzerland, new bicycles, and material for clothing. By 1950, thousands of items were submitted for judging with prizes like cameras, bicycles and cash being awarded.

Between 1949 and 1955 several things occurred which would spell the end of this wonderful program. In May of 1949 the German people of western zones formed a new government and became the Federal Republic of Germany, and by 1955 achieved their sovereignty from the occupation powers. The U.S. military's mission changed from one of occupation, to the NATO commitment of defense of Western Europe against the Soviet Union. General Clay, one of the program's biggest backers, and many other early supporters of GYA were transferred out of Germany in 1949.

With different eyes on the program, the German Youth Activities came under different scrutiny than it was before. Areas of concern came up such as whether the program was successful in meeting its goals, or a waste of American military money and resources. It was discovered that inadequately trained staff or soldiers in disciplinary situations, were being assigned to the program. The thought was command misfits were more than capable of handing out footballs and bats. New personnel being assigned showed no inclination to work with young people, and in some districts, let things go so far as to completely defeat the purpose of the program. Due to the massive turnover of soldiers in 1949, local commanders felt they did not have time for GYA and were only paying lip service to the program.

Auditors offered one year to turn GYA around, but conditions did not improve. The Army decided it needed its men for the tactical assignments of the new mission. Department of Army civilians were considered, but the idea was unsuccessful as the military governor doubted that Congress would appropriate money for this purpose. By the end of 1949, EUCOM (United States European Command) decided, with the advent of West German sovereignty, to transfer the entire GYA program to the Germans by 1954.

With the large turnover of troops, those with any emotional ownership of the program were gone. Without the support of enthusiastic and devoted people and proper funding, the GYA program was destined to fail. The Army at the 1949 turning point viewed it as a failure even though there was an overwhelming amount of evidence it did what it was intended to do, give hope to German children. Surveys given at the time to German participants credit this style of reeducation program and of course, the Marshall Plan, with the democratic reorientation of German youth.

In August 1954 the final phase out began and remaining assets and equipment was transferred or combined with a newly formed program, the AYA (American Youth Activities). With Germany becoming the front line for the Cold War for the next 40 years, the U.S. Army had begun building housing areas all over its sector to provide American style quarters for their dependent wives and children. Included with this construction was usually a clubhouse for young people. While the GYA was most likely the precursor for the AYA, the two programs did not function together, and by 1955 the U.S. Army had completely dissolved its connection with the German program in favor of the new American program. Some GYA centers continued, but under local German funding and support. It was the end of an era beginning with the hostile occupation of a former enemy whose only responsibility was to restore public order and safety, to making friends through kindness and caring.

The lesson to be learned from what happened to the GYA is dedication is important. It was probably the first "hearts and minds" program the U.S. has had and it stumbled on it by accident. Its successes were based on individuals that had emotional ownership and loved what they were doing. The

successful programs were created from needs of those handling the program, not from templates from administrators. The rewards were smiles and friendship, not hostility and condescension. From chocolate bars to the soapbox derby, the GYA made Americans popular in Germany.



Intervening German youth in American barracks, Berlin, 1948



GYA Center at Schwabing, near Munich, 1948



The Bismarck Youth Center completed, 1951



GYA mascot camp in Bavaria



Christmas party sponsored by Americans captured in Bismarck, 1949



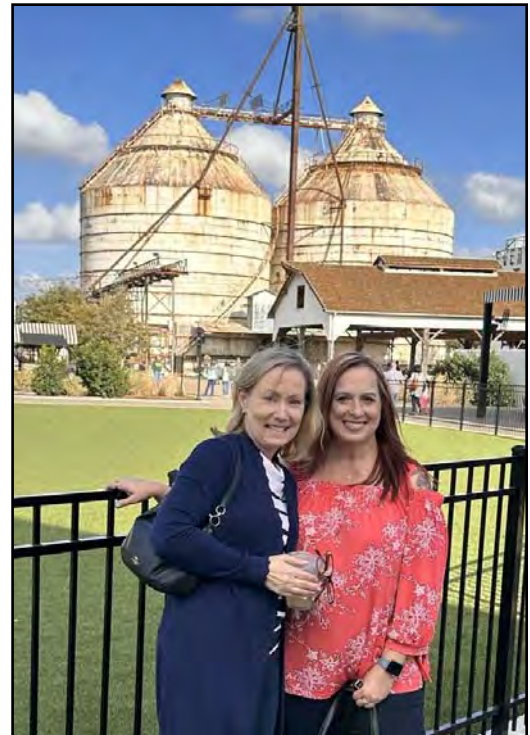
1st and 2d prize winners of one of the 1948 Soapbox Derbies

BRAT GET-TOGETHERS



Mini Berlin reunion 2018 among lifelong friends.

