



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2009

NO. 9

GREETINGS

We were so pleased with the great turnout at our meeting at the Hoffbrau on February 21! Shelia Gibson and Klaus Driessen agreed to co-chair our organization this year and we thank them for that.

One important event we're all looking forward to this year is the special honoring of the Bad Königshofen – Arlington Sister Cities partnership at this year's **German Pioneer Ball**, sponsored by the Texas German Day Council in Irving on **October 10**. We have just learned that Mayor Cluck has received a letter from Bürgermeister Helbling expressing how delighted he and Bad Königshofen are to share this honor with Mayor Cluck and Arlington. Bürgermeister Helbling is confident that other Bad Königshofen citizens will be able to accompany him for the festivities here in October.

The Texas German Day Council is a cultural nonprofit organization founded specifically to celebrate German Day in Texas and to build bridges of understanding between Americans and Germans. The German Pioneer Ball takes place every October as a celebration of that day. The first official German Day in Texas was in 1963 and it has been marked annually since then by a proclamation by our state's Governor.

Discussion continues about Arlington having an annual German Christmas Market, but no

decisions have been made. We are hopeful, however.

We'll keep you posted on the October plans as well as other plans for this year, and our officers will be deciding soon when our next Friends meeting will be.

IN ARLINGTON

by Lynda Freeman

Nina Bayer, an exchange student from Ingolstadt, Germany and currently enrolled as a junior at Summit High School, has spent the last six months living in Arlington with Don and Karen Mullins, her Texas Family.

On a recent afternoon, I met Nina, Karen and Don for the first time. Nina is a bright and enthusiastic 17 year old, and after living in Arlington only six months, appears at ease with her New Family, the local pace, high school, TexMex, barbecue and all things Texan, and only slightly regrets that exchange students are not allowed to drive cars!

Nina's interest in becoming an exchange student was probably nurtured by her mother's experience as an exchange student, also during her high school years. Once Nina had made the decision, however, the application process through the Center for Cultural Interchange (CCI) was only the beginning. It took approximately 1½ years to process her application and select the best possible family with whom she would spend her seventeenth year abroad.

MORE ABOUT CCI

by Karen Mullins

Don and I were never blessed with children, so when we received a call two years ago from the Center for Cultural Interchange to host a student from France we were quite surprised. We jumped at the opportunity to share our home and Texas culture with a youthful inquisitive and adventurous teenager.

Fortunately during the past thirty years, my husband and I have enjoyed extensive world travel. We have been welcomed in many international homes and we have benefited from their gracious hospitality. During these travels we discovered many cultural differences and preferences, yet there were just as many pleasant surprising similarities.

The American way of life fascinates students worldwide. They are bombarded by it every day ...on TV, radio, the Internet, and they want to experience it first-hand. Once here, they are overwhelmed by the conveniences we take advantage of every day, such as shopping malls, discount and grocery stores, cultural festivals and sport activities. All speak English; however, living with an American family allows these students to fine tune their written and speaking skills. Some may even return home with a "Texas twang!"

Don and I have gained enormously from being a host family. We have developed lifelong friendships with talented students and their families. This year, we had the opportunity to host Nina, a 17 year old from Bavaria, Germany. She attends Summit High School in Mansfield. She speaks 5 languages (German, Latin, Spanish, Russian and English); and her favorite subjects are Physics and Math.

Each year, international high school students go through a rigorous background and educational review to meet the minimum qualifications to be placed with CCI. These students are eager to experience the chance to live with an American family for a few weeks in the summer, or up to a 10-month Academic High School Year.

In addition to the in-home program for high school students, CCI has successfully been placing college level international students with US employers for over 25 years. The **Work and Travel** program has 8000 English speaking talented university students possessing J-1 visas, who are available to work in the US from 4 to an 18 month period.

