



Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter

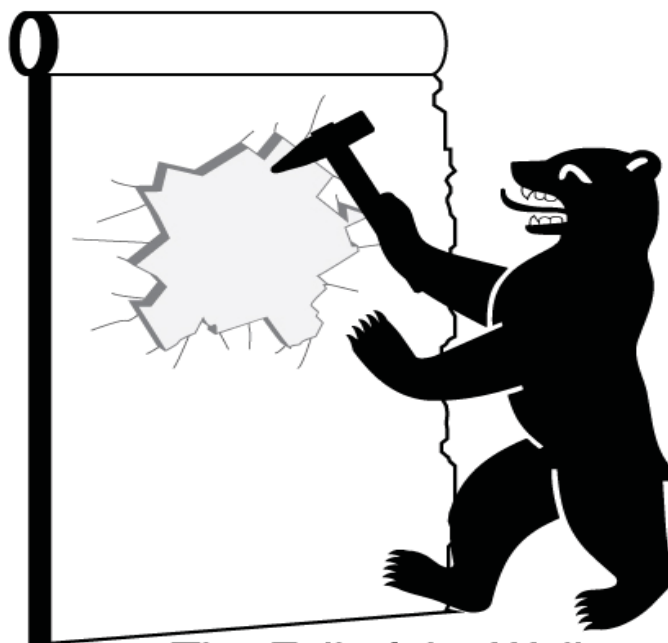
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Berlin Brats 2014



The Fall of the Wall
25th Anniversary Celebration

Our Reunion Logo

Important Reunion Deadline Dates!

As this issue reaches your mail box we will be nearing two major Deadlines for the Reunion.

Deadline for Hotel Reservation: July 14th, 2014

(our discount is NOT guaranteed after this date...**AND our room block expires**)

Deadline for Registration: August 31st, 2014

(Late Fee kicks in after this date)

Bus for the Poland side trip is nearing capacity

(Register now to not miss out)

Additional planned activities include: Underground tour, Segway tour, visit to BAHS, visit to the Community Chapel by the ARA/DYA, Movies, Welcome Reception, and our Dinner/Dance!

Sunday, November 9th.....participate in the "25th Anniversary Celebrations" planned by the City!

A few people have asked "if there might be a Race" in conjunction with the 25th Celebrations.
There is!

The TELTOW CANAL Half Marathon Race

Any Brats out there - attending the REUNION this fall in Berlin and interested in a Race?
on Nov 9th - the 25th Anniversary?
(you can choose to Run or Walk 7k, 14k, or 21k)

Take a look at the attached site....and let us know at: BerlinBrats@gmail.com

5 are already registered!

We can organize a group....meet in the Hotel Lobby and u-bahn to the start site!
The Teltow Canal Half Marathon is a nationwide running event being held to commemorate the Fall of the Wall. The course runs along the border strip on the Teltow Canal and connects the Berlin district of Steglitz-Zehlendorf, with the town of Teltow - a symbolic connection between East and West Berlin and Brandenburg, young and old, as well as politics, economy and sport.

INFO & LINK: <http://vgs-kiebitz.de/marathon.php>

Cost: 10 Euros

If interested, contact Jeri Glass at BerlinBrats@gmail.com
to help facilitate payment in
Euros to race organizers.

The 100MeilenBerlin 160,9 Km along the Berlin Wall trail



http://www.100meilen.de/en/the_track

In August near the date that the Wall was first constructed in Berlin, there is a 100 mile Marathon held in Berlin along the Border of where the Wall existed. This year, in 2014, the dates fall on the 16th and 17th of August.
Check out this LINK: http://www.100meilen.de/en/the_track
for some interesting 3D excursions of the Berlin Wall via Google Earth.
Also fascinating is the Berlin Wall Trail in 3D - 1989 and at present.
**Berlin is the only city in Germany that has been mapped
in a fully textured 3D format.**

smartMap Berlin - the 3D model of the city goes mobile!!!!

<http://www.businesslocationcenter.de/smartmap-berlin>



Being a military brat still has it's moments of fame.

John Brooks, a member of the US Soccer Team (who won their first game in the 2014 FIFA World Cup games) is the son of an American serviceman from Chicago. John was born (1993) and raised in Berlin. Other military brats on the team include: Fabian Johnson, born in Munich, Germany - a son of an American serviceman and basketball player who played in Germany and a German-American mother. Jermaine Jones grew up in Frankfurt-Bonames, son of an African American U.S. Army soldier who was stationed in West Germany. Timothy Chandler, born in Frankfurt, Germany, is the son of an African American father who was born in New York and served in the U.S. military, and a German mother.

submitted by: Jim Branson Berlin '64 (60-62)

New Things to Do in Berlin!

Visit the Currywurst Museum

Visit the Stasi Museum

Visit the DDR Museum

Visit the Ramones Museum

Visit Ritter SPORT CHOCOWORLD

Just a few things that are “new” and we bet you haven’t done yet!

More info on all of these can be found on our “Things to Do List” in the Reunion Box

at: www.BerlinBrats.org

Currywurst Museum - Currywurst is key to the German psyche (and dare I say ours too!!!) and Berlin has a museum in its honor! It tells the story of fast food, reveals the link between Volkswagen and sausages and offers a tasting. Make sure you visit during the Reunion this fall!

Update on the: Bratsoverseas Book Project

We are happy to announce that we have a little more than 100 stories! We do not have an exact break down by year, but we do have number by decades. Please remember that if you sent in a story that took place in a different decade or year than you graduated, the counts I am about to list will apply to the year in which your story took place. Why you say? Well, it would not make sense to place your story about JFK in the 70s just because your graduation year was in the 70s!

The rough estimate follows: four stories from the 40s; five stories from the 50s; 36 stories from the 60s!! plus 2 stories from FAC in that period; 30 stories from the 70s folks!! plus 2 stories from FAC; 24 from the 80s with an additional 3 FAC stories; and 3 stories from the 90s. Additionally, there are numerous Berlin Observer clippings, pictures and ‘scrapbook’ items from the alumni website.

By the way, if you provided items for the **Berlin Brat’s website’s “History Timeline or the Scrapbook”** and you have not been contacted by us yet, please help us out by sending an email telling us that you give us permission to use your items in the book. Sometimes we do not have good contact information, so emails from us go unanswered. If we do not have your explicit permission and we cannot find the information you provided in old Berlin Observers or via other Brats, that ‘memento’ will not be in the book. We hope that everyone whose memorabilia is on the site, would want to share your items in the book! Although it will take us some time to contact every person, it would actually take only a few seconds for you to shoot us an email stating “what you donated” on the site and that we may reproduce it. **Please email: bratsoverseas@yahoo.com**

We are so excited and grateful that so many of you have taken the time and effort to send in so many great stories! We are working diligently to pull it all together into book form in time for the reunion.

We appreciate your support in making this project come to life-- because this book could not become a reality without so many Brat contributions!

Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83 & Trisha Lindsey '82

I AM A BERLIN BRAT

By: Jocelyne (von Arx) von Strong '85

I am a Berlin Brat. Many of you know that about me. I graduated from Berlin American High School in 1985.

