



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

[www.arlingtontx.gov/sistercity/index.html](http://www.arlingtontx.gov/sistercity/index.html)

## NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2013

NO. 23

### GREETINGS

Dear Sister Cities Friends,

Ach du Lieber!!! The year has gone by quickly and there is still more to come. Our annual picnic was great and the food excellent!!! Arlington's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Christkindl Market is fast approaching. Our lace order will be shipped shortly and we will plan a 'label pricing party' soon. Also, in the next few weeks we will schedule training for booth volunteers. Start scheduling your volunteer hours in the booth now.

It is great how our 'new members' have stepped in throughout the year to become a great asset to our group. We hope to reach out to local schools as well to tap into their great resources. During a recent visit to Martin HS, members of the Junior World Affairs Council showed great enthusiasm for the market. These talented youth are gearing up for a social media blast about the market.

A group of us recently attended the German Charity Gala formerly known as the Pioneer Ball on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> to help celebrate German Day in Texas and the friendship between Germany and the U.S.

The proceeds from The German Charity Gala, held in Addison, will benefit two nonprofit German language schools, the Dallas Goethe

Center School and the German International School of Dallas. Other North Texas German-related nonprofit organizations had a display area that evening, and our historian, Martha Liehse, provided information for the attendees about the Bad Königshofen/Arlington partnership.



Gerhard and Martha Liehse, Dan and Agnes Schoppe, Bruce and Cheré Maxwell

Since Bürgermeister Thomas Helbling is up for re-election next March, he won't be able to attend the market this year as he will be in the middle of an election campaign. Let's all wish him well and lend our support with an Arlington Sister Cities signatures of support rally!!! We also look forward to a delegation from Rothenburg at our market this year, including the Lord Mayor.

Thank you all for your continued support and dedication to Sister Cities of Arlington!!!

President Bruce Maxwell  
Brucemaxx77@yahoo.com

## HEINRICH BLUM'S PERSONAL STORY OF FRIENDSHIP

In 1993 I had the pleasure of meeting Arlington's former Fire Chief Bill Strickland. He had made the trip to my town, Bad Königshofen, during the 125th anniversary of our Volunteer Fire Department. At that time I was responsible for the youth fire brigade. Bill's visit inspired many juveniles to become interested in firefighting, and our organization began adding enthusiastic youth members very quickly.

One year later, during my first trip to Arlington, I had the pleasure of honoring Chief Strickland with two badges from the German Youth Fire Brigade Association. Firefighters all over the world are like one big family, so from the very first visit to our Sister City, the Arlington Fire Department treated me like an old friend of their family. In fact, it was during that first visit that the AFD made me an honorary Lieutenant of the Department!

Not only did I make friends in the AFD, but early on I also met another Arlington resident, Brad Jordan, with whom I still have a close relationship. In fact, Brad's family and mine still enjoy a very strong friendship. Regrettably, our respective families cannot fully enjoy our friendship because of the great distance between our two cities.

When visitors from Arlington come to Bad Königshofen, I always offer my services as tour guide and translator. And I am very thankful that I now have many friends in my Sister City, and hope to continue meeting and making new friends for years to come.

I have lost count of how many visits I have made to Arlington, but by now it must be approximately 20 times. And when I arrive,

there are always friends to greet me and extend Arlington's wonderful hospitality



Photo by Hanns Friedrich

Often during the Christmas holidays, I serve as St. Nicholas to the local kids. Once when we also had visitors from Arlington during the holidays, I greeted them as St. Nicholas upon their arrival. That day, December 6, was one of my most memorable moments. Of course, one of my biggest challenges that year was translating the traditional German Christmas poems into English for our guests.

The relationship between Arlington and Bad Königshofen is really amazing. When I talk about it, and all the friendships that have been made over the years, I get tears in my eyes and goose-bumps on my skin. I feel honored and am very proud to be a part of this wonderful relationship.