September 15, 2018, a memorial for Dieter's mother, Henry County, Georgia. Robert Bourbo '76, Donna Ballard '78, Dieter Brown '76, Kurt Brown '80.



Catching up in Waco: January 2023
Chery (Dearing) Starich '85 and Leigh (Love) Roper '85



Celebrating the Christmas holidays with a lovely English Tea with my sister (R) Penny McLean '88 and fellow Berlin Brat (L) Laura (Colangelo) Morris '79.



Serenity Gardens, West Palm Beach, FL
Kim (McLean) Hunt '77. December 9, 2022

And now for a little humor....

A man walks into a clock repair shop. The elderly repairman, dressed in German lederhosen looks up from the clock he has taken apart and says, "So? Vat sims to be ze problem?"

The man replied, "It's my grandfather clock. It doesn't go 'tick- tock-tick-tock' anymore. Now it just goes 'tick...tick...tick.'"

"Mmm-Hm!" The German said with an evil sneer. "I sink I can fix zis. Let me look inside. Ve haf vays of making you tock!"



MORE BRAT GET-TOGETHERS



November 13, 2022

Berlin posse represented strong at the Steelers game. Greg Turk '89, Joe Brodmann '90 and Chris Stewart '90.



"Joetoberfest" was a huge success with Joe Brodmann '90 and Sammy Perez '89 in Penn Yan, NY!

The Berlin Posse continues to go strong! Real strong! Auf Ein Geiles!

By: Greg Turk '89



Cheddar's in KNOXVILLE, TN

So today was a very good day!! Met up with Berlin American High School alum Danny "Dan" Carmichael '84 and was honored to meet someone he's known since he came back from Germany and hung out for several hours. Will be doing this again at a Coffee and Cars rally in April. This was a really good day!! Damn, it's been 40 years since we rode together! Lee Carlson '85 1/14/23



Berlin & Karlsruhe luncheon, Saturday, January 28
Waldhorn Restaurant, Pineville, NC

(L to R) Candace Wyman '73 and husband Greg, Husband of Michiko and Michiko (Karlsruhe) Joanna Stockton - DoDDs teacher @ Schweinfurt, Wiesbaden & K-town Deb (Brians) Clark '74 and husband Michael



BRAT-GAL CRUISE GET-TOGETHER



Cruise ship: Carnival Paradise
1/23-1/28/2023
ports of: Roatan, Honduras and
Cozumel, Mexico

Joan (Robinson) Knipping – TAR '78
(L going down): Kerry Lastra '84
Mary (Robinson) Grindlay - TAR '79
(R going down): Kelly Willa '85
Linda (Robinson) Talley '73



STILL MORE BRAT GET-TOGETHERS



Shaws, Ropers, Ladds unite for Roper wedding, November 2022 in the Dallas area.



Jenni (Hewitt) Shaw '85, Leigh (Love) Roper '85, Malissa (Murray) Ladd '85 and Tim Shaw '85.

BERLIN BRATS get in on the action at the Colorado Brats Club/Chriskindl Markt on December 3, 2022 in Denver:



Mary Ann (Cunha) Glover '76 and husband Lonnie



Darla (Tabor) Hung '88 and husband Jeff



Beer tent – Denver Chriskindl Markt

Next page

STILL MORE BRAT GET-TOGETHERS



Debbie Doty '80 and Mary Ann '76



Mary Ann and Debbie



Mary Ann and her beer wench



Debbie and her two!

Throw back-pictures:



On November 2, 1953, together with the 272nd MP Company, the 287th assumed the law enforcement mission in occupied Berlin. On June 1, 1958, the 272nd MP Company was deactivated leaving the 287th as the sole American Military Police unit in Berlin. Concurrently, the 287th MP Company is designated a "separate unit." The 287th now had the sole responsibility for the Havel River in the American Sector.

(reprint from City of Berlin Weekly)

Capt. Lloyd Lieurance Is Leader Berlin G. I. School

BERLIN—A chance to gain those few credits toward graduation which some GI's missed because of induction into the army is being offered by Berlin districts new GI high school to over 630 members of the American garrison in the U. S. sector of this war-torn city.

Instrumental in a large part for the establishment of this school has been Captain Lloyd C. Lieurance of Bluffton, Ind., School Commandant. Captain Lieurance is in charge of arranging class schedules, selecting instructors, and designating the text books to be used in the courses.

Former Wells School Head
 Captain Lieurance is the husband of Mrs. Edna M. Lieurance of Arcadia, Ind. He was formerly superintendent of schools in Wells county, Ind., and has been connected with Army schools for much of the time he has been in the service.

