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WINTER 2009

THE ONLY BILINGUAL MAGAZINE FOR AUSTRIAN, GERMAN, AND SWISS CULTURE

GERMAN WORLD



1989-2009

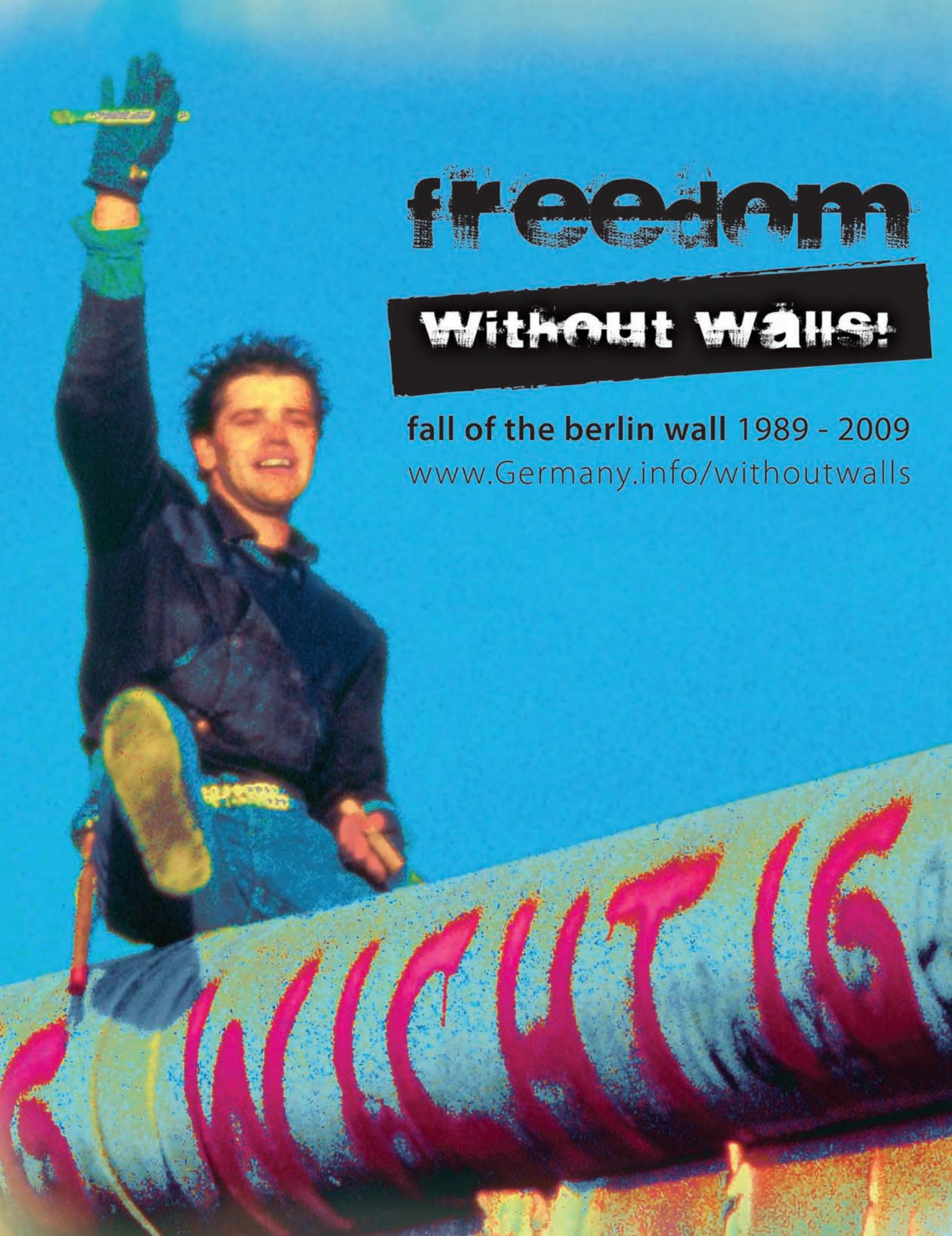
**WENDE-
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Liebe Leser,

ein turbulentes Jahr geht zu Ende mit Bundestagswahlen in Deutschland, großen Oktoberfesten, wie ich sie zum Beispiel in Texas, Florida und Kalifornien erlebte, sowie unzähligen Feierlichkeiten zum 20.Jahrestag des Mauerfalls - sowohl in Deutschland als auch in den USA. Aber das Jahr war auch von großen wirtschaftlichen Nöten überschattet. Bei einer Arbeitslosenquote von über zehn Prozent ist es in diesem Jahr für den ein oder anderen sicherlich schwierig, die Adventszeit zu genießen.

Mit unseren Geschenktipps, auch für kleine Budgets, und einer umfangreichen Liste der schönsten Weihnachtsmärkte möchten wir Sie dennoch auf Weihnachten einstimmen. Und wenn Sie dieses Jahr mal ein neues Festmahl auf den Tisch bringen möchten, so finden Sie sicherlich in unserer Weihnachtsbeilage ein paar Anregungen. Bekannte Köche haben uns in ihren Kochtopf oder Backofen schauen lassen.

Wir wünschen Ihnen wie immer viel Freude beim Lesen und danken Ihnen für Ihre Unterstützung in der Vergangenheit.

Fröhliche Weihnachten und die besten Wünsche für ein glückliches und gesundes neues Jahr.

Petra Schürmann

Herausgeberin



Dear Reader,

We are approaching the end of a turbulent year filled with the General Elections in Germany, large Oktoberfests such as those in Texas, Florida, and California that I attended, as well as a host of festivities commemorating the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall in Germany and the USA. This year has also been marked by major economic crises. With an unemployment rate of more than 10 percent, the holiday season will certainly be more difficult for some to enjoy this year.

With our gift tips, including those for small budgets, and an extensive list of the best Christmas markets, we hope to help you prepare for Christmas. And if you wish to put something new on the table this year, you will certainly find a few ideas in our Christmas supplement. Renowned chefs have allowed us a peek in their pots and ovens.

As always, we hope you enjoy reading this issue and thank you for all your support.

Merry Christmas and all the best for a happy and healthy New Year.

Petra Schürmann

Publisher

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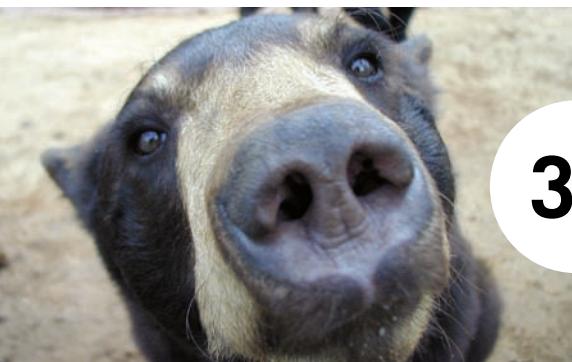
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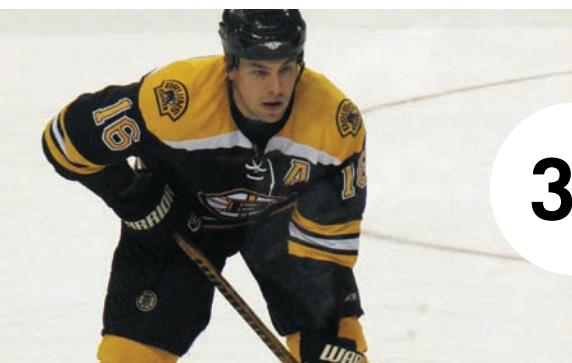
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Special Supplement: Christmas Cooking with Famous Chefs



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The Empire State Building in German National Colors. Photography © Germany.info

The website www.GermanyInNYC.org is increasingly popular as a first-rate information source on German-American life and events in New York City.

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DEUTSCHE AUTOS WERDEN IMMER GRÜNER

**L.A. Autoshow zeigt die
fortschrittlichsten Modelle
vom 4. - 13. Dezember 2009**

Wer denkt, der Toyota Prius sei das einzige Automobil mit Hybrid-Antrieb, der täuscht sich. In den USA haben die Hersteller schon längst in dieser Hinsicht nachgelegt. Deutsche Autofirmen haben sich lange in diesem Bereich zurückgehalten. VW wagte mit dem Lupo einen Vorstoß in diese Richtung, scheiterte jedoch am hohen Verkaufspreis des Wagens. Inzwischen haben die deutschen Automobilhersteller nachgerüstet und müssen sich auch vor der japanischen Konkurrenz nicht mehr verstecken. Auf der Hitliste der Wagen mit dem niedrigsten Treibstoffverbrauch und den niedrigsten Abgaswerten steht der Smart beispielsweise auf Platz drei. In der Kompaktklasse sind in diesem Ranking unter den ersten zehn Autos sogar neun deutsche Modelle aufgelistet. Auf der L.A.-Auto-Show vom 4. bis 13. Dezember in Los Angeles wird das „Green Car of the Year 2010“ gekürt. Unter den fünf Anwärtern sind auch der Audi A3 TDI und der VW Golf TDI. - gw/ah

GERMAN CARS ARE BECOMING GREENER

Sneak Preview at L.A. Autoshow from December 4 - 13, 2009

Those who think that the Toyota Prius is the only automobile with a hybrid engine are wrong. Manufacturers in the USA have long caught up. For a long time German auto companies held themselves back in this area. VW braved an advance in this direction with the Lupo, but failed because of the car's high sticker price. In the meantime German auto manufacturers have upgraded and no longer need to cower before their Japanese rivals. The Smart, for instance, is number three on the hit list of cars with the lowest gas consumption and the lowest emissions. Nine German models are listed among the first ten cars with this ranking in the compact class. The Green Car of the Year 2010 will be crowned at the LA Auto Show from December 4 to 13 in Los Angeles. Among the five contenders are the Audi A3 TDI and the VW Golf TDI. - gw/ah/jn

9.000 US-STEUERSÜNDER GEBEN AUF

Lange hat die US-Regierung vergeblich darum gekämpft, die Kunden-daten der 52.000 US-Amerikaner mit einem Schweizer Konto von der UBS zu bekommen. Nun haben sich bereits 9.000 Steuersünder freiwillig bei der Behörde gemeldet. Deshalb hofft die UBS nun darauf, keine weiteren Daten herausgeben zu müssen. Im August hatte sich die Schweiz dazu bereit erklärt, 4.450 Konten offen zu legen. Wird die

10.000er-Marke jedoch über-schritten, wird die US-Regierung ihre Klage zurück-ziehen. Die US-Re-gierung hatte die 1 Steuern in Milliardenhöhe mit Hilfe der UBS hinterzogen zu haben. Es handelt sich deshalb um das größte Steueramtshilfe-verfahren aller Zeiten.

- gw/ah



9000 US TAX EVADERS SURRENDER

The US government has long fought to obtain the customer data of 52,000 Americans with a Swiss account with UBS. Meanwhile 9000 tax evaders have freely come forward and announced themselves to US authorities. UBS now hopes that it will not have to release any more data. In August, Switzerland declared that it was prepared to disclose 4,450 accounts. If the number reaches 10,000, the US government will withdraw its request. The US government suspects account holders of evading billions of dollars in taxes through the UBS. It thus ranks as the largest tax relief operation of all time. - gw/ah/jn

„QUELLE“ - VERSAND AM ENDE

Für das traditionsreiche deutsche Versandhaus „Quelle“, Tochtergesellschaft der im Sommer in Insolvenz gegangenen Arcandor AG, konnte kein Käufer gefunden werden und das Unternehmen muss daher geschlossen werden. Vier Investoren waren bis zuletzt an dem einst größten europäischen Versandhändler interessiert, konnten jedoch nicht endgültig überzeugt werden. „Ohne Investor hatte das Unternehmen keine Perspektive“, erklärt Insolvenzverwalter und Rechtsanwalt Helmut Balthasar. Insgesamt hatten 10.000 Gläubiger Forderungen von rund 1,6 Milliarden Euro an das Unternehmen gestellt. Am 11. November ver-zichteten diese auf einen Antrag einer Quelle-Fortführung. Seit der Fusion 1999 mit Karstadt war es für den 1927 in Fürth gegründeten Konzern stetig bergab gegangen, der gescheiterte Verkauf bedeutet nun wohl das endgültige Aus. Rund 7.000 Beschäftigte werden ihre Arbeit verlieren. - gw/ah



QUELLE CLOSES ITS DOORS

The venerable German mail-order company “Quelle,” a subsidiary of Arcandor AG, which declared bankruptcy this summer, was unable to find a buyer and must close its doors. Four investors were interested up until the last moment in what was once Europe's largest mail-order distributor, but, in the end, were not convinced. “Without investors the company has no prospects,” explained liquidator and lawyer Helmut Balthasar. A total of 10,000 creditors had outstanding accounts to the amount of 1.6 billion euros with the company. On November 11, they waived their right to petition for the continuance of Quelle. The company, founded in 1927 in Fürth, has gone downhill since its merger with Karstadt in 1999. The failure to find a buyer is now the final straw. Around 7,000 employees will lose their jobs. - gw/Andreas Hennings / nj

ROMY SCHNEIDER IN ONE OF HER GREATEST ROLES

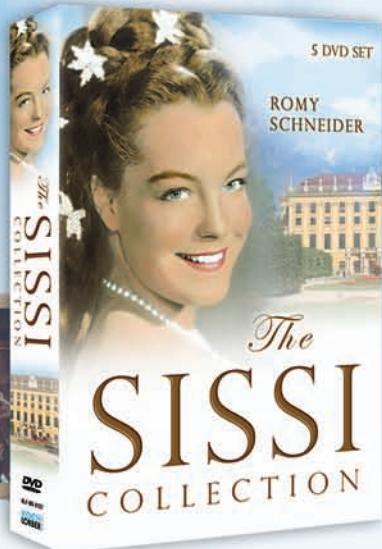
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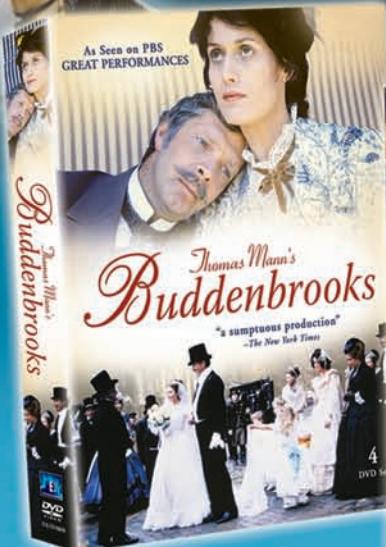
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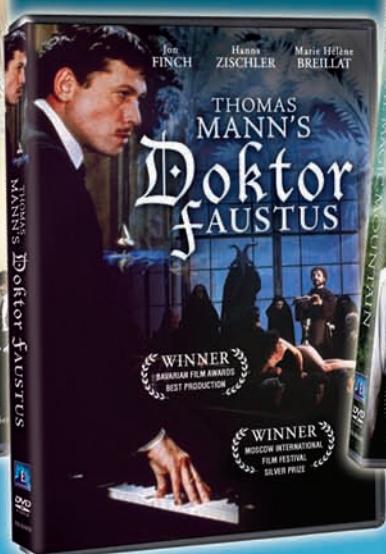
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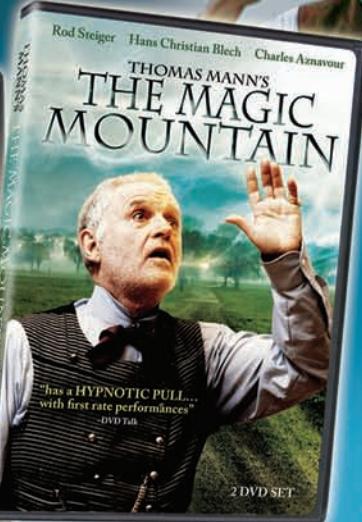
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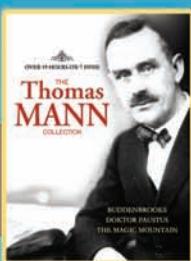
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Minister-President Wulff (front, l.) visiting the German-American Heritage Center on 719 Sixth Street NW in Washington D.C. on October 3, 2009.

MINISTER-PRESIDENT CHRISTIAN WULFF VISITS THE GERMAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER IN WASHINGTON D.C.

Despite a very busy schedule that included trips to New York, Atlanta, and Los Angeles, Minister-President Christian Wulff of Lower Saxony made time to visit the new heritage center located on 719 Sixth Street NW in Washington D.C. The two-story building, also known as "Hockemeyer Hall", dates back to 1889 when it was built by a German merchant after whom it was named. This center is designed to become the first national German museum focusing on German immigration in the US and will officially be opened on March 20, 2010. GAHF President Bern Deichmann (2nd row, 2nd f.l.) and the newly appointed GAHF Executive Director Ruediger Lentz (front, r.) were delighted to have the opportunity to give a tour and presentation to Wulff who showed a lot of

interest in the project. When restored, the museum will provide three floors hosting a media lounge, library, exhibit space and an auditorium for film screenings, lectures and other cultural events. The most striking feature will be the interactive kiosks and computers that will give visitors access to historical documents or enable them to research their German-speaking ancestors while also giving information about their own heritage and current ties to Germany. Supported by a grant from the European Union, this database will help to build the most current data compilation about German-Americans and Germans in the US today. Minister-President Wulff had come to D.C. to meet with members of Congress, senior US Administration officials, and business officials. He also sponsored and co-hosted the Day of German Unity reception at the German Embassy on October 2. See page 42 for more or visit www.germany.info for a full report. - gw/ps

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Bern Deichmann, Ruediger Lenz, Margrit B. Krewson, Sue and William R. Timken, Jesco von Puttkamer, Ulrich Braess (f.l.t.r.) at the award gala in the auditorium of the Goethe Institut.

