



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

www.arlingtontx.gov/sistercity/index.html

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2013

NO. 22

GREETINGS

I can hardly believe this year is half over. We are fortunate to have new members who have jumped on board, accepting assignments to help us accomplish our goals. Some of our group will be attending the Sister Cities International Annual Convention in San Antonio in July. We hope to bring back valuable information while networking with other cities from around the globe.

We called Bad Königshofen Mayor Thomas Helbling to extend an invitation to our Christkindl Market this year. Unfortunately, he will not be available to attend this year because it is an election year for him. However, he sends his greetings and best wishes to all of Arlington. Let's send him well wishes on his campaign for a successful return.

We have a committee making plans for this year's Christkindl Market, and we will be calling on many of you to help as we prepare for other events later in the year. We have placed the lace order with Klaus Abt in Rothenburg, which should be shipped next month. This gives us plenty of time to label and sort through the items well before November.

We are also making plans for our fall picnic in September at Bad Königshofen Recreation Area and are hoping for a great attendance. Let's continue to share the good news of our organization and promote our group by

speaking to other civic groups and people we meet. This is a great organization. Please spread the word!!!!

Thank you, President Bruce Maxwell
Brucemaxx77@yahoo.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS FOR 2013

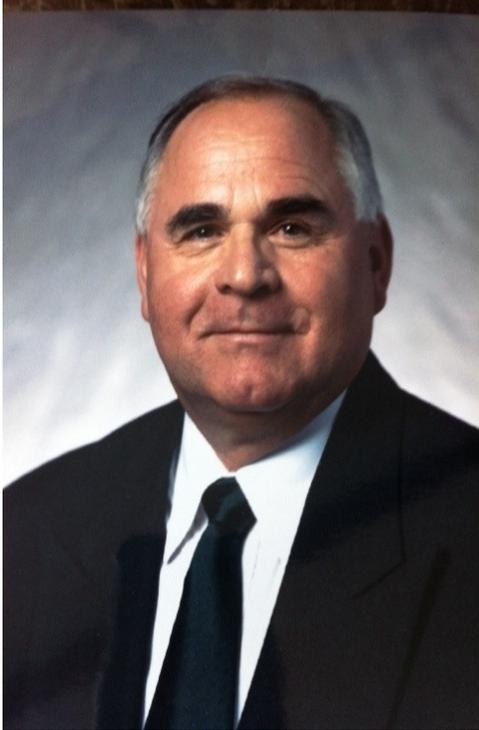
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SPOTLIGHT ON WERNER GROTZ

One of Sister Cities of Arlington's newest members and currently serving on the Board of Directors is Werner Grotz. He is a Certified Master Dental Technician and, before his retirement, traveled extensively as Vice

President of International Sales for an implant company.



His believes his travels made him aware of the importance of good communication, and respect for other cultures.

When asked how he became interested in Arlington's sister cities organization he remarked, "Last year, I visited the Christkindl Market and became aware of Arlington's association with Bad Königshofen, Germany, and immediately signed up to become a member."

He wants to be involved in any way possible to help/assist our organization and to insure the continuation of the Christkindl Market as well as the ongoing relationship with our Sister City.

Werner was born in Ravensburg, Germany, but has lived in the United States since 1972. He is married to Christel. They have two daughters and one grandson.

We are very pleased to welcome Werner and Christel as new members.

A GERMAN-TEXAN GET-TOGETHER

By Martha Liehse

April 13 was the date set for the 2013 annual convention of the Texas German Society, and five members of the Tarrant County Chapter made their way to Galveston for the event. Each year the gathering of 200 to 300 people is held in a different city having German-Texan heritage and offers presentations about local history and tours of local sites.

Galveston was chosen for this year's meeting because that city's port was a major immigration gateway in the second half of the 19th century and into the early 20th century, and so many German immigrants not only passed through that city but also contributed greatly to its development.

Since I had never been to Galveston before, and Gerhard had not been there in several decades, the two of us arrived several days before the German-Texan event so we could explore some of Galveston's attractions on our own. The Moody Gardens Aquarium was great, as was the Rainforest there, with up-close encounters with monkeys and scarlet ibises, as well as our first-ever, slower-paced and not-as-close encounter with a sloth. The nearby Lone Star Flight Museum was also on our agenda, as was a drive around Galveston looking at lots of historic sites and the beautiful tree sculptures that have been carved by artists from the remains of trees damaged by Hurricane Ike in 2008.

