



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

www.arlingtontx.gov/sistercity/index.html

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2011

NO. 17

GREETINGS,
DEAR BK FRIENDS –

We are embarking on a capital campaign to raise funds for a permanent location and structure in Arlington City Hall for storage of historical documents and donated items pertaining to our Arlington/Bad Königshofen, Germany Sister City Partnership. Arlington has received many wonderful gifts from our friends in Bad Königshofen through the years and those need to be shared with the public as well. Citizens of Arlington and visitors to City Hall as well will have the opportunity of learning about one of the longest sister city friendships in the United States. We are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the partnership this year.

Our goal is to raise \$50,000 for the design, construction and maintenance of an exhibit area in the foyer of City Hall. This important historical and educational display space will be completed in March 2012, just before we host our friends from Bad Königshofen as a continuation of the 60th anniversary celebration.

We ask for your help in our fundraising efforts to match a grant we received from the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation and your donations are tax deductible. Please make your donation check payable to the City of Arlington and mail to:

Sister Cities of Arlington, Texas
PO Box 90231
Mail Stop 01-0310
Arlington TX 76004

Please be a part of this historic effort to communicate to our citizens and visitors the wonderful and important partnership we have with Bad Königshofen.

President, Bruce Maxwell

FEATURE STORY

By Klaus Driessen, German Language and Linguistics

German Summer Institute at the University of Texas at Arlington July 18 through July 28, 2011

The German Summer Institute at the University of Texas at Arlington was a success. We introduced the students to a variety of linguistic and cultural experiences. We spoke in the target language (German) as much as possible and encouraged our students to speak as much German as possible. The students came from the three high schools that offer German as a language (Arlington, Lamar, and Martin). The institute was made possible through a federal grant from the Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) administered by the Arlington Independent School District. The goal was to give the German students in our high schools a new and fresh approach to learning a foreign language.

Some of our activities included:

- Eating at German restaurants and ordering their food in German
- Visiting the Dallas Holocaust Museum and learning about a sad period in German history
- Making a poster about their favorite things
- Learning about job opportunities available to foreign language majors
- Watching humorous German videos, music videos and geography videos
- Learning about German, Austrian, Swiss, Liechtensteiner, and Luxembourg cities
- Visiting the Planetarium, Engineering Building, Library, and Student Union Building on campus
- Writing a skit and performing it and then posting it on You Tube

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There were three native German speakers present at all times with guest lecturers conducting several lectures on different aspects of various German experiences. We used the Language Acquisition Center located in the Foreign Language building on the UTA campus. We had access to computers, smart boards, and video projectors. All of these devices along with others were used to convey and communicate the different aspects of language learning. Students were encouraged to express opinions, speak in German, and express ideas and feelings.

At the end of our session, we asked the students to tell us what part of the program they enjoyed the most. Below is a summary of some of their responses.

“I enjoyed the chocolate tasting. We had to determine which country produced the best chocolate.”

“I liked going to the Holocaust Museum. It was very interesting and I learned a lot about German history.”

“Making a movie was a blast. I can’t wait to show it to my parents and my German friends.”

“I feel sorry for those German students at my school who did not get the chance to participate in this program. I learned things that my German teacher did not cover in class. They really missed out.”

UTA was happy and proud to sponsor the Intensive German Seminar and feels that the students had a useful and informative two weeks. We hope that these students will share their experiences with their home school teachers and fellow students. We also hope they, because of this experience, will continue their goal of learning a foreign language.

CHRISTKINDL GERMAN HOLIDAY MARKET COMES TO ARLINGTON

A new holiday tradition debuts in Arlington Dec. 8-11--Christkindl German Holiday Market. The authentic, festive holiday marketplace will be a true private/public partnership anticipated to grow into the state’s largest German Holiday Market. The event will include authentic Old World entertainment, food, crafts, gifts for the holiday, displays and fun! To learn more, click on the link:

http://arlingtontx.com/images/uploads/Christkindl_Overview.pdf



Unloading huts for Christkindl Market

REMEMBERING THE WALL'S LESSONS

By Martha Liehse

On August 13 in Germany this year, an event from 50 years ago was marked for its effect on the lives of so many people and for the lessons it has taught. On that date in 1961 East German workers began the erection of the Berlin Wall, and later that year began sealing off the entire border between East and West Germany with barbed wire and minefields, to keep people in and ideas out.

German President Christian Wulff said at a ceremony this year that the “life-asphyxiating wall” must be a reminder to appreciate and preserve the openness of today’s world. Another government official emphasized the importance of young people seeing documentation about the Wall to understand what an inhumane system it represented. In the years since the Wall opened in 1989, many sections of it have been purchased or donated for displays around the world.

The East/West border affected the citizens of Arlington’s sister city Bad Königshofen, due to that Bavarian town’s proximity to what was the Soviet occupation zone after World War II and later the German Democratic Republic (East Germany). But border fortification did not happen overnight. In 1946 already, the Soviet zone was imposing some travel restrictions on

its citizens and in 1947 was placing barbed wire barriers in some areas hidden from the view of its border officials. More and more restrictions on travel, trade and private property became law in what became the German Democratic Republic in 1949. Watch towers for the East’s guards were already being erected beginning in 1949, and then through the years East Germany fortified the border more and more.

Between the end of the War in 1945 and the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961, it is estimated that several million people left the East. Several hundred refugees sought a new life in what was then Königshofen, and that, as we all know, is why Arlington sent four aid shipments of food and clothing to Königshofen in the early 1950s.