WILLIAM R. TIMKEN JR. HONORED AS DISTINGUISHED GERMAN-AMERICAN OF THE YEAR 2009

On October 3, 2009, the German-American Heritage Foundation (GAHF) of the USA held its Annual Council of 1000 Award & Fundraising Gala at the Goethe Institut in Washington DC with a festive dinner and live music, honoring the former US Ambassador to Germany (2005 - 2008) William R. Timken Jr. as the Distinguished German-American of the Year 2009. Timken, a native from Ohio, and his wife Sue who had also joined Minister President Wulff and a small circle of invited guests for a visit to the new German-American Heritage Center in the morning, left a visible mark in Berlin, according to the letters of congratulation sent by Chancellor Angela Merkel and German Ambassador Scharioth. Mr. and Mrs. Timken played a vital role in fostering mutual understanding by founding education programs such as the Timken Charitable Trust, and also engaged in an intensive dialogue with Germany's immigrant youth, in particular the young Muslim community. The GAHF showed a commemorative documentary about Timken's time in Berlin with an introduction by former US Ambassador Rick Burt. Timken was also commended for his outstanding leadership in government service by George W. Bush, Condoleezza Rice, and Ohio's Governor Ted Strickland. Timken, who had been appointed chairman of the Board of Directors of the SIPC prior to his tenure in Berlin, also successfully built his own business into a Fortune 500 enterprise over the course of 43 years. He and his wife were very interested in the GAHF mission and were delighted to be able to trace their ancestors back to 1609 to a farm near Bremen. - gw/ps

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GAHF 1st Vice President Walter Lehmann



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GAHF director Thomas Siedenbuehl



Happy about being honored by the German-American community: William R. Timken & his wife Sue.



EX-BERTELSMANN-CHEF REINHARD MOHN GESTORBEN

Der langjährige Geschäftsführer des Medienkonzerns Bertelsmann, Reinhard Mohn, ist im Alter von 88 Jahren im ostwestfälischen Steinhagen gestorben. Nachdem er den Konzern 1947 von seinem Vater übernommen hatte, baute er diesen zu einem Großbetrieb aus. Inzwischen ist Bertelsmann mit mehr als 100.000 Mitarbeitern in über 50 Ländern eines der größten Medienhäuser weltweit. Immer wieder entwickelte Mohn neue Ideen, gründete im Jahr 1977 beispielsweise die Bertels-

mann Stiftung, die sich für die Förderung von Kultur und Bildung einsetzt. In der Sammlung seiner Auszeichnungen finden sich unter anderem das Große Verdienstkreuz mit Stern der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, der Staatspreis des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen, der Hanns Martin Schleyer-Preis und der Deutsche Gründerpreis. Im

Jahr 2008 veröffentlichte „der stille Mann aus Gütersloh“, wie der immer bescheiden gebliebene Unternehmer oft genannt wurde, noch das Buch „Von der Welt lernen. Erfolg durch Menschlichkeit und Freiheit“, das schon damals als eine Arte Vermächtnis galt. - gw/ah

FORMER BERTELSMANN PRESIDENT REINHARD MOHN DIES

Reinhard Mohn, the longtime president of the media corporation Bertelsmann, has died at the age of 88 in East Westphalian Steinhagen. After he took over the company from his father in 1947, he expanded it to a large corporate group. Today, Bertelsmann is one of the largest media conglomerations in the world with more than 100,000 employees in over 50 countries. Mohn continued to develop new ideas, founding in 1977, for instance, the Bertelsmann Foundation, dedicated to the promotion of culture and education. Among the awards he has received are Order of Merit with Star of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Land of North Rhine-Westphalia State Award, the Hanns Martin Schleyer Award as well as the German Founders Award. In 2008, “the quiet man from Gütersloh,” as the modest entrepreneur is often called, published the book “Global Lesson: Success through Cooperation and Compassionate Leadership,” regarded as a kind of legacy.

- gw/Andreas Hennings/nj

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JOSCHKA FISCHER HONORED BY LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

On November 19, 2009, the former German foreign minister (1998-2005), Joschka Fischer, was honored with the Leo Baeck Medal at a ceremony at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York. The award was presented to Fischer by the Honorary Co-Chairmen of the Leo Baeck Institute, Dr. Henry A. Kissinger and James D. Wolfensohn. In his speech, German Consul General Horst Freitag who was one of the guest speakers at the gala highlighted the unique contribution of the Leo Baeck Institute to safeguard and promote the memory of German-speaking Jewry.

Source: Germany Information Center / www.germany.info

MICHIGAN

HONORARY CONSUL FRED HOFFMAN RECEIVES FEDERAL CROSS OF MERIT

In June of this year Honorary Consul Fred Hoffman in Dearborn, Michigan, was awarded the German Federal Cross of Merit. This award, the most prestigious that a non-German person can receive, was presented to him by Wolfgang Drautz, consul general of Germany in Chicago until June 30, 2009 before he took his new post as consul general in Los Angeles in July 2009. In his speech, Drautz emphasized the indispensable role Hoffman has played in economic and cultural relations between Germany and Michigan.

Business and political leaders in Michigan thanked Hoffman for his deep commitment. Among them were Wayne County executive Robert Ficano and Dearborn's mayor Jack O'Reily, who thanked Hoffman for his service in furthering the economic development of their area. In addition, Hoffman was praised for his successful work in the German American Chamber of Commerce. Numerous students from the German school Metro Detroit and the German language school Bloomfield paid tribute to him with musical performances and self-composed poems. The German Professional Woman's Association also made Hoffman an honorary lifetime member for his unwavering support of their organization. - gw/ah/nj

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Von PETRA SCHÜRMANN



MIT BLAULICHT ZUR GRENZE

*Exklusivinterview mit
Rüdiger Lenz, Studioleiter
Deutsche Welle in D.C.*

SEIT 1976 ARBEITET RÜDIGER LENTZ ALS JOURNALIST UND GEHÖRT SEIT ÜBER 25 JAHREN ZU DEN PROMINENTESTEN AND ANGESEHENSTEN DEUTSCHEN FERNSEHREPORTERN. LENTZ WAR UNTER ANDEREM ALS CHEFREDAKTEUR BEI RIAS-TV IN BERLIN UND ALS STUDIOLEITER VON DEUTSCHE WELLE RADIO IN BRÜSSEL TÄTIG. AUßerdem ARBEITETE ER ALS KORRESPONDENT FÜR DER SPIEGEL UND DIE ARD. ER HAT ALLE AMERIKANISCHEN PRÄSIDENTEN AUS NÄCHSTER NÄHE ERLEBEN DÜRFEN UND INTERVIEWTE ZAHLREiche POLITIKER UND PROMINENTE. NACH EINEM LEBEN AUF DER ÜBERHOLSPUR NAHM RÜDIGER LENTZ AM 3.NOVEMBER 2009 SEINEN ABSCHIED VON DER DEUTSCHEN WELLE. ERINNERUNGEN UND AUSBLICKE EINES VOLLBLUTJOURNALISTEN.

Wie kam es dazu, dass Sie bereits jetzt – zweieinhalb Jahre vor Ihrer Pensionierung – auf eigenen Wunsch in den Ruhestand gehen?

Rüdiger Lenz: Ich fand 33 Jahre Journalismus waren genug. Ich hatte alles ausprobiert und gemacht: Magazinjournalismus, Radio und Fernsehen. Ich habe die Entwicklung vom Negativfilm zum digitalen Fernsehen, vom Bleisatz zum Computerdruck miterlebt. Ich war vor der Kamera, hinter der Kamera, habe Redaktionen geleitet oder war als Einzelkämpfer und Reporter unterwegs. Ich suchte nach einer neuen Herausforderung, nach etwas, das es noch nicht gab, das man selbst mitbestimmen und gestalten kann. Diese Aufgabe habe ich jetzt gefunden. Die German American Heritage Foundation of the USA hat mir die einmalige Chance gegeben, das erste nationale Museum zum Thema der deutschen Auswanderung in die USA in Washington aufzubauen und zu leiten. Und dabei werden Bilder, Texte und spannende Geschichten über die Leistungen von Deutsch-Amerikanern beim Aufbau und der Entwicklung der USA eine große Rolle spielen. Insofern bleibe ich meinem alten Metier in gewisser Weise doch noch treu.

Für viele Zuschauer sind Sie als politischer Kommentator auf DW-TV vom Bildschirm gar nicht mehr wegzudenken. Wie waren die ersten Wochen ohne die üblichen Verpflichtungen?

RL: Noch habe ich keine Entzugserscheinungen, aber die werden sicher noch kommen. Bei wichtigen politischen Ereignissen nicht mehr dabei zu sein, nicht mehr berichten und kommentieren zu können, das wird mir fehlen. Aber ich bin ebenso sicher, dass das Museum ein Erfolg wird. Und wenn es von den Besuchern und der Öffentlichkeit angenommen und positiv beurteilt wird, dann gibt es keinen Grund dem Journalismus nachzuweinen.

Im Laufe Ihrer Karriere haben Sie viele bedeutende internationale Politiker und Staatsoberhäupter interviewt. Welche Begegnungen sind Ihnen besonders in Erinnerung geblieben?

RL: Mein wohl bizarrstes Interview habe ich mit Ghadafi in der libyschen Wüste geführt. Ich hatte immer den Eindruck, einem halb Wahnsinnigen gegenüber zu sitzen, dessen Reaktionen mir völlig unkalkulierbar erschienen. Einer meiner beeindruckendsten Interviewpartner war der amerikanische Historiker Fritz Stern, der mit mir über sein Leben als deutscher Jude und Exilant in Amerika und seine heutige Einstellung zu Deutschland sprach. Das war kurz bevor er den Friedenspreis des deutschen Buchhandels in Frankfurt verliehen bekam. Ich habe selten einen so gebildeten, bescheidenen und angenehmen Menschen erlebt. Kohl hingegen war ein schwieriger Gesprächspartner, meistens grantelnd, ähnlich wie Helmut Schmidt übrigens. Wenn er aber etwas loswerden wollte, konnte er auch umwerfend offen und pfiffig-komisch sein. (Gerhard) Schröder habe ich als eher unangenehm empfunden. Ruppig, flegelhaft und gegenüber Journalisten von einer herablassenden Arroganz, mit der er wohl den machtpolitischen Abstand deutlich machen wollte. Angela Merkel habe ich zwar nicht interviewt, aber im kleinen Kreis als immer sehr sachorientiert und menschlich angenehm in Erinnerung.

Als die Berliner Mauer am 9. November 1989 fiel, waren Sie Bureau Chief von RIAS in Washington. Wie haben Sie diesen Tag erlebt?

RL: Zufälligerweise war ich gerade selbst in Berlin, und zwar in der Nähe des Grenzüberganges „Sonnenallee“, auf der Geburtstagsparty des Filmemachers Ulrich



Ruediger Lentz with his boss, Erik Bettermann (c., standing) and colleagues at his farewell party.

Schamoni. Anwesend war auch der damalige amerikanische Stadt-kommandant Harry Gilmore. Und der wurde um etwa neun Uhr alarmiert, dass die Grenzen offen seien und die Ostberliner in Massen in den Westteil der Stadt strömten. Da gab es für mich und meine Freunde kein Halten mehr. Wir rasten zum Grenzübergang „Sonnenallee“. Unterwegs wurden wir noch von einer Polizeistreife wegen überhöhter Geschwindigkeit gestoppt. Mein Presseausweis und der Hinweis wir müssten sofort zur Mauer, ersparte uns das Ticket. Mehr noch: Wir wurden mit Blaulicht und Peterwagen vorneweg zur Grenze eskortiert. Und von dort kamen uns schon die ersten Trabis entgegen, die in den Westteil rollten. Ganz langsam, als ob sie sich erst an die neue Umgebung gewöhnen müssten. Es war ein überwältigender Anblick: Wildfremde Menschen fielen sich in die Arme. Ich glaube jedem, der dabei gewesen ist, ging es wie mir: ich empfand ein unendliches Glücksgefühl und eine tiefe Dankbarkeit, diesen historischen Moment miterleben zu dürfen. Später haben wir dann noch einen „unerlaubten“ Spaziergang in den Osten unternommen. Ich glaube, wir waren die einzigen in dieser Nacht, die vom Westen in die DDR eingedrungen sind. Dort war alles dunkel. Nur vereinzelt kamen uns DDR-Bürger entgegen, zum Teil nur mit Hausschuhen, Pyjama und einem Mantel bekleidet, die sich selbst vergewissern wollten, dass die Mauer wirklich offen war. Sie hatten aus dem Westfernsehen davon erfahren.

Später haben wir dann auf dem Ku'damm in Westberlin bei einer Wurstbude zusammen mit den „übergemachten Ossis“ weitergefeiert. Meine Freunde und ich haben in dieser denkwürdigen Nacht unser ganzes Geld in Bier und Currywurst investiert und damit die vorbeiknatternden Trabikolonnen und deren Fahrer versorgt. Wie waren dabei nicht die Einzigsten: Alle Westberliner zeigten sich in dieser Nacht und auch noch in den Tagen danach großzügig und spendierfreudig. Das hat sich dann später leider geändert.

Zum 20. Jubiläum des Mauerfalls bot die Deutsche Welle eine 24-Stunden Live Berichterstattung direkt vom Brandenburger Tor. Haben Sie in Berlin mitgefiebert?

RL: Nein, ich war an dem Jubiläumstag in Washington. Dort hatten mein Team und ich ein paar Tage vor dem 9. November eine TV-Sendung zum Fall der Mauer produziert, an der unter anderem der ehemalige deutsche Außenminister Genscher und der ehemalige Sicherheitsberater von US-Präsident Bush Sr., General Scowcroft, teilgenommen haben. Wir wollten vor allem unseren amerikanischen Zuschauern die Bedeutung dieses historischen Ereignisses nahebringen, das ja das Ende des Kalten Krieges

und den Beginn einer neuen Ära markiert hat. Die Kommentierung des Mauerfalls durch die eingeladenen Zeitzeugen war unser Versuch, dieses historische Datum zu würdigen. Den Reaktionen der Zuschauer zufolge ist uns das auch gelungen. Diese Sendung war auch meine letzte große Fernsehproduktion meiner journalistischen Karriere. Es war schön, sich gerade mir diesem Thema und diesem so positiven Datum der deutschen Geschichte von meinen Zuschauern und der Deutschen Welle verabschieden zu dürfen.

By PETRA SCHÜRMANN

A Life on the Fast Track

Exclusive Interview with Rüdiger Lentz, Bureau Chief of Deutsche Welle in DC

RÜDIGER LENTZ HAS WORKED AS A JOURNALIST SINCE 1976 AND, FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS, HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT AND RENOWNED GERMAN TELEVISION JOURNALISTS. HE WAS ABLE TO OBSERVE ALL US PRESIDENTS UP CLOSE AND INTERVIEWED NUMEROUS POLITICIANS AND PROMINENT PERSONS. AFTER A LIFE ON THE FAST TRACK, RUEDIGER LENTZ SAID FAREWELL TO THE DEUTSCHE WELLE ON NOVEMBER 3, 2009. RECOLLECTIONS AND PROSPECTS OF A THOROUGHBRED JOURNALIST.

How did it come about that you have chosen to retire now, two and a half years before you reach the age of retirement?

RL: I decided that 33 years of journalism was enough. I have tried and done everything: magazine journalism, radio and television. I have lived through the development of negative film to digital television, from hot type to computer printing. I have been in front of the camera, behind the camera, headed the editorial department, and been on the road as a solo reporter. I have been searching for a new challenge, for something that has not existed before, something I can influence and shape. Finally, I have found that challenge. The German American Heritage Foundation of the USA has given me the golden opportunity to organize and head in Washington DC the first national museum on German emigration to the United States.

Pictures, texts, and thrilling stories about the achievements of German Americans in building and developing the US will play a major role. In this respect I will remain more or less true to my old profession. **Many viewers can't imagine DW-TV without you as a political commentator on the screen. How did you experience the first weeks without the usual commitments?**

RL: I haven't experienced any withdrawal symptoms yet. I will miss not

"My success is also her success."

- Ruediger Lentz referring to his wife Birgitt with gratitude





Erik Bettermann, director of Deutsche Welle, Ruediger Lentz & Dr. Ansgar Burghof, head of the management of Deutsche Welle



Dr. Johannes Bohnen, founding director Atlantische Initiative, Maximilian Hofmann of Deutsche Welle & Ruediger Lentz



Alice Gallasch, senior producer ZDF, Matthias Forstoff, head of ZDF Bureau in Washington Andrew Cohen, communications director at Bertelsmann Foundation & Matthias Rueb, Washington correspondent Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung



Walther Leisler Kiep, chairman of Atlantik-Bruecke, Mr. and Mrs. Lentz



Erik Bettermann, Ruediger Lentz & Lentz' successor Miodrag Soric

being there to report and comment on important political events. But I am also certain that the museum will be a success. And when it is accepted and positively received by visitors and the public, there will be no reason to bemoan the loss of journalism.

During the course of your career you have interviewed many important political and state leaders. Which encounters were the most memorable?

RL: Probably my most bizarre interview was with Ghaddafi in the Libyan desert. I constantly had the impression that I was sitting across from a madman, whose reactions, to me, seemed fully unpredictable. One of my most impressive interview partners was the American historian Fritz Stern, who told me about his life as a German Jew and expatriate in America and his current attitude toward Germany. This was shortly before he received the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade in Frankfurt. I have seldom experienced such an educated, modest, and pleasant person. Kohl, on the other hand, was difficult to interview, grunting most of the time, much like Helmut Schmidt, by the way. But when he wanted to say something, he could be charmingly open and witty. (Gerhard) Schroeder I found to be rather unpleasant. Abrasive, boorish, and condescendingly arrogant to journalists with whom he probably wanted to keep a political distance. Angela Merkel I haven't interviewed, but in small circles I recall her being always pragmatic and pleasant.

When the Berlin Wall fell on November 9, 1989, you were Bureau Chief of RIAS in Washington DC. How did you experience this day?

