



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2008

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The following is excerpted from the lead story of the first newsletter....

“Bürgermeister Clemens Behr is looking forward to inviting a delegation of Arlington citizens to visit Bad Königshofen before he retires on April 30, 2008. “

The invitation was extended and ultimately 22 citizens of Arlington accepted Bürgermeister Behr’s invitation. This newsletter is a collection of the reflections from that trip.



Arlington Travelers pose with Sister City Friends in front of The Juliusspital winery and nursing home in Würzburg.

The *Julius Spital* is a baroque hospital with a courtyard and a church built by the prince bishop [Julius Echter](#). Its medieval wine cellar, together with those of the Würzburg Residence (nursing home in U.S.) and the *Bürgerspital* (the winery) are one place to taste the [Frankenwein](#). With an area under cultivation of 1.68 square kilometres, the Julius Spital is the second largest winery in Germany."

The Arlington Travelers were treated to an excellent lunch of wurst, side dishes, and all the wine we could drink by the owners of the winery.

REFLECTIONS OF ARLINGTON TRAVELERS

It is difficult to put in words the feelings and experience of our recent Sister City visit. After being involved with our Sister City program for some time, I have come to accept, even expect, the warmth and hospitality of our German friends. Yet, it is always a surprise to be surrounded by such joy, happiness, and sheer delight every time we are with our BK friends.

Our purpose for this particular trip to BK was to honor Bürgermeister Clemens Behr for his tireless effort and commitment to our Sister City relationship. Bürgermeister Behr embodies the spirit of a true Sister City friendship and exchange. His nurturing commitment to the BK/Arlington friendship has resulted in an outreach and growth of new friendships and a greater understanding of different cultures.

Bürgermeister Behr is always ready with a song in his heart and on his lips and he is known to break into song at any given moment (moment being one of his favorite English

words, particularly when he is trying to get attention). He never fails to entertain and loves to have others join in whatever the song or joke or story may be. While he has chosen to enter into retirement as Bürgermeister, he will remain a great friend and partner for our Sister City relationship and I hope to see him back in Arlington on their next visit.

And in keeping with Bürgermeister Behr and our trip's theme --- Hallelujah!

Sheri Capehart



Wolfgang Schmidt, Clemens Behr, Kay Hunn, Tabatha Knickerbocker

photos by Ellen Brooke

Wonderful! That is the only way to describe my first trip to Bad Königshofen! Since I started working in the Mayor and City Council office in 1995, I have heard about the wonderful hospitality that is extended to Arlington travelers when visiting our Sister City. It was apparent that Bürgermeister Clemens Behr and his committee put a lot of thought and consideration into keeping us busy during our visit! The school visits, the museums, castles and wine tastings – all were great experiences.

But I think that hanging out with the Bürgermeister that last night will be a memory of what our Sister City Friendship is all about. As the farewell party was winding down, the Bürgermeister stopped Kay, Tabatha, Steve and I from leaving. He was ready to play that guitar! Will any of us ever forget “Rot, rot, rot, rot sind die Rosen”? Well, definitely not the four of us! We laughed and sang for hours.

Ellen Brooke



Elke Ress, Ingrid Behr, Christel Grossmann-Seufert

It was an amazing trip. The people of Bad Königshofen wined, dined, bedded and entertained us with great enthusiasm at absolutely no expense to us. Of course we will be called on to reciprocate when they visit us. And yes, they will come again. Germans have a great affinity for Texas and the American southwest. I first learned that in the 1980's when staying in Lajitas along the Rio Grande when I heard the desk clerk speaking German to a group of tourists. A few years later we saw a busload of German tourists at Bryce Canyon. Again when in Munich in 2000 with Siemens people, they were talking about their month long holiday and that they were flying to Phoenix and renting a travel trailer to tour the southwest.

I really enjoyed the day that we spent touring the schools. So much opportunity exists for exchange programs and visits with our Arlington youth. Thankfully some is occurring among our private and public schools, but a specific German focus for our schools would be so beneficial and supportive of our sister city relationship. Just as a cooperative program could be happening with Mexico with a focus on the monarch mountain sanctuaries, our students and residents need a global connection.

So get ready Arlington, international relations are a vital part of this modern and shrinking world.