I have similar behaviors (or dysfunctions, depending on who you ask) as many other Brats.

One of them is an almost unscratchable itch to get out of town.

I had planned a trip to Berlin in 2016-ten years from my last visit. I had the honor of attending the 2006 Berlin Brat reunion. I thought it appropriate to continue my retreats every ten years.

I was going to encourage others to meet me there, if a reunion had not been planned beforehand.

Well, turns out one is planned for 2014. So - plans change. Many things changed in my life from 2006 to 2014; not just travel plans. I divorced the father of my children, and was fortunate enough to connect with another Berlin Brat, Thomas (von) Strong '89, to whom I am now happily married.

I sold my house out of necessity and moved into an apartment (not a fan). I now work for a company where I am on call three weeks of each month as opposed to being self-employed.

I made the commitment for both Tom and I to attend the 2014 reunion.

Yes, it is a costly adventure - certainly more so than the solo trip I took in 2006. But, it IS a necessary one; at least, in my eyes. One thing I learned in 2006, is that you CAN go back and you SHOULD go back.

I have heard the objections, "It will never be the same. What if I'm disappointed? It is so expensive.

How can we do this?" Yes, it can never be the same. We don't want it to be the same.

When I was there in 2006, I felt almost like a proud parent. Berlin had grown up and was reaching for its potential that had once been squashed. There was so much emotion in the visit; it was almost spiritual.

I found some things disappointing, for example, the graffiti that littered many places; the fact that Truman Plaza was gone; the understanding that our special place in history is now, in fact, just that...history. But that's okay. You feel it and move on.

Yes, it is an investment. But what price can you put on memories that you create together?

My Tom has not been back to Europe. I am looking forward to seeing that look on his face when he touches the bricks of Templehof and realizes that he made it back when he thought he never would.

How can we not do this?

I also looked at ways to make the trip a little less painful financially. I looked at tax incentives.

I am acting as my own travel agent; I am planning way ahead and I am using the Internet tools available to us as well as different banking products, to maximize my dollars. I've found that Kayak is a great resource - particularly for hotels. Also, I truly believe that when you want something bad enough,

God (the Universe - God as you understand....etc) helps you achieve it.

I am blessed (some would say cursed) with an unbreakable stubborn streak. When I decide something, I do it. I usually don't know how I'm going to do it, but it always seems to work out. In 2006, I wasn't able to purchase my plane tickets until June and the trip was in July. I was a mortgage lender at the time and was blessed with a commission large enough to pay for the trip just in time.

I don't expect 2014 to be much different - except, I'm buying our plane tickets in May.

My plan is to

- 1) buy the plane tickets;
- 2) update our passports;
- 3) pay for the hotels (we are also visiting Budapest and Prague) in advance a little at a time;
- 4) purchase Eurail passes
- 5) continue to deposit funds into a special savings account that matures two days before we leave for spending cash;
- 6) purchase the reunion registrations;
- 7) purchase travel insurance;
- 8) prepay the rent 1 month in advance. The only cash we will need is food and spending money.

Everything else will already be paid prior to our arrival.

As in 2006, some rather large commissions have “shown up” to help facilitate it, and our little side business is also picking up. Things just come together when you are focused. If you are on the fence as to whether you are going to the 2014 Reunion, now is the time to decide.

If the answer is, “Yes! I can’t wait!,” then commit to it whole heartedly.

Believe that it is happening and it shall. If you cannot commit for whatever reason, that’s okay. Stay connected to the Brats you know via Facebook, BerlinBrats.org or if you’re more conventional, the telephone. I will be certain to post my photos upon my return.

(Note: Never post that you’re out of town on any social media for safety reasons.)

You can also follow my blog: <http://bratalicious.blogspot.com> in which I will discuss the journey from desire to reality in 2014. You can also create your own little Berlin Brat reunion closer to home and celebrate simultaneously with a Berlin group.

There are suggestions on how to pull it off on BerlinBrats.org.

Travel still challenges us to see things differently, to meet new people, hear their stories, taste their food, walk their streets.

Travel can make us, and the world, better---and that may be the biggest surprise of all!

See you at the 2014 Reunion in BERLIN

November 8 -11, 2014

Adventures at BAHS

By: Art Benson –Faculty
submission for Book Project

FUTURE SHOCK

I was team teaching, social studies/English with (Ruth Nielson I believe.....) in one of those tiny rooms, later supply storage, beneath the administration wing. We were using Alvin Toffler’s book Future Shock but the class wasn’t getting the concept of shock. Therefore we decided to shock them. Since there had been some hostage taking in the news, we decided to use some of her upperclass students to stage a hostage taking event.

I was leading the discussion about the effects of rapid change in our society when a couple of masked gunmen burst in the door and shouted “everybody down” or words to that effect and grabbed my fellow teacher who was conveniently standing next to the door. I charged toward them to stop this event and the students were diving under desks/chairs or getting behind someone. I took a couple of shots to the chest (from my starting pistol with which I had provided them) and collapsed onto the floor in an agony of death... It was all over in a minute but it took quite a time for the class to calm down.....

We had a good discussion afterwards about how one cannot always predict reaction to stress/change. However, I shudder to think what would happen if I tried to pull such a stunt in 2014. I also wonder that there was no reaction from faculty, administration or parents.

VISIT TO EAST/COMMIE BERLIN

We had an activity called “Wednesdays for Widening” when I first taught Jr. High in the late 70s. Due to our rotating schedule, we had a different set of students each Wed, for an all afternoon activity. I selected a field trip to the ice rink in Wedding in the north of Berlin. To get there, we had to make two changes of subway lines in order to get around Berlin Mitte, the “dirty commie” part. After skating, I took them back to BAHS in the American sector but by the simpler, one change route which ran under Berlin Mitte, the dirty commie part. It was safe because the West Berlin operated subway system did not stop at any of the stations, except one; Friedrich St.

The next day there was a “request” that I report to the front office ASAP. Several ranking officers were awaiting me and were very “unhappy” at my risky adventure into communist territory. Some of the students had bragged that Mr. Benson had taken them to Communist East Berlin. Travel to the East was very tightly controlled. I explained my geography lesson about the “Wall” which had preceded the field trip and its success in helping the students understand the peculiar Berlin situation.

Even if one of the students had gotten out at Friedrich Str., there was no way out of the station except through communist check points that were well guarded and they would have been stopped though there would have been an ugly incident....so I never did it again. As a family and as thousands of West Berliners, we often used the route.



The Commanding Officer of the United States Coast Guard Cutter Gallatin

requests the pleasure of your company

at a Retirement Ceremony

in honor of

Chief Petty Officer John R. Tuite Jr.

On Friday, the Eleventh of April at 1000

aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Gallatin (WHEC-721)

Pier Papa, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center

Charleston, SC



John getting pinned

John (L) and his Certificate of Retirement



John and his wife Faith

John created the 1st Berlin Brats website - way back in the '90's!
We wish him well as he ventures on to a new chapter in his life. Within a couple days of his retirement John and his wife Faith (also a Brat) relocated to San Antonio, TX.

John had all his Brat siblings in attendance!!!!



Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, Carl Fenstermacher '73, Rebecca (Tuite) Castillo '83, Ed Tuite '80, John Tuite '79, and Melissa Tuite '82

Brat Get-Togethers:

After John's retirement ceremony Carl and Jeri met up with Lisa (Gore) Randle '75 at Charleston's local Biergarten, where their mascot just so happened to be the "Bear!" Go figure, right?



The Charlotte BB Lunchers.....

April 19th get-together at the famous Waldhorn, in Pineville, NC!

(L side): Berlin Tote Bag, Toni (Yarbrough) Combs '71, Bryan Duckett '84, Joyce (Clark) Mallon '72, Nick- Stuttgart guest

Standing: Michael Clark-spouse of Deb, Gary Robinson '74, Mike Brians '78

(R side): Susan Robinson-spouse of Gary, Deb (Brians) Clark '74, Carl Fenstermacher '73, Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72 (with Easter Bunny Ears!), Crista-Deb's Mom-a Berliner!

Marion (Poole) Condon '69

I was in Berlin when the Wall went up

and it's an experience I will never forget. I should note that my mother was German and we were fortunate to have been stationed in Berlin at the time because my German grandparents were still alive at that point. I would often spend the weekend with them to help them with some chores in their apartment since they were getting older. I can still hear the screams and cries that morning when we opened the windows to see what was going on out in the street. People were running, almost aimlessly, up & down the street crying and screaming. It was then that we learned there had been a wall or some other form of barrier put up overnight throughout Berlin, separating the East from the West. In some spots they'd built an actual wall with barbed wire on top. There were other sections where they'd simply put up a wall of barbed wire but you could clearly see that a large stretch of land had been covered with sand, which had land mines hidden underneath. Then there were lots of soldiers with machine guns. I remember visiting my German cousin and found that they couldn't even use the front door of their apartment because the Wall was immediately outside the apartment doors.

So now back to why people were running in streets crying and screaming. Imagine your child, spouse, parent....any member of your family and visiting someone in the East Berlin sector. These loved ones were now no longer able to return to you. If memory serves me correctly, it was many, many years before they would set up checkpoints and allow people from the East to come over to the West to visit. Now you would think "well, why don't they just come for a visit and stay?" Sadly, the answer is simple – there was no way you were allowed to come to the West without having a loved one left behind who would be "dealt with" if you didn't return. So you had no choice but to return after your visit.

Eventually, a small store turned itself into a museum and called itself Checkpoint Charlie Museum. The particular checkpoint became very famous over time and was actually where my father served some of his time later on after he'd done his two tours in Viet Nam. The gruesome stories my father would tell us of the

poor souls who attempted to flee to freedom but were caught or shot. As most people know, this museum is now quite large.

I remember there were sections in Kreuzberg where you could see across the water, which was the East and you could see the flowers & wreaths on the West side where people had actually managed to swim and make it all the way to the West only to get shot while climbing out of the water. It was always such a very sad place to visit.

Eventually my parents divorced and my mother ended up staying in Berlin because her parents were still alive. She later met a German man who had relatives that still lived in the East. He always enjoyed looking at my Sears and JC Penney catalogs and couldn't get over how you could order all these wonderful things by simply picking up the phone. He was able to sneak one of these catalogs over to his relatives and show it to them. They simply could not understand how this would be possible and told him in a very matter of fact manner that this was nothing but propaganda.

Everyone in the East who was capable of working had to work. Eventually the elderly were allowed to cross over to the West. The feeling was that they were allowed to leave because they were no longer able to work and were now a burden due to medical needs.

I remember visiting Berlin with my daughter, who was only maybe 7 or 8 at the time and allowing her to write her name on the different sections of the Wall throughout Berlin. My stepfather took her to the Brandenburg Gate where she also went to write her name on this very famous Wall only to suddenly have the soldiers come down from the towers on each side with their machine guns, yelling that she could not do this. In this particular case, the Wall had been built well into the East section of Berlin. I still shudder when I think that they could easily have shot my daughter as well as my stepfather. I am still grateful to these guards for simply yelling and giving them a good scare. I should note that some of the most famous artists throughout the world came to paint/draw on various sections of the Wall. Some of the artwork was absolutely magnificent.

When I heard on the news that the Wall came down I was in absolute shock. The first thing I did was call my father who was just as shocked as I was. NEVER did either of us think that we would still be around to see this happen. When I spoke to my mother some time later, I learned that this was apparently not intentional. It all started as a miscommunication of orders to one of the guards. Once it started happening though, there was just no stopping it.

Marion (Poole) Condon '69

A West Berliner, undaunted by a recent addition to the Berlin Wall intended to minimize contact between residents of the city's eastern and western sectors, finds a way to wave to friends on the other side in September, 1961.

(Gus Schuettler ©Stars and Stripes)



Five Characteristics that BRATs Bring to an Organization

On August 18th, 2011 I had the honor of speaking with host Dennis Campbell and associate producer and co-host Jeri Glass on BRATCON Radio – a radio station on Voice of America dedicated to connecting BRATs and celebrating military service-members and their families. During that hour interview I shared themes on why BRATs make a strong team and are people of character – they bring many strengths to an organization:

- a. BRATs are adaptable. Constant moves require BRATs to develop skills to adapt in any situation...new school, new surroundings, new friends, etc. Change is a constant in the life of a BRAT. Organizations often face change and BRATs are adept in dealing with change and helping others adapt to change.
- b. BRATs are great teammates: BRATs learn early in their lives to work with others. The frequent moves and exposure to new communities and schools help BRATs appreciate the importance of contributions from fellow teammates. BRATs learn early that they are part of something larger than themselves.
- c. BRATs are a quick study. Due to many moves and demands on the life of a BRAT, they learn to prioritize well. BRATs learn quickly to focus on the objective – the task at hand.
- d. BRATs value freedom. Living abroad makes one appreciate the freedoms we enjoy in the United States. BRATs are exposed to extensive travel, both domestically and internationally, and that experience highlights the differences and strengths of America. BRATs are part of families who “serve” their country – that service draws the connection between freedom and responsibility.
- e. BRATs value diversity. Living in various regions and cultures and learning a foreign language contributes immensely to different perspectives. BRATs are exposed to other races, ethnicities, and backgrounds and their thinking is strengthened by hearing different perspectives from people around them. BRATs learn early that diversity is a strength in an organization.