Most US employers are in the hospitality industry and utilize these skilled students in a wide variety of positions; such as

- bell desk
- business clerical support
- call center
- construction
- data entry
- facilities maintenance
- food and beverage services
- golf course attendant
- guest room attendant
- guest services
- information systems and technology
- landscaping services
- language interpreters
- sales and marketing to international clients

If you would like to learn more about hosting a high school exchange student or you have employment opportunities for international students contact Karen Mullins at 817.300.7835, or email her at mullinsd@sbcglobal.net.

IN BAD KÖNIGSHOFEN

by Martha Liehse

The City of Bad Königshofen **Annual Report for 2008** describes the active partnership and friendship with Arlington, with mention also of our "Friends of Bad Königshofen" group and our newsletter, which some of our friends in Bad Königshofen have already become familiar with. The visit by the students and teachers from Martin High School last July is also described.

For **Easter** every year in Bad Königshofen, a ladies' group decorates one of the fountains on the market square. This year's decorations were especially beautiful, as shown in this picture taken by photographer Regina Vossenkaul and appearing in the "Main-Post."



This year marks the **20th anniversary** of the opening of the German East/West border and many commemorative events are planned throughout Germany, especially in November. Bad Königshofen's local historical society has organized a series of presentations related to the events of 1989, with journalists, photographers and historians participating.

Bad Königshofen has adopted a **new slogan**, which you will no doubt see on your next visit to our Sister City:



Translated, it would read "Bad Königshofen . . . crowns your heart with happiness and well-being."

On May 26, Mr. Gary Nelson, Chairman of the Texas German Day Council, and Dr. Tillmann Hein, Co-Chairman, will be in Bad Königshofen and will meet with Bürgermeister Helbling and other Bad Königshofen citizens about the October 10 **German Day in Texas** festivities.

THINGS GERMAN

by Julia Burgen

Ferdinand Lindheimer, son of a merchant, was born in Frankfurt, May 21, 1802. He emigrated first to Illinois in 1834; then to Mexico and finally to Texas in 1836. While pursuing his passion in botany in the New Braunfels area, he earned the moniker "Father of Texas Botany," and rightfully so.

During his peak years collecting plants (1842 to 1852), he sent many specimens to George Engelmann, a friend from Frankfurt, who had also come to the United States, settling in St. Louis. Engelmann, a physician, was also a well-regarded amateur botanist. He was instrumental in establishing the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis in 1859.

Twenty-one species of plants carry Lindheimer's name, the most well known being *Lindheimera texana*, Texas Yellow Star, a lovely 5-star yellow springtime flower.



photo from Native American Seed Junction Texas

Texas Yellow Star has been seen in mixed wildflower fields at Veterans Park in April and at Tandy Hills Natural Area in East Fort Worth. Local nurseries do not carry the plant, but seed packets are available from Native American Seed in Junction, Texas.

See www.seedsource.com

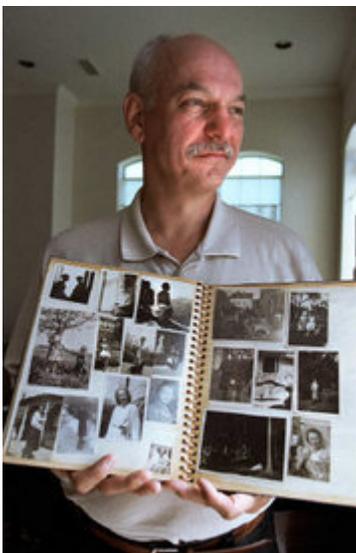
In 1852, as his active collecting career in botany wound down, he founded and was first editor of the earliest German newspaper in Texas, the *New Braunfelser Zeitung*. This newspaper survived for 100 years and was considered one of the leading journals in the German language in the United States.

Ferdinand Lindheimer died Dec.2, 1879 in his beloved adopted city of New Braunfels.

*Major source: *A Life Among the Texas Flora* : Ferdinand Lindheimer's Letters to George Engelmann, published in 1991, by Minetta Altgelt Goyne, UTA faculty, following ten years of research on the letters.

REFLECTIONS

What follows are excerpts from a story written by Diane Smith and carried in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. It features our Co-Chair Klaus Driessen's mother, Mati Driessen.



