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CHRISTMAS SPECIAL 2010

A TASTE OF CHRISTMAS

plus

A NEW POLITICAL VOICE IN CONGRESS: **JIM GERLACH** INITIATES GERMAN-AMERICAN CAUCUS

Arnold Schwarzenegger

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Liebe Leser,

ein Jahr voller wichtiger Jubiläen neigt sich dem Ende, wobei der 20. Jahrestag der Deutschen Wiedervereinigung sicherlich das wichtigste war. Wir hoffen, dass Sie in diesem Zusammenhang Gelegenheit hatten, einige der vielen interessanten Veranstaltungen, die auch in USA zur Feier dieses Meilensteins deutscher Geschichte stattfanden, wahrzunehmen. Dank vieler Berichte und Veranstaltungen wurden auch vielen Amerikanern die engen deutsch-amerikanischen historischen Verbindungen wieder in Erinnerung gerufen und nun gibt es sogar im US-Kongress eine Initiative des Abgeordneten Jim Gerlach, ein überparteiliches deutsch-amerikanisches Komitee ins Leben zu rufen. Mehr über diese mutige Initiative auf Seite 10.

Weitere interessante Neuigkeiten und Einblicke gibt es in unserer Titelstory mit einem Beitrag von Marc Hujer, Journalist und Autor des Buches „Arnold Schwarzenegger. Die Biographie.“

Wie immer, wünschen wir Ihnen viel Freude bei der Lektüre und danken Ihnen für Ihr Interesse.

Im Namen des gesamten German World Teams wünsche ich Ihnen eine schöne Weihnachtszeit und alles Gute, vor allem Gesundheit, für das kommende Jahr.

Herzlichst,

Petra Schürmann

Herausgeberin



Dear Reader,

A year full of important anniversaries is drawing to a close, with the 20th anniversary of the German reunification being the most important one. We hope that you had the opportunity to attend some of the numerous interesting events related to this memorable milestone of German history that have also created a much higher awareness among the American general public of the existing close historical German-American ties.

Even in the political arena, we have been able to note a new interest from American politicians of German heritage to explore their family roots. US-Congressman Jim Gerlach even intends to establish a bi-partisan German-American caucus in the US Congress to foster and strengthen German-American relations. More about this exciting new initiative on page 10.

You will certainly also enjoy our cover story in which Arnold Schwarzenegger biographer and journalist Marc Hujer shares some very intimate insights of the life and personality of the Californian governor.

On behalf of all of us at German World, we thank you for your patronage and your interest in our publication, and wish you a wonderful holiday season and a healthy new year.

Warmest regards,

Petra Schürmann

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Bundeskanzlerin Merkel und Finanzminister Schäuble mit G20-Gipfel zufrieden

Nach Angaben der deutschen Botschaft in Washington D.C. verabschiedeten die Staats- und Regierungschefs eine gemeinsame Erklärung sowie den Aktionsplan von Seoul. Es setzt unter anderem bestimmte politische Ziele für jedes Land fest, um die Weltwirtschaft zu stärken.

Der Gipfel konzentrierte sich auf die Frage, wie ein nachhaltiges, ausgewogenes Wachstum weltweit erreicht werden kann. Merkel lobte den „Geist der Zusammenarbeit“ auf dem Gipfel, der diese Ergebnisse möglich machte.

Die Staats- und Regierungschefs haben wichtige Entscheidungen auf dem G20-Gipfel in Seoul mit Bezug auf höhere Rücklagen für Banken, die Reform des Internationalen Währungsfonds, und Impulssetzung für den Welthandel, getroffen.

Die Gipfelteilnehmer vereinbarten, dass nachhaltiges Wachstum nicht von einem einzelnen Faktor – zum Beispiel einem gegenwärtigen Defizit, bestimmt werden kann. Vielmehr wird eine breite Palette von indikativen Leitlinien, die die Finanzminister im Jahr 2011 diskutieren, gebraucht. Sie vereinbarten auch, dass der Internationale Währungsfonds in Zukunft den tatsächlichen wirtschaftlichen Kräften gerecht werden muss. Daher begrüßten die Teilnehmer des Gipfels die Reform des IWF, die durch die G20-Finanzminister eingeleitet wurde.

Die Staats- und Regierungschefs in Seoul beschlossen außerdem, dass die laufenden WTO-Verhandlungen (Doha-Runde) zu einem guten Abschluss gebracht werden müssen, um damit ein klares Signal für den freien Welthandel zu setzen.

Beschlüsse zu weiteren wichtigen Themen wurden getroffen. Zum Beispiel bekräftigten sie die Ziele des G20-Gipfels in Toronto, auf Wachstum in den Entwicklungsländern zu setzen. Vor diesem Hintergrund haben die G20-Länder den G20 Anti-Korruptions-Aktionsplan eingerichtet, der wirksame globale Anti-Korruptions-Regeln etablieren soll.

Die G20-Teilnehmer stehen auch zu den UN-Klimazielen. Bei den Klimaverhandlungen ab Ende 2010 in Mexiko möchten sie ein „erfolgreiches, ausgewogenes Ergebnis“ präsentieren können.

Die deutsche Bundeskanzlerin Angela Merkel und Finanzminister Wolfgang Schäuble waren mit den Ergebnissen des G20-Gipfels zufrieden.

Chancellor Merkel and Finance Minister Schäuble satisfied with G20 Summit

According to the German Embassy in Washington D.C., the heads of state and their governments adopted both a joint declaration and the Seoul Action Plan. It sets, among other things, specific political goals for each country to strengthen the global economy.

The summit centered on the issue of how to achieve sustainable, balanced growth worldwide. Merkel praised the “spirit of cooperation” at the summit which made those results possible.

The heads of state and government helped advance important decisions at the G20 Summit in Seoul in regard to higher capital reserves for banks, reform of the International Monetary Fund, and stimulus for world trade.

The summit participants agreed that sustainable growth and imbalances cannot be linked to one indicator — say, a current account deficit. Rather, what is needed is a wide array of indicative guidelines, which the finance ministers will discuss in 2011. They also agreed that the International Monetary Fund must in the future also reflect the balance of economic powers. Therefore, the summit participants welcomed the IMF reform initiated by the G20 finance ministers.

The heads of state and government in Seoul decided also that the current WTO negotiations (Doha Round) must be brought to a good conclusion, thus sending a strong signal for free world trade.

The decisions of the summit participants covered further important issues. For example, they reaffirmed the goals set at the G20 Summit in Toronto to strengthen growth in developing countries. Against this backdrop, the G20 adopted the G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan, which aims to establish effective global anti-corruption rules.

The G20 participants also stand by the UN climate targets. At the climate negotiations starting in Mexico in late 2010, they would like to reach a “successful, balanced outcome.”

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble were satisfied with the summit's results.

(Source: Press release by the Embassy of Germany published on 11/12/2010 / www.germany.info)



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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.

GermanyInNYC.org helps Americans interested in Germany and German life in New York City, to find, enjoy, and participate in a broad array of German-American events and leisure activities. The visitor can access a daily updated calendar providing the latest scoop on a myriad of events. Anyone interested in Germany will get the whole picture on the many facets that German life in the city has to offer.

Check it out today!

Facing the four elements: Developing a transatlantic approach to sustainability

More than 100 German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH) alumni gathered at the German House New York from October 28 - 30, 2010, to discuss and exchange their expertise on sustainability and transatlantic relationships. The networking event, which was co-sponsored by the German Center for Research & Innovation, also addressed new approaches to supporting academic and scientific research and exchange. Ulrich Grothus, DAAD Deputy Secretary General, and Professor Dr. Enno Aufderheide, Secretary General of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, welcomed the participants to three days filled with panel discussions, networking opportunities, and a dinner cruise around Manhattan. During the conference's opening night, Professor Dr. Roland Schindler, Director of the Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems, discussed the challenges and opportunities of extending Fraunhofer research to the U.S. Alison Taylor, Vice President, Sustainability for the Americas, Siemens Corporation, spoke about Siemens' approach to sustainability.

Throughout the conference, approximately 38 former DAAD and AvH alumni discussed topics, such as "Sustaining Coastal Systems in a Changing Global Environment," "Energy Dependence as a Threat to Germany and the U.S."

Escape to life — German intellectuals in New York

On September 29, the German Center for Research & Innovation hosted the opening event of the three-day symposium on the impact of German intellectuals on the cultural and educational landscape of New York and the United States. At the conference, experts elaborated on the translation and consequent transformation of German intellectuals' ideas and work, which accompanied their immersion in American life and culture. During the opening, Sigrid Weigel from the Center for Literary and Cultural Research (ZfL, Berlin)

spoke about Hannah Arendt's bilingual writing. Other topics included "From Königsberg to Little Rock: Childhood East and West by Hannah Arendt"; Liliane Weissberg and "Nature versus History, or the Lifeworld According to Karl Löwith" by Rodolphe Gasché.