Julia Burgen

THE WWII SURRENDER OF BK

On the November 2007 Sister City Trip Jane and I had the good luck to stay with the family of Lorenz Hahn. They have a long history in BK, and own and operate the only cinema very close to the city center. Their house is the upstairs space over 3 screens, a small gambling casino, and a snack bar/party room big enough to hold the delegation and our hosts. They have lots of room.

On the day we visited the old East German border, he told me about his grandfather, the Bürgermeister at the time, and how WWII ended for BK. Of all the things we saw and heard on this trip, this story sticks out from all that beer, wine, and meat.

It was not looking good for Germany in Spring, 1945. Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin had met the preceding February at Yalta and planned postwar Germany. Cities with factories like Dresden and Nürnberg had suffered extensive around the clock bombing with widespread destruction. Lorenz's father and all the men his age were fighting (or had died) in terrible carnage on the western and eastern fronts.

BK, and all of Bavaria, had been hotbeds of Nazi zeal and fervor although BK, without military targets, had suffered little war damage. Lorenz's grandfather told him that suddenly "there were no more Nazis" and that a meeting was called to discuss what could be done if Germany lost the war.

There were widespread feelings that the starving and angry Soviet army was a poor choice for surrender, so Lorenz's grandfather set out west with a white bed sheet and a pole to find the Americans. He found them and

surrendered the city to U.S. Army occupation. After the war, the border separating the American and Soviet zones in southern Germany was drawn along the line separating the states of Bavaria and Thüringen, and thus BK was just 5 miles west of what we oldtimers know as East Germany (the Soviets said they "liberated it from the Allies," and called it the German Democratic Republic)..

Lorenz was a boy, of course, but in those years of hardship his mother told him the Sister City packages made a big difference. This accounts for the beginning of our wonderful acceptance by the good people of Bad Königshofen.

Dean Peyton, D.O.

Twas the Night Before Leaving BK for Nürnberg and Rothenburg

. . . and the stockings were all hung by the chimney with care in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there!

And St. Nicholas truly did appear in his flowing red robe, gold crown/hat and Christmas finery, arriving the Eve of our BK departure. He arrived just in time to greet us and treat us all individually before we departed on another segment of our BK adventure to the Christmas Markets of Nürnberg and Rothenburg! St Nicholas (who was that bearded man?) definitely helped us all to see the magic of Christmas. He slowly revealed information on each traveler to all those present. Our BK Traveler profiles were previously shared with our BK Sister City Partners and our German Haus hosts. However, unbeknownst (is there really such a word in the dictionary?) to us the profiles were ingeniously used by St. Nicholas to identify each Arlington BK traveler and present a Christmas gift bag full of treats to each of us.

This was just one of many gifts we received from our new friends made and from BK friendships rekindled for those of us who had the *privilege* of traveling to BK on previous

Arlington/BK Sister City trips. The gifts for me were many and almost impossible to enumerate. I think I can truly say for all of us the gifts listed below were just the "tip of the iceberg":

New Friendships forged
Family members revisited
Music played (Bürgermeister Clemens Behr plays a mean guitar & Father Linus the bass fiddle!!)
Bürgermeister Clemens Behr toasted, toasted, and honored and then honored again!
Food eaten and eaten, and eaten until we were stuffed like a Bratwurst!!!
Drinks shared - German Wine, Beer, and oh!!! that Glühwein at the Christmas Markets
Tales told
New adventures & experiences journaled
Life time memories made
Hands held
Sights seen
Walks taken
Parks visited
Antiques bought
Lives enriched
Languages learned
Students observed
Talents exhibited
Exchange Programs planned/coordinated at all educational levels
Castles & Cathedrals toured
Pipe Organs heard
Presents bought
Cultures shared
Minds broadened
Lives Enriched
Hearts Filled to overflowing with affection
Laughs shared even when we could not understand a word said,
and last, but not least,
Thanks given on bended knee for the privilege and opportunity to participate in the experience of a lifetime as a proud Arlington delegate to BK, Germany creating lasting **"Friendships: Solid as a Rock!!!!!"**

Shelia Gibson

The trip to BK was so very special to me and I feel honored to have been a part of the

