



This newsletter is a publication of Sister Cities of Arlington, Texas

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NEWSLETTER

NO. 26

GREETINGS

Sister Cities of Arlington Members and Friends,

WOW!!! We are coming off of an exciting and eventful 2014 year! Our board and officers did a phenomenal job last year and we expect great things for 2015!!! If there is anyone who would like to serve on our board, it is not too late to step forward. We welcome you.

We enjoyed more activities last year including a great turnout to Greenwood's German Restaurant in Fort Worth. Also, during a board meeting we visited GermanDeli.com in Colleyville to experience authentic German foods. Our Sister City story is still the best kept secret in town, so we encourage you to share this story with other people and groups.

We had representation in the July 4th Parade to promote the Texas Christkindl Market. A few evening outings at Rahr Brewery in Fort Worth helped us experience some local German beer from the company that has also supplied us with beer at our picnic. And speaking of picnics, this annual celebration of the anniversary of our partnership with Bad Königshofen hit an all-time high last year with the kickoff of Food Truck Fridays...we had more guests than ever and for the first time made money from the vendors, some of which ran out of food because of the large crowd.

On a sad note, Sabah Bahar, the brother of Adnan Bahar, passed away on Thursday,

January 29, 2015. Sabah enjoyed being a part of our group and would often ask during the year what plans were being made for the picnic. He always looked forward to the date.

After the picnic we set our sights on the 4th annual Texas Christkindl Market. This past year was better than ever!!!! Our sales were over \$15,000!!! Heinrich Blum from Bad Königshofen and special guests from Rothenburg including the Lord Mayor and Tourism Director were special guests during the market. We want to give a special thanks to Art Dingee and his wife Linda for hosting Heinrich during his stay in Arlington.



Sister Cities Board Members and Volunteers with special guests from Rothenburg



Lord Mayor Walter Hartl and Tourism Director Joerg Christophler from Rothenburg, Germany, with local Sister Cities Members Lynda Freeman-Weekley and Montie Green

It was a challenge to adequately staff the Sister Cities hut this year, so we will be discussing alternatives and options to staffing as we go forward in support of the 2015 market. We were sponsors for the lantern parade one evening for disadvantaged kids and it was a HUGE success. I will always remember the smiles on the faces of the kids who participated.

The Northstar School partnered with us at the market by baking and providing Lebkuchen (German gingerbread) hearts. We sold these very popular items during the market.

We want to give a special thank you to Christian Jaeger for his generous donation of \$5,000 through his company First Rate. His dedication and commitment to the organization is very much appreciated and welcomed. Donations like this will help our organization continue to support our mission of sharing the good news about our partnership with Bad Königshofen, Germany.

I look forward to working with each of you this coming year as we plan more outings for fellowship and to share our story.

See you at our annual meeting on Saturday, February 28, at The Division Street Diner.

Bruce E. Maxwell
Sister Cities of Arlington President.

VISITORS TO BAD KÖNIGSHOFEN

By Ellen Brooke



Gerhard and Martha Liehse with Arlington Police Chief Will Johnson.

John and Magda Shafer visited their friends in Bad Königshofen in September, and Gerhard and Martha Liehse did the same in October. The four of them appreciated so much the wonderful hospitality of the city and friends.

During their visit, Gerhard and Martha facilitated an exchange between Walter Herold, a Bavarian State Police officer formerly stationed in Bad Königshofen, and Arlington Police Chief Will Johnson. Officer Herold initiated the inquiry to Hanns Friedrich of Bad Königshofen about a possible exchange of police patches. Gerhard and Martha brought back the Bavarian State Police patches and pins and presented them to Chief Johnson in late November. The Arlington Police Department followed up with a thank-you letter and items from the Arlington department.

In December I received a thank-you e-mail from Officer Herold addressed to Chief Johnson and to me, ending with:

“. . . Now I wish you and all the police officers of the Arlington Police Department all the best in the new year 2015, but especially that they keep coming back healthy from their missions

home. Many greetings from the German Police in Bavarian Country.”