Rick Martin '77

Memories of a PK in Berlin – Berlin Corridor and Berlin Airlift

My father, Chaplain Chris Martin, was assigned to Tempelhof Air Base during 1973-1977. I was a PK – a “Preacher’s Kid.” As the son of a Chaplain, I enjoyed watching my father engage people throughout the installation. Chaplain Martin was also a former Air Force pilot, so he was particularly effective at being a “flight line” Chaplain. Chaplain Martin loved to associate with the aviators as they transited Tempelhof. Flying the Berlin corridor from West Germany required a special qualification, so only very select aircrew were able to fly the Berlin missions and Chaplain Martin got to know many of them very well. In fact, many of these associations and friendships had a positive effect on me joining the Air Force and pursuing a flying career. Chaplain Martin also served with Col Gail Halverson, the famed “Candy Bomber” of the Berlin Airlift of 1948-49 and Tempelhof Base Commander in the early 1970s. Interestingly, not only did Chaplain Martin serve with Col Halverson in the early 1970s, but my wife and I flew C-9s with Col Halvorson’s son, Robert, at Scott AFB near St Louis in the late 1980s. This friendship with the Halvorson family grew over the years and we’ve enjoyed seeing Col Halvorson, who is 93 years young, at various military events around the world and hearing him tell great stories of the Berlin Airlift and what that city represented to Freedom and allied teamwork. These themes were highlighted in a children’s book entitled “Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot.” Mercedes was a young German girl who lived in West Berlin and made a point to catch as many of the chocolate parachutes as possible. As years passed, Mercedes eventually developed a friendship with her “chocolate pilot” – Col Gail Halverson. In the book, Mercedes said Col Halvorson and the Allies delivered more than food and coal to the city, they delivered HOPE! Berliners’ confidence in the West grew as the world united to prevent the Soviet blockade from isolating the people of Berlin.

An Eagle Scout in Berlin

I had the privilege of being in the same troop with the Orbock family and having Lt Col Ed Orbock as our Scoutmaster. The year was 1976 and under his leadership we planned and executed a first-ever Berlin Camporee. Over 500 Scouts from around West Germany and Europe attended. The logistics were a challenge with the Duty Train and buses. Nonetheless, it was a tremendous success and included camping and Scout activities in the Grunewald, as well as tours of Berlin. I remember having a photo taken with the 500 Scouts on the steps of the old Reichstag Building near the Berlin Wall and Brandenburg Gate. It was bizarre to return to Berlin in 2000 and have a photo on the steps of the newly reconstructed Reichstag. It was also uncanny to be staying in the new hotels near Checkpoint Charlie in center of former East Berlin. I recall construction going on in every block of this new vibrant, German capital.

Golfing in Berlin

I learned to golf at the American Golf Course near the Wannsee not far from Potsdam. It was not uncommon for high-schoolers who were learning to golf to hit an “errant” ball off the tee box in the direction of the East German guard towers. To this day I’m surprised we didn’t have more “international” incidents after provoking the guards with “errant” tee shots!

Thanks for the opportunity to share a few thoughts for the Berlin BRATS Book.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Reunion in November 2014!

BRATs Rock!

Rick Martin ‘77

Triple Whammy

Larry Speer '83

Sometimes military brats have trouble answering the question "Where are you from?" As a 17 year old freshman at the US Air Force Academy, I never had trouble with it. "Berlin" was always my quick answer. Of course the explanation took a little longer, but it was obvious after I explained I lived in Berlin three separate times growing up. I spent my last three years at Berlin American High School as a member of the class of 1983. Even then we were all aware enough to realize our years spent in the divided city were unique and our experiences made us just a bit more worldly than the average bear. Being a military brat didn't really set me apart at a military academy, but I quickly learned that most kids didn't have any idea what it was like to have lived overseas. As an example, many new 18 year old cadets were newly legal to drink 3.2 beer according to Colorado law back then. I realized I had a head start in the beer department!

The second part of my triple whammy was being a zoomie. Zoomie is a term for a cadet or a graduate of USAFA. Being a zoomie is a strong identity trait and provides for great rivalries with our brothers and sisters from West Point and Annapolis. Being a zoomie and a military brat certainly was not a unique circumstance at the academy or out in the real AF. I soon realized I had a third trait that I thought made me one of a kind.

I'm also a PK, a preacher's kid. My Dad was the brigade chaplain at McNair 1969-1972. The stereotypical PK is precocious and perhaps wayward. I never thought of myself as that, but being a PK isn't very common. It wasn't until 2001 that I met another triple whammy.

The Berlin Brat reunion was in Wichita that year. We were all on buses after attending a land dedication for the American Overseas Schools Historical Society. I was discussing my triple whammy status with Jeri Glass in the back of the bus. After I explained what I meant she pointed to the gentleman sitting right next to me. It was then Colonel Frederick H. "Rick" Martin. It turns out that Rick is also a PK, is also a Berlin Brat and a zoomie! Up until that moment I had never met another triple whammy and I haven't met another one since.

As Berlin Brats we are honored to claim anyone among our own, but Major General Rick Martin is one who has met with more success than most. It was a great privilege to share the stage with him at a pinning on ceremony for Lt Col Michelle Estes at the 2012 reunion in Washington DC.

Surprisingly, I also paired up with General Martin (his first name will always have to be General to me) on a shuttle ride from the hotel to the airport after the reunion in Phoenix in 2009. It seems we are somehow drawn together by forces greater than ourselves all around the world. The fact that we are also both pilots could make for a quadruple whammy, but I'll leave it at triple for now.

London????



Where did you go for your Senior Trip??
Please write in to: BerlinBrats@gmail.com
We're compiling the List for each school year!
Don't forget to give us your Class Year!!!



Amsterdam?????

A 2005 reminiscence of John T. Wynn '56 (born '38) of Berlin in 1946

My father had preceded us to Germany as a "manpower specialist" in the Occupational Military Government - US known as OMGUS. When we received notification that we were to join him in Berlin, we (my mother and we three brothers) were living in Dallas, Texas. We received all the necessary inoculations (how very, very many!) from the Public Health Service prior to our driving to New York to board the ship for the trip to Germany. My aunt drove my mother and my two brothers and I to the New York military Port of Embarkation to board the General C.C. Ballou en route to Bremerhaven.



Pleasantly I remember having the privilege of going to see Finnian's Rainbow on Broadway prior to our departure - my aunt had attended Columbia in

the early '30's and had some familiarity with New York. As an aside, I especially remember the Murphy bed that pulled down out of the wall in our hotel room, the excitement of eating at the Automat, and of course the obligatory Empire State building tour and a visit to Chinatown - truly very heady stuff for an eight year old kid from Texas!

Boarding the General C. C. Ballou it seems as though there may have been a problem with our priority? I think we were first berthed below decks separated from my mother and then subsequently moved to a stateroom on the boat deck? (The lowest deck below which there were no open railings to the sea). The crew was nice, sharing bottled COKE! - a commodity considered unusual and almost rare, I think.

The crossing was exciting. We - my older and younger brother - played in the upper deck lounge which had as furnishings, large leather (plastic ?) covered loungers that had glides permitting us to "race" the heavy chairs by sliding on the linoleum from one side to the other as the ship rolled from side to side almost violently. Friendly seamen fashioned rope harnesses to be tied to my younger brother for his safety while on the deck during the heavy seas.

As we approached the English Channel, we apparently passed through a very heavy weather front that caused the ship to roll severely from side-to-side permitting seawater to come into the interior passage way. The stateroom door jammed. The rope which had secured the metal crib to the bunks in the stateroom came loose and allowed the crib - complete with my younger brother - to wheel freely about the cabin. We unscrewed the lower part of the louvered door in time to see a sailor sloshing down the passage way tying on his life vest and telling us to stay in our cabin!

The next morning we surveyed the damage to the ship. At least one of the large cork/canvas life rafts had come loose and was dangling by a few ropes. A small life boat had come loose at one end and had smashed into the superstructure of the upper decks. We were a real wreck in the eyes of a small child who thought this was terribly exciting!

