



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

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NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2012

NO. 20

GREETINGS

[Editors Note: Our President's Greetings Message will be sent later this month.]

MCCLOY FELLOWSHIP FOLLOWUP

*By Kim Herman Probasco
Sr. Performance Analyst. City of Arlington*

The German Fellows of the John J. McCloy Fellowship visited our great city in mid-March. The four German Fellows are from various parts of Germany and all work for local governments. They stayed with us for three days and endured a full schedule encompassing presentations and tours of City operations, visiting various places of interest, and learning about Texas culture.



Left to right: Bruce, Paul Burkhard Schneider, Sheri, Matthias Steffan, Jörg H. Böttcher, Anja Danigel, Kim.

Each Fellow has their area of expertise. Anja Danigel works in the Office for Press, Tourism and Civil Service in Wismar, Paul Burkhard Schneider works as the Head of International Unit, Lord Mayor's Office (Strategy and Policy Department) in Hannover, Jörg Böttcher works as the Head of the Relocation Assistance Office of the Economic Affairs Department in Magdeburg, and Matthias Steffan works as the Assistant to the First Mayor, Department of Finance, Property, Citizen Services and Security in Mannheim.

The Fellows traveled to Washington DC and New York City prior to coming to Texas. They arrived at DFW airport at 12:45 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14th and their adventures in Arlington began immediately. They were welcomed to City Hall by our Office of Communications crew who filmed their arrival and meeting with Mayor Cluck and Councilmember Sheri Capehart. The Mayor presented the Fellows with a proclamation and local media filmed interviews with them. After a quick meeting at the Arlington Convention and Visitors Bureau Board we traveled to Tierra Verde Golf Course for a tour. The Germans enjoyed driving a few balls down the green, which was the first experience for three of them. In the evening we met with the Bad Königshofen Sister City Committee and the Fellows enjoyed speaking German with many of the members.

The next two days were filled with meetings and tours, learning about operations in the City. Thursday was specifically for discussions regarding economic development and planning. The Germans toured Downtown Arlington, the Cowboys Stadium, and the Rangers Ballpark, where they utilized the batting cages and learned a substantial amount about baseball in the United States. This was very interesting to Jörg and he stated it was his favorite part about visiting Arlington. Friday, the Fellows received a presentation on the Christkindl Market and offered suggestions on future planning of the event, while providing vendor contacts for German goods. They also toured the Municipal Airport, Stovall Park, the John Kubala Water Treatment Plant and police operations at Ott Cribbs. Here, they learned about emergency dispatch and toured the jail, which they found very interesting. They also looked inside a police car and spoke at length to one of Arlington's finest officers. In the evening, they enjoyed a trip to the Fort Worth Stockyards where they ordered steak and experienced a rodeo for the first time.

Saturday, their final day in Arlington, the Fellows spent time at the Fire Training Center and the Animal Services Shelter. Anja enjoyed trying on the fire suit and the crew was extremely accommodating to them. They also took a ride in one of the fire trucks. That evening was a special time to share with the German Fellows as it was their last night in Arlington, Texas. We had excellent barbeque at Spring Creek and spent several hours talking and exchanging stories.

The Fellows enjoyed their stay at the Sanford House and evening visits to our local Grease Monkey. They mentioned how nice it was to be able to walk back to the Sanford House after winding down from very busy days here in Arlington.



Left to right standing: Paul Schneider, Randy Ford, owner of Gilligans, Mattias Steffan; seated Jörg Böttcher, Anja Danigel. Photo by Kim Pobasco

The Fellows stated they loved Texas and wanted to stay with us for the entire program! As much as we would love to keep them here, they had other adventures waiting for them in North Dakota, Ohio and Indiana. The Fellows are now back in their hometowns in Germany and doing well. They continue to tell me that they miss Texas.

ARLINGTON TO HOST JAPANESE YOUTH BASEBALL TEAM

By Patrick Embry

As part of the 22nd Annual Japan America Grassroots Summit (Aug 28 – Sept 3, 2012), Arlington will play host to the Ishinomaki Senior Little League Team, a group of 14 youth and 2 chaperones from the Sendai area of Japan.

Their participation has been funded by Operation Tomodachi, the U.S. Armed Forces operation that supported Japan in disaster relief after the devastating earthquake and tsunami of 2011.

The Summit, chaired by Ambassador Tom Schieffer, is an interpersonal exchange of culture and hospitality between 150 - 200 Japanese citizens and an equal number of host families throughout 16 host cities in North Texas. Organized by the John Manjiro

Whitfield Commemorative Center for International Exchange (CIE) in Tokyo and the Japan-America Society of Dallas Fort Worth, it honors 170 years and counting of friendship between the families of John Manjiro Nakahama, a young shipwrecked Japanese fisherman, and Captain W.H. Whitfield, who rescued the 14 year old boy and his fellow fishermen in 1841 off southern Japan.