RL: I just happened to be in Berlin that day, near the border crossing "Sonnenallee" at the birthday party of film maker Ulrich Schamoni. Also present at the party was the US minister and deputy commandant Harry Gilmore. And he was notified around nine o'clock that the border was open and East Berliners were streaming in masses into West Berlin. My friends and I didn't waste a moment. We rushed to the border crossing "Sonnenallee." On the way we were stopped by the police for speeding. My press card and the remark that we had to get to the wall fast saved us a ticket. We were then escorted with flashing blue lights and a police car. And the first trabis came toward us, heading west. Very slowly, as if they had to get used to the new surroundings. It was an overwhelming sight: total strangers were embracing. I believe that everyone who was there felt the same as I did: I felt an infinite sense of happiness and deep gratitude that I was able to experience this historical moment. Later we went on an "unauthorized" walk in East Berlin. I believe we were the only ones this night who invaded the GDR from the West. Everything was dark. Every once in a while a GDR citizen passed by dressed in slippers, pyjamas, and a coat, as if they wanted to make sure the wall was really open. They had heard about it on West German TV. Later we celebrated on Ku'damm in West Berlin at a sausage shop together with East Berliners. My friends and I invested our entire money that night in beer and curry sausage and treated a whole fleet of rumbling trabis and their drivers. We weren't the only ones. All West Berliners were generous this night and in the following days. Unfortunately, this changed later.

For the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall Deutsche Welle featured a 24-hour live coverage in front of the Brandenburg Gate. Did you celebrate in Berlin?

RL: No, I celebrated the anniversary in Washington. A few days before November 9 my team and I produced a TV show about the fall of the Berlin wall, which also featured the former German Foreign Minister Genscher and former National Security Adviser of US President Bush (father), General Scowcroft. We wanted to show our American viewers the significance of this historical event, which marked the end of the Cold War and the beginning of a new era. The comments on the fall of the Berlin wall by our invited witnesses was our attempt to pay tribute to this historical date. Based on the response of viewers, we succeeded. This show was also the last big television production of my career. It was a wonderful to say farewell to my viewers and Deutsche Welle with this topic and this positive date in German history. ■



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MUNICH 2018 BID COMMITTEE



Photo: ©Bewerbungsgesellschaft München 2018 GmbH
Flughafen München

Katarina Witt: erfolgreich vor und nach der Wende. Kann sie **Olympia 2018** nach München holen?

*A Success before and after the Fall of the Berlin Wall.
Can she bring the Olympics to Munich in 2018?*

Von/By PETRA SCHÜRMANN

Als zweifache Olympiasiegerin, vierfache Weltmeisterin und sechsfache Europameisterin gilt Katarina Witt als erfolgreichste Eiskunstläuferin aller Zeiten und war das glanzvolle Aushängeschild der DDR. Doch bereits vor dem Mauerfall in Berlin ließ sie durch ihren Sieg bei den Olympischen Spielen in Calgary 1988 die Mauern in den Köpfen von Menschen, zumindest den sportbegeisterten, zum Einstürzen bringen. Sie wurde bewundert in Ost und West. Aus „dem schönsten Gesicht des Sozialismus“, wie sie einst eine westeuropäische Zeitung nannte, wird ein gesamtdeutscher Sportstar.

Die Grenzen zwischen den Gesellschaftssystemen jedoch bleiben bestehen. Der Kampf um das Gold gegen die US-Amerikanerin Debi Thomas war auch der totale Klassenkampf. Auch für die Amerikaner. „Es war ein Kampf der Systeme,“ so Katarina Witt im Gespräch mit Deutsche Welle im Januar 2009. Ausflüge in den Kapitalismus gehören zu diesem Zeitpunkt schon seit Jahren zu Witts Leben, wie auch ihre sportbedingte Reisefreiheit. Nach dem Gewinn der Goldmedaille in Calgary 1988 nimmt Katarina Witt Abschied von ihrer

As a two-time gold medal winner at the Olympics, a four-time champion at the World Championships and six-time winner at the European Championship, Katarina Witt is considered to be the most successful figure skater of all times and the former GDR's poster athlete. Even before the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 she managed to single-handedly break down the psychological wall between East and West Germans by being celebrated as a pan-German icon after her second Olympic gold in Calgary in 1988. She became everybody's darling in East and West. “The most beautiful face of socialism,” as a West European tabloid once dubbed her, had become a nationwide German ice skating star.

Looking back, Katarina Witt admitted in an interview with Deutsche Welle in January 2009, that her battle for gold against US skater Debi Thomas in 1988 was about far more than sports: “It was a class war, undeniably,” she once said. “For the Americans as much as for us, it was a face-off between two opposing political systems.” At that time, Witt was spending increasing amounts of time abroad. Unlike her fellow GDR citizens, she enjoyed unrestricted freedom to travel, and

„Ich unterstütze aus voller Überzeugung das Engagement, die ersten Olympischen Winterspiele und Paralympics in das wiedervereinigte Deutschland zu holen.“

sportlichen Karriere und legt den Grundstock für eine Laufbahn im Showbusiness: Sie läuft von November 1988 bis März 1989 bei der amerikanischen Eisrevue "Holiday on Ice" - zu DDR-Zeiten eine Sensation. Damit macht sie einen weiteren Schritt in Richtung internationales Show Business, aus dem sie besonders nach dem Fall der Mauer nicht mehr weg zu denken ist.

Obwohl ihr 1994 ein Comeback als Olympia-Teilnehmerin gelingt, denn sie wird im norwegischen Lillehammer Siebte, verabschiedet sich der deutsche Weltstar endgültig vom Wettkampfsport und widmet sich danach ausschließlich der Produktion von eigenen Eis-Shows und Auftritten in Revuen. Nach 14 Jahren als erfolgreicher Showstar und Eisrevue-Produzentin nahm die attraktive Eiskönigin dann jedoch endgültig Abschied von der glatten Fläche, die ihr bis dahin die Welt bedeutete, und hängt im März 2008 die Schlittschuhe nach einer emotionsreichen Abschiedstour an den Nagel. Seither nahm sie Werbeverträge an oder fungierte als TV-Moderatorin wie zuletzt bei der Bambi-Verleihung am 26. November. Seit kurzem versucht sie sich als Theaterschauspielerin und dies mit großem Erfolg: Als „Buhlschaft“ in „Jedermann“ in München wurde sie von Kritikern und dem Publikum in diesem Herbst gleichermaßen gefeiert.

Doch nun steht eine noch größere Aufgabe bevor: Als Vorsitzende des Kuratoriums der Bewerbungs-

was happy to take the opportunities that came her way. After her triumphant win in Calgary in 1988, she gave up competitive figure skating to make her showbiz debut, appearing in the US Holiday on Ice show between November 1988 and March 1989 — a move that caused a sensation back home in the GDR. This brought her closer to an international career in show business, in which, especially since the fall of the Berlin wall, she has become an indisputable star. Although, in 1994, she managed a comeback as an Olympic participant and took seventh place in Norway's Lillehammer, the German world star bid farewell from competitive sports for good and devoted herself exclusively to the production of her own ice shows and to performances in revues. Then, after 14 years as a successful show star and ice revue producer, the attractive ice queen bid farewell to the ice-skating rink, which had been the center of her world, and hung up her ice-skating shoes after an emotional farewell tour. Since then she has accepted advertising contracts and worked as a TV moderator, recently for the Bambi Awards, the so-called German Oscars, on November 26. Recently, she tried her hand at stage acting with great success. This fall, as "Buhlschaft" in "Jedermann" in Munich, she was acclaimed by critics and audiences alike.

But even greater tasks stand before her. As Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees of Bewerbungsgesellschaft München 2018, she is the official face of the Bavarian Olympic bid for the Winter Games and Paralympics 2018. Altogether 23 prominent people from sports, politics, business, religion, and culture are currently members of the Board of Trustees, which is supporting Munich's Olympic bid with Garmisch-Partenkirchen and Berchtesgadener Land on a national and international level. "Katarina Witt has distinguished herself through her Olympic and professional career



Katarina Witt at BAMBI Awards Gala 2009. Photo: © Herbert Burda Verlag



Katarina Witt with members of the Board of Trustees.

gesellschaft München 2018 soll sie als offizielles Gesicht der deutschen Olympiabewerbung die Winterspiele und Paralympics 2018 nach Bayern holen.

Insgesamt gehören dem Kuratorium derzeit 23 prominente Persönlichkeiten aus Sport, Politik, Wirtschaft, Kirche und Kultur an, die die Bewerbung Münchens mit Garmisch-Partenkirchen und dem Berchtesgadener Land auf nationaler und internationaler Ebene unterstützen werden.

„Katarina Witt zeichnet sich sowohl durch ihre olympische als auch durch ihre professionelle Karriere in besonderer Weise aus und genießt daher auch auf dem internationalen Parkett einen hervorragenden Ruf. Dies verleiht der Bewerbung gerade in sportfachlicher Hinsicht eine besondere Nuance“, sagte Thomas Bach, Vorsitzender der Gesellschafterversammlung der Bewerbungsgesellschaft München 2018 GmbH.

Bereits seit 2005 engagiert sich Witt in der „Katarina Witt-Stiftung zur Sportförderung“ für die Talentfindung und -förderung von Kindern mit körperlichen Handikaps. „Olympische Spiele haben mein Leben entscheidend geprägt“, erklärte Katarina Witt. „Ich habe drei Mal an Olympischen Spielen teilgenommen und die verbindende Kraft des Sports persönlich erlebt. Deshalb unterstütze ich aus voller Überzeugung das Engagement, die ersten Olympischen Winterspiele und Paralympics in das wiedervereinigte Deutschland zu holen.“ ■



and thus has an outstanding reputation around the world. This adds a special nuance to Munich's bid in the world of sports," said Thomas Bach, chairman of the shareholder meeting of the Bewerbungsgesellschaft München 2018 GmbH. Since 2005, Witt has dedicated herself through the Katarina Witt Foundation for the Promotion of Sports to finding and promoting talent among children with physical disabilities. "The Olympic Games have had a profound influence on my life," explained Katarina Witt. "I have participated in three Olympic Games and personally experienced the power of sports to bring people together. This is why I fully support our efforts to bring the first Olympic Winter Games and Paralympics to a reunited Germany." ■

►►► Lesetipps



- Was nun, Katarina? -
Eiskönigin Katarina Witt auf
Abschiedstournee.
Von Gunnar Meinhardt.
*Erschienen in German World
Magazine März/April 2008*
- Meine Jahre zwischen Pflicht
und Kür – Memoiren von Katarina
Witt. *Goldmann Verlag.*
- Only with Passion: Figure
Skating's Most Winning Champion
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20th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall

How Germany celebrated its reunification in the nation's capital and in many US cities.

By PETRA SCHÜRMANN

Twenty years ago, on November 9, the wall came down in Berlin; 20 years later two walls went up again — in Los Angeles, California, and Fulton, Missouri — just to come tumbling down again to commemorate the biggest gift on earth: Freedom without walls.

Those who saw the live coverage on Deutsche Welle on November 9 or excerpts of the events taking place in Berlin on North American TV networks know: Berlin put on an outstanding show commemorating the fall of the Berlin Wall with a gigantic “Festival of Freedom.” Many months in advance, special campaigns were started to turn the anniversary celebration into a truly memorable one. After all, without the peaceful revolution that brought about the fall of the Berlin Wall, the end of the Cold War, the reunification of Germany and the development of the European Union as we know it today would not have been possible.

In cooperation with the Goethe Institut Germany, the official event organizer Kulturprojekte Berlin GmbH asked 15,000 students in Berlin and around the world to decorate 1,000 dominos with paintings, drawings, or poems that reflect what the fall of the wall means to them. Those colorful, 2.5-meter high dominos came back to Berlin in October and were erected in an outdoor gallery forming a 1.5-kilometer-long line



SPOTLIGHT

FULTON, MO

from Potsdamer Platz, the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag, retracing the previous location of the real wall.

On November 9, 2009, in the presence of dignitaries from around the world, the Festival of Freedom opened with a classic outdoor concert of the Staatskapelle Berlin conducted by Daniel Barenboim at the Brandenburg Gate. Hundreds of Berlin students, followed by Germany's President Horst Koehler, Chancellor Angela Merkel and Berlin's Mayor Klaus Wowereit, accompanied by the heads of state of France, Russia, and Great Britain as well as by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, walked through the Brandenburg Gate to the sounds of "Wings of Change" by The Scorpions. Shortly afterwards, Lech Walesa and Miklos Nemeth tipped over the first dominos, tumbling down all 1,000 dominos in a symbolic display of the fall of the Berlin Wall 20 years ago.

Many celebrations took place throughout the USA as well. The Germany Information Center (GIC) at the German Embassy partnered with more than 30 universities and cultural institutions to hold "Freedom Without Walls" events on their campus during the week of November 9, 2009.

These "Freedom Without Walls" campus weeks featured lectures, workshops, concerts, film screenings as well as speech and wall art contests, with a trip to Berlin for two offered as first prize in a nationwide competition.

The campaign aimed to highlight why the event that signified the end of the Cold War era is still relevant today by especially getting those born after 1989 involved.

"Twenty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the memory of the wall reminds us that freedom is precious," said Ambassador Klaus Scharioth at a press conference. "We are proud to support a new generation of future leaders in their effort to discover and to share what the fall of the wall means to them."

While all events and activities of the "Freedom Without Walls" campus weeks are truly noteworthy, two venues created particularly exciting



The longest contiguous section of the Berlin Wall outside Germany is to be found at the 16th century Christopher Wren church in Aldermanbury.

celebrations: Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, and the Wende Museum in Los Angeles, California.

The two institutions possess the most segments of the original wall outside Germany. In Fulton, Westminster — being the site of Churchill's historic "Iron Curtain" speech in 1946 — is proud to be the site of the

largest contiguous section of the actual Berlin Wall in the United States. Eight sections were shaped into the sculpture "Breakthrough" by Sir Winston Churchill's granddaughter Edwina Sandys and placed on the Westminster campus next to the National Churchill Museum, a state-of-the-art, interactive exhibit commemorating the life and achievements of Churchill.

"We want to open our campus to the world on this historic night as a reminder of what a defining moment the fall of the wall was for freedom everywhere," says Dr. George B. Forsythe, Westminster's president. "Berlin was my first assignment during my years in the US Army and the night the wall fell, my wife Jane and I wept with joy, knowing that the Cold War was coming to an end."

The 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall was celebrated with a week of activities at Westminster College, culminating on November 9 with a tearing down of a replica of the Berlin Wall by dignitaries, students and the German staff in the shadow of the existing wall at 6:53PM, the time when the wall came down 20 years ago in Berlin. One of the keynote speakers at the event was Dr. Bernd von Muenchow-Pohl, director of the Germany Information Center, at the German Embassy in Washington, DC. Construction of the replica wall began in August. Around fifteen students worked on it, most of them from the college's history and classics clubs and, in a gesture of bipartisanship, both Young Democrats and Young Republicans. "It was a fun experience," says Philip Mohr, a senior from Maryland Heights who was one of the project's organizers. "It was especially fun for the students who had no experience in carpentry."



Dignitaries in front of replica wall (l.t.r.): Dr. Sam Goodfellow; Dr. Rob Havers; Lansing Hecker; Dr. Bernd von Muenchow-Pohl; Dr. George B. Forsythe; and U.S Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer (MO)



Students gather to take down replica wall.



Students take down replica wall.

All Photos: Courtesy Westminster College

PARTICIPATING UNIVERSITIES OF THE "FREEDOM WITHOUT WALLS CAMPUS WEEKS"

American University
Washington, DC 20016
3D Virtual Wall

University of California
Berkeley, CA
Exhibition: Icons of a Border Installation
(thru Dec 21)

The Music Center at Strathmore
Bethesda, MD
12 Cellists of the Berlin Philharmonic

Boston College
Chestnut Hill, MA
Lecture by Edwina Sandys

International Spy Museum
Washington, DC
20 Years of Freedom has made the Trabant a Celebutante!

Canisius College
Buffalo, NY
Building a Replica Of Berlin Wall

Chapman University
Orange, CA
Freedom Without Walls Public Speaking Competition

University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, OH
The Fall of the Berlin Wall — 20 Yrs. After

Duke University
Durham, NC
Graffiti Contest & Freedom Without Walls Gala



Located in L.A., 10 original segments form the longest stretch of the Berlin Wall outside of Germany.

In Los Angeles, the Wende Museum, a nonprofit organization dedicated to acquiring and preserving materials of Cold War-era Eastern Europe, purchased ten segments of the original Berlin wall and invited renowned artists such as Shepard Fairey, best known for his 2008 "Hope" campaign; Thierry Noir, one of the first artists to paint on the Berlin Wall in 1984; and famous muralist Kent Twitchell, to start new paintings on those ten wall segments. The artworks are on display in front of the Architecture & Design Museum on 5900 Wilshire Boulevard through the end of this year.

In addition to the outdoor exhibit, the Wende Museum — in cooperation with the city of LA, LA Inc., the Consulate General of Germany, FrescoSchool.org and supported by the GIC, Lufthansa and the LA-Berlin Sister City Committee, among others, — worked on the most ambitious commemorative act of the 20th anniversary. On November 8, 2009, they rebuilt and erected a replica of the Berlin Wall with paintings by Shepard Fairey and Thierry Noir on one of the busiest thoroughfares of LA, Wilshire Boulevard, shutting down traffic in that area for three hours and dividing a part of the city into East and West. Part of the replica was supposed to be torn down at midnight on November 8, the remaining parts were made available through a silent auction benefitting the Wende Museum.