Arriving in Bremerhaven, we were met by my father who escorted us to what I think was a genuine Wagonlit sleeper car for the nighttime trip to Berlin.

My next memory was of the Christmas tree at our 61A Im Dol Strasse home. The tree had small candles (not lights!) on the branches. There were of course many presents including a train set and so on.

Attending the dependents school was exciting also. There was a fairly large gymnasium with one wall covered with wooden bars/rods running the length and used apparently for exercises of some sort. We merely climbed up and down on them. From this room we were sorted into classes. Our desks were fixed to the floor in rows and resembled the standard school rooms which we had left behind in Texas.

Memories of school trips are sketchy. It seems as though we were given transportation in vans/ambulances marked with the standard Red Cross. We would sit in rows against the walls. If there was any co-mingling with small German children (?) there was a great reluctance for these other children to board the enclosed ambulances until the dependent children got in!

We had a piano teacher who came to the house for lessons which continued into the Spring of '47. There was an apparent polio scare which terminated the piano lessons. We then seemed to have minimal contact with others. I remember in particular the German barber who would come to the house with his hand-operated hair clippers which invariably painfully pulled my hair. When the barber would arrive, he would click his heels, bow slightly in greeting and was most polite!

There were no standing trees in the Tiergarten. Most of the downtown Berlin streets were impassable with rubble. We would approach an intersection and have to look down the street to determine if it was passable. It seems as though there were a large number of DPs on the streets cleaning and stacking bricks. For many Germans, transportation was by charcoal powered trucks/vehicles with a hopper mounted behind the cab of the vehicle, unusual three-wheeled conveyances with sort of a ratcheting steering front wheel from time-to-time and of course bicycles every where. While there were signs at intersections identifying which of the four zones we were entering or leaving, there were no physical barriers or checkpoints to pass through. At night, uniformed US MPs with white helmets patrolled our neighborhood on foot.

The black market was incredible. Germans would pass by the house with prized possessions in hand wagons offering them for barter for especially coffee and/or cigarettes. Army tins of peanut butter and other food items were also sought after commodities. A special treat was the infrequent arrival of real milk from the commissary flown in from Denmark (?).

Sundays were special when we got to go to Truman Hall for lunch. There would usually be a piano, violin and cello playing classical music. By the same token, the infrequent visits to General Clay's office area was exciting with the entry into a walled and gated parking courtyard.

We were required to have a cook, a maid, and a fireman for the coal fired heating system in the basement located at the opposite end of the house from the bomb shelter below the kitchen. We felt safe going anywhere on our bicycles. The colonel next door had a son about my age; both he and I once wandered too far on our bicycles on the far side of a large lake in the late afternoon; we were eventually picked up by a Russian weapons carrier - bicycles and all - and driven home with no fan fare! One poignant event took place when a German woman with a disfigured child spat at me and my friend. She was standing on a street corner and we were on bicycles. At this age I had mastered German to the extent that I often served as a translator for the family in general; I recall that the woman was angry and she held us indirectly responsible for the wartime injuries to her child.



Despite the admonitions especially of our mother, we would scour ruins for abandoned weaponry to play with not realizing the dangers to which we were foolishly exposing ourselves. Grease guns had a clattering sound sort of like tin. Anything we brought home would be confiscated and disposed of quickly never to be seen again. Fortunately we never played with live ammunition!

Although we traveled by car out of Berlin from time to time without severe restrictions, we apparently did have to have travel orders. Our final departure from Berlin was marked by the necessity to travel in a sanctioned Red Cross caravan on the Autobahn en route to Frankfurt - things must have finally become so strained that we were no longer 'welcomed' by the Russians. The process must have taken a while because we were packed up by army transportation which constructed fairly heavy wooden shipping crates and cushioned fragile contents with excelsior.

Pssst! Pssst! Did you Hear?

It's Here!

What's Here?

We are excited to announce the 2014 Berlin Brat Reunion Scholarship Award Application and Information packet is currently available. Completed application packages are due by October 1, 2014 by land or by virtual mail. Information and Application packets were sent to Class Contacts in June 2014 to share with their classmates, please let us know if you did not receive one in your email or prefer one be mailed to you. The packet can be downloaded from www.berlinbrats.org or emailed or mailed by request to berlinbrats.scholarship@gmail.com. If you are still not sure if you or your loved one is eligible after reading the Information packet or have questions on the application? Send us an email at berlinbrats.scholarship@gmail.com. We would love to answer your questions!

There are a few enhancements to the program for this round of awards that may not pertain to the next offering.

- The awardee must still maintain Berlin Brat lineage as outlined in the Information packet and must have a "Berlin Brat Sponsor" if the applicant is not a Berlin Brat themselves; however, the Berlin Brat or Berlin Brat Sponsor is encouraged, not required, to attend the reunion in Berlin in November 2014. This change is for this current reunion awards only due to the cost of the trip and the timing of the reunion during the active school calendar.
- Previous winners may not re-apply for an award for the same educational program.

Currently the Scholarship Fund is funded by private donations only and we appreciate each dollar donated.

In an effort to continue to grow the program and make a difference to our community, we currently have a need for a Scholarship Fund Campaign Manager. This person will setup and execute online crowdfunding campaigns and/or an online silent auction this Fall prior to the reunion. This is a great way to be part of this amazing "Pay It Forward" initiative and invest in our Berlin Brats community. So, if health, financial, family or other things prohibit you from attending the reunion, please consider this a means to being involved! If you are interested and would like more details, please contact Jeri Glass (berlinbrats@gmail.com).

We are looking forward to receiving another round of remarkable application packages highlighting our scholars and servant leaders which will continue to grow this program to new dimensions!

The Scholarship Committee

Deb (Brians) Clark '74
Jenni (Hewitt) Shaw '85
Michelle Estes '90

Scholarship Awards - due to logistics we will not be having an on site Silent Auction and Raffle this year. With this being our normal method of funding, (this reunion) we are instead asking for "donations" from ALL our Brats, whether one can or can not be in attendance. There is a contribution line on the Registration Form or you can mail in your donation separately, payable to the: "Berlin Brats Scholarship Fund"

Mail to:

**Berlin Brats
41910 N. Crooked Stick Road
Anthem, AZ 85086**

THE BERLIN BRATS REUNION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

In light of these challenging economic times and in an effort to continue to encourage further educational pursuits, the Berlin Brats Alumni Association has created the Reunion Scholarship Award. The third set of awards will be presented at the All Class and Faculty reunion in Berlin Germany in November 2014. The intent of this award is to further the success of the Berlin Brat lineage.

ELIGIBILITY

The Berlin Brats Reunion Scholarship Award is available to the following persons:

- A Berlin Brat and their dependents (children, grandchildren or spouse)
- A faculty (teacher or administration) member and their dependents (children, grandchildren or spouse)

The sponsoring and named Berlin Brat is *encouraged* to attend the 2014 Reunion in Berlin Germany from November 8-11, 2014. For reunion registration information, please see www.berlinbrats.org or contact Jeri Glass at berlinbrats@gmail.com.