The symposium continued at Deutsches Haus at New York University on September 30 and October 1.

Transatlantic perspectives on emerging technology

The German Center for Research and Innovation (GCRI), in cooperation with Hannover Messe Research and Technology, the leading international trade fair for R&D and Technology Transfer in Hannover, Germany, hosted a panel discussion on the national frameworks, practices, and funding schemes for early-stage high-tech companies in the United States and Germany at the German House New York on October 26.

Richard Bendis, President & CEO of Innovation America, Edward Reinfurt, Executive Director of the New York State Foundation for Science, Technology and Innovation, and Dr. Thomas Lechler of the Howe School of Technology Management at Stevens Institute of Technology discussed best practices, accessing non-domestic

sources of seed money to establish university spin-offs and the effects of the world economy on tech transfer, tech commercialization, and finance. Their discussion included examples, opportunities, and obstacles of international collaboration.

The GCRI, which opened in February 2010, provides information and support for the realization of cooperative and collaborative projects between North America and Germany in the humanities, science, and technology. With the goal of enhancing communication on the critical challenges of the 21st century, GCRI hosts a wide range of events ranging from lectures and exhibitions to workshops and science dinners. Launched as a cornerstone of the German government's initiative to internationalize science and research, it is one of five centers worldwide.

**For upcoming events at the GCRI,
the Deutsches Haus at NYU,
and the DAAD visit:
www.germaninnovation.org,
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Finally!

Endlich!

Eine politische Stimme für Deutsch-Amerikaner im US-Kongress

First initiatives to give political voice to German-American community

Ein Kommentar von/Commentary by PETRA SCHÜRMAN

Ist Ihnen, liebe Leser, vielleicht auch schon aufgefallen, wie zahlreich deutsche Nachnamen auch in der amerikanischen Politik vertreten sind? Dabei denke ich nicht nur an den US-Finanzminister Timothy F. Geithner und den kürzlich zum neuen Sprecher des US-Kongress gewählten John A. Boehner, sondern auch unter den Kongressabgeordneten und Senatoren finden sich unzählige deutsche Nachnamen wie Heidepriem, Daschle, Ehrlich, Shuster und Gerlach. Aber geben diese Politiker der deutsch-amerikanischen Gemeinschaft auch ein politisches Gewicht in den USA? Bisher sicherlich nicht. Obwohl Deutschland der wichtigste Partner für die USA in Europa ist, weltweit die drittgrößte Volkswirtschaft und obwohl 43 Millionen Amerikaner laut US Zensus 2000 deutscher Abstammung sind und damit die größte ethnische Minderheit in den USA darstellen, spielt Deutschland in den US-Medien und der Politik keine Rolle. Sogar ein Besuch der deutschen Bundeskanzlerin Angela Merkel in Los Angeles wird von der L.A. Times nur mit einem Bild und einem Zweizeiler abgetan.

Mit der Eröffnung des ersten nationalen German-American Heritage Museums in Washington im März diesen Jahres haben die Deutsch-Amerikaner erstmals den Schritt in die Öffentlichkeit getan, um auf ihre Geschichte und ihre Leistungen hinzuweisen.

Doch es scheint sich nun auch ein neuer Trend in der amerikanischen Politik abzuzeichnen. Nicht nur sprach John A. Boehner offen im TV-Interview mit Diane Sawyer über seine deutsche Abstammung, sondern es gibt seit kurzem eine ganz konkrete Initiative des US-Kongressabgeordneten Jim Gerlach

Have you noticed, dear reader, how many German surnames appear in American politics? I am thinking of US Secretary of Treasurer Timothy F. Geithner and the recently elected new Speaker of the House John A. Boehner, as well as the countless German surnames among representatives and senators such as Heidepriem, Daschle, Ehrlich, Shuster and Gerlach. But do these politicians give the German-American community any political influence in the USA? So far, definitely not. Even though Germany is America's most important partner in Europe, has the third largest economy in the world, and although 43 million Americans, according to the 2000 Census, are of German descent and are thus the largest ethnic minority in the USA, Germany plays no role in the US media and politics. Even a visit by German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Los Angeles was covered by the LA Times with a mere photo and a two-line text.

The opening of the first national German-American Heritage Museum in Washington DC in March of this year put German-Americans in the limelight for the first time, with a focus on their history and their achievements.



Photo: Courtesy GAC

Thomas Siedenbuehl (center), Chairman of the German-American Coalition, meeting Speaker of the House John A. Boehner (l.), a German-American from Ohio & Congressman Jim Gerlach (r.) from Pennsylvania

aus Pennsylvania, eine deutsch-amerikanische Komitee im US-Kongress ins Leben zu rufen. Bei einer Galaveranstaltung der German Society of Pennsylvania am 3. Oktober anlässlich des 20. Jahrestages der deutschen Wiedervereinigung sprach er im Detail über seine Pläne:

„Mein wachsendes Bewusstsein für meine deutschen Wurzeln und dem reichen deutschen Erbe in meinem Wahlkreis hat mich dazu gebracht, Initiativen im US-Kongress zu ergreifen, um eine größere Wertschätzung deutsch-amerikanischer Beziehungen zu erreichen und diese zu stärken. (...) Es wird eine informelle, überparteiliche Interessengruppe von Kongress-abgeordneten sein, die die Beziehungen zwischen den USA und Deutschland pflegen und stärken soll. Dies soll unsere derzeitigen wirtschaftlichen Beziehungen mit Deutschland in den Vordergrund rücken und die Aufmerksamkeit auf das deutsch-amerikanische Erbe und die Errungenschaften von Deutsch-Amerikanern, die einen großen Anteil am Aufbau der Vereinigten Staaten haben, richten. Der Kongress verfügt bereits über gutetablierte Interessengruppen für Themen, die Indien, Pakistan, Schweiz, Mexiko und Albanien betreffen – um hier nur einige zu nennen. Ich glaube, es ist höchste Zeit, eine solche Interessensgruppe für die deutsch-amerikanischen Belange einzurichten.“

Meinen Sie nicht auch, liebe Leser, dass es endlich an der Zeit ist, die Leistungen der Deutsch-Amerikaner beim Aufbau und der Entwicklung der Vereinigten Staaten entsprechend zu würdigen?

Unterstützung findet Jim Gerlach bereits bei den non-profit Organisationen German American Business Council, German American Coalition und German American Heritage Foundation. Ich hoffe, dass möglichst viele US-Kongressmitglieder beider Parteien dem Aufruf von Jim Gerlach folgen werden. Schließlich ist Deutschland nach wie vor einer der wichtigsten Partner Amerikas. Grund genug also, dass sich genügend U.S. Politiker finden, um entweder aufgrund ihrer deutschen Abstammung oder ihres Interesses an Deutschland und Europa mit-zuhelfen, dieses Komitee mit aus der Taufe zu heben. ■

And slowly, we are seeing what looks like a new trend in American politics, too. Not only did John A. Boehner talk openly about his German descent in a TV interview with Diane Sawyer, Jim Gerlach from Pennsylvania has recently issued an initiative for creating a German-American caucus in the US Congress. At a gala event of the German Society of Pennsylvania on October 3 commemorating the 20th anniversary of German reunification he spoke in detail about his plans: “My growing awareness of my family’s German roots and the rich German heritage in my Congressional District has led me to take actions in the House of Representatives to foster a greater appreciation of and fortify the German-American connection. (...) The Caucus will be an informal, bipartisan group of Members of Congress dedicated to maintaining and strengthening the relationship between the US and Germany. It will highlight our current economic ties with Germany and draw attention to the German-American heritage and achievements German-Americans have made in building the United States. The House already has well-established caucuses focused on issues with India, Pakistan, Switzerland, Mexico, and Albania to name a few. I believe it well past time to establish one focusing on the German-American experience.”

Don’t you think that it is finally time to honor the achievements of German-Americans in building and developing the United States of America?

