



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

www.arlingtontx.gov/sistercity/index.html

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2011

NO. 16

GREETINGS

This year we're commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the sister cities partnership of Bad Königshofen and Arlington and we do hope you'll join us at the various events throughout the year to mark this important anniversary.

You've already received notice of our Anniversary Luncheon planned for June 4 at Tierra Verde. If you haven't made reservations yet, give Ellen Brooke a call (817-459-6143) or e-mail her at Ellen.Brooke@arlingtontx.gov to let her know you're putting your check in the mail. A wonderful German meal will be prepared for us and retired Major General Willard Latham, an Arlington resident, will tell us about his two visits to Bad Königshofen in 1974.

We'll have a picnic in September as well, close to the date that marks the beginning of our partnership 60 years ago. It was on September 17, 1951 that then-Mayor Tom Vandergriff wrote to Königshofen Mayor Lurz about Arlington's offer to send aid that was needed for the hundreds of refugees in their town. In that letter he wrote that the citizens of Arlington wanted to establish bonds of friendship between the two countries and especially between the two cities.

We'll get the word out to you when we know the dates this fall for a delegation to travel to Bad Königshofen to visit with our friends, old

and new, and celebrate the 60th Anniversary. We'll welcome visitors from Bad Königshofen next year as we extend the anniversary celebration into 2012.

We have lots of work to do to see that our partnership remains strong in the future and we hope we'll have your support through your participation and with your ideas for exchanges and for local activities and fundraising events. If you are not already a member of Sister Cities of Arlington, Texas, do join our organization.

Bruce Maxwell, our president, can be reached at brucemaxx77@yahoo.com.

We'll see y'all on June 4!

DEDICATION OF PARTNERSHIP HOUSE

By Martha Liehse

On March 24 of this year, the new Culture Arsenal and Partnership House was dedicated in Bad Königshofen. The word "new" here refers to newly completed renovations and a new use for one of the oldest buildings in our sister city.



The citizens of Bad Königshofen are looking forward to introducing the Arlington visitors to this wonderful new facility this fall.

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

(With Apologies to Charles Dickens)

By Major General Willard Latham

The building had to be completely gutted for the year-long renovation work to commence. Besides the obvious need for new windows, a new roof, and plumbing and electrical work, an elevator was also added. The roof framework of the building dated back to 1593 and 1791. New roof tiles had to be used on most of the roof, but on one side they were able to re-use existing tiles, some of which have the year 1792 on them.

In January this year, I had a pleasant conversation with Mr. Eric English at the line in our bank in which he kindly expressed appreciation for my military service. He then asked if I had served in Germany. I told him that I had served a number of years there and he asked if I had heard of Bad Königshofen. I had indeed been there and I told him about it. Mr. English told me about the current sister city program with Arlington and Bad Königshofen. Our conversation revived thoughts of my experience with the somewhat little known 46 years of Cold War between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, of which the United States was a major member, and the Soviet Union.

The Culture Arsenal and Partnership House is now being used for exhibits, meetings, seminars, concerts and receptions. The local historical society holds its meetings there. One room has been set aside for sister city exhibits, including, of course, many items to do with Bad Königshofen's partnership with Arlington.

The war in Europe against Nazi Germany ended in May 1945, with the German surrender to the Western Allies and the Soviet Union. At the end of the war, the Soviet Union had the largest Army the world had ever known, but Russia, the mother, lay ravaged.



The Mayor of Römhild, Bad Königshofen's other sister city, was present at the dedication and presented an aerial picture of his town for the Partnership House. (Römhild is located in the German State of Thüringen and has been a sister city of Bad Königshofen since 1991.)