PROFILE OF A CANDIDATE

What does a potential recipient look like?

- A Berlin Brat who is pursuing a postsecondary educational degree and has been accepted to a fully accredited college, university or technical/vocational educational institution.
- A descendent of a Berlin Brat (child or grandchild) who is pursuing a postsecondary educational degree and has been accepted to a fully accredited college, university or technical/vocational educational institution.
- A spouse of a Berlin Brat who is pursuing a postsecondary educational degree and has been accepted to a fully accredited college, university or technical/vocational educational institution.
- A faculty member who is pursuing a postsecondary educational degree and has been accepted to a fully accredited college, university or technical/vocational educational institution.
- A descendent of a faculty member (child or grandchild) who is pursuing a postsecondary educational degree and has been accepted to a fully accredited college, university or technical/vocational educational institution.
- A spouse of a faculty member who is pursuing a postsecondary educational degree and has been accepted to a fully accredited college, university or technical/vocational educational institution.
- A Berlin Brat/faculty member or spouse who is pursuing a higher set of training or certification in their career field.

PAST SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

2009 was the start of our Scholarship Program. Each Reunion cycle (typically every 3 years) we will continue to accept applications, evaluate them via committee and announce our winners at the Reunion Banquet.

Below we thought you might like to see and read about our past award recipients!
From 2009 and 2012 they are:

In 2009, nearly \$2,000 in scholarships was awarded to three outstanding scholars and servant leaders. The Scholarship Fund was solely funded by private donations and the Silent Auction held on site during the reunion.

Name: Marc Bullock
Berlin Lineage: Son of Donna (Berry) Bullock '65
Berliner Years: 1961-1963
Awardee's High School Graduation Year: 2006

Committee Impressions: Marc's package was that of a student with clear career and educational goals with dual degrees, one obtained internationally. Having started working at the age of 14 and with an impressive resume already in his back pocket at the age 21, this student aims to be the best in the uber-competitive field of real estate. Marc's understanding of a Berlin Brat as "a person who has made a connection, shared a memory or lived a moment in life with another person in a similar situation". He is the kind of person who will leave you with the feeling of "money well invested".

Name: Jessica Bee
Berlin Lineage: Daughter of Kim (Graves) Bee '77
Berliner Years: '74-'77

Committee Impressions: Jessica's package was the complete package. It was well thought out and you felt like you knew her personally when you were done reading her essay. Her philanthropic commitments to Relay for Life and the youth and the seniors of our society are commendable but what really touched us was she got it. She knows what it means to be a Berlin Brat and as such she is an "ambassador" for the Berlin Brats. We trust Jessica will use this scholarship to continue her education and the ROI will be triple-digits as she attains her dreams of becoming a brilliant research scientist at the CDC.

Name: Nathan Lowe
Berlin Lineage: Son of Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83
Berliner Years: 1980-1983

Committee Impressions: Nathan's package was the fresh start package. The young freshman entering his first official year of college. Wide-eyed and full of anticipation, we believe in his dream of earning a medical degree and practicing Psychiatry and believe he fully understand the time, emotional and financial commitment that career path requires. His commitment to his church and furthering the beliefs of the youth of the church are paramount to the core of who Nathan Lowe is. His understanding of what a Berlin Brat is "about never forgetting a special and proud time and place in our nation's history. It is about the love not only of the people but of the culture of Berlin".

In 2012, nearly \$5,000 in scholarships was awarded to four outstanding scholars and servant leaders. The Scholarship Fund was solely funded by private donations and the Silent Auction held on site during the reunion.

Name: Wendy Stiver
Berlin Lineage: Berlin Brat
Berliner Years: 1986-1990
Awardee's High School Graduation Year: 1990

Committee Impressions: We awarded our first Brat scholarship (versus dependent)... from the class of 1990, a Lieutenant on the Dayton Police force, who is pursuing a masters in Criminal Justice. She works the night shift, and supervises other cops on the night beat in the most violent area of Dayton and has earned the up most respect from her peers and supervisors.

Name: Heidi Martin
Berlin Lineage: Daughter of Frederick H. (Rick) Martin '77
Berliner Years: 1973-1977

Committee Impressions: a hard-working young lady, active in her church and the Girl Scouts, earning the exclusive Gold Award in leadership, with a 4.0 average (all years so far in college), while working a part-time job. We determined she just never sleeps to accomplish all she has already, and what she plans to take on in her future

Name: Hannah (Liz) Jordan
Berlin Lineage: Daughter of Billy Joe Jordan '76
Berliner Years: 1975-1977

Committee Impressions: a talented young lady, a dual major candidate, on the President's honor roll, with a goal to graduate debt-free, her definition of a Brat was spot-on: "Being a Berlin Brat means you have thousands of family members, scattered all across the world that would be willing to do almost anything for you. They feel the connection with one another just as intensely from thousands of miles away as they do when they are sitting next to one another, celebrating the times they shared in past years."

Name: Chris DeVilbiss
Berlin Lineage: Son of Melvin L. DeVilbiss '71
Berliner Years: 1967-1970

Committee Impressions: We also awarded a scholarship to an upcoming scientist whose specialty is the earth's energy forces, and we were blown away by how smart he is! He plans to use the scholarship to study in Italy under an infamous mathematician and scientist in the study of a new mathematics called fractional incipient calculus.... It all conjures up the image of Da Vinci Code.

Will your name or the name of your child be one of the recipients of a Reunion Scholarship Award in 2014? You can make it happen! Download a Scholarship Application Packet now at www.berlinbrats.org.

BERLIN BRATS REUNION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

SECTION 1: APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Fill out the application form completely.
- 2) Submit a current resume or official school transcript.
- 3) Attach enrollment verification received from Awardees educational institution. Please note, the Berlin Brats Alumni Association cannot request enrollment verification.
- 4) Attach two letters of recommendation; one must be from a supervisor, faculty member, coach or other individual knowledgeable with applicants' qualifications on company or educational facility letterhead. Family members are ineligible to write letters of recommendation.
- 5) Mail completed application with all attachments to:

Berlin Brats Scholarship Committee
7788 Preservation Court
Midland, GA 31820

You may also email complete application packages (in Adobe Reader Format) to berlinbrats.scholarship@gmail.com.

Complete application packages must be postmarked or emailed by October 1, 2014.

- 6) Encourage your Berlin Brat to register and attend the 2014 Reunion.

BERLIN BRATS REUNION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

SECTION 2: DISCLOSURE INFORMATION AND AGREEMENT

I hereby confirm that I am a Berlin Brat and that _____
(qualified applicant name) meets the eligibility requirements for *The Berlin Brats Reunion Scholarship Award* listed below.

(Berlin Brat's Full Name to include Maiden) (Class of ?) (Yrs in Berlin ie:'80-'84)

By submitting this application, I am authorizing, The Berlin Brats Alumni Association, and any of its Scholarship Committee Members, to verify any and/or all information provided on the application. In addition, the Scholarship Committee may disclose any and/or all information submitted on the application to a third party as deemed necessary, for purpose of facilitating the application process. This may be done with or without first obtaining permission.

