



## NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2009

NO. 10

### GREETINGS

Your Executive Board has been very busy these past few months. We have been conducting monthly Executive Board meetings since our last May 2009 general membership meeting. July 25 we discussed the following issues that will be presented to the general membership at our Saturday, August 29, 2009 meeting:

**1. Forming a non-profit corporation.** We reviewed the certificate of formation, the bylaws of the Sister Cities program, a conflict of interest policy and other matters pertaining to the non-profit status. Our sincere thanks to Fred C. Weekley. Fred is an attorney with Shannon Gracey Ratliff & Miller, LLP. He has been helping us with this important next step to form the proposed Arlington Sister Cities organization.

**2. The October 10, 2009 German Pioneer Ball.** Arlington will be hosting a German delegation in October as Bad Königshofen is honored and recognized by the German Pioneer Ball in Irving. Everyone is invited. To obtain tickets you will need to sign up by August 29. Contact Ellen Brooke at [ellen.brooke@arlingtontx.gov](mailto:ellen.brooke@arlingtontx.gov) or 817/459-6143 for more information. (Also see Pioneer Ball article below.)

Please visit our updated website at: [www.arlingtontx.gov/sistercity/index.html](http://www.arlingtontx.gov/sistercity/index.html)  
We have lots of pictures and other information about the Arlington Sister Cities program.

And don't forget to mark your calendars now to attend our general meeting:  
**Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM.**

**Prespa's [Pasta Pizza Italian](http://www.prespas.com)  
3100 W Arkansas Lane # B, Arlington  
(817) 459-2775 [www.prespas.com](http://www.prespas.com)**

*Prespa's restaurant has offered to prepare a lasagna buffet lunch for us at \$7 per person, including, salad, bread, and drink. Remember, Prespa's is a BYOB restaurant, so feel free to bring your own bottle of wine to complement your meal.*

See you August 29 at 1 pm at Prespa's, and do bring with you a prospective new member for our Friends group!

Klaus and Shelia  
BK Co-Chairs

### GERMAN ANYONE?

*by Jim Stiebing*

In English: Good morning.  
Auf Deutsch: Guten Morgen.  
Phonetic: goo-ten mor-gen

In English: Good day.  
Auf Deutsch: Guten Tag.  
Phonetic: goo-ten tahk

English: Good evening.  
Auf Deutsch: Guten Abend.  
Phonetic: goo-ten ah-bent

# IN BAD KÖNIGSHOFEN

## The Bridge: 50th Anniversary Sister-City Project

by Celia Alvarez Munoz July, 2001



“The Bridge” is a public art monument executed during the summer of 2001 in Bad Königshofen, Franconia, Germany to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of a Sister-City partnership between Arlington, Texas, in the USA and the city of Bad Königshofen in Franconia, Germany. The project was spearheaded by Franconian artist Christine Wehe-Bamberger and former Arlington Museum of Art director, Joan Davidow. Eight artists were selected to participate in the project: four from Germany and four from Arlington. I was one of the Arlington artists.

The piece was developed in 16 days during a residency in Bad Königshofen. The challenge was educational, and extremely rewarding. Working in a foreign country with four artists we had never met was the highlight of the experience. The collaboration was extremely successful due to the group’s chemistry. All participants had experience in either higher education or public art, thus a professional and cooperative attitude was the operative.

One of my favorite aspects of the group was that it consisted of a generational cross section. The oldest artist, Fritz Toennieshen, had been a young German soldier and POW during WW II with both the Russians and

Americans. He escaped the former electing to be captured by the Americans. While a POW, he turned into “a tourist machine” (in his own words), meaning he earned money and rations by drawing and painting portraits and landscapes for Americans to send home. Since my dad is also a WW II vet that served in Germany, there was an instant bond with Fritz. The youngest, Eva Luna Warmuth, a strong young art educator/sculptor, in her early 30’s and of an agrarian family, was in the process of building a sizable studio/home made out of straw. Christine is a weaver/sculptor married to a supportive husband, Klaus, a physician. Both entertained and hosted the group of artists warmly. Peter Picciani was the 4th artist, an extremely talented and resourceful artist and sculptor, who had been a political activist musician for the right causes, before the Wall fell.