The Secondary School in the Telefunken building, which also houses American Headquarters for Berlin, offers twenty courses in six fields of study: agriculture, business, mathematics, languages, history and sciences, with German teachers handling technical, language and science classes, and American instructors giving courses in history and business.

For the 11 week course in the school the equivalent of one high school credit is earned, a credit which may be used for further USAFI or high school study. A student upon completion of 40 hours of work. Whether these credits can be used to obtain a diploma from his school at home depends on the school's acceptance of the Army credit.

One of Best Things
 This Army high school, set up in a land far from their homes may well be termed one of the best things to come to Berlin, for it is giving American occupation troops a break they did not expect—an opportunity to complete studies in



Capt. Lloyd Lieurance

Look what Marianna (Lieurance) Mounsey '50 (in Berlin from '46-'47) found on her father's time in Berlin:



Joel McCabe '65 one of the founding members of REO Speedwagon:

The popularity of American football in Germany: Checkpoint Charlie Foundation / Checkpoint Charlie Stiftung

August 10, 2022

The popularity of American football in Germany continues to grow, exemplified by the NFL's decision to host a game between the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Seattle Seahawks in Munich for the upcoming season. However, the NFL's entry into Germany is not without competition as both the German and European football leagues compete for attention. This is the subject of the most recent episode of the Common Ground Berlin podcast, supported by the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation. You can listen to this podcast and discover more about the invasion of (American) football into Germany at the link below!



[common ground podcast](#)



Throwback picture.....from the Allied Museum, Berlin

13 October 1990: Berlin Bears, Berlin American High School football team, vs. Hahn American High School Hi-Hawks, on the Berlin American High School sports field, Hegewinkel in Berlin-Dahlem: Parade of "Homecoming Queen" and her entourage, driving by in the Porsche.

Source: Allied Museum / U.S. Army Photograph

Let's book this plane for our next REUNION?
You in?
(No peanuts...just bags of Gold Baeren!)



Look at
what Aldi's
is now
carrying...



Waiting for the president, 1969 (*STARS AND STRIPES* • November 25, 2022)



Tempelhof Airport, West Berlin, Germany,
February 27, 1969:

A little boy — American flag in hand — looks out through a steamed-up bus window. He was part of a group of schoolchildren (TAR & BAHS) bused to the airport to greet President Nixon.

The '69 Yearbook has pictures of BAHS students on the tarmac with our "School Flag" in hand.

Also we have a video posted on our History page: BerlinBrats.org
(Red Grandy/Stars and Stripes)

Who covered their textbooks in brown commissary bags?

Back-to-school tradition lost to technology – lost art of wrapping books!



Standing for National Anthem
before movie...



David Jung '74 – July 4th 2022
celebrations at the American
Ambassador's residence

Some of Berlin's U-bahn signage! Look familiar to you???



Throwback pic:

Have you heard of the "Work for the Army, live with your parents?" Gary Planz '73/'74

Berlin Observer March 8, 1974 article....

March 8, 1974 / The Berlin Observer / Page 5

He chose Berlin for good reasons!

by NORM HAM
3-6 correspondent

Have you heard of the "Work for the Army, live with your parents" enlistment option? Of course, there really is no such option, but there is a soldier in Berlin who is doing just that.

Private Gary J. Planz of Company C, 4th Battalion, 6th Infantry, enlisted in September 1973 with a guarantee to be stationed in Berlin. What made Berlin so attractive to Gary? Well, the fact that he used to go to school here might have had something to do with it. Or it could have been that his parents live here, and he wanted to be with them. Whatever the case, Planz is no newcomer to Berlin. Having lived here during his father's previous tours, Gary says that he has always liked this city.

Sergeant First Class Kenneth L. Ellis, Gary's stepfather, is the sports NCOIC for Berlin Brigade, and he is currently serving his third tour of duty in Berlin. Gary attended school at Berlin American High in 1972 and graduated at Ft. Gordon, Georgia, before enlisting in the Army to return to Berlin.

The young soldier began his Army career with Basic Training at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, and went on to Infantry Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Polk, Louisiana, before coming here in January 1974.

Planz works in the mortar platoon of "Cougar" Company, 4-6, but at the end of duty hours, he leaves McNair Barracks and heads toward Sundgauer Strasse, where he lives with his parents. Sounds nice doesn't it?



HANGIN' ON — PV2 Gary J. Planz hangs in there during a recent PT test
(Photo by Norm Ham)



Chuckles for the day?

Faith (Auld) Ramsay '94
saw these at her Cancun
Resort
August 17, 2020

Bier is simply liquid Bread
at the Bavarian Bierhaus!