In celebration of all the Japanese visitors across North Texas, August 28 will be Japan America Friendship Night at the Rangers Ballpark. The local Arlington session will be Thursday, August 30 – Sunday, September 2.

For more information, or if you are interested in hosting a pair of Japanese youth, please contact Patrick Embry at 817.459.6141 or patrick.embry@arlingtontx.gov.

WHAT IS “PLAUENER SPITZE”?

By Martha Liehse

At this year’s Arlington Christkindl Market we plan again to be selling beautiful “Plauener Spitze” Christmas decorations and tree ornaments imported from Germany, but what is the meaning of that product name and what is its story?

The word “Plauener” refers to something (or someone) from the city of Plauen, which is located in the German state of Saxony, northeast of Bavaria. “Spitze” has several meanings in the German language but in this context it means “lace.” “Plauener Spitze” is a trademarked product name which can only be used by manufacturers located in the Plauen region who are members of the trade association with that same name.

Back in the 15th and 16th centuries the city of Plauen was already known for textile weaving and then in the 18th century also for embroidery. Merchants began sending cloth from East India to Plauen to be embroidered, and the introduction of embroidery and lace machines in the 19th century revolutionized

production. The manufacture of machine-embroidered tulle lace in the 1880s was the beginning of “Plauener Spitze” as we know it today.

After Plauen’s lace industry subsequently reached a high point from 1900 to 1912, it then suffered greatly through economic hard times and the two World Wars, with the destruction of 80% of the city of Plauen by the end of World War II. New machines and hard work brought the region’s products back onto the world market, and in 1990, with the reunification of Germany, the industry was once again privatized and the trade association for “Plauener Spitze” was established.

Today many privately owned factories in the Plauen region produce the trademarked lace items that range from tablecloths and curtains to Christmas decorations and fashion accessories – many of which are exported to countries around the world.

BAD KÖNIGSHOFEN

By Sophia Nguyen

[Editor’s note: Sophia is a student at Northstar School and was a member of the Arlington delegation visiting our sister city in October 2011]

“The World is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page.” This is a quote I strongly believe in. Every time a travel opportunity pops up, I jump at it. Every traveling opportunity is a great learning experience. My trip to Bad Königshofen was just that. Not only was it a learning experience, but it was a chance for me to meet wonderful people that I would like to keep in contact with for as long as I possibly can.

I was extremely lucky to experience all of this with good friends Marissa and Ryder. I do not think it would have been as fun as it was without them. Overcoming the language barrier was extremely difficult, but we got through it together. I was truly thankful for them.

As we arrived at the Frankfurt Airport, we were greeted with a huge procession of friendly

people. It was very refreshing to see their bright, cheery faces after a ten hour flight. From the airport, we went to a castle. I loved seeing all the history that flowed throughout the rooms, much of which was related to what we were learning in history at the time. It helped me understand a little bit more after seeing a lot of visuals. Within the first couple of hours I was in Germany, I had already learned so much.

After we left the castle, we went wine tasting. The adults were served wine and Marissa, Ryder and I were served the non-alcoholic version. In the winery, we got to see huge wine barrels that were over a hundred years old. Near the winery was a restaurant; like many places in Germany, it was in walking distance. I was afraid to take a risk with the food, so I played it safe with a salad. To my surprise, it was extremely good.

After lunch, we were on our way to Bad Königshofen. We were all suffering from jet lag, so in the bus we took a long nap. Once we arrived in Bad Königshofen, we were taken to our host families. Marissa and I stayed with the same host family. The Bauer family was very welcoming and understanding. Even though they were not fluent in English, they tried their best. I really admired that. I still keep in contact with them today, and they plan on visiting Marissa and me in September.

One of the best bonding moments we had was at the bonfire party. The boys set a fire and we all enjoyed the beauty of the outdoors. Marissa, Ryder and I taught our German friends how to make s'mores and they roasted sausages for us. We played truth or dare until one o'clock in the morning.

A few days after, we went shopping! It was very interesting to see what is in style in different countries. Their modern clothing isn't much different than ours. One of the best things I ate in Germany was at their Pizza Hut, and the chocolate! I liked it so much that my host family bought me some to take back to America.

On the fourth day, Marissa and I went to the mineral spa. It was an experience that I will never forget. There is nothing like it here in America. It was one of the days that we just got to goof off with the kids.

The days flew by so quickly. Although I missed home, I did not want to leave Germany. On the last day, we had to wake up at five o'clock in the morning to catch the bus to the airport. Traffic in Germany was really bad in the morning; it took us three hours to get to the airport. Saying goodbye to my new friends was really hard; we had become very close within the course of five days. Our flight was delayed for a couple of hours, due to an ill passenger in the previous flight. The flight back to Dallas was longer than the flight from Dallas to Frankfurt; it was eleven hours.

My experience in Germany was very educational. I learned so many things that I could never learn in America. I also went to many places that they do not have here. I hope to go back soon and see my host family and the friends I have made in Germany.