Jim Gerlach has already found support from the nonprofit organizations German American Business Council, German American Coalition and German American Heritage Foundation. I hope that many members of the US Congress from both parties will listen to and follow Jim Gerlach’s request. After all, Germany is still America’s most important partner. Reason enough for a sufficient number of American politicians to step forward and help launch this caucus, either because of their German descent or their interest in Germany and Europe. ■

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Grünes Licht für das größte Solarkraftwerk der Welt in Kalifornien

German Company to build world's largest solar power plant in California
Green light for 3000-megawatt power plant that can serve two million homes

In Deutschland haben sich Solar-Unternehmen seit vielen Jahren fest im Markt etabliert. Diese Erfahrung importieren die USA von der deutschen Firma Solar Millennium LLC. In Zusammenarbeit mit dem Ölkonzern Chevron wurden die ersten Schritte in Richtung erneuerbare Solarenergie in Kalifornien gemacht, denn die Obama-Regierung hat das tausend Megawatt-Solarprojekt auf einem öffentlichem Gelände in Süd-Kalifornien genehmigt. Es ist nicht nur das größte Solar-Projekt innerhalb der Vereinigten Staaten, sondern auch weltweit.

Sechs Milliarden Dollar kostet das Blythe Solar Power Project, welches in der Mojave-Wüste in der Nähe von Blythe, Kalifornien gebaut wird. US-Innenminister Ken Salazar nannte dies den Beginn eines Booms auf dem Gebiet der Solarenergie auf staatlichen Bauflächen. Geplant ist eine Fläche von mehr als 7.000 Hektar in der Nähe der Grenze von Arizona, etwa 225 Meilen östlich von Los Angeles.

Es ist das sechste Solarstrom-Entwicklungs Projekt, dass das Innenministerium im November genehmigt hat – alle in Kalifornien und Nevada. Die Zulassung eines siebten Projekts – auch in Kalifornien – wird in den nächsten Wochen erwartet. Die Stromeinspeisung soll bis Ende 2011 oder Anfang 2012 beginnen.

Bei voller Auslastung würden die sieben Projekte mehr als 3.000 Megawatt Strom erzeugen, genug für bis zu 2 Millionen Haushalte. Die Projekte werden voraussichtlich mehr als 2.000 Arbeitsplätze während der Bauzeit und mehrere hundert dauerhafte Arbeitsplätze schaffen. - gw/ah

In Germany solar power has been firmly established in the market for many years. This experience is being imported to the US by the German company Solar Millennium, LLC. In cooperation with the oil giant Chevron, the first steps towards renewable solar energy in California have been taken, and the Obama administration has approved a thousand-megawatt solar project on federal land in Southern California, the largest solar project ever planned on U.S. public lands and the largest in the world.

The cost of the Blythe Solar Power Project, to be built in the Mojave Desert near Blythe, is six billion dollars. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced it as the start of a boom in solar power on federal lands. The Blythe project is slated for more than 7,000 acres of public land near the Arizona border, some 225 miles east of Los Angeles.

The project is the sixth solar power development approved by the Interior Department in November, all in California and Nevada. Approval of a seventh project, also in California, is expected in the next few weeks. All could start transmitting electricity by the end of 2011 or early 2012.

At full capacity, the seven projects would generate more than 3,000 megawatts of power and provide electricity for up to 2 million homes. The projects are expected to create more than 2,000 jobs during construction and several hundred permanent jobs. - gw/ah



Chancellor Merkel's plans to increase share of sustainable energy to 80% by 2050

In addition to the celebrations of 20 years of German reunification, the Renewable Energy Research Association will also celebrate its 20th anniversary in Berlin. In terms of a renewable energy supply for Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel is already looking ahead. In September she presented a Nine-Point Program, which is designed to make Germany's energy supply the most efficient and environmentally sound worldwide. Part of the plan is to increase the share of renewable energy in gross electricity consumption to 80% by 2050. - gw/ah



6th Germany California Solar Day brings U.S. & German solar industries together

The German American Chamber of Commerce in San Francisco held its Germany California Solar Day on September 14th. The conference was the highlight of the delegate companies' trip to the United States to meet potential new business partners and was supported by the export initiative "Renewables Made in Germany" of the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology. One of the highlights of the day was the panel discussion on "How to Drive the U.S. Solar Market Towards a Bright Future" with representatives from academic, business, and policy backgrounds. The symposium and its accompanying networking reception are a great opportunity to reach out to the solar energy industry as well as to the German-American business community. The presentations from the event are available at www.gaccsanfrancisco.com. - gw/ah

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Governor Schwarzenegger visiting Austrian companies at the Climate Summit



Austrian Trade Commissioner Rudolf Thaler (r.) & Governor Schwarzenegger

Photos: Courtesy Austrian Trade Commission L.A.

Governor Schwarzenegger Opens Third Global Climate Summit at UC Davis

Strong presence of Austrian companies at this year's summit

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and United Nations officials welcomed more than 1,500 attendees from more than 80 states, provinces and countries to the opening of the Governors' Global Climate Summit 3: Building the Green Economy (GGCS_3) at the world-renowned Mondavi Center at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) on November 15, 2010. As one of the largest gatherings of regional leaders from around the world focused on climate solutions, this year's summit will continue to expand the network of subnational collaboration to share policies and strategies on how to grow the green economy, reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, create green jobs, promote clean energy solutions and curb greenhouse gas pollution.

"I am honored to welcome so many leaders, experts and attendees from all over the world to our third annual Governors' Global Climate Summit at one of California's world-renowned universities — UC Davis," said Governor Schwarzenegger.

The Summit will serve as a forum for different regions throughout the world to learn best practices, share ideas and work to deepen and broaden cooperative efforts through an increased understanding of each other's unique environmental and economic challenges.

The GGCS 3 is taking place at UC Davis to take advantage of the university's long history of world-class research and development in environmental sustainability and green jobs. BMW Group, Robert Mondavi Winery, and Starbucks Coffee are some of the many cooperation partners of the summit. Governor Schwarzenegger also showed a lot of interest in the products and services presented by Austrian companies at the summit who were introduced to the governor by the Austrian Trade Commissioner Rudolf Thaler. (photo; r.)



Doppelmayr Cable Cars Wins Another High-Profile Bid in the US

The Austrian-based company celebrates its largest contract in company history

The top management of Doppelmayr Cable Cars (DCC) flew in from Austria for the ground-breaking ceremony of the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) in Oakland. Construction of the new automated 3.1-mile-long people mover that will provide convenient service between Oakland's airport and the public transportation hub at the Oakland Coliseum, is scheduled to be completed by 2014. Traveling at a maximum speed of 31 miles per hour, the bi-directional system will initially consist of four trains of three cars each and will carry 1,492 people per hour per direction.


This new contract is DCC's largest single contract to date as well as that of its 118 year-old parent company, which is the world's leader in Cable Transit. Competing with Bombardier, Mitsubishi, and Poma/Leitner for the intensely sought-after \$361 M contract, DCC earned the BART project with its proven advantages and outstanding record, offering the most cost efficient and environmentally responsible solution. In addition, Doppelmayr was awarded a \$100 M, 20-year operations and maintenance contract for the system.

DCC and its civil construction and design partner, Flatiron/Parsons Joint Venture, started with the design, engineering and mobilization in November, shortly after the contract was signed on September 23, 2010. It is the third cable car contract for DCC in the US. There are already two DCC cable liner shuttle systems operating in Las Vegas at MGM and Mandalay Bay. - gw/ps



Stephan Wabnegger, CEO Doppelmayr Cable Car, BART President James Fang, Andrea Doppelmayr & Austrian Trade Commissioner Rudolf Thaler

All Photos: Courtesy Doppelmayr Cable Car



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Quo Vadis, Mr. Governorator?

Intro von/Intro by PETRA SCHÜRMAN

Vom mittellosen Einwanderer zur Body-Building Ikone, Filmstar und Gouverneur Kaliforniens. Mit unbeugsamem Willen und ungeheurer Disziplin lebt Arnold Schwarzenegger den amerikanischen Traum. Aber was gibt es nun noch für ihn zu erreichen?

Die sechsjährige Amtszeit von Arnold Schwarzenegger als Gouverneur von Kalifornien geht im Januar 2011 zu Ende. Das enorme Haushaltsdefizit des sonnigen Westküstenstaates, das er zu Beginn seiner Amtszeit versprach in den Griff zu bekommen, liegt immer noch bei 19.9 Milliarden US Dollar und für seine Etatkürzungen, u.a. im Bereich Bildung und Gesundheitswesen, hagelte es immer wieder vehemente Proteste seitens der Bevölkerung. Die im Oktober 2008 einsetzende Wirtschaftskrise traf Kalifornien besonders hart und so übernimmt sein demokratischer Nachfolger Jerry Brown einen Staat mit einer Arbeitslosenquote von 12,3 Prozent. Immer in Erinnerung bleiben und hochgeschätzt wird Arnold Schwarzenegger sicherlich für sein großes Engagement im Bereich Umwelt- und Klimaschutz, Entwicklung erneuerbarer Energiequellen und Ausbau seines Staates als Wirtschaftsstandort. Erfolge, die Kaliforniens Position als Vorreiter für innovative Technologien und Umweltschutz in den USA weiter ausgebaut haben. Der gebürtige Österreicher, der erst eine steile Karriere als Bodybuilder, später als Filmstar und Geschäftsmann hinlegte und schließlich Gouverneur des größten US-Staates wurde, hat noch keine Andeutung gemacht, welche seine nächste Schritte sein werden.