On the 12th we were joined by Arlington residents Gertrud Kerstens and Dan and Agnes Schoppe. We all visited the Texas Seaport Museum, where immigration records for the port of Galveston are accessible and the Tall Ship Elissa is docked, and enjoyed dinner overlooking the harbor.

The convention on that Saturday was held at the historic First Lutheran Church, which was founded in 1850 and is one of the oldest German Lutheran churches in Texas. Presentation topics included the history of the

church, an overview of Galveston's German community in the 19th century, and a review of restored archival records accessible in the Galveston County District Clerk's Office. Next year's statewide convention was set for March 29 in Bellville.

The Tarrant County Chapter of the Texas German Society meets monthly in Arlington, usually on the third Friday at 7:30 pm at All Saints Lutheran Church (4325 SW Green Oaks, at Kelly Elliott). Dan Schoppe is president of the chapter and can be reached at 817-683-9511 or dlschoppe@yahoo.com.

TWO VISITORS TO BAD KÖNIGSHOFEN

HELAU!

By Kelsey English

I thought Texas was filled with the kindest people, but I discovered that the reception received from our sister city community, Bad Königshofen, was even more warm and welcoming! During my recent trip to Germany I had the opportunity to spend two weeks with Bad Königshofen sister city members. I never knew that in such a short time these strangers would not only welcome me in, but also treat me as family.

The very first night I arrived, we went to the new bowling alley. It is a tribute to the sister city relationship and is filled with a beautiful painting of the Cowboys Stadium in Arlington next to a lovely painting of a scene in Bad Königshofen. It's amazing how playing a game together will bridge a language gap, which was extremely helpful; as I soon found that I should have spent more time listening to German language tapes. I stayed the first week with Bürgermeister Helbling and his family, and the second week with Ms. Steffi Beck. They showed me all around their city. I was blown away by the town's charm, the architecture, the beauty and history. In less than a week I truly felt like I had become part of their family. The

time these folks spent with me provided a magnificent memory to last a lifetime.

I was lucky enough to visit during Fasching, which is their Carnival or Mardi Gras. Let me tell you, they know how to celebrate! Almost everyone gets off work and school for the five days before Ash Wednesday. Each day we began by waking up, downing a quick breakfast, tossing on a crazy costume, and then heading off to a nearby village for a parade. These parades were amazing! All the floats and costumes were handmade and reflected much time and thought. The whole village was in the parade; a parade that they had been preparing for all year. As a float went by, everyone yelled HELAU (the traditional Fasching greeting) and waved their hand. It was so fun to see the little children dressed in their cute costumes practically scream it so that the people on the float would yell it back and throw candy! However, when an adult would yell HELAU, a lucky few would get something special; perhaps a tiny bottle of schnapps tossed at you. Even the police department had a float and they handed out beer! But my favorite was the ladies that had barrels strapped over their shoulders. They would come up to you and pour Glühwein from the barrel's spigot into your glass. After the parade ended, everyone headed to a large building in the city to hangout for the rest of the day!



There were food and drinks with the classic Fasching music playing everywhere and some had live bands playing! I cannot express to

you how fun it was with everyone being so kind and joyous! I have to also admit that it was a giant relief that everyone's English was so great, even though every person I met insisted that their English was not very good. (We can all learn from their modesty.) Once everyone was completely exhausted from the long day of celebrating, we would go home and head straight to bed, just to wake up the next morning and go to a new village and do it all again!



In the photo - Steffi Beck, her boyfriend Martin, the one-eyed monkey, and Kelsey in the hardhat.

What we have with the amazing people in Bad Königshofen is truly special. Someday I hope to have the opportunity to return the hospitality and kindness that I was shown. And I hope that they feel like family and just as special when they visit.

SPARGEL HARVEST AND "DER MEISTERTRUNK, DAS HISTORISCHE FESTSPIEL"

By Monte Green

I returned from a business trip to southern Bavaria on 18 May after a short visit to Bad Königshofen with Kathrina Krapp-Michaelis, who was my gracious host. Kathrina had also been my host during our group's visit last October, and we have continued to enjoy a wonderful friendship.

