



## NEWSLETTER

MAY 2008

NO. 6

### IN ARLINGTON

Dear Bad Königshofen Friends

Thank you so very much for your support. As the new president of the Bad Königshofen society, I hope to accomplish the following things in the coming year:

- 1) Continue our relationship between Arlington and the new mayor of Bad Königshofen and his administration. We will continue work to strengthen our friendship with all the citizens of this little town in Germany.
- 2) Obtain a grant to build a permanent display of memorabilia that has been given to the city of Arlington by the citizens of Bad Königshofen over the years to include pictures, plaques and other items that show the strong bond between our cities.
- 3) Increase the membership.
- 4) Develop a stronger relationship between the Arlington Independent School District, The University of Texas @ Arlington and our club. I hope to visit all the high schools in Arlington and present our message of friendship as well as to promote the relationship at UTA.
- 5) Develop a direct foreign exchange program with students of the Arlington ISD and Bad Königshofen. This will allow us to show off our city as well as display the hospitality.

I will need a lot of help in accomplishing this agenda. Hopefully each and every one of you will be able to find some time to volunteer to make this partnership attain new heights.

Additionally, we invite everyone to an open house on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at our house:  
5314 Hidden Trails Drive  
Arlington, TX 76017  
(817) 478-5134

Hope to see all of you soon.

Klaus Driessen, Chair

### IN BAD KÖNIGSHOFEN



Photo by Hanns Friedrich

Thomas Helbling and Clemens Behr were photographed together on April 24 at Bürgermeister Behr's last City Council meeting. Bürgermeister Behr was honored for his 18 years of service as Mayor, his prior years as a City Council Member and his many accomplishments for the city.

As of May 1, Bürgermeister Thomas Helbling has begun his six-year term of office and has promised that he will continue Bad Königshofen's strong support for the Arlington / Bad Königshofen sister cities partnership. He was a City Council Member from 2002 until the present so he is very familiar with the well-established ties between the two cities.

Bürgermeister Helbling is 41 years old, is married and has a ten-year-old daughter. He was born in the city of Tuttlingen, in the far southwestern part of Germany, but moved to Bad Königshofen with his parents when he was still in school. One of his first jobs was with the customs service at the former West / East border near Bad Königshofen. He was on duty the night the border opened in 1989. In 1990 he started a career in banking, which continued until he assumed his new full-time duties as Bürgermeister.

## REFLECTIONS

Guest Columnist Julia Burgen

### **The Texas / German Connection in 19<sup>th</sup> century**

Our host family in Bad Königshofen last fall were Elvira and Albin Heumann. Although it was winter, they showed us pictures of the beautiful flowers and vegetation that grace their property in the growing season. Elvira was clearly a lover of flowers. I decided that I would do my best to find a German language book about the influence of German botanists on the flora of Texas.

In Arlington in the 1980's I was delighted to make the acquaintance of UTA professor Minetta Altgelt Goynes. Her book, *A Life Among the Texas Flora* about Ferdinand Lindheimer was a perfect fit for my growing study of the state's native vegetation then, and now for my search. Lindheimer was one of numerous German intellectuals who contributed so much to scientific and cultural development. In his case it was both botany and the New Braunfels German language

newspaper, which he edited from 1852 to 1872.

Another of my information sources is *Naturalists of the Frontier* by Samuel Wood Geiser. Quote: "Actual settlers in Texas, in these early years absorbed in the struggle to gain the barest necessities of life, had little leisure for scientific interests; but among the many German intellectuals who came into Texas after 1831, many of them with university training in the sciences, were several men who did noteworthy work for science. Associated with the German settlements at New Braunfels and Fredericksburg were Ferdinand Lindheimer, who came to Texas in 1836, Louis Ervendberg, who came in 1839, and later the distinguished explorer Ferdinand Roemer...."

More next issue about Julia's quest for a German language book on influence of German botanists in describing the Texas flora. She would welcome any information that any of you might have. [jborgen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jborgen@sbcglobal.net)

## VISIT TO GERMANY

Juliann Warner, teacher at Martin High School and leader of this upcoming trip, reports on the Arlington Sister City Young Ambassadors

"On July 9<sup>th</sup>, 22 students and 5 adults will be departing DFW for Frankfurt, Germany. From there a bus will take us to our sister city Bad Königshofen where we will be hosted by families for 2 nights. We hope to have a celebration with our Sister City friends. Our hope is to have a picnic with them and get to know our Bad Königshofen friends. We will depart on Saturday for a tour of Germany and Eastern Europe. We will be traveling through Austria, Hungary, and Czech Republic."

## ARLINGTON FRIEND SPOTLIGHT



Bad Königshofen resident Susi Eschenbach is a true friend of Arlington. Susi made her first trip to Arlington in 1988 as a member of a delegation from Bad Königshofen and then visited again on her own in 2003. But her familiarity with Arlington dates back to the early 1950s when she remembers the clothing, food and other gifts arriving from Arlington and being distributed to those in need.

Sacks of flour and sugar were included in those aid shipments, and the sturdy cotton sacks were never discarded when empty. They were used to make articles of clothing or other items for the household. Susi, then in her early twenties, made many items from those sacks, including tablecloths, and gave many of the items to others as Christmas or birthday gifts. In 2001, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the Arlington / Bad Königshofen friendship, Susi sent one of her tablecloths to Arlington as a gift. The tablecloth, now framed, hangs in Arlington's City Hall.

Susi is a member of Bad Königshofen's historical society and worked in the local museum until 2003. In the 1980s she was the director of a border information office located in Bad Königshofen. She organized short visits to the East for interested persons from the West and offered seminars about East Germany in conjunction with adult education institutions, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Federal Ministry for Intra-German Relations. Up to four times a week, she crossed the border with groups to historic

places in the East and also explained the course of the West / East German border and the procedures at the border crossing points. One visit she likes to tell about was in 1984 when she gave a border tour to 14 American journalists, including one from Texas, who was surprised to see a park in Bad Königshofen named after Arlington and who then gathered data for an article he wrote for Arlington's newspaper. That article led to Susi receiving several letters from Arlington residents, one of which included bluebonnet seeds for Arlington-Park.

It was such a pleasure to see Susi again during our delegation's visit to Bad Königshofen in 2007. In the photo, Susi is seated next to Bad Königshofen resident Leonhard Hoffmann, who after Christmas 2007 retired from his role as town "Saint Nicholas" after 70 years of service.

## NEWS FLASH

### **Early voting began Monday, April 28**

Tarrant County voters may vote at any early voting location within the county

#### Hours First Week of Voting

Monday thru Friday: 8 am to 5 pm

Saturday, May 3: 7 am to 7 pm

Sunday, May 4: 11 am to 4 pm

May 5-6: 7 am to 7 pm

Election Day – May 10

## MORE NEWS

The Sister Cities current bank account has \$3,092.97.

Also, BK T-shirts are still available. Priced reasonably at \$15. Sizes: Adult large and x-large. If interested call Ellen Brooke at 817 459-6143

Officers elected at our February Meeting were:

Chairman	Klaus Driessen
Vice Chairman	Sheri Capehart
Secretary	Eric English
Treasurer	Ellen Brooke

## SAVE THE DATE

The BK Pavilion in SJ Stovall Park has been reserved **Sunday, September 21, 4-10 pm.** for the Friends Picnic. More to come.

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