From penniless immigrant to body-building icon, film star, and governor of California. With unwavering will and immense discipline Arnold Schwarzenegger lives the American dream. What else might be left for him to achieve?

The six-year-tenure of California's Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is drawing to a close in January of 2011. Although he had promised to fix the enormous budget deficit of the sunny west coast state when taking office, the current budget crisis is now struggling with an even larger deficit of 19.9 billion dollar. Furthermore, his funding cuts within the education and health system have incited vehement protests from many citizens. The onset of the recession in 2008 hit California's economy especially hard. Schwarzenegger's democratic successor Jerry Brown will now inherit a jobless rate of 12.3 percent. Nonetheless, Schwarzenegger's legacy will be his deep involvement with climate and environmental causes, as well as California's frontrunner position in regard to developing new sources of energy and a renewed economic vision. These achievements have contributed to California's position as a leader in innovative technologies and environmental causes. The outgoing governor, a native of Austria, who first achieved a major career as a bodybuilder and later as a film star and businessman in Hollywood, moved on to become the leader of the most populous state in the US. Schwarzenegger has not yet indicated what his next steps will be after he leaves public office.

Doch Marc Hujer, Korrespondent von „Der Spiegel“ in Washington D.C. und Autor des 2009 erschienenen Buches „Arnold Schwarzenegger. Die Biographie“, der den kalifornischen Gouverneur mehrere Jahre lang auf seinen Reisen begleitete, gewährt uns einen Blick auf die eher unbekannteren Seiten des vielseitigen Erfolgsmanns. Lesen Sie hier Auszüge des Epilogs der Arnold-Schwarzenegger-Biographie von Marc Hujer: ■

Marc Hujer, correspondent of „Der Spiegel“ in Washington and author of the Arnold Schwarzenegger biography published in 2009, who accompanied the Governor of California on many of his trips, is granting us a glimpse of the lesser known sides of this multifaceted and highly accomplished man. Here are excerpts from the epilogue of Marc Hujer's book „Arnold Schwarzenegger. Die Biographie“: ■

Auszüge des Epilogs der Arnold-Schwarzenegger-Biographie von Marc Hujer

Auszüge des Epilogs der Arnold-Schwarzenegger-Biographie von Marc Hujer

English translation by NANCY JOYCE

„Ich hatte mich nie besonders für Arnold Schwarzenegger interessiert. Es war reiner Zufall, der mich dazu brachte, mich mit ihm zu beschäftigen. Ich war damals USA-Korrespondent der ‚Suddeutschen Zeitung, und Schwarzenegger, der Bodybuilder und Filmstar, wollte Gouverneur von Kalifornien werden. Das war natürlich eine Geschichte. Also beschloss ich eine Reportage zu schreiben. Und flog nach Los Angeles. Ich bereitete mich vor, wie man das tut, wenn man über einen Menschen wenig weiß: In „Cigar Aficionado“ stand, dass einmal im Monat ein Zigarrenabend stattfindet, im „Schatzi on Main“ in Santa Monica, einem österreichischen Restaurant, wo man importiertes „Gösser“-Bier aus der Steiermark trinken kann, und ich las auch, dass Schwarzenegger da ist, jeden ersten Donnerstag im Monat. Mit Schwarzenegger ist es wie mit dem Weißen Haus in Washington: Wenn man ihn das erste Mal sieht, ist man überrascht, dass er nicht größer ist. Er misst 1,84 Meter, aber weil er so breit ist, so massig, sehen diese 1,84 Meter kleiner aus als bei einem normalen Menschen.“

Als er an jenem Abend Anfang August das „Schatzi“ betrat, das mehr an ein Strandcafé auf Mallorca erinnert als an ein Heurigen-Beisl in Österreich, verschwand er fast hinter der Wand, die seine Freunde um ihn bildeten. Trotzdem war er unverkennbar. Er trug ein weises Hemd, er war perfekt frisuriert, seine Haare leuchteten wie Kupfer; sie sind gefärbt, schon ein halbes Leben lang. Auch an jenem Abend trat er auf wie am Filmset, wie immer, denn er ist nie wirklich abgeschminkt, so als spiele er sich unablässig selbst, in Filmen wie im richtigen Leben. Der Supermacho, den nie etwas trifft. Sein Alltag ist, das erfuhr ich später, voller Routinen. Vieles geschieht aus Gewohnheit, sein Leben ist eine Aneinanderreihung von Szenen, die er immer wiederholt. Aber an diesem Abend war alles anders. Er nahm Platz an dem Tisch, den die Bedienung nur den „Großen“ nennt. Er und seine Freunde. Man kam nun nicht mehr an ihn heran, das war aussichtslos, ich beobachtete ihn aus der Ferne. Schwarzenegger aß an jenem Abend wie immer ein Dreigängemenu und rauchte wie immer „Montecristo Nr. 2“, seine Lieblingszigarre. Um den Tisch herum warteten seine Fans, meistens Frauen, und als er aufstand, lief ihm eine Wasserstoffblondine vom Nebentisch entgegen und hielt ihn fest, als hätte sie Angst, die Party sei schon vorüber. Aus der Menge rief einer: „Herr Gouverneur!“ Es klang verrückt. Damals. (...)

Je länger ich mich mit Schwarzenegger beschäftigte, desto mehr zog er mich in seinen Bann, sein Lebenslauf, der unwahrscheinliche Erfolg, es von einem Dorf in

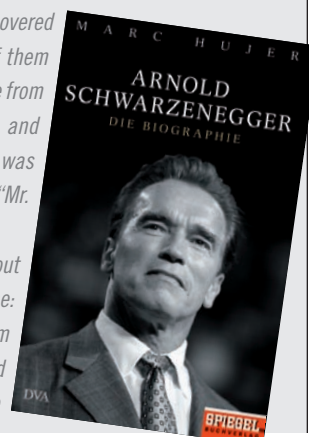
I had never been particularly interested in Arnold Schwarzenegger. It was pure chance that drew my attention to him. At the time I was the US correspondent for the *Suddeutsche Zeitung*, and Schwarzenegger, the bodybuilder and film star, wanted to become governor of California. This, naturally, was a story. So I decided to cover it. And flew to Los Angeles. I prepared myself as you do when you know very little about someone. I read in „Cigar Aficionado“ that a cigar evening is held once a month in „Schatzi on Main“ in Santa Monica, an Austrian restaurant in which you can drink imported Gösser beer from Styria, and I also read that Schwarzenegger goes there every first Thursday of the month. Schwarzenegger is like the White House in Washington DC: The first time you see him, you are surprised he isn't bigger. He is 6 feet tall but because he is so broad, so bulky, these 6 feet appear much shorter than with a normal person.

That early August evening, when he walked into the Schatzi, more reminiscent of a beach café on Mallorca than an Austrian pub, he vanished quickly behind the wall his friends formed around him. Nevertheless, he was unmistakable. He was wearing a white shirt, and his perfectly styled hair shone like copper. He colors his hair, already for half his life. That evening he performed as if on a movie set, as always, for he never really takes off his makeup. It is as if he incessantly plays himself, in movies and in real life. The invincible supermacho. His everyday life, I learn later, is full of routines. Much happens out of habit; his life is a sequence of perpetually repeating scenes. But this evening was different. He sat down at the table which the waiters call the „big table.“ He and his friends. One could not approach him; it was hopeless. I watched from afar. That evening Schwarzenegger ate, as always, a three-course meal and smoked, as always, „Montecristo No. 2,“ his favorite cigar. Fans hovered around his table, most of them women, and when he stood up, a bleached blonde from the adjacent table moved swiftly toward him and embraced him as if she were afraid the party was already over. From the crowd arose the cry: „Mr. Governor!“ It sounded crazy. At the time, that is.