Bavarian State Police Officer Walter Herold

A VISITOR TO ARLINGTON

By Ellen Brooke

Heinrich Blum, a longtime friend of Arlington, visited us in December and was hosted by Art and Linda Dingee during his 11-day stay. It had been eight years since his last visit so he wanted to see what was new in town – to visit Arlington’s Texas Christkindl Market and AT&T Stadium, where he enjoyed a tour. He had a busy schedule, which began with a day at the farm with Eric and Vicki English and included karaoke and a bonfire, enjoying the Christmas season at performances of the Arlington Master Chorale and at Theatre Arlington, a full day with the Arlington Fire Department, and numerous visits with his sister cities friends.



Arlington Mayor Robert Cluck with Heinrich Blum

He presented Mayor Cluck with special Christmas ornaments that he had made with the Bad Königshofen and Arlington emblems on them.

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?

Submitted by Martha Liehse

1. Which Arlington Mayor led the first official delegation to visit Bad Königshofen, and in what year did that visit take place?
2. Another official Arlington visit to Bad Königshofen took place in 1991, an important anniversary year for both the sister cities partnership and for the city of Bad Königshofen. What two anniversaries were celebrated together that year?
3. What Arlington facility was dedicated in 1992 during a visit by a large delegation from Bad Königshofen, led by Bürgermeister Clemens Behr?
4. In both 1995 and 2001 a group of musicians from Arlington was very warmly received in concert in Bad Königshofen. Who were these musicians?
5. In July 2001 “The Bridge” was dedicated in Bad Königshofen. What is “The Bridge”?

(Answers at the end of the Newsletter)

PHOTOGENIC AND HISTORIC

By Martha Liehse

Which is the most photographed building on Bad Königshofen’s picturesque town square? The historic “Rathaus” (City Hall) can certainly claim that title. The centuries-old building has actually been witness to only about half of the town’s history, as the first documented mention of Königshofen was in the year 741 but approval was given for the construction of the Rathaus in 1413.

MORE NEWS

Sister Cities of Arlington now has a Facebook page! This is a great way to reach out to more people

Like us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/sistercitiesofarlingtontexas>

A HOLIDAY SURPRISE

Submitted by Shirley Coyer

It took a team of cashiers, 13 different hidden cameras, and a whole lot of Christmas spirit to pull off this epic holiday surprise!

Edeka, Germany's largest supermarket chain, decided to surprise its shoppers with a seasonal treat. In an attempt to liven up the otherwise boring chore of grocery shopping, these cashiers opted to delight their patient shoppers with a choreographed orchestra that beeped the holiday classic, "Jingle Bells."

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H965m0Hkk5M>

DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, February 28 - Annual General Meeting at 10:00 AM at the Division Street Diner. More details to come!

Friday, September 18 – Fall Picnic/Oktoberfest. Plan to come out and join the celebration of 64 years of partnership with Bad Königshofen!

ANSWERS TO HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW

1. Mayor Richard Greene led the delegation in 1988.



In reality, in 1413 Prince Bishop Johann von Brunn of Würzburg gave his approval for a "Kaufhaus" to be built on that site. Thus it was mainly to be a location for shops, including sales space for the town's butchers and bakers, but two rooms in the building were used for the town's administration and assemblies. From 1496 on, records show that the building was always referred to as the Rathaus. Little is known about the appearance of the original 1413 building, because in 1562 part of it fell victim to a huge fire which destroyed much of the town. By 1575 its reconstruction was completed. During the 18th century, major renovations took place and the style of the roof was changed to the way it looks today.

Besides providing space for shops and municipal offices, the Rathaus at various times during its history also housed a guardroom, a jail, storage for fire-fighting equipment, a classroom where the town's girls were taught, and a hall that was used by students to put on plays during their vacations.

As with any structure with such a long history, renovations and restoration are called for again and again. Plans have now been drawn up to incorporate an elevator into the structure, but that work cannot be carried out until other critical restoration is completed in this now exclusively municipal government building.

2. The 40th Anniversary of the sister cities partnership and the 1250th Anniversary of the first documented mention of Königshofen were commemorated together.
3. The Bad Königshofen picnic pavilion in S.J. Stovall was dedicated.
4. The UTA Jazz Orchestra was warmly received by a very large audience both years.
5. “The Bridge” is the friendship monument created by four Arlington artists and four Bad Königshofen artists in Bad Königshofen’s Arlington-Park to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the sister cities partnership.

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