I understand that should the qualified applicant become an Awardee, The Berlin Brats Alumni Association, will reserve all rights and privileges to display my name and the Awardee name, testimonial, and/or photo or image likeness on their website and Newsletter or in any manner the Berlin Brats Alumni Association deems necessary.

I/we understanding all essays, testimonials, photos, etc submitted to The Berlin Brats Alumni Association, will not be returned, but shall remain the sole and exclusive property of The Berlin Brats Alumni Association.

I/We understand that *The Berlin Brats Reunion Scholarship Award* is available to the Awardee even if the Berlin Brat or faculty member is not present at the 2014 Reunion.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature, if applicable: _____

Applicants Signature: _____

Date Submitted: _____

BERLIN BRATS REUNION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

SECTION 3: PERSONAL APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Country: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____ Best Time to Reach Applicant: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Career Field of Interest:

SECTION 4: ESSAY

The following answers may be submitted via separate and clearly marked attachments.

- 1) In 500 words or less, clearly explain how this scholarship will assist you in achieving your educational goals. Essays MUST be typed or written neatly and submitted with completed application form.
- 2) If selected, what type of educational program would you attend? Please provide specific dates, locations, and expenses.
- 3) List what education you have to date.
- 4) Explain what a "Berlin Brat" means to you.
- 5) Explain your philanthropic views and your contributions to your community.
- 6) Is there anything that you would like to share with the committee?

Taste of Berlin heads South

By Deb "Brians" Clark BAHS '74

I never get tired of hearing stories about how us Brats find connections to our Berlin "roots" in the strangest places. Ah...the irony!

At a business lunch outing on a recent Wednesday at a Cuban restaurant in Charlotte, my customer and I not only discussed business, but as often happens during these lunches, we drifted off topic and discussed food! Charlotte, being the 16th largest city in the nation, is home to numerous restaurants of all types, from the usual Mexican, Italian, and Asian, to the more unusual Indian and Ethiopian.

We even have a South African grocery store! As large as Charlotte is, and with several German companies who have relocated here, we wondered why there is just one German restaurant. My customer spoke up and said, "Well, you know...there is a German food truck".

I didn't think much about it, and soon we were talking business again.

And then the irony began.....

After that Wednesday lunch, I followed up with the customer on Friday around 10 AM, and happened to ask more about the German food truck. He replied, "It's called the Berlin Grill".

I almost fell off of my chair! So I went to the Berlin Grill website (www.berlingrill.com) where they post their daily locations, and couldn't believe their food truck had a great logo of the Brandenburg Gate.

OK – cool truck, but is the food good, or even close to being authentic?

This was a challenge for the Berlin Brats who reside in Charlotte, to check it out. So, Friday at 10:45 AM, I sent out an email blast to the local Brats and told them about the truck.



Two hours later, two Brats were on the scene and sent a photo, and posted on Facebook.

We agreed to meet the following Wednesday so more of us could attend.

And the irony.....when I went online to see where the food truck would be located on that Wednesday (keep in mind the location changes daily), I discovered their location was in the parking lot of the customer who had originally told me of this food truck! And....that was the first time the food truck had parked in that location.

The Berlin Brats met at the Berlin Grill food truck, and I introduced them to my customers, John Froeb and Nicholas Hand of Parker Hannifin, and they were so kind to pose for a photo with us. The food offerings that day were schnitzel, bratwurst, currywurst (their specialty...of course!), sauerkraut, fried potatoes, and lamb "donner" (grilled lamb in a pita with sauce).

All three of us Brats in attendance got the schnitzel.

It was absolutely "ausgezeichnet"!

We couldn't believe it was "food truck" food.



L to R:

Nicholas Hand, Carl Fenstermacher, BAHS '73, Deb Clark, BAHS '74, John Froeb, Bryan Duckett, BAHS '84 (and special shout out to Ryan Nelson, Parker Hannifin, who took our photos!)



So, the next time you are at a business lunch and the conversation turns from business to food.....pay attention, as you may discover a Berlin connection!

Charlotte, NC Gets a Buddy Bear

thought to be the first Buddy Bear in the U.S.

Celebrating with Buddy Bear in Uptown Charlotte today June 10th

Today is Big "Buddy Bear" Day!

It's a big day for many people in Charlotte ... a big day for the bond between Germany (in particular Berlin) and Charlotte ... and of course a BIG DAY for Berlin Grill. We have the absolute honor to serve our Brats, Currywurst and Lamb Kebab during the unveiling ceremony of "Buddy Bear" and we are super excited and thankful.

The Berlin Grill contacted Deb to let her know they would be at the Mecklenburg Library to celebrate the unveiling of the Buddy Bear that just arrived in Charlotte. Deb could not make the trip downtown, but Ellen (Morphis) Citarella '73 attended.



Ellen (Morphis) Citarella '73

Charlotte, NC was named after Queen Charlotte, who had connections to the Mecklenburg region of Germany, her birthplace.

The artist Sharon Dowell, painted a representation of Queen Charlotte on the Buddy Bear, dogwood flowers (state flower of NC and binary numbers to represent technological advances that make the global connections between Germany and Charlotte possible. She painted the bear in Berlin and it was then shipped to Charlotte.



Says Ellen: Joseph and I went downtown and had a great time! We enjoyed a Currywurst, chatted with Hans about the Berlin Grill truck, checked out the Buddy Bear then just messed around downtown like we used to in the summers when Joseph was a little boy. What a fun and unexpected Tuesday afternoon!



On the Verge of Creating an International Incident

It was a little kept secret fact that a number of members of the Class of '65 (as well as some of the other classes) were in the habit of sampling the cross-cultural pleasures to be found at the NAAFI (Navy, Army, Air Force Institute) Club in the British Sector. As I recall, the British military members enjoyed very low cost potables. Though drinks had to be paid for in paper script at the time, a pint of lager was something like four pence (could that possibly be true?) We also consumed great quantities of mixed drinks called the James Bond and the Pimms # something or another cocktail. The NAAFI was an interesting place to try to practice being an inoffensive American teenager while surrounded by British troops. It also offered the advantage of being off the beaten paths likely to be used by coaches. Several dollars were more than adequate to exchange for British script and to get fairly well lubricated in an evening and still have enough money for the return U-Bahn trip to Dalhem.

On one ill fated occasion as our time in Berlin was winding down, I pointed out the large Union Jack flag flying from the roof of the NAAFI building as we crossed over from the U-Bahn stop and I carelessly said "That flag will be mine tonight!" At the end of the evening, I could only convince one other cohort of the vital necessity of going after that prize. We rode the elevator to the top floor, found a stairway to the roof, mounted it and found another stairway to the top of a smaller platform where the actual flagpole was located. It was pretty frightening going to the top because the Brits, proud as they are of their standard, had it illuminated with spotlights. Also, that flag was huge and it looked so normal sized from many floors below on the street!

I detached the flag after lowering it more rapidly than the traditional slow drop at the end of the day and quickly rolled it up into a ball that I could stick under my letter jacket. Remember when I said that it was really huge? There was not going to be room for both Ross and the Union Jack inside my letter jacket so I respectfully as I could under the circumstances dropped the balled up flag over the side of the roof to the ground many floors below. Do you know what a parachute looks like when it unfurls during a descent? That flag was draped across the shrubbery for many square meters of (respectful) display.