The more time I spent learning about Schwarzenegger, the more captivated I became: his career, the unlikely success that took him from a Styrian village to the top of the most populated state in the United States. His life fascinated me

„Schwarzenegger ist für mich vielleicht der amerikanischste Amerikaner ...“

- MARC HUJER, DER SPIEGEL





Greeting the troops at Collier Field House, Yongsan Garrison, on Sept. 15

der Steiermark an die Spitze des bevölkerungsreichsten Bundesstaates der Vereinigten Staaten geschafft zu haben. Sein Leben faszinierte mich, weil es nach einem einzigen Jungensreich klingt. Im Juli 2003 war das Männermagazin „Esquire“ erstmals mit Arnold Schwarzenegger als Titelheld erschienen. Er steckte in einem dunkelblauen Anzug, trug eine rot-weiß gestreifte Krawatte und streckte dabei

den Zeigefinger nach vorne, in einer Art „I-want-you“-Pose aus der Onkel-Sam-Werbung der US-Armee für den Ersten Weltkrieg, nur dass Schwarzenegger dabei ungewohnt brav, ungewohnt jung aussah und wahnsinnig breit grinste. Als wäre die gesamte Aufmachung nur ein Witz, genau wie die Titelzeile, die lautete: „Arnold. Der nächste Gouverneur von Kalifornien. Wirklich.“ An das Bild sollte ich noch oft denken. Es war so amerikanisch. Es verkörperte alles, was in Amerika möglich ist und in Deutschland nicht. Und gleichzeitig war er doch einer von uns, ein Sohn des alten Europa, der es in der neuen Welt geschafft hat, wie es sich so viele wünschen. (...)

Anfangs schien es undenkbar, Schwarzenegger zu treffen. Es war im September 2004. Schwarzeneggers Autokorso hatte im Halteverbot vor dem „Esquire Grill“ geparkt, seinem Lieblingsrestaurant in Sacramento, in dem Hamburger für 14 Dollar auf der Karte stehen. Er trug an diesem Tag einen dunklen Anzug und eine orange Krawatte, seine Frisur saß tadellos, und ich beobachtete, wie er aus einem schwarzen Geländewagen stieg. Er war in Begleitung einer Geschäftsfrau, mit der er ein paar freundliche Worte wechselte. Das war mein Einsatz, der ideale Moment für eine kleine Unterbrechung: „Herr Schwarzenegger“. Der Gouverneur bewegte sich in Zeitlupe, als kümmere sich ein Großrechner um die Optimierung der Gesten. „Herr Schwarzenegger, hören Sie doch bitte, was halten Sie von deutschen Firmen in Kalifornien?“ Schwarzenegger hob den Zeigefinger, langsam, als werde er gleich mit Stubenarrest drohen. Und dann fragte er nur, anstatt zu antworten: Wie geht's? (...)

Oft werde ich gefragt, ob Schwarzenegger mit Deutschen eigentlich deutsch redet. Ja, er tut es, er sagt „Servus“ und „Wie geht's“ bei jeder Begrüßung, aber sein Wortschatz ist veraltet. Er benutzt Worte, die man längst nicht mehr verwendet, es ist der Wortschatz, den er aus dem Österreich der fünfziger und sechziger Jahre mitgebracht hat. Manchmal beginnt er Sätze auf Deutsch, aber meistens halt er nicht bis zum Ende durch und beendet sie auf Englisch. Fernsehinterviews auf



Meeting British Prime Minister David Cameron at Downing Street # 10 on October 14

because it sounded like a youthful escapade. In July 2003 the men's magazine „Esquire“ appeared with Arnold Schwarzenegger on its cover for the first time. He wore a navy blue suit and a red and white striped tie, and was pointing his finger at the observer, in a kind of „I Want You“ pose from the Uncle Sam recruiting poster for the US Army during WWI, only that Schwarzenegger looked unusually well-behaved and unusually young, and was grinning like the Mad Hatter. As if the entire presentation was a joke, just like the cover title: „Arnold. The Next Governor of California. Really.“ I often thought about this photo. It was so American. It embodied everything that is possible in America and not in Germany. And at the same time he was one of us, a son from Old Europe who had made it in the New World, as so many wished to do.

At first it seemed impossible to meet Schwarzenegger. It was September 2004. Schwarzenegger's motorcade had parked in the no-parking zone in front of „Esquire Grill“, his favorite restaurant in Sacramento, where the hamburger on the menu costs 14 dollars. On this day he was wearing a dark suit and an orange tie. His hair was impeccably styled, and I watched him climbing out of a black SUV. He was accompanied by a businesswoman with whom he was exchanging a few friendly words. This was my cue, the ideal moment for a brief interruption: „Mr. Schwarzenegger.“ The governor moved in slow motion, as if a mainframe computer were optimizing his gestures. „Mr. Schwarzenegger, tell me, what do you think of German companies in California?“ Schwarzenegger lifted his finger, slowly, as if he were about to be grounded. Then instead of answering, he asked: „Wie geht's?“

I am often asked if Schwarzenegger actually speaks German with Germans. Yes, he does. He says „Servus“ and „Wie geht's“ with every greeting, but his vocabulary is outdated. He uses words no longer in use. He brought with him the vocabulary of Vienna in the 1950s and 1960s. Sometimes he begins a sentence in German, but typically he can't complete it and ends in English. He no longer gives TV interviews in German. He has never lost his Styrian accent, not even in English. He once took



Photo: Brian Baer-Pool/Getty Images

LEFT: With his wife Maria Shriver & their kids Katherine, Patrick, Christina & Christopher greeting supporters during the inauguration ceremony on January 5, 2007 in Sacramento RIGHT: Greeting KR Sridhar, co-founder & CEO of Bloom Energy, at the company's launch held at eBay headquarters in San Jose on February 24, 2011



Photo: Jakub Mészár / Courtesy Bloom Energy

Deutsch gibt er nicht mehr. Den steirischen Akzent hat er nie verloren, auch im Englischen nicht. Früher hat er einmal Sprachunterricht genommen, um akzentfrei Englisch zu sprechen, aber heute kümmert ihn das nicht mehr. Im Gegenteil. Sein Akzent ist zum Markenzeichen geworden. (...)

Schwarzenegger ist für mich vielleicht der amerikanischste Amerikaner, weil er das Klischee vom amerikanischen Traum wie kaum ein anderer verkörpert: Er ist ein Mann ohne besonderes Talent, kein Mozart, kein Nurejew. Er wurde nicht hinein geboren in den Erfolg, war kein Naturtalent, weder als Bodybuilder noch als Schauspieler noch als Politiker. Dafür hat Schwarzenegger sehr ausgeprägte Eigenschaften: Er kann Menschen für sich gewinnen, und vor allem hat er einen unbeugsamen Willen und ungeheure Disziplin. Er ist eine Lernmaschine, ausgestattet mit einem Gespür für die richtigen Leute. Der Bodybuilder Frank Zane, der jahrelang einen noch besser trainierten Körper als Schwarzenegger hatte, sagte einmal den treffenden Satz: „Ich war Arnold körperlich überlegen, aber er hat trotzdem gewonnen; Arnold hätte in jedem Körper gewonnen.“ Die Faszination Schwarzeneggers liegt auch darin, dass seine Geschichte immer weitergeht, dass es immer eine neue Wendung in seinem Leben gibt. (...)

Meine Töchter, fünf und acht Jahre alt, malen inzwischen Männer als muskulöse Gestalten, die eine Zigarre im Mund haben. Dann denke ich, dass ich es vielleicht übertrieben habe. Was bleibt von diesen sechs Jahren mit Schwarzenegger, diesem Ausflug in eine fremde Welt? Eine Geschichte, die größer und verrückter ist als jede andere, mit der ich mich in meinen 17 Jahren als Journalist beschäftigt habe. Vorerst ist dieses Buch für mich der Abschluss einer sehr intensiven Auseinandersetzung. Doch seine Geschichte geht weiter. Und sie wird mich nie ganz loslassen.“ ■

This text is an excerpt from the book "Arnold Schwarzenegger. Die Biographie" by Marc Hujer. Published by DVA/SPIEGEL - Buch 2009. Available at www.globalbooks.de or www.amazon.com. Reprinted with kind permission by DVA.

language lessons to speak English without an accent, but today he no longer worries about it. On the contrary, his accent has become a trademark.

For me Schwarzenegger is perhaps the most American American because like no one else he embodies the cliché of the American dream. He is a man without a special talent, no Mozart, no Nureyev. He was not born into success, has no natural talent, neither as a bodybuilder or as an actor or as a politician. Instead, Schwarzenegger has very distinctive traits: He knows how to win people over, and above all he has an unflinching will and formidable discipline. He is a learning machine, equipped with a good nose for the right people. The bodybuilder Frank Zane, who for years had a better trained body than Schwarzenegger, once aptly remarked: "I was physically superior to Arnold, but he still won; Arnold would have won in any body." Schwarzenegger's fascination also lies in that his story continues, his life keeps on unfolding with new twists.