We were hosted by Lorenz and Anna and Oma. They owned a whole block including, a kino (movie theater), a miniature golf course, an arcade, and a rec-room. They lived above the kino.

In addition to the work process, R&R (research/recreation) trips to surrounding towns were scheduled. We celebrated daily in the most “spirited” of ways. It was hospitality at its best!

In addition, the citizens of Bad Königshofen demonstrated avid support by extending a very warm welcome. The project received earnest cooperation in contributions, services, material, and participation by all involved. Everyone looked forward to seeing the piece evolve, yet we were allowed ample privacy while wandering around exploring the small and lovely quaint town located in a resort region in Franconian wine country.

The process started with a visit to the site followed by several brainstorming sessions, leading to actual fabrication. We had the advantage of a starting point; the four German artists had fabricated and located a four-sided column on a hill in a city park across a creek overlooking a large boulder in a section designated as Arlington Park. The boulder

was clearly marked with a carved City of Arlington logo.

The brainstorming sessions took place in an ample lodge surrounded by trees and windows that served as studio space.

Initial activity included writing and drawing on butcher paper to establish a plan of approach and execution.

Elements considered were as follows:

1. Reason for Sister-City partnership and assistance post WW II.
2. The natural setting of two different land elevations separated by a body of water.
3. The notion of a union between two cities separated by an ocean.
4. The 4-sided column design with recessed rectangular areas.
5. The commonality of both cities.

Out of that grew the following broad concepts:

1. "Construction out of destruction."
2. "From darkness to light."
3. "A bridge."

Materials and process selected were the following:

Found broken bricks, concrete rubble and donated period crockery from the War era. These were cemented as a rough mosaic to the bottom layer of the column, representing the war period in Germany.

A sheet of lead was wrapped around the column serving as an interactive component. It was to be signed by viewers and represented the post-war period of Germany called "the leaden years."

Stainless steel sheeting covered about one-half of the column top with two fitted opposite sides and two bridged sides forming a cabled laced arch.

A map of Germany and of the state of Texas were outlined and cut on the one side of the column and the cities designated by a cut-out star on each map.

Glass mosaics were applied to three of the recessed areas; on the left side, a vertical numerical timeline in dark to light shades of blue commemorating the partnership years, a Bad Königshofen flag and the Arlington logo decorated two squares on the column's back side.

Native Bavarian stone and Texas Red granite filled the squares on the right side (one irregular Bavarian stone, one fitted Texas granite, and a combination of both stones in triangular smaller pieces filled the center square).

A bronze cast of thick laced rope wrapped around the bottom front of the column.

Lastly, a "time-capsule" was located at the foot of the column with the date, title and artists' names etched on a stainless steel cap.

The column's strength is its ordered complexity. It was most rewarding being a part of this memorable project. I thank the Sister-City Organization, the City of Bad Königshofen, the City of Arlington and The Arlington Museum of Art.

The Arlington artists were not present for the dedication, with the exception of Patty Sutherland, then residing in Italy. A post-project exhibition of work by the Arlington artists titled "The Holga in Germany: Photographs by Benito Huerta, Rachel Bounds, Celia Munoz, Jennifer Stark and Nicholas Wood" took place at The Vorgesichtsmuseum Grabfeldgau in Bad Königshofen, in June of 2002.

*Editors Note*

*In our November 2009 newsletter, Celia continues with the story of the 50th Anniversary reciprocal art project, "The International Peace and Friendship Monument" located in Gene Allen Park, next to the Arlington Museum of Art.*

## ALSO IN BAD KÖNIGSHOFEN

by Martha Liehse

### Fritz Toennieshen: Bad Königshofen Artist and a Friend of Arlington

We were saddened to learn that Bad Königshofen artist Fritz Toennieshen passed away on June 29.