We quickly reentered the top floor, took stairs down several flights, took an elevator back up a flight and, then another elevator down several flights, etc. so as to be able to fool absolutely nobody, probably. We emerged on the ground floor trying our best to look inconspicuous as we left the building. Amazingly, the flag was still draped and more amazingly, various passers by paid it no attention at all. I re-balled the flag, leapt over hedge works and beat a hasty retreat for the U-Bahn station while stuffing the flag inside my jacket (which I had to carry under my arm after snapping it closed.) I guess I looked a bit like a ventriloquist carrying a chubby and headless dummy. I arrived home with my prize and had to hide it in our basement party room. It was large enough to drape down the one wall, cross the floor and go all the way up the opposite wall. Various friends, who listened respectfully to the whole saga of its liberation, admired it. My parents usually avoided that party room, as it was a "kids' place." But my dad was quite proud of what I had done with a Sousaphone that he had bought at a property disposal sale. I had mounted a flashing, red light down inside the large brass bell of the horn. I had additionally strung some wire up through the missing valve and attached a small speaker to the other end so that music could play from my Symphonie jukebox upstairs and actually emit from the weird, flashing instrument. On the occasion of the last party that my parents held before our pack out, I heard my dad ask another Lt. Col. to come and see what his crazy kids had done downstairs. I panicked because the other man was on the Allied Staff and, if anyone could have heard about the disappearance of the gigantic Union Jack, it would have been this man! With highball glasses in hand, they went to the basement and grinned bemusedly at the whole room, being careful to walk respectfully over the part of the flag that lay on the floor and... I survived to tell the tale!

Ross Calvert '65

Special Remembrance of the Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift

(article translated by Deb "Brians" Clark, BAHS '74)

May 11, 2014 - Friends of the Gail S. Halvorsen School, located in Zehlendorf, invited 100 U.S. and British veterans of the Berlin Airlift, to a luncheon prepared by star chef, Tim Raue, and served by the students to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift. The program for the veterans, sponsored by several Berlin clubs, institutions, and churches, included a public "welcome barbeque" and worship service.

The District 9 secondary school was renamed last summer to Gail S. Halvorsen school, after the American Air Force pilot (famed "Candy Bomber") with their motto being, "Freedom, Responsibility, and Friendship". Gail Seymore Halverson started his candy mission by dropping small handkerchiefs of candy out of his airplane, during his many missions to bring food and supplies into Berlin during the Airlift. His actions triggered a groundswell of support and soon Halverson and his crew were dropping 425 pounds of candy daily to the children of Berlin.

In addition to the luncheon, and public "welcome barbeque", and a public worship service at the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, presided by Pastor Dr. Kulawik, the veterans also visited the Allied Museum on Clayallee.

May 12, 2014 marked the 65th anniversary of the end of the Berlin Airlift, and 54 retired U.S. Air Force veterans who participated in the Airlift – pilots, navigators, engineers, crew chiefs, maintenance men, radio repair men, supply men – and their families came to Berlin to celebrate this anniversary.



Wreaths being placed at the Airlift Memorial - Tempelhof



Veteran Johnny Macia. Below receives hug from Mercedes Wild



Many had traveled to previous anniversaries in Berlin, but this was special because it was the last time many of these veterans would come together. "We are all not so fit," says Childs. The 94-year-old is confident that he will not live to see the 70th anniversary. "I leave today from Berlin. Forever," he says. The return for the former soldiers is very emotional.

"It's touching how grateful the people here are still," says Johnny Macia from California. 85 now, he was a mechanic at the air bridge. "People say we are heroes. Doing so, we just did our jobs." Mercedes Wild thinks quite differently. "We owe these people our lives without them we would have starved," says the 73-year-old. Wild ran during the Berlin Blockade as many kids had to the airport Tempelhof, in the hope that the "Candy Bomber" would again throw candy. As a seven-year-old girl at the time she did not receive any of the candy bars because "The guys were always faster than me," says Wild. So she wrote a letter to the unknown "Candy Bomber in Tempelhof". Would he please even once throw a parachute over her house in Friedenau - the one with the white chickens in the garden. She met Halvorsen in 1972 at a ceremony in Tempelhof, the pilot remembered her letter. The two are friends to this day.

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Chef Tim Raue, is the son-in-law of Mercedes Wild and prepared the luncheon at no charge as a favor to Mercedes and because Col. Halverson was like a second father to Mercedes daughter Marie-Anne (his wife)

Care packages were prepared by the students for the veterans. A Berlin Chocolate Bear, seeds of dandelions in a bag with the inscription "Berlin plant" and a poem in English along with a handwritten letter.



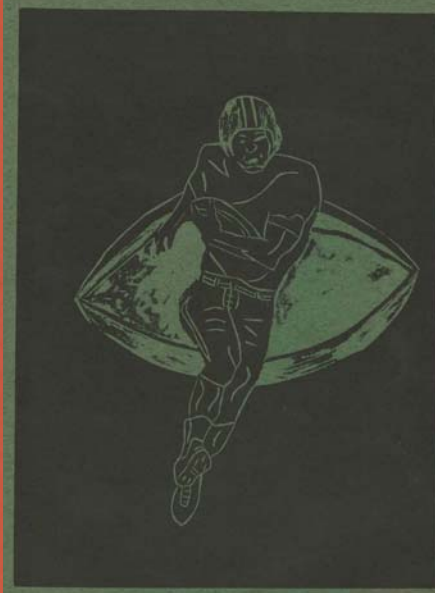
8th Grade

Robert Motley



10th Grade

Margaret Mattingly



9th Grade

Matthew Schneider

More student artwork from the 1970 School Calendar: July, August & September featured here

ARE REUNIONS A THING OF THE PAST????

Maybe going to my reunion would allow me to unplug from social networks and interact with people in the pictures on my Facebook page. It also might allow a connection with someone I didn't know well in school, maybe make a new "old" friend. And you know, nothing beats a good hug from an old friend you haven't seen in years.

Upcoming Events:

August 10, 2014
Regional Get-together
Colorado Springs, CO
Hosted by Jeri '72

Nov 2014
November 2014 WurstFest
New Braunfels, Texas
The WurstFest
Hosted by Roo '73.

Next Reunion

Nov 8-11, 2014

BERLIN
2014

Contact Information:

Berlin Brats Alumni Association

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

BerlinBrats@gmail.com

Director: Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72

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

Newsletter Brat:
Toni (Yarbrough) Combs '71
traecombs@gmail.com

Early 60's Site

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

American Overseas School Historical Society

Contact: Tina Calo, President
email: tcalo@aoshs.org
Website: www.aoshs.org

Overseas Brats

Joe Condrill, President
Email: joeosbpres@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.overseasbrats.com

Volunteers Needed

On site for our 2014 Reunion.
Would you like to work Registration or
the Brat Store (PX)?
Email: Joyce (Clark) Mallon '72
at: jjjmall@aol.com
or: BerlinBrats@gmail.com