Kicking the event off at 8PM with a VIP fundraising reception for the Wende Museum, 300 guests enjoyed a light appetizer buffet, free drinks and a concert by renowned singer Ute Lemper, the celebration continued at 11PM on the chilly night of November 8 and culminated at midnight with the tearing down of part of the replica of the Berlin Wall. Despite the late hour, more than 1,000 onlookers came out to Wilshire Boulevard from all over the city to experience firsthand the division in the middle of their city. Lots of young people, most of them born just a bit earlier than 1989, attended the event, excited about this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Although the event, a brainchild of Wende Museum Executive Director Justinian Jampol, was originally scheduled for 3PM and was not the big "Volksfest" between the German community in LA and American Los Angelenos as some bystanders had hoped for, it was definitely still the most media savvy commemoration of the 20th anniversary in the US. Media outlets from across the nation as well as from the UK and Australia covered the ambitious "Wall Project" during several weeks prior to the event. Hopefully, considerable funds were able to be raised to ensure the valuable work of the Wende Museum for years to come. ■



Renowned artists express their thoughts on freedom without walls.



Shepard Fairey, Justinian Jampol & Tom LaBonge (f.l.t.r.) happy about the enthusiastic crowd.

All photos: Andreas Henning, Sonia Lasdo.



Ute Lemper performs in front of the LA Wall.

PARTICIPATING UNIVERSITIES OF THE "FREEDOM WITHOUT WALLS CAMPUS WEEKS"

University of South Florida

Tampa, FL

Graffiti painting on Berlin Wall & Film: The Lives of Others

George Mason University

Fairfax, Virginia

Berlin Wall Photographs & several German Film in Nov

Georgetown University

Washington, DC

Student project week

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Amherst, MA

WENDE FLICKS: Last Films from East Germany

The University of Scranton

Scranton, PA

WENDE FLICKS: Last Films from East Germany

University of Missouri — St Louis

Saint Louis, MO

German Club at the University of St. Thomas

St Paul, MN

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German film: "Goodbye, Lenin?" + Campus week

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Freedom Without Walls Celebration

By DR. CECILIA CLOUGHLY

Deutschlehrer, die begeistern: Lucas M. Gravitt



Technologie ist nicht die Welle der Zukunft, sondern die Flut, welche viele von uns ertrinken lässt. Lucas Gravitt von der Scott County High School in Georgetown, Kentucky, lässt moderne Technologie aber so in seinen Deutschunterricht einfließen, dass seine Schüler dadurch komplett in die deutsche Sprache und Kultur eintauchen.

Der seit drei Jahren als Lehrer tätige Lucas Gravitt hat herausgefunden, dass viele Einwohner von Georgetown (oder deren Verwandte) im Militär in Deutschland stationiert waren. Um Schüler dazu zu bewegen, sich für Deutsch zu interessieren, beginnt er, den Sprachunterricht durch moderne Technologien lebendig zu gestalten. Als Absolvent des Georgetown Colleges in Kentucky ist Gravitt quasi „ein Muttersprachler der Technologie“, da er seine Kenntnisse seit seiner Kindheit ständig erweitert hat.

Gravitt setzt zum Beispiel eine Elmo Kamera ein, um ein Produkt aus Deutschland – sei es Bargeld in Euro oder eine Serviette – auf die Wand zu projizieren. Mit einem digitalen Camcorder nimmt er Studenten in einem Sketch in deutscher Sprache auf oder er lässt seine Schüler Fotos von deutscher Designermode im Internet suchen, um sie für eine digitale Modenschau zusammenzustellen. Sein Ansatz ist es, bei ständiger Verwendung der Zielsprache Materialien und Themen im Unterricht zu integrieren, die die Schüler interessieren. So nutzen seine Schüler Facebook und MySpace, um mit E-Pals oder deutschen Austauschschülern zu kommunizieren. Ihre Handys nutzen sie im Unterricht, um sich über Google Voice Teile der Hausaufgaben mündlich oder per SMS gegenseitig zu übermitteln. Digitale Audioprogramme werden verwendet, um sowohl seine Schüler auf die AP Deutschprüfung und die AATG Deutschprüfung vorzubereiten, als auch für Erklärungen und Beurteilungen im Unterricht. Auf Auslandsreisen nutzen seine Schüler Podcasts, um etwas über die Städte und Regionen in deutschsprachigen Ländern zu lernen. Die Schüler werden quasi zu Technologie-Experten: iPod, Podcasting, SMS, Skype und YouTube sind von allen ständig genutzte Begriffe. Durch die Verleihung des *Teacher of Excellence 2009 Award* wurde Lucas Gravitt für sein Engagement, den Deutschunterricht durch Einbeziehung moderner Technologien dynamisch zu gestalten und immer weiter auszubauen sowie für seine Führungsrolle, welche er auf lokaler und überregionaler Ebene übernommen hat, gewürdigt. Besonders bemerkenswert ist, dass Lucas Gravitt dies in nur drei Jahren erreicht hat.

German Teachers who inspire: Lucas M. Gravitt

Technology is not the wave of the future, it is the flood drowning many of us. Lucas Gravitt from Scott County High School in Georgetown, Kentucky, incorporates technology in his German curriculum so integrally that students are immersed completely in German language and culture via technology.

Gravitt, a third-year teacher, found that many area residents, or a relative, had been stationed in Germany with the military. He starts with this motivation to interest students in immersing themselves in German by making it real to them through technology. A graduate of Georgetown College in Kentucky, Gravitt is a "native speaker" of technology because he has been polishing his technology skills since early childhood.

Gravitt uses the Elmo document camera to project an authentic artifact, be it euros, or a napkin from Germany. The FlipVideo digital camcorder records students practicing German in a skit. The Internet and computers enable students to collect photos of fashionable clothing by German designers for a digital fashion show. He keeps the students engaged with material in which they are interested, while still using the target language. His students use Facebook and MySpace to communicate safely with German e-pals or former exchange students. They use their cell phones in class via Google Voice to text or speak all or part of an assignment. Digital audio programs are used to prepare his students for the AP German exam and the AATG National German exam, as well as for class instruction and assessment. While traveling abroad, students use podcasts to learn and teach about cities and regions in German-speaking countries. The students are becoming "native speakers" of technology; iPod, podcasting, texting, SKYPE, and YouTube are all in their vocabulary. A 21st-century learner responds well to a 21st-century educator.

As the 2009 recipient of the Teacher of Excellence Award sponsored by the Germany Embassy, Gravitt was honored because of his active and growing German program, his use of technology, and the leadership roles he has assumed on the local and state levels — all in three years!



THE TEACHER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD — This award is presented yearly by the German Embassy to an up-and-coming German teacher for excellence in teaching, creativity, outstanding dedication, and enthusiasm for the German language. Presentation of the award occurs during the annual ACTFL Convention at the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) Awards Luncheon which took place this year on November 21. The award recipient receives a travel grant to participate in ACTFL in the year the prize is handed out and to visit Germany the following year to participate in a professional development seminar offered by the Goethe-Institut.

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Test Your German: Versteckte Schreibfehler!

Can you find the 16 grammar mistakes in this text about Schiller, the celebration of his 250th birthday and the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall? There are some mistakes aimed at intermediate students and some for advanced students. Answers on page 25.

Friedrich von Schiller (geb. 10. November 1759, gest. Mai 9, 1805) war deutscher Dichter, Philosoph und Historiker. Sie ist auch einer der bedeutendsten¹ deutschen Dramatiker. Auch als Lyriker war er erfolgreich.² Ein Chor und vier Solisten singen Schillers Gedicht „An die Freunde“ in dem letzten Satz³ von Beethovens 9. *Symphonie*. Heute heisst dieser Symphoniesatz offiziell „die europäische Hymne“. Beethoven's Meisterstück wurde sowie bei dem Fall der Berliner Mauer 1989 als auch bei den Feiern⁴ in November 2009 gesungen. Der 10.11.2009 war Schillers 250. Geburtstag.

Als junger Mann rebelliert er gegen seinen Herzog⁵ in Stuttgart. 1782 wurde seines ersten Drama *Die Räuber* erfolgreich uraufgeführt.⁶ Das jugendliche Publikum war begeistert. Der Herzog schickte Schiller ins Gefängnis.⁷

1787 reiste Schiller zu Weimar. Das Drama *Don Carlos* wurde im selben Jahr aufgeführt. Im Jahre 1788 haben Schiller und Goethe sich kennengelernt. Später wurden die zwei Genies⁸ enge Freunden. Trotz die Probleme mit seine Gesundheit schrieb er sehr viel in den Jahren vor seinem Tod im Alter von 46: Dramen, Gedichte, Balladen, historische und philosophische Werke.

In den Werken von Schiller man findet Aspekte der Aufklärung⁹ und der Klassik. Seine Schriften führten zur Steigung des bürgerlichen¹⁰ Selbstbewusstseins.¹¹ Die Nationalsozialisten¹² versuchten zuerst, Schiller als „deutschen Dichter“ zu ehren, aber seine Dramen *Wilhelm Tell* und *Don Carlos* wurden von Hitler selbst verboten, weil sie waren für die Bürger und gegen die Herrscher.¹³ Am Ende seines Lebens schrieb er das Drama *Wilhelm Tell*, die Geschichte eines Schweizer Volksheldes, der gegen seinen eigenen Herrscher rebelliert.

Millionen Exemplare seiner Werke sind verkauft werden. Schillers Schriften haben zahlreiche und wichtige Komponisten inspiriert: Beethoven, Schubert, Verdi, Rossini und Brahms. „Alle Menschen werden Brüder,“ eine Zeile aus dem Gedicht „An die Freude,“ vertritt¹⁴ in 2009 die Hoffnungen vieler Menschen in der ganzen Welt.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 most meaningful | 8 geniuses |
| 2 successful | 9 Enlightenment |
| 3 movement | 10 middle class |
| 4 celebrations | 11 self awareness |
| 5 duke | 12 the Nazis |
| 5 performed for the first time | 13 rulers, aristocracy |
| 7 prison | 14 represents |



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to Josef M. Goodman,
DDS, DMD

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Nadja Michael as "Salome" at the San Francisco Opera.

By NINA WACHENFELD

NADJA MICHAEL BEGEISTERT AN DER OPER VON SAN FRANCISCO

Die deutsche Sopranistin Nadja Michael aus Leipzig gelingt derzeit ein Galauftakt nach dem anderen. Nach Auftritten in der Staatsoper Wien, der Royal Opera London und in der Mailänder Scala, begeisterte sie ihr Publikum im Oktober und November

dieses Jahres als „Salome“ von Richard Strauss an der San Francisco Opera. Für diese Rolle, in der neben dem Gesang das Hauptaugenmerk auf dem Tanz liegt, bekam die 1969 geborene Künstlerin beispielsweise den begehrten South Bank Show ITV Award 2009 verliehen. Die „Süddeutsche Zeitung“ brachte es auf den Punkt: „Nadja Michael beherrscht die Bühne, verbannt alle Mitsänger ins zweite Glied und findet nur in dem mit ihr mitleidenden, hemmungslos mit ihr tobenden Orchester einen würdigen Partner.“ - gw/Andreas Hennings

NADJA MICHAEL ENTHRALLS THE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

German soprano Nadja Michael from Leipzig is currently presenting one gala performance after another. After performing in the Vienna State Opera, the Royal Opera London, and in Milan's La Scala, she enthralled her audience in October and November of this year as Richard Strauss's "Salome" at the San Francisco Opera. For this role, which requires dancing as well as singing, the artist, born in 1969, received the coveted South Bank Show ITV Award 2009. Mark Radio from the "LA Examiner" wrote in his review: "Michael can sing it, she can dance it, and you understand why Herod has her killed at the end — she is just too crazed (and powerful) to be left alive." - gw/Andreas Hennings/nj

BEIFALLSSTÜRME AN DER LOS ANGELES OPERA FÜR HÄNDELS TAMERLANO

In nur drei Wochen im Juli des Jahres 1724 komponiert, bietet Georg Friedrich Händels Oper „Tamerlano“, die im November an der Los Angeles Opera Premiere hatte, zahlreiche Paraderollen. Hausherr Plácido Domingo, der als „Bajazet“ in seiner 128. Opernpartie bereits das Publikum in Madrid und Washington begeisterte, etabliert sich jüngst im Rollenfach der Väter. Der 68-jährige Supertenor in der Rolle des besiegen Türkfürsten Bajazet führt eine Riege hochkarätiger Sänger an, wobei vor allem der fabelhafte US Countertenor Bejun Mehta (verwandt mit dem Dirigenten Zubin Mehta) als „Tamerlano“, das Publikum zu Beifallsstürmen hinstriß. Zu erwähnen ist hierbei noch, dass der ehemalige Bariton seine hohe Stimmlage eher zufällig entdeckt hat, und vor zwölf Jahren ebenso zufällig für sein Idol, den weltbekannten Countertenor David Daniels, in einer Händeloper einsprang.

- gw/Nina Wachenfeld



Plácido Domingo (r.) as Bajazet and countertenor Bejun Mehta as "Tamerlano" at the L.A. Opera.

THUNDERING APPLAUSE AT LOS ANGELES OPERA FOR HÄNDL'S TAMERLANO

Composed in three weeks in July of 1724, Georg Friedrich Handel's opera "Tamerlano," which premiered at the Los Angeles Opera in November, features several famous roles. LA Opera General Director Plácido Domingo, who enthralled audiences in Madrid and Washington as "Bajazet" in his 128th opera role, has recently moved into the father role. The 68-year-old supertenor, in the role of defeated Turkish Sultan Bajazet, spearheads a group of first-class singers, in which especially the phenomenal US countertenor Bejun Mehta (related to conductor Zubin Mehta) as "Tamerlano" moved the audience to thundering applause. Also noteworthy is that the former baritone discovered his countertenor voice by chance, and twelve years ago substituted in a Handel opera for his idol, world renowned countertenor David Daniels. - gw/Nina Wachenfeld

JOYCE DIDONATO UND JUAN DIEGO FLÓREZ BRILLIEREN AN DER LOS ANGELES OPERA IN „DER BARBIER VON SEVILLA“

Ein Fest für Opernfreunde, rechtzeitig zur Vorweihnachtszeit, ist die Koproduktion „Der Barbier von Sevilla“ von Giacomo Rossini mit dem Teatro Real Madrid, die am 29. November an der Los Angeles Opera Premiere hat. Die L.A. Opera Debüts der Publikumslieblinge Joyce DiDonato, die vor wenigen Wochen als „Rosina“ an der MET triumphierte, und des peruanischen Tenors Juan Diego Flórez, dessen Traumhochzeit mit einer Deutschen vor gut einem Jahr durch die Weltpresse ging, sind den Kartenpreis wert. Flórez, der als Shooting-Star der internationalen Opernwelt gehandelt wird, vereint Aussehen mit Stimmqualität und makellosen Spitzenton. DiDonato, ebenfalls ein Liebling der Opernszene weltweit, gibt die perfekte „Rosina“. Beide Sängerstars sind von herrlichen Charakterspielern umgeben, allen voran Bruno Pratico als „Dr. Bartolo“. Diese Produktion ist ein besonderer Glücksgriff des Managements, denn selten bleiben, so wie hier, keine Wünsche mehr offen. - gw/Nina Wachenfeld



Soprano Joyce DiDonato (r.) and the Peruvian tenor Juan Diego Flórez in „The Barber of Seville“ at the L.A. Opera.

Photo: © Robert Millard/Courtesy L.A. Opera

JOYCE DIDONATO AND JUAN DIEGO FLÓREZ STEAL THE SHOW AT LOS ANGELES OPERA IN "THE BARBER OF SEVILLE"

A feast for opera aficionados, just in time for the Christmas season, is the co-production of Giacomo Rossini's "The Barber of Seville" with Teatro Real Madrid, which premieres at the Los Angeles Opera on November 29. The L.A. Opera debuts of audience favorite Joyce DiDonato, who triumphed a few weeks ago at the MET as "Rosina," and Peruvian tenor Juan Diego Flórez, who recently married a German and lives in Austria, are worth the price of the ticket. Flórez, treated as a shooting star in the international opera world, combines good looks with voice quality and impeccable pitch. DiDonato, also a favorite in the international opera scene, is the perfect "Rosina." Both singer stars are surrounded by magnificent character actors, in particular Bruno Pratico as "Dr. Bartolo," and cavort through a comical and fastpaced staging. This production is a stroke of luck for the management, for seldom, as here, is nothing left to be desired. - gw/Nina Wachenfeld



The Hermann monument in Porta Westfalica, Germany, site of the Varus Battle in 9 AD



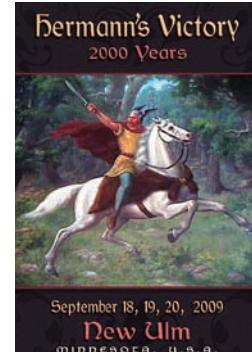
The Hermann monument in New Ulm, Minnesota

New Ulm celebrates the 2000th ANNIVERSARY OF THE VARUS BATTLE in the Teutoburg Forest

Hermann, a Cheruscan chieftain, spearheaded the struggle to defend the Germanic tribes against the Roman Imperial Army. In the autumn of the year 9 AD, Hermann (known as "Arminius" to the Romans) assembled a coalition of tribes and annihilated three Roman legions (about 20,000 men) commanded by Quintilius Varus. This decisive battle has since been known as the Varus Battle, which established early Germanic freedom and unity.

The 2000th anniversary of Hermann's Battle was commemorated on September 18, 19, and 20, 2009, in New Ulm, home of a magnificent Hermann monument, with a symposium led by Professor Gerhard Weiss of the University of Minnesota. His presentation was titled "The Hermann/Arminius Topic in German Literature, Drama, Music, and Lore." Scholarly papers on the subjects of Hermann, the Varus Battle in the Teutoburg Forest in 9 AD, and related themes of significance to German-Americans were presented at sessions during the symposium. A banquet held at Turner Hall on Friday evening with entertainment by the Original German Band concluded the commemoration.

As a keepsake, the Hermann's Victory 2009 Committee and the Hermann Monument Society in New Ulm have cooperated to produce a new "Hermann's Victory 2000 Years" poster. The poster shows Hermann brandishing his gleaming sword, astride his intrepid white horse, galloping through the Teutoburg Forest in search of Roman invaders! It is a re-production of the painting, hanging in the Brown County Historical Society, by New Ulm's foremost artist: Anton Gag.



The anniversary poster. Reproduction of a painting by Anton Gag.