Mr. Toennieshen was one of the eight artists (four from each city) who created the friendship monument in Bad Königshofen on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Sister Cities partnership in 2001. He also created three beautiful mosaics as a friendship gift to Arlington in 2003. He was unable to come to Arlington that year to work on the friendship monument in Gene Allen Park with the other Bad Königshofen and Arlington artists (this time, three from each city), so he sent his mosaics along with the artists from Bad Königshofen. The mosaics were installed at the entrance to the Bad Königshofen Family Aquatic Center in S.J. Stovall Park in 2006. One mosaic depicts Arlington, another Bad Königshofen, and the third shows the world, with tiles marking the location of the two Sister Cities.

This photo below shows Mr. Toennieshen (left) and then-Mayor Clemens Behr in May 2003 just after the mosaics had been completed.



Photo by Hanns Friedrich

Mr. Toennieshen was especially known for his watercolors and oil paintings, many of them depicting scenes in nature and also scenes in Bad Königshofen. He painted for over sixty years. He was born in 1925 in Erlangen (near Nürnberg) and moved to Bad Königshofen in 1950.

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## IN ARLINGTON

### The German Pioneer Ball

Preparations are continuing for the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual German Pioneer Ball, to be held on **October 10**. This year's Ball is special because the sponsor, the nonprofit Texas German Day Council, has chosen to honor the Arlington – Bad Königshofen Sister City partnership, following the Council's tradition of building bridges of understanding and friendship between Americans and Germans, while commemorating German Day in Texas. And it's special for us as well because we are expecting Bad Königshofen's Bürgermeister Helbling and other guests from our Sister City for the occasion.

See the Texas German Day Council's web site [www.germandayintexas.com](http://www.germandayintexas.com) for location and other details about the Pioneer Ball. Eight tables have been set aside for Arlington and Bad Königshofen attendees, but we will need to collect your payment for tickets for those tables at our meeting on August 29 at the latest. Your check should be made out to the **Texas German Day Council**, for \$60 per person. Payment for tickets after that date will not guarantee tickets for those particular tables.

For answers to questions you might have, contact Ellen Brooke or Martha Liehse. If you will not be able to make it to our August 29 meeting, be sure to drop by the Mayor's Office and give your check to Ellen Brooke before that date. (Members of the Texas German

Society can also give their checks to Martha Liehse at that group's Aug. 21 meeting.) This promises to be a wonderful event that we all will enjoy.

## A RECENT VISIT

*by Martha Liehse*

On May 26 the two Chairmen of the Texas German Day Council, Mr. Gary Nelson and Dr. Tillmann Hein, with their wives, were in Bad Königshofen to meet Bürgermeister Helbling and personally extend the invitation to him and other Bad Königshofen residents to attend the German Pioneer Ball on October 10 in Irving. Gerhard and I were able to be there the same day and also meet Bürgermeister Helbling and his wife and daughter. We all enjoyed lunch together at the Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten, just across the street from Arlington-Park.

As we all know, though, spending just one day in our wonderful Sister City is not enough, so Gerhard and I stayed a couple more days. On the second day of our visit, former Bürgermeister Clemens Behr took us, accompanied by Dagmar Lurz (the Bürgermeister's secretary), on a drive through the beautiful countryside of the Rhön region, just northwest of Bad Königshofen. He wanted to show us some successful development projects in the area as well as the wonderful scenery. The bright yellow rape plant fields were in bloom as well as fields of elderberry.

He drove us first to a village by the name of Wechterswinkel, where we were able to admire the wonderful workmanship in a newly restored three-story building, originally a convent dating back to 1140. The building had been in bad condition and, with the help of government grants and a lot of hard work, is now a beautiful cultural center for art exhibits, concerts and receptions. Bad Königshofen artist Christine Wehe-Bamberger recently had an exhibit of her art there.

From there we drove on to the small town of Ostheim (pop. 4,000), where a wonderful success story was immediately evident. Delivery trucks were lined up to load cases of

the organic, nonalcoholic beverage called Bionade. The carbonated drink was developed in the 1990s by the master brewer in the local family-owned beer brewery that was close to bankruptcy. Today the beverage is sold internationally and is available in different natural flavors (including elderberry). Seventy-three million bottles were sold in 2006, and in 2007 Bionade reached the U.S. market.