Beautiful moments and exciting memories are the basis for this everlasting strong bond between our two cities – FRIENDSHIP, SOLID AS A ROCK is an appropriate expression of our unusual and long-lasting partnership.

## VISITORS TO BAD KÖNIGSHOFEN

This past June my husband Tom, daughter Tara and I went on a trip to Germany with the primary purpose of visiting our Bad Königshofen friends! Teresa Heckenlauer was one of the youth that visited Arlington in September 2012 and we hosted her. She and Tara quickly became dear friends so Tara was very excited to make the trip to see Teresa again, meet her family, as well as reconnect with the other students that came to Arlington last fall and to visit the much talked about Bad Königshofen!!

We arrived on a Friday morning in June in time for Tara to go to school with Teresa. Her mother, Daniela, gave us a walking tour of their small quaint town and settled us in at Hotel Ebner. Her father Bernard joined us for a little afternoon trip to Kreuzberg for lunch and hiking. Later we met Lucas, a family friend, and had dinner at their home before the kids went off to enjoy a party at the beach.



Saturday morning was a "market" in the square so we were able to see many of the wonderful folks that had visited Arlington. It was just delightful to meet up again--they are all so friendly and welcoming. With the Heckenlauer family, we day tripped to Würzburg and Rothenburg.



Heinrich's three children: 12 year old Anna and 15 year old twins, Rebecca and David at the Sister Cities Monument in Arlington Park.

Article and photo Submitted by Henry Blum

Editors Note:

Today, Heinrich Blum lives with his long time partner Anna Boltsch in the small community of Rosengarten. His company, which does business in the United States, has an office in Austin, Texas.

## HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW

1. Can you name the two women whose pen pal relationship resulted in the partnership between Arlington and Bad Königshofen?
2. Do you know the date that is generally accepted as the "official" beginning of the partnership?
3. At the time when the agreement between the two cities was decided, Tom Vandergriff was Mayor of Arlington. Who was the Bürgermeister of Königshofen?
4. From 1952 to 1954 Arlington sent four shipments to Königshofen. What was in those shipments?
5. To thank Arlington for the shipments, what place in Königshofen was named after Arlington in 1954?

The Editors of the Newsletter are submitting this new article. Check your answers at the end of this newsletter.

Upon returning later that evening, the Mayor's wife and daughter, Sabine and Annabell, had us over for drinks and visiting. We had a great time "shooting the breeze" until the wee hours.

Sunday morning we attended the Catholic Church in Bad Königshofen where we ran into Andrea (another Arlington visitor). After a wonderful lunch at Vier Jahreszeiten we went to the airport in Saal (a town nearby) where both Tom and Tara were able to go gliding!! (Lucas, the family friend, works there and had connections) Later that afternoon we had an invite to coffee at Angelika and Reinhard Wilimsky's home. We had such a nice time visiting, singing and enjoying the exquisite desserts Angelika offered. With heavy hearts we drove off to Frankfurt to fly home.

The hospitality of these generous people cannot be matched anywhere! We had the most fabulous time!!

Submitted by Tom, DeIRae and Tara Schickedanz

## FALL PICNIC/OKTOBERFEST

In spite of threatening rains, 56 friends of Bad Königshofen and members of Sister Cities of Arlington, Texas, gathered at the Bad Königshofen Pavilion in S.J. Stovall Park in south Arlington Friday evening, September 20, to celebrate the 62<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of our friendship with Bad Königshofen, Germany.



Given the weather and other German ethnic events this same evening, we were pleased to see the great turnout, including students from Martin High School, representatives of

Northstar School, and also members of the Tarrant County Chapter of the Texas German Society, who canceled their monthly meeting to join us!



We missed those members of our organization who attended the annual meeting of the German-Texan Heritage Society in Winedale, Texas, but knew they would share news of the meeting on their return. (See separate article by Martha Liehse covering her and Gerhard's and Dan and Agnes Schoppe's attendance at this two-day meeting.)