TEST YOUR GERMAN

LÖSUNGEN FÜR DEN GRAMMATIKTEST >SEITE 23

Zeile 1: gest. Mai 9, 1805 = gest. 09. Mai 1805

Zeile 2: sie = er

Zeile 4: an der Freunde = an die Freude

Zeile 6: Beethoven's = Beethovens

Zeile 8: in = im

Zeile 10: seines erste = sein erstes

Zeile 12: zu = nach

Zeile 14: enge Freunden = enge Freunde

Zeile 15: Trotz die = Trotz der gen. pl.

Zeile 15: mit die = mit der (dat. sing.)

Zeile 18: man findet = findet man

Zeile 22: sie waren = waren sie

Zeile 24: Volkshelden = Volkshelden

Zeile 26: werden = worden (passive)

Zeile 29: in 2009 = Im Jahre 2009 oder 2009

alone Zeile 30: welt = Welt

Vier bis fünf richtige Antworten sind
ausgezeichnet!

Eberhard Reichmann † October 16, 2009

On Friday evening,
October 16, 2009,
Eberhard Reichmann,
Professor emeritus of
Germanic Studies at
Indiana University,
Fellow and Chief Editor of the
IUPUI Max Kade
German-American Center,
passed away.
He has left us a great legacy.

Giles R. Hoyt, Ph.D.

Professor emeritus of
German and Philanthropic studies
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Los Angeles ist wie eine 'Urknall-Suppe'

L.A. is like a 'Big Bang Soup'

Gespräch mit dem ehemaligen Goethe-Institutsleiter Bernd Desinger

*Interview with former Goethe Institut Director
Bernd Desinger*

Von PETRA SCHÜRMANN

Ende Juni 2009 nahm ein prominentes Mitglied der deutschen Community seinen Abschied von Los Angeles: der Direktor des Goethe Institutes, Bernd Desinger.

Mehr als vier Jahre hatte der dynamische Mittvierziger das deutsche Kulturzentrum geleitet und dies mit so großem Engagement, dass man eher erwartet hätte, Bernd Desinger würde seinen Fünfjahresvertrag eher verlängern als verkürzen. Der Zufall wollte es jedoch, dass ihm der Direktorposten des Filmmuseums Düsseldorf angeboten wurde. Obwohl ein vorzeitiger Ortswechsel gar nicht geplant war, ergriff Desinger, der sich in Los Angeles besonders für die Gründung eines neuen deutschen Filmfestivals, *German Currents*, engagiert hatte, die Chance, noch tiefer in den Bereich Film einzutauchen. Besonders reizte ihn die Tatsache, dass das renommierte Museum nicht nur eine Bibliothek, ein Archiv und eine über 2.500 Quadratmeter große Ausstellungsfläche bietet, sondern auch ein eigenes Programmkino.

Ende September kam Bernd Desinger jedoch noch einmal kurz nach L.A. zurück, um *German Currents*, das auch im dritten Jahr seines Bestehens viel deutsche Filmprominenz anzog, zu eröffnen.

Rückblickend erzählt Desinger, was für ihn die wichtigsten Entwicklungen während seiner Zeit in L.A. waren: „Besonders froh bin ich über Dinge,“ so erklärt er, „die geschaffen wurden und von Dauer

sind. So zum Beispiel der Umbau der Medialounge nach einem Konzept von Graft Design, dass das Goethe Institut nun allein rein optisch frisch und modern wirken lässt und somit auch ein zeitgemäßes und vielfältiges Deutschlandbild wieder gibt.“ „Auch die stärkere Zusammenarbeit mit



Bernd Desinger with his colleagues in LA. Irmí, Margit, Sylvia und Stefan



Moved from L.A. to Duesseldorf: Bernd Desinger

By PETRA SCHÜRMANN

At the end of June 2009 a prominent member of the German community bid farewell to Los Angeles: Goethe Institut director Bernd Desinger.

The dynamic director in his mid-40s headed the German cultural center for more than four years and with such passionate dedication that one expected Bernd Desinger to extend his five-year contract rather than shorten it. But fate called when he was offered the position of director at the Filmmuseum Düsseldorf. Although he had not planned on relocating before the end of his contract, Desinger, who was very involved in the founding in Los Angeles of a new German film festival, *German Currents*, seized the opportunity to plunge deeper into the world of film. What especially appealed to him was the fact that the renowned museum possesses not only a library, an archive, and a 2500 square meter exhibition space, but also has its own movie theater.

At the end of September Bernd Desinger returned briefly to LA to open *German Currents*, which in its third year drew many German celebrities to LA.

Looking back, Desinger remarked on what he believed were the most important developments during his time in LA. “I am very pleased with what has been created and what will remain. For instance, the renovation of the Media Lounge based on a concept by Graft Design has given the Goethe Institut a new, modern face-lift and thus conveys a more contemporary and multifaceted image of Germany.”

“Another important concern of mine was stronger collaboration with partners such as the Academy,” Desinger continued, “with whom we organized three exhibitions in the past four years.”

The founding of the film festival *German Currents* and the focus on films from a certain region is another big success that can be credited to Desinger. North Rhine-Westphalia will be the inspiration in 2009 and Northern Germany in 2010. Thanks to its partner American

* Stratosphären-Observatorium für Infrarot-Astronomie

Partnern wie der *Academy*," fährt Desinger fort, „mit der wir in den letzten vier Jahren allein drei Ausstellungen gemeinsam organisiert haben, war mir ein Anliegen.“

Die Gründung des Filmfestivals *German Currents* und die Fokussierung auf Filme aus einer bestimmten Region, kann Desinger als besonderen Erfolg verbuchen. So stand Nordrhein-Westfalen 2009 Pate und 2010 wird Deutschlands Norden im Fokus stehen. Dank des Partners *American Cinemateque* konnten immer mehr Amerikaner, jetzt etwa 80% der Besucher, für deutsche Filme interessiert werden.

Mit dem 2005 von ihm gestarteten Wissenschaftsprogramm „Current Conditions & Future Prospects“ sprach Bernd Desinger ganz neue Zielgruppen an und holte Astrophysiker, Weltraumforscher und Klimaexperten ins Goethe Institut. 2007 gestalteten Audi und BMW sogar gemeinsam die Veranstaltungsreihe „umweltfreundliches Auto“, und 2009, im internationalen Jahr der Astronomie, geht's quasi ins Weltall. Thema ist SOFIA*, eine zum fliegenden Observatorium umgebaute Boeing 747, deren hochempfindliches Infrarot-Teleskop in Deutschland entwickelt wurde und völlig neue Dimensionen der Planetenforschung bietet.

Auf die Frage, was er von L.A. am meisten vermisste, antwortet Bernd Desinger nach einigem Überlegen: „The bristling creativity. Diese Stadt atmet Kreativität und ist ein unglaublich inspirierender Ort. Dieses unglaublich große Talent, das in der Stadt ist - wie eine Urknallsuppe, die ständig neue Dinge hervorbringt.“ ■

Cinemateque a greater number of Americans, now around 80 percent of the visitors, have become interested in Germany films.

With the science program “Current Conditions & Future Prospects,” started in 2005, Bernd Desinger approached new target groups and invited astrophysicists, aerospace scientists, and climate experts to the Goethe Institut. In 2007, Audi and BMW organized together the event series “The Environmentally Friendly Car,” and in 2009, the International Year of Astronomy is heading into space, more or less. The theme is SOFIA*, a Boeing 747 turned into a flying observatory, whose highly sensitive infrared telescope was developed in Germany and offers entirely new dimensions in planetary research.

Asked what he misses most about LA, Bernd Desinger thought for a while and responded: “The bristling creativity. This city breathes creativity, and it is an incredibly inspiring place. The unbelievable talent in the city — like a Big Bang soup that is constantly creating new things.” ■

News from the German Film Scene in California BERLIN & BEYOND AND GERMAN CURRENTS JOIN FORCES

The two most important German language film events on the West coast — San Francisco based *Berlin & Beyond Film Festival* and the Los Angeles *German Currents Film Festival* — are uniting to create a single German language film festival in the Fall of 2010. This was announced by the Goethe-Institutes in San Francisco and Los Angeles after Ms. Ingrid Eggers, festival director of *Berlin and Beyond*, who was instrumental in the inception of *Berlin & Beyond*, retired from the Goethe-Institute San Francisco and as festival director earlier this year. “The synergies we are creating will benefit both locations”, says Rudolf de Baey, Goethe-Institut director in San Francisco and President of *Berlin & Beyond*. “Sharing resources will permit us to present audiences in both cities with more films, more talent, and a wider variety of programs”, adds Annette Rupp, the director of the Goethe-Institut in Los Angeles.

* SOFIA — Stratosphere observatory for infrared astronomy



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GRENZGÄNGER

Exklusiv-Interview mit dem deutschen Leinwandstar **Benno Fürmann**

Von BARBARA GASSER & ANDREAS HENNINGS

Die Liste seiner Auszeichnungen ist lang: Preisträger des deutschen Fernsehpreises, des Adolf-Grimme-Preises oder Nominierung für die Goldene Kamera, dabei ist der deutsche Schauspieler Benno Fürmann erst 37 Jahre alt. Anlässlich der US-Premiere von „Nordwand“ beim diesjährigen Filmfestival „German Currents“ in Los Angeles trafen sich Barbara Gasser und Andreas Hennings mit dem Schauspieler, der nicht nur im Bergsteiger-Drama steile Felswände hinaufklettert, sondern auch im wirklichen Leben gern die höchsten Gipfel bezwingt. Sicherheitsdenken ist nichts für Benno Fürmann, dann schon lieber als Grenzgänger durchs Leben gehen.

In dem Bergsteiger-Drama „Nordwand“ spielen Sie Toni Kurz, der 1936 gemeinsam mit seinem Kameraden Andreas Hinterstoisser versuchte, die Eiger Nordwand erstzubesteigen. Was hat Sie an seinem Schicksal besonders fasziniert?

Benno Fürmann: Der Moment, wie Toni am Seil hängt, fasziniert mich. Es ist ein schreckliches Bild. Nur die Natur ist brutal und kennt keine Sentimentalitäten. „Nordwand“ ist krass und hart, aber auch sehr warmherzig.

Sie zählen zu den bekanntesten deutschen Schauspielern Ihrer Generation und haben mit 18 Jahren Ihre Heimatstadt Berlin verlassen, um in New York eine Schauspielschule zu besuchen. Welche Erfahrung haben Sie aus Amerika für sich mitgenommen?

BF: Berlin war mir zu eng. Ich bin kein Mensch, der auf Nummer sicher geht und ich wollte die Welt sehen. Für mein Amerika-Abenteuer verkaufte ich schweren Herzens meine Harley Davidson. Wenn man wie ein Schwamm aufsaugen will, gibt es keine bessere Stadt als New York. An den USA gefällt mir, dass hier der Jugend eine Chance gegeben wird und Menschen sich gegenseitig unterstützen.

Haben Sie eigentlich einen Faible?

BF: Früher war es Motorradfahren. Das Hobby habe ich nach einem Unfall meiner Tochter zuliebe aufgegeben. Für einen Mann besitzt ich relativ viele Schuhe. 60 bis 70 Paare.

Putzen Sie diese auch selbst?

BF: Selbstverständlich. Als Kind hat mein Vater mir einmal an Nikolaus kein Geschenk in den Stiefel gesteckt, weil dieser zu

schlampig geputzt war. Der Schuh ist das wichtigste Kleidungsstück. Schuhe putzen bedeutet Wertschätzung. Außerdem hat das Putzen etwas Meditatives.

In „Nordwand“ möchte Toni Kurz das Herz einer Frau mit seinem Gipfelsieg gewinnen. Können Sie das nachvollziehen und was bedeutet Liebe für Sie?

BF: Liebe ist die größte Kraft, daher kann ich sehr gut verstehen, wenn jemand aus Liebe sein Leben opfert. Liebe ist ein Gefühl und intellektuell nicht erklärbar. Wer keine Liebe empfindet, wird nicht glücklich werden. Der Schriftsteller Kahlil Gibran hat diesen großen tollen Satz in „Der Prophet“ gesagt: „Wenn die Liebe Dir winkt, folge ihr, auch wenn Du unter dem Gefieder das goldene Schwert blitzt siehst, hast Du keine andere Wahl. Wenn sie zu dir spricht, glaube an sie. So wie die Liebe dich krönt, kreuzigt sie dich.“

Sie selbst sind begeisterter Bergsteiger. Was gefällt Ihnen am Klettern?

BF: Mir gefällt, dass man sich im Bergsteigen selbst finden kann. Klettern kostet Schweiß und ist mit Entbehrung verbunden. Der Berg schenkt einem nichts. Bergsteigen hat eine eigene Ethik und Moral. Das ist heute genauso wie zur Zeit von Toni Kurz.

Wohin führt Ihre nächste Tour?

BF: Meine nächste Reise wird mich nach Nepal führen, dort möchte ich einen 6000er besteigen. Stress baue ich am besten ab, wenn der Himmel über mir und der Boden unter mir ist. Das erdet mich. Die Natur macht meinen Verstand ruhig. ■



< Film Scenes from "North Face" (Nordwand): Andi Hinterstoesser (Florian Lucas, l.), Toni Kurz (Benno Fürmann) and Luise (Johanna Wokalek, r.).

Do you clean them yourself?

BF: Of course. Once when I was a child my father didn't stuff a present in my boot on Saint Nicholas Day because it wasn't clean enough. The shoe is the most important article of clothing. Cleaning shoes means you appreciate them. Besides, there's something meditative about cleaning.

In "North Face" Toni Kurz wants to win the heart of the woman he loves by successfully climbing the north face of Eiger. Can you understand this? What does love mean for you?

BF: Love is the greatest power. I can very well understand why someone would sacrifice their life for love. Love is a feeling and cannot be explained intellectually. If you don't feel love, you can't be happy. The writer Kahlil Gibran wrote this amazing passage in "The Prophet": When love beckons to you, follow him, Though his ways are hard and steep. And when his wings enfold you yield to him, Though the sword hidden among his pinions may wound you. And when he speaks to you believe in him, Though his voice may shatter your dreams as the north wind lays waste the garden."

You yourself are an enthusiastic mountain climber. What do you like about climbing?

BF: I like the fact that you can find yourself in mountain climbing. Climbing is hard work and goes hand in hand with deprivation. The mountain doesn't favor anyone. Mountain climbing has its own ethics and moral. It's the same today as it was for Toni Kurz.

Where are you heading next?

BF: My next trip is to Nepal. I'd like to climb a 6000-meter peak there. I let go of stress best when I have the sky above me and the earth below me. That is what grounds me. Nature calms my mind. ■

By BARBARA GASSER & ANDREAS HENNINGS

REACHING FOR THE SKY

Exclusive interview with German movie star
Benno Fuermann

The list of his accolades is long — winner of the German Television Award, the Adolf Grimme Award, and nominee for Germany's Golden Camera award — yet German actor Benno Fuermann is still only 37 years old. On the occasion of the US premiere of "North Face" (Nordwand) at this year's German Currents film festival Barbara Gasser and Andreas Hennings met with the actor, who climbs sheer rock walls not only in the alpinist drama, but also loves to conquer the highest peaks in real life. Security is not for Benno Fuermann; he prefers to go through life as someone who pushes his limits by reaching for the sky.

In the alpinist drama "North Face" you play Toni Kurz, who, in 1936, attempted with his friend Andreas Hinterstoesser to be the first to climb the north face of Eiger. What fascinates you in particular about his fate?

Benno Fürmann: I'm fascinated with the moment in which Toni hangs from the rope. It is a terrible image. Nature is brutal and shows no sentimentality. "North Face" is raw and hard, but also warm-hearted. You are among the most well-known German actors of your generation and, at the age of 18, you left your hometown Berlin to attend an acting school in New York. What experiences have you taken with you from America?

BF: Berlin was too small for me. I'm not a person who prefers security, and I wanted to see the world. For my America adventure I sold, with a heavy heart, my Harley Davidson. If you want to soak up life like a sponge, there's no better city than New York. What I like about the USA is that young people are given a chance here and people are supportive of each other.

Do you have any weaknesses?

BF: It used to be motorcycle riding. After an accident I gave up the hobby for the sake of my daughter. For a man I own a lot of shoes, 60 to 70 pairs.



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1 Bernd Desinger (l.), founder of "German Currents" enjoying the reception after the premiere of "North Face" with producer Boris Schoenfelder and actor Benno Fürmann (r.)

2 Andreas Krautscheid (l.), Minister for Media and European Affairs in North-Rhine Westfalia at the opening night of "German Currents".



Von SONIA LASZLO

„Man sollte die Spezialeffekte gar nicht bewusst wahrnehmen“ |

Gespräch mit Volker Engel über den neuesten Roland Emmerich Film “2012”

GERMAN WORLD MAGAZINE TRAF DEN IN BREMERHAVEN GEBORENEN OSCARPREISTRÄGER VOLKER ENGEL, DER GEMEINSAM MIT MARC WEIGERT DIE SPEZIALEFFEKTE DES NEUEN ROLAND EMMERICH FILMS 2012 REALISIERT HAT, AM TAG NACH DER PREMIERE, DIE IN EINEM FUTURISTISCHEN GLASPALASTKINO IN DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES STATTFAND, ZUM INTERVIEW.

Was erwartet den Kinobesucher?

Volker Engel: Für mich ist es ein faszinierender Grundgedanke, wie die großen Regierungen der Welt handeln, wenn sie schon Jahre im Voraus wissen, dass es eine große Katastrophe geben wird. Versuchen sie, möglichst viele Menschen zu retten? Wie werden die Menschen ausgesucht? Sind die großen Kunstschatze unserer Zivilisation und technische Errungenschaften, sowie die Weltliteratur wichtiger als die Weltbevölkerung? Wer hat wirklich die Verantwortung und die Entscheidungsgewalt und den Mut dazu, auch harte Entscheidungen, wenn man nicht alle Menschen retten kann, zu treffen? Vor diesen Grundgedanken spielen sich die Spezialeffekte ab, durch die unser Held, gespielt von John Cusak, mit seiner Exfrau, neuem Freund und zwei Kindern in eine mögliche Sicherheit reist.