Near Bad Königshofen today, a small piece of the East German border fortification serves as a reminder of those years, and a memorial there reads (translated): As a perpetual memorial to the division of our German fatherland.

PROJECT “KRAUT 2.0”

[Editor’s note: Our thanks to Shirley Volluz for passing on to us this translation of the “Kraut 2.0” description originally written by the Bad Königshofen project leaders. We have shortened it a bit for our newsletter.]

The perception of Germans by those abroad typically includes the epithets “Krauts” or “Sauerkrauts.” The concept of “sauerkraut” brings with it both positive and negative associations, prejudicial and friendly labeling alike.

As our pre-planned project for a group of young people was developed, it had no name. In the discussion about the image that young people, for example in the U.S., have for young people here, “sauerkraut” was one of the first spontaneously mentioned terms. At the same time it became clear that sauerkraut is not necessarily one of the favorite foods of young people and a dish they know more from hearsay than from personal experience.

What else can one glean from the conservative prejudices about us “Krauts”? How does the new generation see itself? How does this new generation see their region, also in relation to other regions in Germany, Europe and in the rest of the world?

Whoever asks youth in our region how they view the region in which they live typically gets the response “... there isn't much going on.” Upon further questioning, however, a more nuanced image arises, often one of a closeness to the region where they grew up, and a wide range of individual opinions, often influenced by the respondent's own life situation and future prospects.

With Kraut 2.0, launched in 2010, a project started which deals with the questions of how young people in the region see and experience their area and how they view themselves. The term Kraut 2.0 is becoming a new way for youth to view themselves, just as Web 2.0 is a new way to view the use of the Internet with an emphasis on more interactive use than Web 1.0.

For the project, adolescents and young adults are called upon to present impressions, views and opinions using different means of representation, e.g., videos, photographs, drawings, collages, interviews, blogs and websites. The point is to address who young people are as a group and as individuals.

Results will be presented to the public in many different places and by many different means. In addition to presenting a picture of their local habitat from the perspective of young people, another goal of Kraut 2.0 is to encourage young people to perceive their environmental awareness. This can be achieved, for example, by conducting excursions to different places in the region. Young people should be encouraged and supported in the documentation and describing of their local habitat, and they will be given the opportunity to learn and present their experiences. This creates opportunities for comparison with other young people and their life situation and serves as a basis for dialogue with young people around the world.

Through various courses and workshops, the youth will learn various techniques of documentation and presentation. The city museums will organize two excursions during vacation time which will offer the opportunity to obtain new impressions of the region and document them: one is a tour of the former East/West border, including a visit to a museum dedicated to those who broke through the border, and another is a tour of villages on the former border that also includes views of how the border area is being restored.

Information about the project can be found at www.krautzwonull.de. Cooperation partners for the project are the local school, the city museums, the City, the youth center, and artist Christine Wehe-Bamberger.

NEWS

Sister Cities of Arlington, Texas 60th Anniversary Picnic

Friday, September 16th 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM
Bad Königshofen Pavilion – S.J. Stovall Park
2800 W. Sublett Road, Arlington

FOOD - BEVERAGES – ENTERTAINMENT

Special Performance by the German Band of North Texas

Bring your lawn chairs. Food & Beverages available for purchase.

Contact Ellen Brooke if you are able to provide homemade cookies

Upcoming trip to Bad Königshofen

A group of 30 adults and 3 students will be traveling to Bad Königshofen in mid-October to commemorate and celebrate the 60th Anniversary of our cities' special relationship. The delegation will be led by Council member Sheri Capehart and includes three students from Northstar School. Officials from Bad Königshofen extended an invitation to Arlington schools and we are very excited that these

young residents will be able to experience Bad Königshofen!

There are sure to be wonderful stories to share once we return.

Neighborhood Festival

A community event called the Neighborhood Festival will be held at St. Barnabas UMC located at 5011 W. Pleasant Ridge on Saturday September 17th from 3pm to 7pm. This event is free for everyone. There will be activities for all ages, food, prizes and even some entertainment. Several local businesses have partnered with St. Barnabas, including the YMCA on Cooper Street, to bring this fun, educational, afternoon. There is much going on in Arlington these days and this event highlights a few of the great elements of our city. Come enjoy the Neighborhood Festival.

German Pioneer Ball

Make your reservations for the **49th Annual German Pioneer Ball**, to be held on Saturday, October 8, at the Sheraton D/FW in Irving (4440 W. Carpenter Fwy).

From 6 to 7 p.m. German Consul General Roland Herrmann of Houston will host a "Tag der Deutschen Einheit" (Day of German Unity) reception to mark the October 3 German holiday that commemorates the 1990 reunification of Germany. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m., with dinner music provided by the Dallas Frohsinn Kapelle and dance music by the Dynamic Swing Machine.

At the 2009 Pioneer Ball, Arlington and Bad Königshofen were honored for their longstanding sister cities partnership. This year's honoree at the Ball will be the German-Texan Heritage Society, a statewide nonprofit organization active since 1978 in promoting awareness and preservation of the German cultural heritage of Texas.

Proceeds from this year's Pioneer Ball will benefit two nonprofit entities: the Dallas Goethe Center Saturday School and the German International School of Dallas.

Reservations for the evening are \$70 per person at a regular table or \$87.50 at a dance floor table. Contact Martha LiehseL at LiehseL@windstream.net or at (254) 694-5182 for your reservation or for any questions you might have.

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