My daughters, five and eight years old, are now drawing men as muscular figures with cigars in their mouths. Then I think I may have overdone it. What remains from these six years with Schwarzenegger, this excursion into a foreign world? A story that is bigger and crazier than any other in my 17 years as a journalist. For the time being this book for me is the conclusion of a very intense encounter. But his story continues. And it will never let me go. ■



LEFT: Traces of the film star and family man Arnold Schwarzenegger: His hand and foot prints on Hollywood Blvd. RIGHT: sign mounted to "The Boat of Promise", the original boat in his native village of Thal in Austria where he proposed to Maria Shriver

CALIFORNIA IN FACTS & FIGURES 2003 - 2010

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

in US dollars:

2003: 1,337 billion

2006: 1,519 billion

2009: 1,891 billion

2010: 1,936 billion (estimated)

Unemployment Rate in California:

2003: 6.8%

2006: 4.9%

2009: 11.6%

2010: 12.3%

Real Estate Sales from Foreclosures in California:

2007: 84,600

2008: 237,200

2010: 450,000 (estimated)

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE CLIMATE SECTOR 2003 - 2010

At the United Nations World Environment Day hosted in San Francisco on June 1, 2005, mayors from around the globe took the historic step of signing the Urban Environmental Accords in the San Francisco City Hall. California agreed to reduce greenhouse gases, even though the U.S. has not ratified the Kyoto Treaty, which sets obligatory goals for reductions in greenhouse gases. According to these new rules, California is supposed to reduce the greenhouse emissions to the level of the year 2000. By 2010 the level should be reduced to the level in 1990. Finally, by 2050, the value of emissions should be an additional 20% less than those in 1990. With this, California has the strictest environmental goals in the entire USA.

THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

On September 23, 2008, about 3 months after its due date, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed the 2008-2009 budget. The worsening financial conditions that followed left the state with an enormous budget shortfall. By February 2009 California State Controller John Chiang delayed \$3.5 billion in state payments (such as state tax refunds) for at least 30 days because the state was experiencing cash flow difficulties. In 2010 there was an additional budget cut in the estimated value of 12.4 billion dollars. This budget reduction included, among other items, unpaid furlough days for employees, direct reductions (and with this, elimination of jobs) in health, education, and social services, as well as increased university fees.

Elektrifizierend: DIE LA CAR SHOW 2010

Umweltfreundlichkeit gepaart mit verantwortungsbewussten Fahrvergnügen sind die neuesten Trends

*Electrifying: The LA Auto Show 2010
The latest trends are sustainable cars paired with great performance and responsibility*

Von/By PETRA SCHUERMANN

Die LA Auto Show gilt allgemein als die wichtigste Autoshow der Welt, da hier die neuesten Trends vorgestellt werden, und viele Autohersteller die interessantesten Neuheiten für diese Autoausstellung reservieren. In diesem Jahr gab es über 50 Welt- und USA Premieren, wobei eine starke Tendenz in Richtung kleinerer, sparsamerer Luxusautos und Hybrid- oder Elektrofahrzeuge zu bemerken war, die jedoch trotz umweltfreundlicherer Verbrauchszahlen immer noch eine starke Leistung und Fahrvergnügen versprechen.

Für German World begann die LA Auto Show dieses Jahr mit einer Einladung in Jay Lenos berühmte Big Boys Garage in der Nähe des Flughafens Burbank. Leno, der seit Jahrzehnten ein großer Sammler von Automobilen und Motorrädern ist, deren Baujahr von 1890 bis heute reicht, nennt mehr als 100 Autos und 80 Motorräder sein eigen. Der bekannte amerikanische Talkmaster erzählte German World, dass er als junger Mann für Mercedes-Benz als Chauffeur gearbeitet habe und damals einen Mercedes 6.3 fuhr. Dieser Wagen war dann auch das erste Fahrzeug seiner heutigen Sammlung, die von insgesamt fünf Mechanikern unter Leitung des Schweizer Bernard Jüchli gewartet wird. Jay Leno hat auch mehrere Male Deutschland besucht und natürlich die deutschen Autobahnen besonders genossen. Seine Verbindung zu Jaguar besteht schon über 51 Jahre und daher hat er auch gern seine Ausstellungshallen Jaguar zur Verfügung gestellt, um den neuen Konzeptwagen Jaguar C-X75 der Presse und einigen ausgewählten Gästen vorzustellen. Dieses neue Superauto basiert auf Jaguars legendären Modellen XJ220 und XJR-15C.

Das neue elektrische Supergeschoss hat vier Lithium-Eisen-Batterien, die vier elektrische Motoren antreiben (einen für jedes Rad) und dabei insgesamt eine Leistung von 780 PS erzeugen. Die Beschleunigung von Null auf 60 Meilen/Stunde liegt bei etwa 3,4 Sekunden. Zwei Mikro-Gasturbinen laden die Batterien wieder auf und garantieren eine Fahrstrecke von 560 Meilen. Mit dem Elektromotor allein kann der C-X75 nur 68 Meilen weit fahren.

Von der ästhetischen Sichtweise her ist der C-X75 mit seinem superschickem Design, das von Ian Callum entworfen und konzipiert wurde,



A World Premiere:
Porsche's 2011 Cayman R

The Los Angeles Auto Show is widely regarded as being the most forward-thinking of all the major car shows in the world, and many car companies save the more interesting of their debut vehicles for L.A. each year. The 2010 show featured more than 50 world and North American vehicles with the emphasis on smaller, more fuel efficient luxury vehicles and the appearance of many hybrids and electrics which offer great performance and driving fun at the same time.

For German World, this year's LA Car Show kicked off with an exciting by-invitation-only event at Jay Leno's Big Boys' Garage in near the Burbank airport. Leno, an avid car and motorbike collector for many years, is the proud owner of more than 100 cars dating from about 1890 to 2010 and more than 80 motorbikes. The talk show host told German World that he once worked for Mercedes as a chauffeur driving a Mercedes 6.3 which became the first car of his collection. Today, his valuable cars are serviced and looked after by a team of 5 mechanics supervised by Swiss-born Bernard Juechli. Leno has visited Germany several times and naturally enjoyed driving on the Autobahn. Leno's relationship with Jaguar dates back 51 years, and he therefore graciously agreed to host Jaguar's kick-off event celebrating 75 years of Jaguar and introducing its new C-X75 concept car which builds on Jaguar's legacy of high-end super cars in the vein of its XJ220 or XJR-15C.

This plug-in "halo" car joins high-end concept supercars exploring electric propulsion, featuring four lithium-ion batteries that power four electric motors (one for each wheel) putting out 195 horsepower each, for a total of 780 horsepower. Zero-to-60 time is expected to be 3.4 seconds, and top speed is 205 mph. Two micro-gas turbines can charge the batteries or provide power directly to the wheel motors for a combined range of 560 miles. However, the C-X75 can run on electric-only power for 68 miles.

Aesthetically, the C-X75 designed by Ian Callum was certainly one of the showstoppers at the LA Car Show with its super-sleek design, spacecraft-like interior lighting, a wide front that reminds one of the Ferrari California and a back that does not find its kind on the road.

Photo: Courtesy Porsche AG

sicherlich einer der Höhepunkte der LA Auto Show gewesen.

Volkswagen stellte am ersten Pressetag der Messe seinen neuen VW Eos weltweit zum ersten Mal vor und hatte auch Supermodel Heidi Klum gewinnen können, diesem Ereignis durch ihre Anwesenheit noch mehr Glanz zu verleihen. Jonathan Browning, Volkswagen Chef in USA, fragte Klum nach ihrer Meinung über den neuen Eos Cabrio. „Ich finde ihn sehr schick und stilvoll ...“, antwortete der Star. „Ich mag Autos, die nicht so sehr groß sind und mit denen man bequem in der Stadt zurechtkommt, seine Besorgungen erledigen kann und dabei auch noch schick darin aussieht. Besonders hier in L.A. genieße ich das Cabrio-Fahren sehr.“

Porsche bot an diesem ersten Pressetag sogar eine Weltpremiere und zwei USA-Premieren. Die LA Auto Show ist für den Autohersteller Porsche, der allein 50% seiner Fahrzeuge in Kalifornien verkauft, die wichtigste Autoausstellung. So stellte Porsche den neuen 911 Carrera GTS, den neuen 911 Speedster und – als Weltpremiere – den Cayman R vor. Da der neue Carrera GTS mit 27 MPG auf der Autobahn und 19 MPG im Stadtverkehr kaum mehr als der Carrera S braucht, bietet er viel Fahrspaß ohne Schuldgefühle.