Warum hat sich das Thema angeboten?

VE: Im Film angerissen, aber nicht die Basis der Geschichte, ist der Kalender der Maya, der 2012 endet. Durch die Sonne erhitzt sich der Kern der Erde, die tektonischen Platten bewegen sich daher schneller, als wir es gewöhnt sind, auf dem heißen Magma. Ein wenig basiert die Geschichte auch auf einem Sachbuch. Generell sollte man den Film als Unterhaltung sehen und sich die Frage stellen, wie Menschen in Extremsituationen handeln.

Was ist wichtiger, die Effekte oder das Drehbuch?

VE: Ich liebe Spezialeffekte, aber wenn der Film keine bannende Handlung und gute Schauspieler hat, die einen mitreißen, dann

sichert man sich auch um die Effekte nicht. Man sollte die Effekte gar nicht bewusst wahrnehmen.

Was muss man mitbringen, um im Spezialeffekte Team dabei zu sein?

VE: Teamwork ist das Wichtigste! Wir arbeiten oft vierzehn Stunden pro Tag gemeinsam, und da muss persönlich alles passen. Es gibt drei Bereiche, die 3D Computer Animation, die Graphik Animation und das Zusammenfügen aller Teile, das Compositing. Alle müssen an einem Strang ziehen, vor allem unter Zeitdruck.

Warum wird nach Hollywood nun in Deutschland gedreht?

VE: Für eine Geschichte, die im England des 16. Jahrhunderts spielt, bietet sich natürlich Europa an. Zusätzlich unterstützt Deutschland durch Steuerbegünstigungen und Filmförderungen. Marc Weigert und ich sind mit unserer Firma auf den Aufbau und die Organisation einer Spezialeffekte-Produktion vor Ort spezialisiert.

Wie bleibt man bei so rasanter technischer Entwicklung mit der eigenen Arbeit am Computer am Puls der Zeit?

VE: Ich gebe an dieser Stelle immer offen zu, dass ich selbst noch nie komplizierte Effekte am Computer erstellt habe. Die Technik entwickelt sich so schnell, dass man gar nicht in allen Bereichen der Beste sein kann. Meine Aufgabe ist, die Vision und das Team dahingehend aus den besten Künstlern zusammenzustellen.

Ist die Arbeit im Vergleich zu „Independence Day“ schwieriger geworden?

VE: Damals vor dreizehn Jahren hatte noch niemand solche Spezialeffekte gesehen. Bei 2012 hatten wir über hundert Künstler, die alleine

in meiner Firma „Uncharted Territory“ gearbeitet haben. Wir haben mit vierzehn weiteren Firmen kooperiert. Wir scherzen immer, dass es bei „Independence Day“ 400 Einstellungen mit Spezial-effekten gab. Heute hat fast jede romantische Komödie so viele. Bei 2012 sind es 1300! Es sind 77 der 158 Filmminuten, die mit Spezial-effekten ausgestattet sind.

Nachdem man Los Angeles zum dritten Mal und nun vollständig, dem Untergang geweiht hat, was steht noch auf der Wunschliste?

VE: Dazu gibt es keine pauschale Kurzantwort. Mir geht es immer um die Geschichte. Spannend muss es sein, ob es sich um eine Riesenechse in New York handelt, den Angriff Außerirdischer oder, wie im Moment, um Shakespeare im 16. Jahrhundert. ■

By SONIA LASZLO

“You should not even notice the special effects”

Exclusive interview with Volker Engel about working on “2012”

GERMAN WORLD MAGAZINE SAT DOWN WITH BREMERHAVEN NATIVE, ACADEMY AWARD AND EMMY WINNER VOLKER ENGEL, THE DAY AFTER ROLAND EMMERICH'S 2012 PREMIERED AT THE REGAL, A FUTURISTIC GLASS-CASTLE MOVIE THEATER IN DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES. THE SFX MAGICIAN AND HIS PARTNER, MARC WEIGERT, COOKED UP THE IMPRESSIVE SPECIAL EFFECTS WITH THEIR COMPANY, UNCHARTED TERRITORY, FOR THIS LATEST “OPUS DESTRUCTIVUS MAXIMUS”.

What should the audience expect?

VE: A story's fundamental idea is the most important thing for me. How would the world's biggest governments react if they knew a couple of years in advance that there would be a huge catastrophe? How do you pick who will be saved? Are the greatest works of world art and literature, and the technical achievements that make up our civilization, worth more than the world population? Who is responsible and who has the power and courage to decide, especially when the decisions are difficult and uncomfortable and you realize everyone and everything can't be saved? This basic idea is the canvas upon which the special effects are created, and through which our story's hero, played by John Cusack, guides his patchwork family; his ex-wife, their two children, and her new boyfriend, to safety.

Why did that topic lend itself to a new movie?

VE: The movie is based in part on a book which mentions, although this is not the story's basis, that the Mayan Calendar ends in the year 2012. The sun, at that time,

will heat up the Earth's core and the tectonic plates will move faster than usual on top of the overheated magma. In general, the movie is meant to be entertainment and deals more with the question of how people react in extreme situations.

What is more important, the story or the SFX?

VE: I love special effects, but when the movie does not offer a thrilling story and great actors who pull us in, no one cares about the effects. Audiences should not even notice the effects!

What does one have to bring to the table to be part of your team?

VE: Teamwork is key! We often work fourteen-hour days and there can't be any tension on a personal level. There are three areas: 3D computer animation, graphic animation, and compositing. All teams in all three areas have to pull together.

After shooting so many films in Hollywood, why will the next production move to Berlin?

VE: Europe lends itself to a movie set in 16th-century England. Also, Germany offers very generous tax breaks and government film subsidies. Marc Weigert and I specialize, through our company Uncharted Territory, in setting up and organizing a special effects team wherever we go.

With all the technical advancements, how do you stay up to date with cutting-edge technology?

VE: On that topic, I always admit that I have never programmed complicated effects. Technology moves so fast that it's impossible to be the best in every area. Creating the vision of the movie and maintaining its integrity is my responsibility.

Compared to the milestone film Independence Day, has creating special effects become more difficult?

VE: Back then, thirteen years ago, nobody had seen these kind of special effects. 2012's challenge was to deal with the audience's daily reality. Attending to all the details of thousands of small elements was quite demanding. For 2012, we had hundreds of artists working at Uncharted Territory, and we cooperated with 14 other companies. We always joke that Independence Day had 400 special effect shots. Nowadays almost every romantic comedy has that many. 2012 has 1300! The movie runs 158 minutes, and 77 of those minutes consist of special and visual effects.

After your team destroyed Los Angeles for the third time, what else is on your wish list?

VE: There is no short answer to this question. The story is the most important thing for me, that's where my fascination starts. It has to be thrilling, whether it's a giant lizard in New York or an alien attack. In the next movie, it's 16th-century Shakespeare. ■



VOLKER ENGEL

Born in Germany's Bremerhaven, Volker Engel won the film industry's highest honor, an Academy award, for 1997's “Independence Day.” In 2006, he won an Emmy for “The Triangle,” a TV production. Along with Marc Weigert, he owns Uncharted Territory, a leading worldwide special effects company.
uncharted-territory.com



Volker Engel and Harald Kloser



Volker Engel on set in Tibet



All photos: Courtesy Uncharted Territory

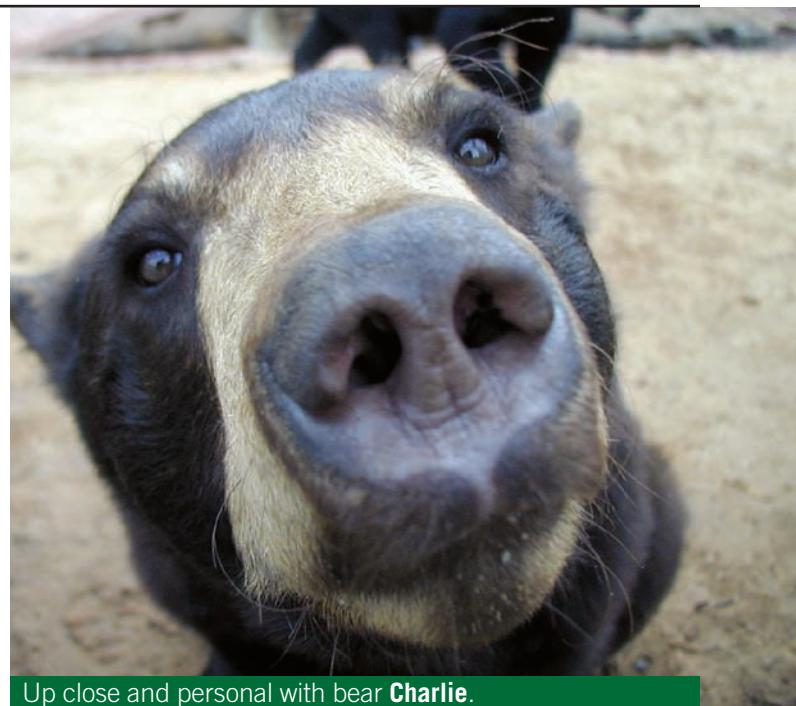
In Michigan, da steppt der Bär!

GERMAN WORLD-Leser **Dean Oswald** betreibt mit seiner Familie die größte Bärenfarm in den Vereinigten Staaten.

Von ANDREAS HENNINGS

„Es ist wie bei den eigenen Kindern: Erst hast du eines und dann kommen immer mehr dazu“, so Dean Oswald über die Anfänge seiner Liebe zu Schwarzbären. Im Jahr 1984 kaufte der 70-jährige seinen ersten Schwarzbären, heute leben 29 Exemplare auf seiner Ranch im nördlichen Michigan. Warum er sich gerade auf diese Tiere spezialisiert hat, kann Dean nicht genau sagen: „Manche Menschen mögen Hunde, ich mag eben Bären.“ Mit der Zeit gaben immer mehr Bärenbesitzer ihre Tiere bei den Oswalds ab und deren Grundstück entwickelte sich gleichzeitig zu einem Publikumsmagneten. „Die Leute wollten die Bären sehen. In der freien Natur welche zu entdecken, ist schwer“, erklärt Dean. Im Jahr 1997 machte er sein Hobby dann zum Beruf und eröffnete seine Bärenfarm, auch um weitere Schwarzbären aufzunehmen und versorgen zu können und einige Bären damit zu retten.

Ist die Farm dann von Mai bis September geöffnet, kommen jeden Tag etwa 150 Autos mit Besuchern, im nächsten Jahr erwartet Dean mindestens 15.000 Gäste auf seinem Gelände. Was diese auf ihrem

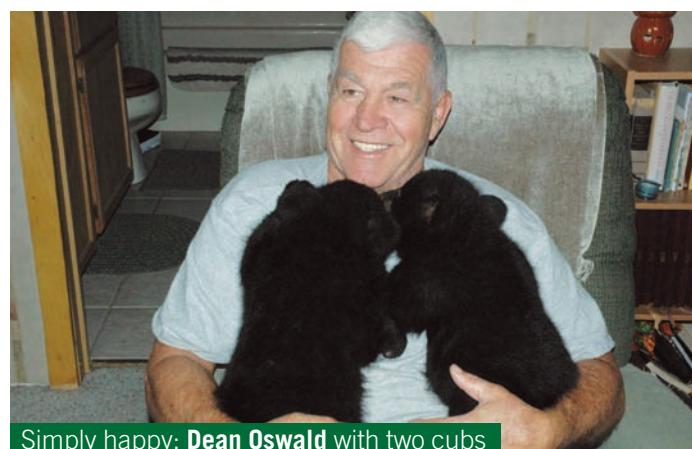


Up close and personal with bear **Charlie**.

Spaziergang über die größte Bärenranch in den USA sehen können, sind verschiedene Arten vom amerikanischen Schwarzbären, die in vier riesigen, naturbelassenen Gehegen leben. Zu erleben gibt es dabei einiges: Die Besucher sind beispielsweise dazu eingeladen, ihr ganz persönliches Bild mit einem Jungtier auf dem Arm zu machen. Ein Highlight ist es auch, wenn Deans Söhne Monte und Carl die Bären einmal am Tag vor dem begeisterten Publikum füttern. Dafür fahren sie jeden Morgen um sieben Uhr in den nächsten Ort, um dort fünf große Eimer mit Fleisch zu füllen.

Auch Tyson war ein großer Fresser. Er starb im Jahr 2000 im Alter von zwölf Jahren und wog runde 400 kg. Zum Vergleich: Ein gewöhnlicher Schwarzbär wiegt durchschnittlich etwa 120 kg. Damit war Tyson der schwerste jemals gewogene Bär in den Vereinigten Staaten, möglicherweise sogar in der ganzen Welt! Von November bis März allerdings braucht niemand mehr gefüttert zu werden, denn dann halten die Bären in ihrem eigens gebauten Bau ihre Winterruhe. „Sie atmen in diesem Zeitraum nur noch etwa ein Mal pro Minute“, weiß Monte. Das Wissen über die Bären hat ihm sein Vater Dean beigebracht, der ab dem Jahre 1962 zunächst selber auf Bärenjagd ging. Als pensionierter Polizist und Feuerwehrmann beschloss er dann aber, sich stattdessen um Bären zu kümmern und ihnen zu helfen.

Die Raubtiere verhalten sich gegenüber den Besuchern weder ängstlich, noch angriffslustig. „Natürlich passen wir beim Ausüben unseres Jobs auf uns auf. Die Bären sind kräftig und schnell, aber sie werden von klein auf an den Menschen gewöhnt“, erklärt Monte. Jedes Jahr im Januar werden zwei oder drei Bärenbabys geboren, die dann etwa die Größe einer Maus haben. Dean zieht diese anschließend zwei Monate lang mit der Flasche auf, weshalb die Bären ihn anschließend für ihre eigene Mutter halten. Den Tieren wird dabei also quasi ein Bär aufgebunden! ■



Simply happy: **Dean Oswald** with two cubs

In Michigan roam the Bears!

GERMAN WORLD reader **Dean Oswald** operates with his family the largest bear farm in the United States.

By ANDREAS HENNINGS

"It's like with your own children. First you have one and then more keep coming," says Dean Oswald about the beginning of his love for black bears. The 70-year-old bought his first black bear in 1984. Today, 29 of them live on his ranch in northern Michigan. Dean is not quite sure why he decided to specialize in this bear. "Some people like dogs; I like bears." Over the years more and more bear owners gave their bears to the Oswalds, and their property started to attract crowds. "The people wanted to see the bears. It's hard to spot them out in the wild," explained Dean. In 1997, he turned his hobby into his profession and opened "Oswald's Bear Ranch" to be able to rescue and care for more black bears.

The farm is open from May to September, and every day 150 cars bringing visitors arrive. Next year Dean expects at least 15,000 guests on his land. What they see, as they stroll around the largest bear ranch in the US, are different types of American black bears, which live in four large wilderness enclosures. There is much to experience: Visitors, for

instance, are invited to have their photo taken with a bear cub in their arms. A highlight is also when Dean's sons Monte and Carl feed the bears once a day in front of the enthusiastic public. To do so, every morning at 7 am they drive to the next town to fill buckets with a total capacity of 5.5 gallons with meat.

Tyson was a voracious eater. He died in 2000 at the age of twelve and weighed around 882 pounds. In comparison, a typical black bear weighs an average of about 265 pounds. Tyson was the heaviest bear ever weighed in the United States, perhaps even in the entire world! From November to March, however, no one needs to feed the bears, for winter is when the bears go into hibernation in shelters they build for themselves. "During this time they breathe only about once a minute," says Monte. His knowledge about the bears came directly from his father Dean, who started bear hunting in 1962. As a retired policeman and fireman, he then decided to care for the bears and help them instead.

The predators act neither skittish nor aggressive around the visitors. "Of course, we take precautions when doing our jobs. The bears are powerful and fast, but they have been around people since they were young," explained Monte. Every year in January one or three cubs are born. At birth they are about the size of a mouse. Dean then raises them for the next two months with a bottle, which is why the bears subsequently regard him as their own mother. ■

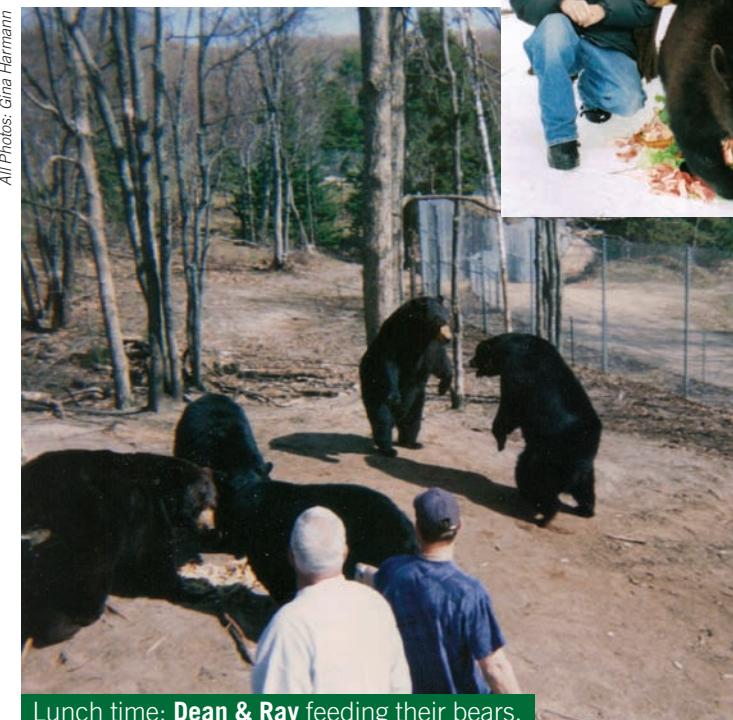
Alex feeding the bears



Monte Oswald with Smurf



Ray with another cub



Lunch time: Dean & Ray feeding their bears.