This time she drove us to Rothenburg on 17 May for "Der Meistertrunk, das Historische Festspiel 2013". The historic market was great fun as many residents and vendors were in period dress of the Middle Ages. To accompany their attire, people also blackened their faces with soot to emphasize that bathing was not done on a regular basis during the Middle Ages.



Experiencing Fasching was amazing, and a true highlight of my trip. I feel extremely fortunate to have spent such a special and memorable time with my new family and friends who ALL made me feel so special. I keep in touch with many on a daily basis. And I am already planning when I can go back again! Nothing here truly compares to their celebration and love of community, friends and family!

I headed off to Bad Königshofen with a little hesitation. I had never met most of our sister city friends; as I always seemed to be away at college whenever Arlington hosted our visitors. However when I left there, I left family that essentially adopted me as their own for two weeks. I am looking forward to carrying on the bond between our two cities.



Kathrina Krapp-Michaelis

Although the Rathaus in Rothenburg was under renovation, the festival provided many interesting activities to enjoy. Many visitors were in town for jousting and weapons throwing and other performances of that bygone age. Axes of different blade contours were prevalent in jewelry and wooden toys.

The week of May 12-18 is also the time to celebrate “Spargel” (white asparagus) harvest, and the dishes made with this special vegetable are “to die for.” Notable among the dishes served are Cream of Asparagus Soup, Steamed Asparagus with Butter or Hollandaise Sauce; even Asparagus Stuffing for fish. At the Schlundhaus on the Bad Königshofen square, Kathrina and I ordered spargel for dinner one evening. It was absolutely delicious!

Because of all the celebrations taking place in Bavaria, traffic was brisk on the major highways. In order to make my 8:00 am flight home from the Frankfurt Airport, Kathrina prepared a map route through Fulda that directed me through small villages with only the final part of the journey on the autobahn. The projected time of my road trip was 1 hour and 52 minutes, and gratefully I arrived a few minutes early. My direct flight to DFW was

uneventful, allowing me to contemplate another wonderful visit to our sister city, made especially so this spring with the beautiful fields of canola in full bloom.

(Editor’s note: The annual “Meistertrunk” festival and performances in Rothenburg bring to life a centuries-old legend that tells that in 1631 the town’s Mayor accepted a challenge by an enemy Count to drink over three liters of wine all at once if he wanted his town to be spared from further attack by the Count’s army. The Mayor successfully downed the drink and Rothenburg was saved!)

CRITICAL LANGUAGES AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

UTA’s Department of Modern Languages, in collaboration with the University’s Charles T. McDowell Center for Critical Languages and Area Studies, offers a Bachelor of Arts in Critical Languages and International Studies. This degree offering educates and trains students in Texas for careers in global affairs and international business, with an emphasis on less commonly taught languages and cultures of critical significance in Texas and the United States, as well as international economic and geopolitical arenas.

The importance of critical languages in the contemporary and future world economies and the international sphere cannot be emphasized enough. Critical languages are important for a number of reasons, in fields as diverse as international law and commerce, international relations, the internationalization of the internet, and intercultural communication.

While working toward your degree, you may also obtain a Certificate in Localization and Translation, further enhancing your international skill set, through studying the ways in which language, culture, translation, the internet, and commerce intersect with each other.

The Critical Languages and International Studies program offers three language options: Chinese, Russian or German. Arabic and Korean are also slated to become a part of this program in the future.

For further information about this degree program as well as faculty contact information, see the web site www.uta.edu/modl/clis/.

Submitted by Klaus Driessen

REMINDER

Volunteers for the Christkindl Market Committee and the Picnic Committee can sign up with Ellen Brooke by calling 817 459-6143 or by email to ellen.brooke@arlingtontx.gov

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 12 & 13 – Sister Cities International Annual Conference, San Antonio. For more information: <http://sister-cities.org/annual-conference>.

Friday, Sept. 20 – Fall Picnic/Oktoberfest: Bad Königshofen Pavilion, SJ Stovall Park

Saturday, Oct. 5 – German Charity Gala ((formerly known to all as the German Pioneer Ball) will be held at the Hotel InterContinental Dallas. This is the 51st annual ball sponsored by the nonprofit Texas German Day Council. Ticket information and other details available soon on the website www.GermanCharityGala.com. Questions in the meantime? Contact Martha LiehseL at LiehseL@windstream.net.

Nov. 29-Dec. 22 - Arlington's 3rd Annual Christkindl Market.

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