The United States, by contrast, ended the war as the greatest industrial power in history. Following the surrender, Germany was divided into four zones of occupation: American, British, French and the Soviet Union. Generalissimo Josef Stalin had one foreign policy objective above all others: to create a buffer zone along his country's western border including the Soviet Zone of Occupation. His purpose was two-fold: to prevent invasion of Russia from Europe and to establish friendly pro-Soviet governments in countries liberated by the Soviet Army. By 1946 the establishment of the buffer zone in the Soviet Zone of Occupation had reached the point that it was described by Winston Churchill, the war-time Prime Minister of Great Britain, thusly: "From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an Iron Curtain has descended across the continent."

A major result of the Soviet barrier on the American, British and French zones of occupation was a flow of refugees from the Soviet zone and the liberated countries to escape the Soviet occupation.

This refugee stream caused a major problem of accommodation because the economy of Germany was badly damaged by the war. Housing, food and clothing were critically scarce. The town of Königshofen in Bavaria was located near the Soviet zone and was overwhelmed by the flood of refugees. In the years 1946 to 1951 Königshofen and Arlington, Texas were about the same size.

In 1951, Mr. Kurt Zühlke, the City Manager of Königshofen, visited Arlington as part of a study tour of the United States and met Tom Vandergriff, the then-Mayor of Arlington. Mayor Vandergriff was impressed by the need of the people of Königshofen and began a campaign to help. By September 1951, Mayor Vandergriff was able to notify Mayor Kaspar Lurz of Königshofen that the citizens of Arlington were anxious to help his people and from 1951 to 1955 four major shipments of supplies were moved to Germany for the people in Königshofen.

In the summer of 1951, I returned from the Korean war to Arlington to reunite with my wife, Myra Nell, who had been living with her parents while I was in Korea. I had been in Germany in 1946-47 in my first overseas assignment. In the excitement of returning from the war, seeing my family, and remembering some of the things I saw in Germany, and also being rather young, I remember wondering what was so important about Germany.

As I moved through a military career of 34 years, almost twelve of them in Europe, progressing from Lieutenant to Major General and thus becoming more mature, and perhaps wiser, I became more impressed with the wisdom of Mayor Vandergriff and the good citizens of Arlington in undertaking a compassionate and humane project that demonstrated the difference between the cultures of the two sides of the Cold War.

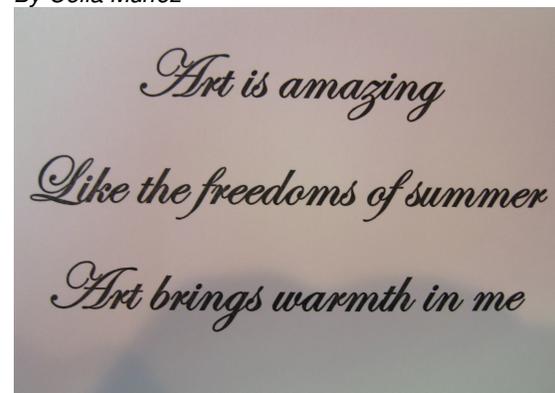
In 1973-74, I was stationed in Schweinfurt, Germany near Königshofen with command responsibilities for defense measures along the border of East and West Germany. During April 1974, my wife and I were visited by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Cooke. Mr. Cooke was a retired businessman from Arlington and a friend of Mayor Vandergriff, and the Mayor requested him to present the official flag of Arlington to the City of Königshofen. My wife and I accompanied the Cookes to the city, together, with due official ceremony, and presented the flag to Mayor Wolfgang Mack. The Mayor escorted us on a tour of the city, where we saw some of the effects of enhanced friendship between the people of the Two Cities. In September 1974, I had the honor to represent the City of Arlington and the U.S. Army Europe at the ceremony in Königshofen renaming the city to Bad Königshofen, designating it as an official mineral baths health resort. (I even made a speech.)

I believe the main thought that most Americans, especially soldiers who served in Germany during this Cold War period, remember is the enthusiastic appreciation the average German citizen had for the support and protection provided by the forces of the NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION. (Incidentally: With the implosion of the Soviet Union, we WON the Cold War!!)

LONG LIVE THE SISTER CITY CONCEPT!