SAVE THE DATE

German Pioneer Ball

October 13, for the **50th Annual German Pioneer Ball**, to be held at the Sheraton DFW Airport Hotel in Irving. The nonprofit Texas German Day Council sponsors the evening of dinner and dance celebrating German Day in Texas. Representatives from the city of Fredericksburg and its German sister city Montabaur will be among the special guests, and all past and present members of the Texas German Day Council will be honored at this special 50th Annual Ball. The Ball is a charity event, with proceeds this year benefiting four nonprofit entities: the Alpine Dancers Children's Group, the Dallas Goethe Center German Language School, the German International School of Dallas, and the McKinney ISD German language program. Tickets are \$75. Please let Martha Liehsel know if you would like to be included at our reserved Arlington sister cities tables (Liehsel@windstream.net).

ARLINGTON CHRISTKINDL MARKET DATE CHANGE

The Second Annual Arlington Christkindl Market will take place Thursday, November 29 through Saturday, December 15. It will still be a 17-day event but will start a day earlier than previously announced.

WORTH NOTING

September Delegation

We are anxiously planning for our special visitors from Bad Königshofen. The delegation will be in Arlington September 5-10th, with an extended visit planned by students arriving on September 1st. If you would like to help on the Visitor Planning Committee or have ideas and/or contacts in the community to enhance their visit, please contact Ellen Brooke at Ellen.Brooke@ArlingtonTX.gov

Sister Cities Account

The board is in the process of opening an account at Frost Bank for our organization. We are closing the account set up through the City's Finance Department, so please make any future checks payable to "**Sister Cities of Arlington Texas**". Our permanent address will continue to be with the city.

German Language, Literature, and Culture Links

General

- [Modernism](#)
Kommentierte Links zur Literatur from the German Literature Magazine Wandler
- [Illustrated Essay on Berlin and the two Germanies](#)
- [Illustrated Essay on German Unification, Five Years After](#)
- [United States Holocaust Museum](#)
- [Nazi Crimes On Trial](#)
- [Habsburg: A H-Net Discussion Network](#)
- [Mark Twain's "The Awful German Language"](#)
- [German for Travelers](#)
- [Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland](#)

German and International News; German Courses Online

- [Deutsch Welle](#)

Online Newspapers and Magazines

- [Der Standard](#)
- [Focus](#)
- [taz \(die tageszeitung\)](#)
- [Der Spiegel](#)
- [Die Welt](#)
- [Stern](#)
- [Die Zeit](#)
- [Zeitungen Online](#) (extensive list)
- [Hamburger Morgenpost](#)
- [Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung](#)

Radio and TV in the German-speaking Countries of Europe

- [ARD Mediathek](#) (Links to many TV & radio stations)
- [Zweites deutsches Fernsehen \(ZDF\)](#) (TV station)
- [Liste deutschsprachiger Fernsehsender](#) (links to TV stations)

TV Series-Germany

- [Lindenstraße](#)
- [Tatort](#)
- [Ein Fall für Zwei](#)

German Language and Literature Online

- [Projekt Gutenberg-DE](#)
- [19th-Century German Stories](#)
- [German Web Reader](#) (George Washington Univ. web project)
- [lyrikline](#) (Gedichte zum Lesen und vom Dichter selbst vorgesprochen)

Die Berliner Mauer

- [CNN Cold War Berlin Wall episode](#) (Berlin Crisis from 1958 to 1963)
- [The Berlin Wall](#) (a brief discussion)
- [Berlin Wall](#) (HeikoBurkhardt)
- [Berlin Wall Links](#)
- [Berliner Mauer](#)
- [Die Berliner Mauer](#) (Tellus)



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Language Aids

- [Duden Online](#)
- [Deutsche Rechtschreibung](#)
- [German Medical Terms](#)
- [German Acronyms and abbreviations](#)
- [Links to various dictionaries](#)
- [Links to grammars, etc.](#)
- [German Pictorial Lexicon](#)

Additional Exercises

- [Treffpunkt Deutsch](#)

Internships and Exchange Programs

- [CDS International](#) offers a variety of program formats to American students and young professionals interested in pursuing internships in Germany.
- Looking for a scholarship to Germany? Go to the [Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program](#) or call 1-880-424-3691, ext. 179 and find out whether you qualify.

Need a Job?

- [StepStone](#)

Other Link Sites

- [Andreas Lixl's German Studies Trail](#)
- [Andreas Lixl's German Internet Project](#)
- [Rutgers German Links](#)
- [Harvard German Studies links](#)
- [Shea's Linklist of German-oriented Websites](#)
- [FU Berlin: Fachinformationen Germanistik](#)
- [DDR-Link-Liste](#)
- [Links on Swiss Culture](#)
- [Germania in Cyberspace](#)

German Search Engines

- [DINO \(Deutsches InterNet-Organisationssystem\)](#)
- [Google Deutschland](#)
- [Google Österreich](#)
- [Google Schweiz](#)