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„Stars on Ice“ aus Übersee

Eishockeyspieler aus Deutschland, Österreich und der Schweiz in USA erfolgreich

Von ANDREAS HENNINGS



800 NHL games, 200 goals: The German ice-hockey player **Marco Sturm** from the Boston Bruins is one of the stars of the NHL.

Anfang Oktober hat in Nordamerika die neue NHL-Saison begonnen. 30 Vereine, aufgeteilt in Eastern- und Western Conference, kämpfen um den Einzug in die entscheidenden Playoffs. Neben den bekannten Weltstars betreten auch zahlreiche Eishockey-Profis aus Deutschland, Österreich und der Schweiz das Eis. GERMAN WORLD hat diese Spieler und ihre Vereine einmal unter die Lupe genommen.

Marco Sturm von den Boston Bruins ist wohl der bekannteste unter den deutschsprachigen Spielern. Fast 800 Spiele hat der 31-jährige bereits in der NHL bestritten und erzielte dabei über 200 Treffer. Nach einer schweren Knieverletzung sucht der offensive Allroundspieler seine Topform aus der Saison 2007/08, als er Bostons gefährlichster Angreifer war. Vergangene Saison stellten die Bruins das erfolgreichste Team der Vorrunde im Osten.

Sechs weitere deutschsprachige Akteure sind bei Teams der Eastern Conference unter Vertrag. Der deutsche **Dennis Seidenberg** unterlag 2009 mit den Carolina Hurricanes im Finale der Conference dem späteren Stanley-Cup-Sieger aus Pittsburgh. Inzwischen ist der 29-jährige Defensivspezialist zu den Florida Panthers gewechselt. Österreichs Eishockey-Star und Sportler des Jahres 2007, **Thomas Vanek** (25), läuft seit 2005 in den Farben der Buffalo Sabres auf und erzielte dort in fast jedem zweiten seiner über 300 Spiele ein Tor. Einer seiner Teamkollegen ist der Mannheimer **Jochen Hecht** (32), welcher bereits seit zehn Jahren in der NHL aktiv ist. Beide verpassten zuletzt die Playoffs nur knapp. Der 27-jährige **Christoph Schubert** aus München verließ die Ottawa Senators in der Sommerpause und verteidigt nun für die Atlanta Thrashers. **Mark Streit** (31) aus der Schweiz wurde vergangene Saison für seine starken Leistungen belohnt und für das NHL-All-Star-Game nominiert. Mit den New York Islanders schloss er die Eastern Conference jedoch als Schlusslicht ab.

Der Nationalkeeper der Schweiz, **Jonas Hiller**, steht bei den Anaheim Ducks zwischen den Pfosten. Dort erkämpfte sich der 27-jährige zuletzt mit hervorragenden Leistungen einen Stammpunkt. Sein Team erreichte das Halbfinale der Conference und dank seiner Paraden schieden die Ducks erst im siebten Spiel gegen den späteren Finalisten aus Detroit aus. Auch sein Landsmann **Luca Sbisa** jagt für die Ducks dem Puck hinterher, nachdem er im Sommer aus Philadelphia kam. Das 19-jährige Talent erzielte bereits sieben NHL-

Treffer. Ebenfalls in der Western Conference spielt **Marcel Goc** (26) aus Calw. Er wechselte im Sommer zu den Nashville Predators, nachdem er zuvor sechs Jahre bei den San Jose Sharks unter Vertrag stand. Goc ist damit ein neuer Teamkollege von **Alexander Sulzer** aus Kaufbeuren, der in dieser Saison seinen ersten NHL-Treffer erzielte. Deutschlands Nationalkeeper **Thomas Greiss** (23) von den San Jose Sharks wird derzeit nur als Ersatztorwart eingesetzt.

Stars on Ice from Abroad

The NHL boasts many talents from Germany, Austria and Switzerland

By ANDREAS HENNINGS

The new NHL season began in North America in early October. Thirty clubs, split into the Eastern and Western Conferences, will battle to make it into the playoffs. Stepping onto the ice along with well-known international stars are numerous professional ice hockey players from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. GERMAN WORLD takes a closer look at these players and their clubs.

Marco Sturm from the Boston Bruins is probably the best known among the German-speaking players. The 31-year-old has scored 200 goals during his nearly 800 NHL games. After a serious knee injury the offensive all-round player is working to get back to his performance level of the 2007-08 season when he was Boston's most dangerous forward. Last season the Bruins came out of the preliminaries as the most successful team in the Eastern Conference.

Six other German-speaking players have contracts with teams in the Eastern Conference. In 2009, German **Dennis Seidenberg** with the Carolina Hurricanes lost the final match of the conference to the later Stanley Cup winners from Pittsburgh. Meanwhile the 29-year-old defense specialist has transferred to the Florida Panthers. Austria's ice hockey star and athlete of the year in 2007, **Thomas Vanek** (25),

NHL Short Facts

- Number of German-speaking NHL players in the US: 11
- Every team plays 82 games in the preliminary round
- The playoff games start at the end of April 2010
- You can find scores & tables at www.nhl.com

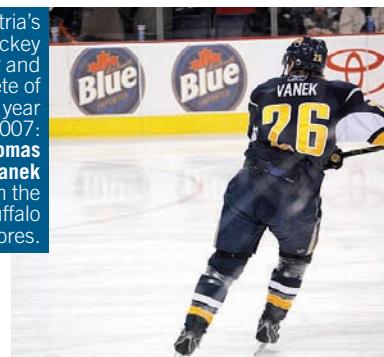
has played in the colors of the Buffalo Sabres since 2005 and has scored a goal in almost every other game for more than 300 games. One of his team colleagues is Mannheim native **Jochen Hecht** (32), who has been playing in the NHL for ten years now. Both just barely missed the playoffs last season. Twenty-seven-year-old **Christoph Schubert** from Munich left the Ottawa Senators during the summer break and is now playing defense for the Atlanta Thrashers. **Mark Streit** (31) from Switzerland was rewarded for his strong performance last season and nominated for the NFL All-Star game. With the New York Islanders, however, he finished last in the Eastern Conference.

Switzerland's national goalkeeper, **Jonas Hiller**, stands between the posts for the Anaheim Ducks. Here the 27-year-old's outstanding performance has secured him a regular position. His team reached their conference's semifinals and, thanks to his blocks, the Ducks were not eliminated until the seventh game against the later finalists from Detroit. His compatriot **Luca Sbisa** also chases after the puck for the Ducks after transferring from Philadelphia this past summer. The 19-year-old talent has already scored seven NHL goals. Also playing in the Western Conference is **Marcel Goc** (26) from Calw. He transferred in the summer to the Nashville Predators after being under contract to the San Jose Sharks for the past six years. Goc is thus now the new teammate of **Alexander Sulzer** from Kaufbeuren, who scored his first NHL goal this season. Germany's national goalkeeper **Thomas Greiss** (23) of the San Jose Sharks is currently only playing as substitute goalkeeper. ■

Jonas Hiller from the Anaheim Ducks is also Switzerland's national goal keeper.



Austria's ice hockey star and athlete of the year 2007: **Thomas Vanek** from the Buffalo Sabres.





Gifts for under \$50

● **Villeroy & Boch's Fine China "Urban Nature"**

Celebrate the holidays and your everyday meal in style with a set of this chic, contemporary tableware. Dishwasher and microwave safe. Set of breakfast cup and butter/bread plate for under \$50 Available at villeroy-boch-us.com



Gifts for coffee & tea lovers

● **Alfi's Noble Thermal Carafe**

Lets you serve your holiday guests in style. The dishwasher-safe, thermal carafe features an unbreakable, high-gloss polished stainless steel exterior with double-walled vacuum insulated stainless steel interior. It comes in two sizes: 32-ounces (1 L) \$160 48-ounces (1.5 L) \$180 Available at alficarafes.com

Gifts for under \$10

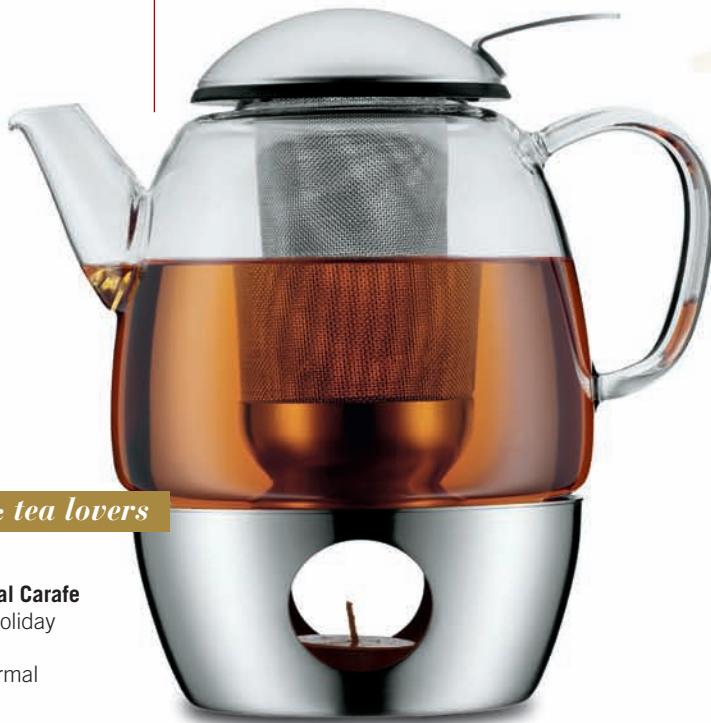


● **Villeroy & Boch's Holiday Series "Toy's Fantasy"**

Exquisite tableware from Germany, dishwasher and microwave safe. Cookie plates or small cookie bowls for \$7.99/each Available at villeroy-boch-us.com

● **WMF's SmarTea Set**

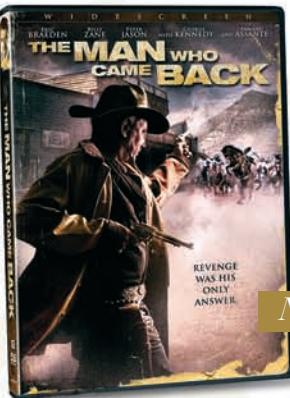
The beautifully-crafted tea set provides a hassle-free way to brew soothing, flavored hot tea. The set includes a 1.5-quart heat-proof hand-blown glass teapot; a stainless steel mesh infuser, which connects neatly to the stainless-steel teapot lid; and a stainless steel warmer stand outfitted with a tealight candle. \$119.90, Available at wmfamericas.com



● **Toast the Holidays and the New Year with German "Sekt"**

Sparkling wines from Germany give your parties a new twist and are available in the US. Try the East-German brand "Rotkäppchen Sekt", the elegant "Fürst von Metternich Sekt", the popular "Kupferberg Gold" or the exquisite "Schlumberger Sekt". Available at Alpine Village Center, Torrance, CA / alpinevillagecenter.com For Schlumberger Sekt contact 845.358.7230 / duggandist.com.

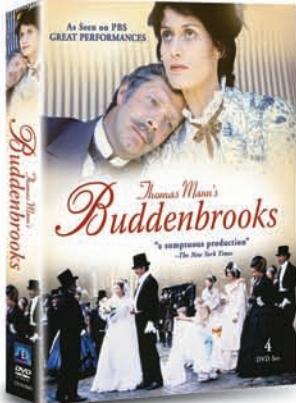




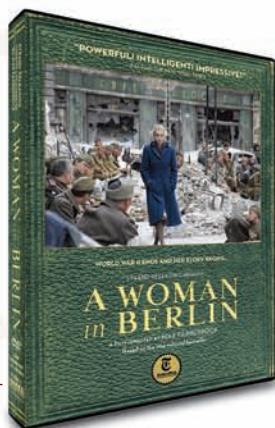
New on DVD

● **The Man Who Came Back**

Starring internationally-known television and film star Eric Braeden, Armand Assante (Mambo Kings), Billy Zane (Titanic), Sean Young (No Way Out), James Patrick Stuart (Pretty Woman), Jennifer O'Dell (The Lost World), Ken Norton (Mandingo), Carol Alt (Private Parts) and Academy Award-winner George Kennedy. Braeden plays a no-nonsense Confederate Army veteran whose defense of black workers in the post-Civil War south has deadly consequences. Available at ericbraeden.com or amazon.com

● **Thomas Mann's Buddenbrooks**

Directed by Franz Peter Wirth
Dolby Digital, English and German
(Subtitles: English)
\$36.98, Available at kochvision.com or amazon.com

● **A Woman in Berlin**

Set in 1945 during the Red Army invasion of Berlin. Women are victims of rape and devastation; one of them is Anonyma (Nina Hoss), a journalist and photographer. She meets a Russian officer Andrei (Evgeny Sidikhin) — an encounter which develops into a complex symbiotic relationship that forces them to remain enemies until the bitter end. Directed by Max Färberböck and based on the international best-selling diary *Anonyma*. 127 minutes, German and Russian (Subtitles: English), Available at amazon.com

New book release

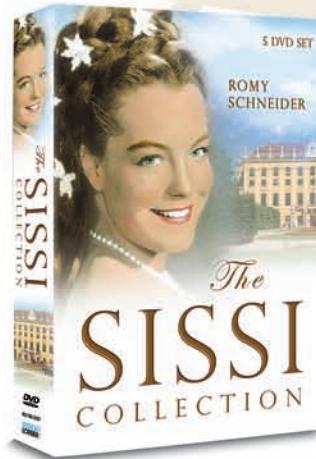
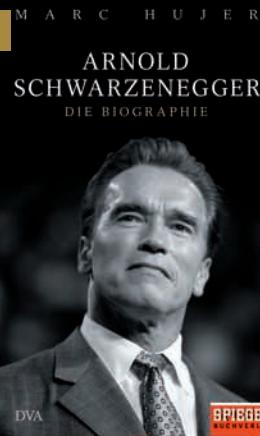
● "Arnold Schwarzenegger. Die Biographie" by Marc Hujer

Everyone thinks they know Schwarzenegger: some because they once met him personally; others because the most famous Austrian in the past 30 years has become a fixture in our lives.

German Spiegel reporter

Marc Hujer has extensively studied Schwarzenegger for many years. The result is a book that reads more like a novel than a biography, a portrait that examines Arnold Schwarzenegger as a person and shows a close-up view of the Governor system. Insightful and thrilling Christmas reading that can be highly recommended to both fans and critics of Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Available at amazon.com

● **The Sissi Collection — Starring Romy Schneider**

Includes the trilogy of romantic films about the Austrian princess: *Sissi*, *The Young Empress*, and *Sissi: The Fateful Years Of The Empress*. Directed by Ernst Marischka. The three movies follow the adventures of Sissi and her husband Kaiser Franz Josef, Sissi's frustrations of court life in Vienna and a difficult mother-in-law. This collection also includes two other movies of the same director, *The Story Of Vicki* and *Forever My Love*. English and German (Subtitles: English)
\$76.98, Available at kochvision.com or amazon.com

● **Thomas Mann's Doktor Faustus**

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English and German
(Subtitles: English)
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\$44.99, Available at amazon.com

Es weihnachtet sehr... Christmas is coming!

THE BEST CHRISTMAS EVENTS IN NORTH AMERICA

ARIZONA**Dec 5, 11 AM – 9 PM****Christkindlmarkt in Mesa**

The Christkindlmarkt will bring cherished German and European traditions to Mesa with holiday entertainment, German and Austrian cuisine. Free admission.

*Location: 1st Block of Northern Macdonald St**Information: www.autriansociety-arizona.org***CALIFORNIA****• Nov 28 - Dec 19 (SAT & SUN), 11 AM - 6 PM****Winter Holiday Market ****

Come shop at the Winter Holiday Market featuring the best in holiday gifts by artists, crafters and businesses.

*Location: 401 N 1st Street across from the Burbank Town Center, Burbank**Information: 818.745.9215,
www.kellenresources.com***DEC 5, 1 PM****Christmas Concert in San Francisco**

With the Liederkranz Ladies' and Men's Choirs.

*Location: St. Matthews Evangelical Lutheran Church***Dec 5 & Dec 6, 11 AM - 5 PM****Christkindlmarket in Sacramento***Location: Turner Hall, J Street***COLORADO****• Nov 27 - Dec 24, 11 AM - 7 PM****Denver Christkindlmarket *****

This year the Denver Christkindl Market will once again host vendors from Germany and other European countries, who offer quality, handcrafted gift items. Traditional German food as well as authentic German beer and Glühwein will be available.

*Location: Sky Line Park on Arapahoe and 16th Street, Denver**Information: 720.308.2921,
www.denverchristkindlmarket.com***Dec 5 - 6 & 12 - 13, 10 AM - 5 PM****Georgetown Christmas Market**

Since 1960, the Town of Georgetown has been hosting the Georgetown Christmas Market, featuring horse-drawn wagon rides, free entertainment, the Santa Lucia Children's Procession.

*Location: 6th Street, Georgetown**Information: 303.569.2405,**www.clearcreekcounty.org***DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA****Dec 4 - 23, 11:30 AM - 8 PM****Downtown Holiday Market**

More than 150 local artisans and crafters featuring hundreds of diverse gift items, such as jewelry, pottery, paintings and textiles.

*Location: 8th and F Street, Washington**Information: www.downtownholidaymarket.com***FLORIDA****• Dec 3 - 5, 4 PM - 10 PM / 4 PM - 10 PM /****11 AM - 10 PM****German Christmas Market in Cape Coral***Location: 1231 Lafayette Street, Cape Coral**Information: 239.645.4191***• Dec 5, 4 PM - 8 PM****Christmas Bazaar in Coral Gables***Location: St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 3930 Le Jeune Road**Information: 305.444.0425, www.smlccg.org***December 10 - 12, 4 PM - 10 PM /****4 PM - 10 PM / 11 AM - 10 PM****German Christmas Market in Lehigh Acres**

European arts & crafts, pictures with Santa Claus & "Christkindl", traditional German food, "Glühwein" (mulled wine), German beer, live entertainment.