Der Cayman R, der schon ab 66.300 US Dollar erhältlich ist, ist angeblich noch dynamischer und sportlicher als der Cayman S, da er rund 58 Kilogramm weniger wiegt. Er braucht mit einer Sechs-Gangschaltung nur 4.7 Sekunden, um von Null auf 60 Meilen/Stunde zu beschleunigen.

Porsche feiert dieses Jahr auch das sechzigste Jubiläum seit Verkauf des ersten Porsches auf amerikanischen Boden und hatte sich aus diesem Grund auf die Suche nach dem ältesten, noch existierenden Porsche gemacht. In Annapolis, Maryland, wurden sie fündig. Der Besitzer, Richard Brumme, hatte den Wagen erst vor drei Jahren erworben und war gerade im September 2010, so erzählte er German World, mit der Komplettrestaurierung fertig geworden. Das Auto – ein Porsche mit Fahrgestellnummer 5033 aus dem Jahre 1950 – war im Eingangsbereich der Petree Hall zu bewundern.

BMW und Audi präsentierten auch einige USA-Premieren und Mercedes-Benz zeigte, dass Luxus, schnelle Fahrleistung und Umweltverträglichkeit sich nicht ausschließen müssen. Der Stuttgarter Autobauer zeigte die neue abgasfreie B-Klasse und den neuen AMG CLS 63. Eine große Überraschung war die Ankündigung der neuen Zusammenarbeit von AMG mit dem italienischen Motorradhersteller Ducati im Bereich Marketing.



A big Jaguar fan: Jay Leno

VW introduced its new VW Eos, making its world debut at the LA Auto Show. To mark the occasion, the car manufacturer from Wolfsburg was able to convince TV star and supermodel Heidi Klum to make an appearance at the press conference on Wednesday adding even more glamour to the event. A Volkswagen fan herself, Klum was introduced by VW Group of America President Jonathan Browning, who asked her about her take on the new convertible Eos. “I think it’s very beautiful and very stylish...,” Klum answered. “I like cars that are not super big that you can move in and out of the city and do your shopping and go back home and look stylish at the same time. I love convertibles because I live in Los Angeles.”

Porsche topped the first press day with two North American debuts and one world premiere. For Porsche, which sells more than 50% of its cars in California alone, the LA Car Show is the most important show. They introduced the all new 2011 Porsche 911 Carrera GTS, a new 2011 Porsche 911 Speedster and — as a world debut — the Cayman R.

Since the new Carrera GTS, reaching 27 mpg on highways and 19 mpg in the city, will need no more fuel than the Carrera S, it offers lots of driving fun without the guilt.

The Cayman R, starting at \$66,300, promised to be even more dynamic and sportier than the Cayman S because of 121 lbs less weight. It will sprint from zero from zero to 60/mph in 4.7 seconds with the standard six-speed manual transmission and 4.4 seconds with the optional seven-speed dual-clutch PDK.

Celebrating 60 years of Porsche in America this year, the car manufacturer from Stuttgart was able to find the oldest known Porsche in the US. The car was found in Annapolis, Maryland, and is owned by Richard Brumme who bought the car three years ago and who had just finished its restoration in September 2010, just in time to make it to the car show. The car was prominently displayed at the entrance of the Petree Hall of the LA Car Show.

BMW and Audi presented a few North American premieres, and Mercedes-Benz showed that luxury, high speeds and sustainability do not have to exclude each other. They introduced their new zero-emission, hydrogen-electric B-class as well as the new AMG CLS 63. AMG surprised the audience with the announcement that they will cooperate in the future with the Italian motorbike manufacturer Ducati in the field of joint-marketing activities.



Jaguar's new supercar C-X75



Porsche's Hybrid Line-Up



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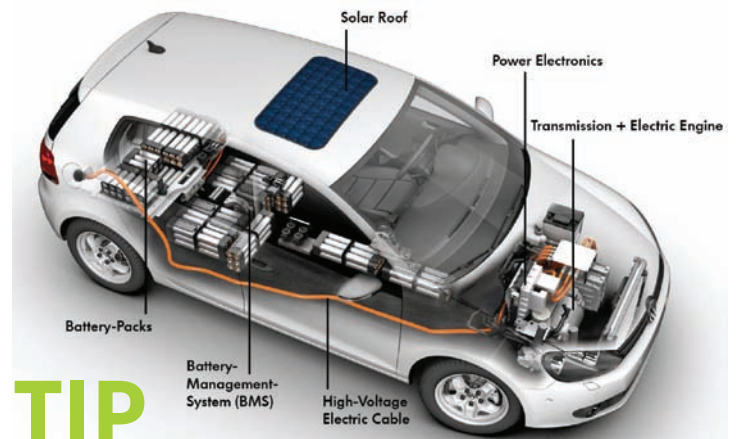


Photo: Courtesy Volkswagen AG

Another World Premiere: VW's new Eos, Heidi Klum's favorite car

Alles in allem kann man diese Autoausstellung vielleicht als historischen Beginn der Ära des Elektroautos ansehen. Nach vielen Jahren des Wartens haben die Verbraucher nun endlich die Gelegenheit, auf Masse produzierte Elektroautos mit Herstellergarantie zu kaufen. Eine der Vorzeigemodelle in diesem Bereich ist der Chevrolet Volt, der auch zum umweltfreundlichsten Auto 2010 gekürt wurde. ■

All in all, this year's show can probably be seen as the historic arrival of the modern electric car era. After years of anticipation, consumers can finally purchase mass-produced electric vehicles complete with factory warranties. One of the highly anticipated vehicles to kick-off this modern era of electric transportation is the Chevrolet Volt that also won this year's "Green Car of the Year Award." It's the world's first mass-produced, plug-in electric vehicle with a range-extending onboard engine. ■



TIP

Southern California Edison and the Electric Drive Transportation Assn. have launched GoElectricDrive.com, a website designed to provide owners and would-be owners of electric cars with information about buying, maintaining, owning and driving their plug-in vehicles.

The site gives consumers a checklist of things to consider before taking the plunge and buying an electric car, including available federal and state tax credits, charging options and hiring a contractor to make the home plug-in ready.

Southern California Edison customers also can calculate the cost of charging an electric vehicle with the "Plug-In Rate Assistant" at SCE.com/pev. Type in your location, vehicle type, mileage and daily power usage; the rate assistant will spit out an estimate of your monthly electric bill (with the plug-in car factored in).



GISSV students improve cars of the future

First annual Innovation Prize event at the German International School of Silicon Valley

How will cars look like in 20 years? How can future drivers interact with their cars? Students of German International School of Silicon Valley were invited to present their designs and ideas with answers to those questions. The best presentation was awarded with the Volkswagen Group of America Student Innovation Prize 2010.

The Electronics Research Laboratory (ERL) hosted its first annual Innovation Prize event at the German International School of Silicon Valley (GISSV). The prize aims to encourage students to contribute to the development and practical realization of innovative concepts in the field of automotive research and development. In return, the students are introduced in a career opportunity and gain valuable, practical

experience working in a research team. Members of the ERL visit the student teams and hold interactive lectures to guide the innovation process.

The German International School of Silicon Valley is the first school to participate in this project. As of next year the Innovation Prize will further expand to become a competition between various Silicon Valley schools. Student's innovation will be judged by a panel of judges representing various Silicon Valley entities, ERL, Stanford University, and the Volkswagen Group. Criteria taken into consideration are idea, presentation and creativity. The winning team will be given the opportunity to work with the ERL to turn this innovation or variation into reality. – gw/ah

Innovative vehicles on the rise

The X-Tracer (1), the Swiss ultimate low-drag high-performance vehicle which won the Progressive Insurance Automotive X PRIZE, is a smart innovation. The X-Tracer built by the Tracer Team Switzerland, is a high-performance pure battery-electrically driven low drag vehicle for the comfortable transportation of up to two persons with weekend baggage in a fully enclosed cabin. The vehicle concept allows it to be driven purely on batteries even on highway speed journeys over 150 miles. It has been demonstrated that to cruise at highway speed, less than 10 kW are required. For a range in excess of 150 miles no more than 200 lbs of batteries are required.

Another innovation is the the AIRpod (2), a small three-wheel vehicle that is driven by compressed air. The car, which is produced by the French company MDI will hit the road next March, will be seen mainly at industrial sites and airports. But the investors are certain that they will also convince private buyers since the car can be driven for 200 km before it needs to be refilled. The compressed air is filled into a carbon tank while attached to the electrical power grid. – gw/ah








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„Touristen“ in Venedig

Ab 12. Dezember in den US Kinos

Angelina Jolie & Johnny Depp erstmals gemeinsam bei der Arbeit - Jüngstes Donnersmarck-Filmprojekt brachte Stars zusammen.