We had lunch in the town of Fladungen in a restaurant that is part of an open air museum where historic buildings have been brought together from various towns in the region and restored in an educational setting. There wasn't enough time to tour the buildings, but we did have our first Bionade in the restaurant.

While we were in Bad Königshofen, Lorenz and Marianne Hahn hosted an evening get-together of quite a few friends of Arlington and they all said to give their best regards to everyone they know in Arlington. Earlier that day we had walked over to the "Darre," the former brewery building which is being extensively renovated and will become a cultural center for Bad Königshofen. It is scheduled to be completed by September.

We spent an evening with Albin and Elvira Heumann, who were the host family for Shelia Gibson and Julia Burgen in 2007. The Heumanns' guest apartments had recently received a third star from the German tourism board, and this year the Heumanns are also proud to be celebrating 40 years in the tourism business. They are very happy that they still hear regularly from Shelia and Julia and look forward to seeing them again sometime, somewhere.

## SPOTLIGHT

Bruce and Chere Maxwell have had an over 20 year association with our sister city. It began when Bruce, who worked for the Arlington Citizen Journal and later the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, was on assignment covering a delegation from Bad Königshofen during their visit to Arlington in early 1988. Bruce had studied German in high school and at The

University of Texas at Arlington, and was able to translate and explain some of the sites around town to the visitors. Later that same year, Bruce and Chere married and planned a European honeymoon.



Bruce and Chere with Mayor Mack

While in Europe they made a visit to Arlington's beloved Sister City and were welcomed with open arms by many of the citizens who had visited Arlington earlier in the year. After touring the city and meeting new friends and renewing old friendships, a special candle lighting ceremony was held in their honor by Mayor Wolfgang Mack with a private reception following at his home.

Bruce and Chere agree they were overwhelmed by the genuine outpouring of love and kindness by the citizens who are still very grateful for the sacrifices made by Arlington citizens back in the 1950s to help their little German town.



The Maxwells with one of the locals in Bad Königshofen

The Maxwells have made several trips back to Bad Königshofen since 1988. They are pleased to be members of the Committee diligently working toward the continuation of this long and enduring partnership.

## NEWS

### Anna Waynette Vandergriff

We are sure many of you are aware that Anna Waynette Vandergriff, wife of Tom Vandergriff and former long time first lady of Arlington, recently passed away. However, you may not know that during the early years of her husband's twenty-six year Mayoral leadership, she worked tirelessly to solidify the partnership between Arlington and Bad Königshofen. In fact, she was one of the leaders that promoted the collection of goods ultimately shipped to our Sister City in the early 1950s, bringing relief to refugees who had fled the communist East, had overwhelmed the town, and were in desperate need of food, clothing and other necessities. When times were better for the residents of Bad Königshofen, Mrs. Vandergriff opened her home to many German visitors, offering Arlington hospitality at its best and most personal, establishing further the growing friendship between our two cities.

Some would argue with conviction that if not for Tom and Anna Waynette, residents of our two cities would not be celebrating our historic and unprecedented partnership today.

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## MORE NEWS

River Legacy Foundation newsletter recently recognized Dean and Jane Peyton and others for their generous support of the First Canoe Launch along Arlington's banks of the Trinity River. If you haven't availed yourselves of this recreational access to the Trinity River, you may want to put this on your staycation agenda. The launch, which opened last November, is the first of three planned launches and is located under the pedestrian bridge at the Collins Street park entrance.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### DON'T FORGET - BUY YOUR TICKETS!

Tickets for the 47th Annual German Pioneer Ball honoring the cities of Arlington and Bad Königshofen are on sale now! If you would like to guarantee seating with the Friends of BK and our German visitors, Martha will be accepting your payment for tickets at the next Friends meeting on August 29.

## CIRCLE THE DATES

**September 5** - German dance featuring music by the German Band of North Texas, from 7 till 10 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 2625 S. Cooper Street. German food as well as beer and soft drinks will be available for purchase beginning at 6 p.m. Free admission.

**September 26** - Historical Society's Front Street Festival.

**October 9** - New date for the BK Picnic. Time: 6-9 pm