Arlington delegation that made this wonderful trip. Not knowing exactly what to expect, I was overwhelmed with the warmth, graciousness, hospitality and love the special people of BK showed all of us...I immediately felt like family in this quaint, little town in beautiful Bavaria. The friendships we formed in a short time made it really hard to leave for us and them...we all had tears in our eyes and hugged many times before we could bring ourselves to board the bus. The BK experience is something that can't be fully conveyed in words--it is something one must experience to fully appreciate the uniqueness of it all.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to my host family, Christian and Beate Fischer, of the Schlundhaus Hotel. They were such gracious and generous hosts and Katie and I enjoyed staying in the top suite of this beautiful and quaint hotel, which overlooks the wonderful town square. I know each of the delegation will agree that the lunch we all shared at the Schlundhaus was magnificent and an experience we won't forget.

Many heartfelt thanks to Roland Schunk for taking Katie and me under his wing from the moment we arrived in Frankfurt and throughout our stay in BK. Roland's special caring, friendship and warmth is indicative of the graciousness of the people of BK. I was amazed at all of the musical talent in this little town (of course, BK has one of the best Music Schools in Germany). There was always music and singing and fun and laughter wherever we were, and the language barrier never stopped us, for our hearts joined their hearts and we understood. An amazing experience and one I will never forget.

Sondra Mize

From the moment that we arrived until our departure, we were overwhelmed by the hospitality that we received. It was a wonderful trip, and our host family went out of their way to ensure that we had a wonderful time. One of the most memorable highlights was our day trip to Coburg. Our host family, Petra and Kurt

Beck, along with Dagmar Lurz, and the Beck daughters, took us to see this magnificent town. Kurt, a teacher by trade, provided a wonderful tour of the city and historic castle. Kurt knew all of the back alleys around town, as he had attended boarding school in Coburg from age 9 to 19. We will cherish our trip to our Sister City. And will always treasure the unique insight, history, shopping, and Christmas Market that we enjoyed while visiting Coburg.

Vicki and Eric English

We had several adventures on our trip to Bad Königshofen but none better than when Patty got locked in the tour bus while the rest of us went sightseeing. She was tired and wanted to rest just a bit and decided to stay on the bus and take a short nap because the tour was to last only about 15 minutes. "Just come and get me when we are ready to go to the next stop", were her directions as we departed. When I came back to retrieve her, the bus was locked and she could not get out. We tried everything but the front door would not budge. The driver was nowhere in sight and we assumed he had gone to get a hot cup of coffee to get warmed up because the weather was so wet and cold. The look of desperation on her face peering out the window was priceless. She now had to go to the bathroom and it was getting very cold and dark on the bus. Patty felt her way to the back of the bus. Since it was dark she decided to leave the bathroom door open. As she was finishing the paperwork, the doors of the bus suddenly popped open. She felt a rush of cold air and knew what had happened. Quickly she finished and joined the rest of the group for Christmas stollen and coffee. Patty was shown how to get out of the bus if she should be left again and every time the group got off the bus a special invitation was relayed to her to make sure she was off the bus. She vowed not to be left on the bus again.

Klaus Driessen

NEWS FLASH

It is now time to join or renew your membership to "Friends of Bad Königshofen." For a small fee, interested parties may now join with others in learning more about the ongoing partnership. Members will help plan future events, be the first to learn about and make reservations for official trips like the most recent trip in November 2007, make contributions to and receive electronically the quarterly newsletter outlining other items of interest between the two cities. Application for renewal of your membership is attached. Please print off a copy, fill in the pertinent information, enclose your check and mail to the address indicated on the form.

FROM THE EDITOR

Apparently some of you are as confused as I about the spelling of some of the German towns and why some names end in "berg" and others "burg." I turned to my expert for the answer.

"The words have different meanings. "Berg" is a mountain or a high hill and "Burg" is a castle or a fortress. Coburg is named after the fortress there, as is the town of Rothenburg, but Nuremberg is named after the high hill that the fortress is on. In Nuremberg, there is a "Burg" on the "Berg." Perhaps the town was named after the "Berg" before the "Burg" was built??"

Aren't you glad to have that cleared up?

SAVE THE DATE

The BK Pavilion in SJ Stovall Park has been reserved **Saturday, September 20, 4-10 pm.** for the Friends of BK Picnic.

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