Klaus Driessen with a family photo album.

FORT WORTH — Adolf Hitler couldn't break the bond between Mati Driessen and Lilli Wolff. Driessen, a Christian, and Wolff, a Jew, were dear friends and co-workers, designing opera costumes in Cologne, Germany, as Hitler came to power in

the 1930s.

The two women ended up in Vienna, where Wolff had to live in a Jewish ghetto. But Wolff could leave the ghetto and visit Driessen during the day. She wore a specially designed dress that allowed her to conceal a Star of David when she wanted to ride the trolley.

When Wolff noticed that Jews were being taken, street by street, from the Vienna ghettos to work camps or death camps, she asked to stay with Driessen.

"My mother took her in and literally hid her for 4 1/2 years," said Klaus Driessen, Mati Driessen's son.

Wolff became ill while she was hiding. Mati exchanged identity papers with Wolff so she could go to the hospital, where no one questioned her even though they all knew she was borrowing an identity.

"Nobody said anything," said Klaus. "If either woman had been discovered, they would both have been sent to a concentration camp," he said.

For her actions, Mati Driessen is recognized as being one of the "Righteous Among the Nations." Documents and pictures belonging to these two women were donated to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and the Dallas Holocaust Museum.

(Editor's note: The title "Righteous Among the Nations" is granted on behalf of the State of Israel and the Jewish people to non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust.)

GERMAN ANYONE?

by Jim Stiebing

In English: "Welcome to Arlington"
Auf Deutsch: "Willkommen in Arlington"
Phonetic: "Vil ko' men in Arlington"

Two things to notice here are; the "w" is pronounced as a "v" and the "to" becomes "in" for a city.

NEWS

Newly Elected Officers for Friends of BK are:

Klaus Driessen and Shelia Gibson – Co-Chairs
Bruce Maxwell – Vice Chair
Ellen Brooke – Treasurer
Eric English – Secretary

NEWS FLASH

Mayor Robert Cluck has just received confirmation from Bürgermeister Thomas Helbling that he will be attending the German Pioneer Ball in early October. The Bürgermeister anticipates that several Bad Königshofen citizens will also attend.

Please contact Ellen Brooke in the Mayor/Council Office at 817 459-6143 if you would like to host a BK visitor or help in the planning for our guests.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Arlington Historical Society 's Preservation Celebration, "Preserving the Historic Heart of Arlington," is scheduled for May 15. For more information about this event call 817 460-4001 or visit www.arlingtonxhistoricalsociety.org

Levitt Pavilion begins its free summer concerts Wednesdays through Saturdays on May 30. B.J. Thomas kicks off the season with a benefit concert on May 29. For tickets to the benefit or for more information about the entire season go to www.levittpavilionarlington.org or call 817 543-4307.

CIRCLE THE DATES

April 18 - Arlington's newest library, Southwest Branch, 3311 S.W. W. Green Oaks Blvd. (between Bowen and Park Springs), now has a **Smartscape Garden** which will be the center of activities from 9 am to noon, including classes on landscaping for adults and a fair for children. To learn more about the event or to register for classes call 817 459-6628 or email Dustan.Compton@arlingtontx.gov

April 18 - Wildscape Plant Sale of Texas natives at the Randol Mill Park greenhouse. Proceeds benefit the Molly Hollar Wildscape at Veterans Park.

April 18 - River Legacy Living Science Center focuses on migratory birds with bird walks for all ages plus activities for children.

April 25 - Earth Day at Veterans Park, 11 am to 1 pm. Featuring nature walks, disc golf, arts and crafts, food. Also an opportunity to learn about certified Monarch Waystations. Event sponsored by the Arlington Park and Recreation Department.

May 9 - Election Day! Municipal Elections for Mayor & 4 City Council Members

Oct 10 - German Pioneer Ball

Oct 11 - Friends of BK Annual Picnic - BK Pavilion, SJ Stovall Park

Oct 12 - U2 Concert at Dallas Cowboys Stadium

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