We had plenty of food, including German bratwurst from Kuby's in Snider Plaza in Dallas, thanks to Elizabeth Baker's commitment to deliver! We had German-style sauerkraut prepared by Werner Grotz's wife Christel, delicious potato salad, and apple cobbler/Kuchen dessert from Spring Creek BBQ.



Our able grill master, Bruce Maxwell's neighbor Adnan Bahar, once again prepared our

bratwurst to perfection, and our Beck's Oktoberfest beer was donated by MillerCoors Distributor Larry Anfin, making our authentic German menu complete.



Don Higgins and Suzanne and John Sweek



Seated: Vicki English and Juliann Warner with Shelia

Article Submitted by Shelia Gibson, Photos by Bruce Maxwell

## ANOTHER GERMAN-TEXAN GET-TOGETHER

The German-Texan Heritage Society held its annual meeting September 20-21 in Winedale, and four members of Sister Cities of Arlington (the Schoppes and the Liehsels) headed south for that meeting. Back in April, the Texas German Society had its annual meeting in Galveston, and you might now be wondering what the difference is between those two organizations with quite similar and often-confused names. The really short answer is that there isn't that much difference between them. They are both statewide, nonprofit groups doing what they can to preserve German-Texan history, culture and language. Quite a few Texans are members of both organizations, including the four of us in the Arlington sister cities organization who were at both Galveston and Winedale this year.

Where and what is Winedale? It is a historical center owned by the University of Texas and is located near Round Top, in Fayette County. The area was settled by German immigrants in the 1800s and many well-preserved early homes and other structures can now be seen there.

Speakers' presentations at the two-day September meeting included lots of helpful genealogical information as well as the interesting history of Germans in that county.



There was much laughter and friendly fellowship, with the highlight of the evening being the raffle of some of the beautiful German hand-made lace items sent to us by some of our friends in Bad Königshofen, and of course, Werner Grotz's coveted (by him) beer stein. Werner's wife Christel encouraged his stein donation, although Werner was later found offering BIG BUCKS to the winner to return the German stein to him, and all in good fun. It seemed no one went home empty-handed, or with an empty stomach!

Tours of some of the historic homes were also provided, as well as a visit (shortened by a downpour of rain) to private property nearby that had been the site of Nassau Plantation, established by Germans in the 1840s.

From time to time discussion develops about why the German-Texan Heritage Society and the Texas German Society don't become one organization. A few years ago we overheard a gentleman who is a member of both organizations comment that he is happy that the two organizations still exist because that gives him the opportunity to attend two annual meetings each year, especially since each organization has each year's meeting in a different location of importance to German-Texan history. Over the years, the two annual meetings have taken Gerhard and me to so many interesting locales in Texas that we would probably not have visited otherwise.

Submitted by Martha Liehse

## REMINDER

### Christkindl Market Volunteers!

We've received word from our vendor in Rothenburg that the lace product is ready to ship! There will be a "pricing party" with the date set once we know when to expect the product. We'll need some volunteers to help price and organize the lace ornaments. Ellen Brooke will send out a follow-up email seeking helpers.

With the expanded Market days this year, there will be lots of opportunity to volunteer at the Sister Cities hut. Please visit the website and look for the Volunteer form. <http://www.arlingtontx.gov/sistercity/index.html>

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Oct. 19** – Oktoberfest Dance and Concert from 7:30 till 10 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 2625 S. Cooper St. Music by the German

Band of North Texas. Admission \$5. German food for sale beginning at 6:30. Cash Bar.

**Nov. 29-Dec. 22** - Arlington's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Christkindl Market.

### Answers to "How Much Do You Know"

1. Irene von Falkenried, Marburg, Germany and Theda Howell, Arlington, Texas
2. September 17, 1951
3. Bürgermeister Kaspar Lurz
4. Clothing, food, gift items
5. Bad Königshofen's City Park was renamed Arlington Park

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