*Information: 239.645.4191***GEORGIA****Dec 5, 7 PM****The Traditional GCC Christmas Gathering**

Enjoy the magic season with traditional German Christmas songs, pastries and Glühwein.

*Location: Goethe-Zentrum, Atlanta**Information & Tickets: 404.892.2388,**www.goethe.de/atlanta***ILLINOIS****• Nov 26 - Dec 24, 11 AM - 8 PM****Chicago Christkindlmarket *******

The Christkindlmarket in Chicago is the largest and most renowned Christmas market in the United States. The market is looking forward to welcoming an estimated one million guests. A variety of typical German foods will tantalize the taste buds. Enjoy the unique shopping and culinary experience in a charming winter village atmosphere.

*Location: Daley Plaza, Chicago**Information: 312.494.2175,
www.christkindlmarket.com***INDIANA****Nov 27 - Dec 13, 9 AM - 5 PM****Festival of Gingerbread**

The annual Festival of Gingerbread features hundreds of gingerbread creations, from those made by area grade school children to master bakers!

*Location: History Center, Fort Wayne**Information: 260.426.2882,
www.fwhistorycenter.com***LOUISIANA****Dec 11 - 13, 10 AM - 7 PM****Nutcracker Holiday Market**

With local, national and international merchants selling every type of gifts and décor. Local choirs singing and exhibitors selling items perfect for your holiday season.

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Williams Boulevard, Kenner
Information and Tickets: 770.410.9771,
www.nutcrackerexpo.com

MASSACHUSETTS

Dec 12 - 13, 10 AM - 6 PM

SoWa Holiday Market

With a wide array of handmade offerings from the fashionably chic to the hip and cutting edge, shoppers are sure to find an original gift for everyone on their list.

*Location: Cathedral High School Gym,
74th Park Street, Boston*

*Information: 800.403.8305,
www.sowaholidaymarket.com*

MISSOURI

• Dec 12 - 13, 10 AM - 4 PM

Kristkindl Market ***

A traditional German Christmas market with crafts, entertainment, German bakery goods, music, Glühwein served in Kristkindl Mugs, ethnic costumes, Kloppelei lace making, food and other demonstrations in an historic town originally settled by German Immigrants in the mid 1800s.

Location: Hermannhof Festhalle and the Hofgarten in 1st Street and Gutenberg, Hermann

Information: www.hermannfarm.com

NEW YORK

• Nov 23 - Dec 24

Grand Central Holiday Fair ***

The most exquisite collection of hand-picked vendors, artisans and craftspeople will be open for business at the Grand Central Holiday Fair.

Location: Grand Central Station, 42nd St and Lexington Avenue, New York City

*Information: 212.529.9262,
www.urbanspacenyc.com*

Nov 25 - Dec 24

Union Square Holiday Market

One of New York City's most popular Holiday Markets.

Location: 14th - 18th Street and Broadway, New York City

*Information: 212.529.9262,
www.urbanspacenyc.com*

• Dec 2 - Dec 24, 10 AM - 8 PM

Holiday Market ***

The Holiday Market at Columbus Circle is designed in the tradition of the Northern European holiday market, familiar in cities from Copenhagen to

Munich. Each December the public squares and piazzas of these European capitals are filled with colorful market booths selling holiday gifts from around the world.

Location: SW Corner of Central Park at Columbus Circle, New York City

*Information: 212.529.9262,
www.urbanspacenyc.com*

OHIO

• Nov 28 - Dec 30, 11 AM - 9 PM

Christkindl Markt ***

The German holiday tradition of the Christmas market is brought to Akron straight from their sister city of Chemnitz, Germany. More than 50 Chemnitz citizens provide authentic German crafts, food, beverages and music!

Location: Lock 3 Park, Akron

Information: 330.812.7865, www.lock3live.com

OREGON

Nov 21 - Dec 24,

Eugene Holiday Market

Featuring handcrafted gifts sold by the artists, international food court, live music

*Location: Lane County Fairgrounds,
13th & Jefferson, Eugene*

*Information: 541.686.8885,
www.holidaymarket.org*

PENNSYLVANIA

• Nov 26 - Dec 24, 11 AM - 8 PM

Christmas Village ***

Vendors in more than 50 wooden booths and timber houses which form a medieval village will sell European food, sweets and drinks as well as international seasonal holiday gifts.

Location: Dilworth Plaza on the west side of City Hall, Philadelphia

Information: www.philachristmas.com

Nov 27 - Dec 20, 10 AM - 6 PM

Christkindlmarkt Bethlehem

A delightful holiday market offering handmade works by more than 100 of the nation's finest artisans; live holiday music; delicious food, more.

Location: Spring and Main St, Bethlehem

Information & Tickets: www.christmascity.org

Picture Gingerbread heart

Dec 10 - 12, 10 AM - 9 PM

Christkindlmarkt

Come and join this festive event in Mifflinburg that

features unique handmade crafts & traditional Christkindl treats. Sample delicious traditional German Gingerbread hearts.

Location: Market St, Mifflinburg

*Information: 888.666.0877,
www.mifflinburgchristkindlmarket.com*

TEXAS

Dec 4 - 6, 10 AM - 9 PM

St. Nikolaus Market

Location: Fredericksburg

Information: 830.997.6523

Dec 5, 10 AM - 4 PM

Christmas Market

Live performances of German Christmas music take place throughout the day.

*Location: German Free School,
507 E. 10th Street, Austin*

Information: 512.482.0927, www.gths.net

• Dec 12, 2009, 10 AM - 10 PM

Christmas Market in Tomball ***

An estimate 80 unique street vendors will offer German Christmas items, arts and crafts, and much more. The German tent and music stage will be located near 200 Market St. Sponsored by the City of Tomball, Tomball Sister City, and German Heritage Festival

www.tomballsistercity.org

Location: Old Town, 201 S. Elm

*Information: gradsand@yahoo.com,
281.379.6844*

VERMONT

• Dec 12, 9 AM - 4 PM

Holiday Gift Market in Montpelier ***

Buy your holiday gifts from over 40 Vermont vendors, while supporting O.U.R. House of Central Vermont.

Location: City Hall, Montpelier

Information: 802.310.1725, www.touchofvt.com

WISCONSIN

• Dec 4 - 13, 10 AM - 5 PM

Old World Christmas Market ***

The Osthoff Resort's traditional European Christmas Market, reminiscent of the centuries-old German Christkindlmarkt, features authentic gifts, and food specialties from international and regional artisans.

Location: Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake

Information: 800.876.3399, www.osthoff.com



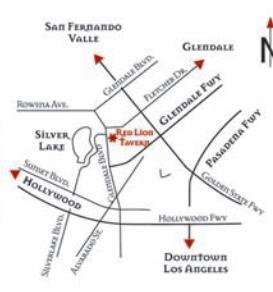
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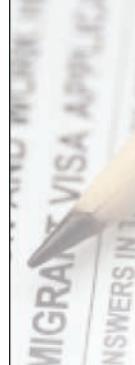
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Chairman Lars Halter (2. f.r.), Grand Marshals Christian Haub (l.), Linda Schmidt and Michael McMahon (r.) leading the 52nd Steuben Parade.

52nd Annual Steuben Parade more Successful than Ever

By PETRA SCHÜRMANN

NO SIGNS OF A CRISIS

The Steuben Parade, the largest German-American event in the US attracting numerous groups from Germany and the US, has become a fixture in my calendar. I always enjoy seeing the Empire State Building illuminated in the German national colors on the occasion of the parade, the elegant Steuben Parade Ball at the Hilton the night before, the German church service at the St. Patrick's Cathedral, the parade itself and the Oktoberfest in Central Park after the parade. September in New York was officially declared "German-American Friendship Month", and lots of fun events, like a German pub crawl, concerts and readings — this year by Hape Kerkeling — are offered to the American public. For the first time, a delegation of the Karneval group from California, headed by GAMGA President Walter Luebke, joined the parade in 2009. All in all, more than 5,000 participants were marching down Fifth Avenue from 67th Street to 86th Street on September 19 and more than 50,000 onlookers cheered the parade. During the past two years, the German-American community has noticeably gained much more presence in the local American news and the overall public awareness. This year, members of the parade committee had the honor to ring the bell at Wall Street and the NASDAQ stock exchange. The popular TV reporter, Linda Schmidt from Fox 5 New York, served as one of the Grand Marshals this year. She was joined by congressman Michael McMahon and Christian Haub, chairman of A & P. "By choosing three grand marshals from very different backgrounds," explained Lars Halter, the young chairman of the parade, "we try to show how diverse the German-American community is and that German-Americans are active in just any sector of the American society."



Opening of 1st Annual U.S. Championship in "Masskuggemmen" (holding beer mugs contest).



The Hofbräu float, one of the parade sponsors.



More and more young people join the parade every year.



Cool sounds from Germany.



Petra Schürmann meeting the "Spandauer Bums-köppé" in original Prussian uniforms from Berlin.



"Sehr fesch!" — Claudia Hillmeyer of BC International with one of the participants from Germany.





Freedom memories

German Unity Day Reception at German Embassy

Celebrating Freedom Without Walls

On October 2, 2009, Ambassador Klaus Scharioth and Lower Saxony Minister President Christian Wulff jointly hosted the German Unity Day Reception on the premises of the German Embassy on Reservoir Road. Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the theme of the evening was clear. Arriving guests passed through Checkpoint Charlie and were greeted by a replica of a section of the Berlin Wall in the garden. In his welcome address, Ambassador Scharioth remembered with gratitude and admiration those men and women who took to the streets in 1989, shouting, "Wir sind das Volk" (we are the people). One of these freedom activists in East Germany, Stefan Walter, was present and shared his own experiences from the era. He also starred in the documentary *The Miracle of Leipzig* by Matthias Schmidt about the peaceful demonstrations in Leipzig in 1989 that precipitated the fall of the wall. The evening's guest of honor was Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, who served as national security advisor to President Jimmy Carter. - gw/ps

A replica of the Berlin Wall — previously used in a Washington DC Opera production — set the theme.





DAY OF GERMAN UNITY CELEBRATION IN NEW YORK

As it is customary, the Consulate General of New York hosted its elegant Day of German Unity reception at "The Boathouse" in Central Park. Consul Dr. Horst Freitag was delighted to welcome Ambassador Scharioth and former US Secretary of State Dr. Henry Kissinger at the event. Due to the UN Summit during that week, most guests were high-ranking officials from the UN celebrating Germany's 20th anniversary of an undivided country. - gw/ps



By PETRA SCHÜRMANN

LOTS OF FUN “AUF DER WIESN” IN CAPE CORAL...

The schedule of the German-American community gets busy each year in September and October. Numerous multiple-day Oktoberfests are taking place throughout the Sunshine State. I happen to attend the Oktoberfest in Cape Coral which is organized by the German-American Social Club of Cape Coral during two weekends in Oktoberfest. The club is very lucky to have a great club house equipped with ballroom, bar and restaurant located in the middle of a huge meadow. Here, you are truly “auf der Wiesn” and almost feel like being in Munich — if it weren’t for the swaying palm trees surrounding the area. Paul Mills (1), the chairman of the Oktoberfest event committee, and his team had done a great job accommodating more than 30 vendors, 2 live bands and more than 5,000 people every day. There were two outdoor dance floors with live music by bands from Germany and a free round-trip to Europe was raffled off sponsored by AirBerlin. The lucky winner (3, r.) was congratulated by the beautiful Ms. Oktoberfest 2009, Diana Holden, and her husband John (2).

Photo: g/w/ps

**Oktoberfest Saison in Florida****...AND LAKE WORTH**

Ralf Bahr (4), on the other coastline of Florida, heads the Oktoberfest event committee of the American-German Club of the Palm Beaches in Lake Worth. Despite the ongoing economical crisis, the Oktoberfest registered on both weekends a record number of visitors — 20,000 in total. The outdoor festival area of the American-German Club is beautifully decorated with lots of Bavarian-style wooden huts where guests could get authentic German food, drinks and souvenirs from Germany. Live bands from Germany got everybody in the right mood and the popular song “Fliegerlied” has become a serious competitor for the “Chicken Dance”. Visit www.americangermanclub.org or www.german-world.com to watch a video or download the lyrics.





Mayor Thomas Helbling (l.) and his wife receive a warm welcome by Mayor Robert Cluck of Arlington and his wife.



Sheikha, one of the most prominent members of the German community in Texas, arrives.



Mayor Helbling in his thank-you address.



Thomas Hein (2nd f.l.) and Kimberley Hein (center) with Roswitha Knoop (l.) and friends at the gala ball.



German pop singer Sebastian Charelle with his girl-friend (2nd f.l.) and Inga Bowyer (r.), one of the sponsors of the evening.



Bob Clarke (l.) and Jim Thompson (r.).





1 The newly elected board of the German-American Cultural Society

Photo: K.M.



2 Musician Wolfgang Gernot (l.) and Long Beach Opera director Andreas Mitisek

Photo: S.L.



3

Photo: K.M.



4 Doris & Boris Adlam with their kids

Photo: S.L.



5 "Dirndl" never go out of fashion.

Photo: S.L.



6

Photo: S.L.



7

Photo: S.L.



8

Photo: S.L.

"WAGNER-AFTERNOON" WITH ERIC BRAEDEN (1)

GACS President Eric Braeden and his wife Dale again opened up their home to host the German American Cultural Society (GACS) event themed "A Wagner Prelude" on the afternoon of November 15. Following a short member meeting with the annual report and a view of upcoming events delivered by chairman Dr. Günter Memmert, board members were reelected. Afterwards, Prof. Cornelius Schnauber held his lecture on the life and work of the German composer Richard Wagner, one of the most influential men in the 19th century. The occasion is the upcoming Ring Festival of the Los Angeles Opera, which will be held for the first time in the American film metropolis from April through June. Consul General Wolfgang Drautz, present at a GACS event for the first time, appeared impressed by the quality of the event and the discussed themes. - gw/km/ps

(1) Old and new GACS board members (2nd row f.l.) Eric Braeden, Helma Christiane Bloomberg, Dr. Günter Memmert, Jürgen Janson, Prof. Donal O'Sullivan & German Consul General Wolfgang Drautz; in the front row hostess Dale Braeden, Prof. Cornelius Schnauber. Other board members Prof. Michael Meyer and Dennis Fredricks were not present.

AUSTRIANS CELEBRATE THEIR NATIONAL DAY IN L.A. (2 - 5)

For the first time a woman extended the invitations to the Austrian National Day reception. In her welcoming remarks, Dr. Karin Proidl, Austria's charming new Consul General (3) in L.A., thanked the Austrian expatriates and guests who make her work as a diplomat in Southern California so much easier. She also mentioned the various internship programs that make it possible for young Austrians to spend some time in Southern California. Billie Greer, who passed on Governor Schwarzenegger's regards on Austrian National Day, cordially welcomed the new Consul General, as did Lourdes Saab from the County of Los Angeles and Elga Sharpe, the chief of protocol for Mayor Villaraigosa.

CELEBRATING GERMAN NATIONAL DAY IN LOS ANGELES (6 - 8)

The new Consul General Wolfgang Drautz and his wife (6, on the right) extended invitations to commemorate German National Day in their residence and garden. Wolfgang Drautz introduced his wife and two daughters and told guests they had many reasons to celebrate this year. Twenty years ago the Berlin Wall fell, and Germany is surrounded by friends! Sixty years ago the Federal Republic of Germany was founded with the passage of Basic Law on May 23, 1949. In his speech the Consul General cordially thanked the American friends who made Berlin's survival possible after World War II with the Berlin Airlift and then helped make it possible for Germany to reunite without bloodshed and conflict. Councilman Tom LaBonge (8, r.) congratulated German Consul General Wolfgang Drautz and his family on National Day.



Simply charming: Dr. Karin Proidl, the new consul general of Austria in Los Angeles



The beautiful Consulate General of Germany on Jackson Street

"MEMORIES OF GRINZING" — Consul General Karin Proidl Saves the Austrian-American Day Celebration

The newly appointed Consul General of Austria in L.A., Dr. Karin Proidl, spontaneously stepped up when this year's Austrian-American Day celebration "Memories of Grinzing" on September 26 had to quickly find a new venue. The event had been planned to take place at the residence of Lydia and Ronald Valenta in La Cañada but due to the heavy fire damage in that area the event had to be moved. "We are very thankful," states Liliana Popv-Alexander, "that Dr. Proidl came to our help after only being in L.A. for four weeks." Proidl who was the toast of the evening and a much sought-after dancer, was born in Senftenberg, Lower Austria, studied international law in Vienna and Paris' and holds a doctorate from the university of Vienna. She started her diplomatic career in 1992 and has represented Austria Strassburg, New York, London, and Tel Aviv.

RASTI — the Best German Shepherd in the American Southwest

Jeffrey vom Toensbroek, called Rasti, won first prize as best German Shepherd at the Southwestern Region Regional Show in Fontana. Over 70 German Shepherds from California, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado and Hawaii participated in the show. Judge Lothar Quoll of the German Shepherd Association came from Germany especially for the competition. The dog and his owner Dr. Günter Memmert are pleased with their trophy.



COMMEMORATING 60 YEARS BASIC LAW AND 20 YEARS SINCE THE FALL FO THE BERLIN WALL:

Day of German Unity Celebration in San Francisco

On October 2, more than 400 guests followed the invitation of Consul General Peter Rothen and his wife Gerlind to celebrate the Day of German Unity at their residence. He gave an especially warm welcome to a group of German members of the European Parliament who had come to Northern California in order to strengthen the European-American relationship. Rothen called the events that took place 20 years ago "nothing less than a political earthquake" with Germany being at the epicenter. "When we now celebrate the „Fall of the Wall“,," he said, "we can consider ourselves very fortunate for the way everything worked out." In this context, Rothen paid tribute to the former president of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev :" We owe a great lot to this man who was a true visionary."

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