POETRY & PRINTS – HAIKU AND YOU – A NORTHSTAR SCHOOL PROJECT

By Celia Muñoz



The exhibition is an on-going exchange between the sister cities of Arlington, Texas, U.S.A. and Bad Königshofen, Bavaria, Germany. Both cities have a history of creative projects, including public art monuments, and pen-pal letters.

This year, celebrating the 60 years of friendship, students from both cities are engaged in a project. Arlington's Northstar School is represented in this exhibition at the Arlington Museum of Art, titled "Poetry & Prints: Haiku and You." The project is a collection of haiku poems and relief prints resulting from a creative writing and image making workshop by the students from grades 7 - 12. To prepare, the students attended The Modern Museum of Art in Fort Worth to view the exhibition "Vernon Fisher: K-Mart Conceptualism," which dealt with narrative works incorporating words and images. The exhibition will travel to Germany later this year.

Acknowledgement is due to super Northstar teachers Lisa Odom, Wendy Lastovica-Alvey, Jennifer Lecroy for workshop assistance; to Northstar board members Tabatha Knickerbocker & Kay Hunn for the initial nod.; Arlington Museum of Art for showcasing; AMA board member Lynda Freeman for installation assistance.

Arlington artist Celia Alvarez Muñoz conducted and curated the project.

In retrospect, the birth of this project took place in the little rental RV kitchen that Christine Wehe-Bamberger and Klaus Wehe parked across from the AMA when we reunited on their last visit to Arlington. Christine was documenting a 24hr. watch on video, akin to the clock tower in the BK town square. Our goal was to enlighten the next generation with the story of the friendship that started from a pen pal letter by a young woman. So, we thought about engaging teenagers in an exchange project that would ultimately reveal differences or similarities of their age group, across the "pond." We assumed there would be more similarities than differences. I had conducted similar projects and welcomed the opportunity.

The idea was sealed with a farewell "kiss" at the send-off brunch for our Germany friends at the same place this year's luncheon will take place: The Ventana Grill. Attending were Kay Hunn and Tabatha Knickerbocker from Northstar School who enthusiastically agreed to the project.

The workshop started last semester and, as stated above, was wholeheartedly endorsed by the teachers at Northstar School. The class was taken through the process of ideation to produce a personal depiction of themselves in both poetry and prints. The resulting work is a personally charming picture of teenage concerns. The Arlington Museum of Art responded graciously to the call of showcasing the project with an exhibition that will run through May 29. Christine is arranging for an exhibition of the same in Germany.

I invite all to visit the exhibition and promote viewing.

My dream is to put this project into a publication that could be distributed to schools, be placed in our libraries, chamber of commerce, tourist information center, and pertinent institutions. Arlington is developing a physical history of exchange through art that should be acknowledged in a publication form. It now has two public art projects in both countries, and this new wonderful exchange that mirrors its beginnings!





available for sale beginning already at 6 p.m.
Cash bar: beer and soft drinks.

HOLD THE DATE – Sister Cities of Arlington TX picnic will be Friday evening, **September 16th**. Bad Königshofen Pavilion at SJ Stovall Park. Time and additional information to be announced.

October 8 -- German Pioneer Ball in Irving.

NEWS

2011 Membership Dues are Due

We are still collecting membership dues for 2011. A current membership is one of the requirements for joining us on our Bad Königshofen trip this year currently scheduled in October.

Also note that the Board is still seeking a date for a trip to BK and more information should be available soon.

News Flash - The Chamber has received the nod for Arlington Tomorrow Fund funding and is feverishly planning the Christkindl Market for this year.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Seating is still available for the **June 4th** luncheon with Guest Speaker Major General Willard Latham. Reservations must be made by **May 31st**.

There will be a "Late Spring Dance" at the Knights of Columbus Hall (2625 S. Cooper St.) on Saturday, **June 4**, with music by the **German Band of North Texas**. Come for a fun evening with music from 7 till 10 and with a "can't-be-beat" admission price of just \$3 per person or \$5 for a couple. German food will be

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