Look at this Berlin Quilt from:

"Memories of Reunions past"?

The "B" on the quilt is the "B" I received for choir. Wasn't exactly a sport so I never put it on a jacket.... But it's from the last year that Mr. Fenstermacher was choir director. (FAC '68-'74)



Julie Langley '77

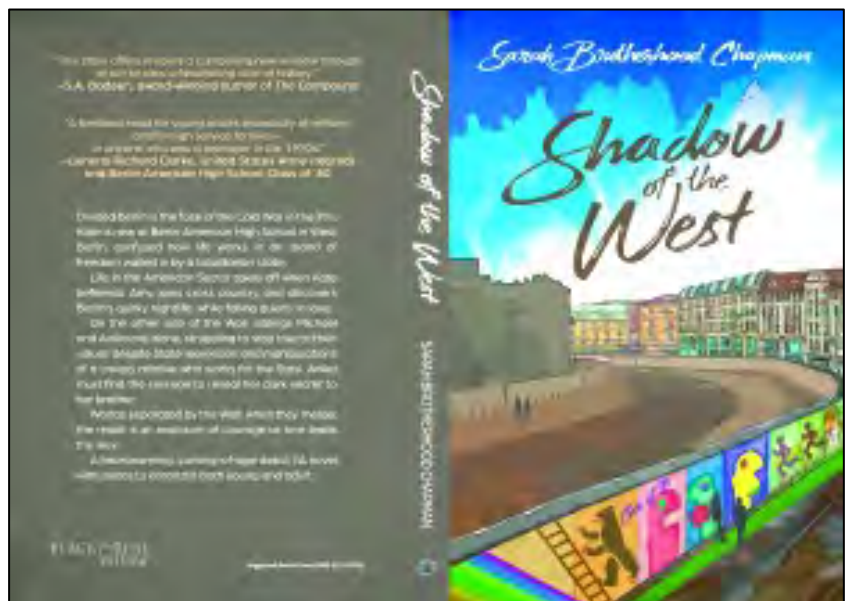


One of our own has written a Novel!

Berlin Brat Sarah (Chapman) Monahan, class of '79, has written a novel based on her experiences living in West Berlin and is excited to announce that it will be coming out on Amazon and Barnes & Noble on April 6, 2023. You can preorder a copy from the publisher Black Rose Writing by following this link:

[Black Rose Writing-Shadow of the West](#)

It is a YA novel but should entertain adults, too--especially Berlin Brats!



AYA Comments continued from page 11:

Donna Smith Baker

Kim, your extensive research and gift of storytelling is commendable! I never knew any of this and I was a kid in Germany for 9 years. The AYA was the social hub of my life then and I have wonderful memories of it. Thanks for posting this.

Glynda Thomas Paternotte

I have posted this in the past. This was approximately 1958, a gathering of German and American girl scouts:



Elsa Wolfe Ellis

I remember going to the AYA on the base in Germany. My mother grew up during the war in Munich. She never talked about GYA, probably because she and one of her brothers were sent to work on farms. I'll ask her today if any of her other siblings participated in their activities. I doubt it though, as her father was imprisoned awhile for refusing to let his children join the Hitler Youth Corps and she lost her mother when she was 9. They were just struggling to survive.

The original train station at Alexanderplatz Berlin was completed in 1882 and underwent several modernizations over the years. The station was badly damaged during World War II. It was renovated in order to fit into the socialist cityscape in 1964 and still appears this way today.

via @DW Culture



Walk the Berlin Wall

On the border of Friedrichshain and Kreuzberg lies the longest remaining stretch of the Berlin Wall, called East Side Gallery. The sprawling open-air gallery spans 1,316 meters (4,314 feet) and boasts a range of iconic, political and colorful murals. Taking some time out to walk the wall helps build perspective of this once oppressive symbol and Berlin's checkered past.



The iconic 'Kiss of Death' mural at East Side Gallery | © PeterDargatz / Pixabay

Upcoming Events

2023 Regionals:

TBD

December 1-2
Colorado Brats Club @
Denver Christkindl Markt

DODDS & AOSHS Reunion
12-16 July 2023
Omaha, NE

OSB Gathering (Reunion)
19-22 Oct. 2023
San Antonio, TX

Next Reunion

Summer of 2025
As we rotate "east"

www.BerlinBrats.org

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Find us on Facebook @

"Berlin Brats Alumni Association"
(the official fan page site)

"Berlin American High School (BAHS)"
(an open group chat page)

Newsletter Brat: Carl Fenstermacher '73

Early '60s Site

By invitation only

Contact Jim Branson '64

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for an invite

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