Angelina Jolie & Johnny Depp join forces for the first time — the latest Donnersmarck film project brought the stars together.

Von/By CHRISTIAN THIELE

In Hollywood kennt jeder jeden? Von wegen! Zwei der größten Stars waren sich vor ihrem gemeinsamen Film „Der Tourist“ noch nie zuvor persönlich begegnet: Angelina Jolie und Johnny Depp. Es war der deutsche Filmregisseur Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, der die beiden Hollywood Stars miteinander „verkuppelte“.

Der erste Schritt zu dieser „Ehe zu Dritt“ kam von Angelina. Ihr war der Film angeboten worden und sie hatte zugesagt, „weil ich gerne mal in Venedig drehen wollte“. Ehemann Brad Pitt schlug ihr vor, Henckel von Donnersmarck als Regisseur zu verpflichten. Er und Angie waren seit „Das Leben der Anderen“ Fans des deutschen Oscar-Preisträgers.

Jolie lud den Münchner nach Los Angeles ein und machte ihm den Film als moderne Version von „Über den Dächern von Nizza“, schmackhaft: „Ich sagte ihm, dass er das europäische Flair beisteuern sollte.“

Dem Duo gelang es, den Produzenten Graham King („Aviator“) als Geldgeber zu gewinnen. Und der hatte schon den richtigen Partner für Jolie an der Angel: „Ich bin nächste Woche mit Johnny Depp zum Essen verabredet.“ Johnny biss an: „Ich wollte Angelina schon immer mal persönlich treffen.“ Außerdem reizte es ihn, einen Mathematik-Lehrer zu spielen, der in der Hoffnung auf ein Abenteuer nach Europa reist und im Zug eine wunderschöne Fremde trifft, die von der Polizei und russischen Gangstern gejagt wird.

Everyone knows everyone in Hollywood. Says who? Before working together in the movie “The Tourist” two of its biggest stars had never met: Angelina Jolie and Johnny Depp. It was German film director Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck who “paired up” the two Hollywood stars.

The first step in this “marriage of three” came from Angelina. She was offered a role in the movie and she accepted “because I would love to shoot a film in Venice.” Her husband Brad Pitt suggested she recruit Henckel von Donnersmarck as director. He and Angie have been fans of the German Oscar prize winner ever since “The Life of Others.”

Jolie invited the Munich director to Los Angeles and sold him on the idea of the movie as a modern version of Hitchcock’s ‘To Catch a Thief’: “I told him that his job was to bring European flair to the movie.”

The duo also succeeded in bringing producer Graham King (“Aviator“) on board. And he had the right partner for Jolie on the end of his fishing rod: “Next week I’m having dinner with Johnny Depp.” Johnny bit the bait: “I’ve always wanted to meet Angelina.” He also liked the idea of playing a math teacher who travels to Europe in the hope of adventure and meets fascinating strangers in a train who are

Man traf sich in Depps Büro in West Hollywood. Angelina: „Er war so interessant, wie ich es erhofft hatte.“ Welches Thema das Eis brach? Storys über die Kinder.



Film scene from "The Tourist"

Auch Depp war erleichtert: „Ich bemerkte schnell, dass Angelina einen unglaublich perversen Sinn für Humor hat. Sie ist wirklich cool.“ Nach einer Stunde entkorkte er eine Flasche Wein und das Projekt wurde begossen. Henckel von Donnersmarck atmete tief durch: Die Chemie zwischen seinen Stars stimmte.

Sechs Wochen später landeten Depp und Jolie in Venedig. Das größte Problem für den Regisseur waren die Paparazzi: „Ich stand auf einer Brücke über dem Canale Grande und sah, wie Angie und Johnny in ihren Booten zum Set gegondelt wurden. Dahinter schwamm eine ganze Flotte von Paparazzi in Mietgondeln. Es war ein Albtraum.“ Henckel von Donnersmarck musste improvisieren. Er stellte Sichtschutz-Wände auf und setzte Doubles für Depp und Jolie ein, um die Presseleute vom Set wegzulocken.

Inzwischen ist Henckel von Donnersmarck auf Welttournee, um seinen Film zu promoten, der am 12. Dezember in die US Kinos kommt. Er hofft, dass der Film ebenso interessant wird wie das erste Treffen zwischen Angie und Johnny. Seine einzige Befürchtung: Die US-Zuschauer könnten den Film als zu europäisch empfinden und wegbleiben. Florian wappnet sich mit Humor: „Dann hätte ich wohl Probleme, als Regisseur von ‚Der Tourist 2‘ oder ‚Superman‘ engagiert zu werden.“ ■

being chased by the police and Russian gangsters.

They met in Depp's office in West Hollywood. Angelina: "He was as interesting, as I

had hoped." What topic broke the ice? Stories about their children. Depp was also relieved: "I quickly noticed that Angelina has an unbelievably perverse sense of humor. She is really cool." After an hour he uncorked a bottle of wine and they drank to the project. Henckel von Donnersmarck took a deep breath: There was chemistry between his stars.

Six weeks later Depp and Jolie landed in Venice. The biggest problem for the director was the paparazzi: "I stood on a bridge over Canale Grande and watched Angie and Johnny riding in a gondola on the set. Behind them floated a whole fleet of paparazzi in rented gondolas." Henckel von Donnersmarck had to improvise. He set up protective camouflage walls and hired doubles for Depp and Jolie to lure the press away from the set.

By now, Henckel von Donnersmarck is on world tour to promote his movie which will open in US cinemas on December 12. He hopes that the movie is as interesting as the first encounter between Angie and Johnny. His only concern is that American viewers may find the movie to be too European and will stay away. Florian prepares for the worst with humor: "Then I would likely find it difficult to get hired as the director of "The Tourist 2" or "Superman." ■



German film director & Oscar winner Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck at work on location with Angelina Jolie

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Markus Gottschlich

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*A Viennese jazz pianist takes
Florida by storm*

Von/By NINA WACHENFELD

Wenn man durch die Vita des gebürtigen Wieners liest, schießt einem der Begriff „musikalischer Freigeist“ durch den Kopf. Ohne formales klassisches Training, hat sich der junge Pianist mehr als Autodidakt durch die Klassik in den Jazz gearbeitet. Der künstlerische Direktor des 2011 erstmalig stattfindenden Jazz Festivals von Miami Beach, der vor zwölf Jahren zunächst über ein Basketball-Stipendium nach Amerika kam, und zu dessen musikalischen Vorbildern, neben Beethoven, unter anderem Miles Davis und Oscar Peterson gehören, genießt die Spontanität seiner Ausdrucksmöglichkeiten im Jazz. Obwohl er die musikalische Vielfältigkeit seiner österreichischen Heimat schätzt, inspirieren Gottschlich in Miami besonders das südstaatliche Flair und die vielfältigen Auftrittsmöglichkeiten, welche sich ihm über die Jahre boten. Mit seinem Debütalbum „When The Day Is Gone“ offeriert er musikalische Kurzgeschichten, die sein Publikum auf heitere Weise zum Nachdenken und Zelebrieren anregen sollen. Dabei orientiert er sich am zeitlosen Lebensopus von Cole Porter und George Gershwin. Im Jazz, so Gottschlich, sei vor allem Risikobereitschaft und komplettes Vertrauen in das Instrument gefragt, und so betrachtet er das Klavier als eine natürliche „Verlängerung seiner Persönlichkeit“, mit der man auf die musikalische Reise ins spannende Ungewisse geht. ■

► www.gottschlichmusic.com

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When reading the resume of the native Viennese musician, the thought of a musical free spirit immediately comes to mind. Without formal classical training, the young pianist worked his way through classical music to jazz as an autodidact. The artistic director of the Miami Beach Jazz Festival, which will be held in 2011 for the first

time, came to America twelve years ago on a basketball scholarship. Along with Beethoven, his musical role models include Miles Davis and Oscar Peterson. He loves jazz for the spontaneity of expression it allows.

Although he values the musical diversity of his Austrian homeland, Gottschlich has been particularly inspired by Miami's southern flair and the many performing opportunities available to him throughout the year. His debut album "When the Day is Gone" offers musical short stories intended to cheerfully stimulate his listeners toward reflection and celebration. In it his music leans toward the timeless works of Cole Porter and George Gershwin. Jazz, says Gottschlich, demands risktaking and complete trust in your instrument. This is why he considers the piano to be the natural "extension of his personality" with which he embarks on musical journeys into the exciting unknown. ■

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Brett Mikels

Ein US-Sänger Made in Germany

An American singer made in Germany

Von/By NINA WACHENFELD

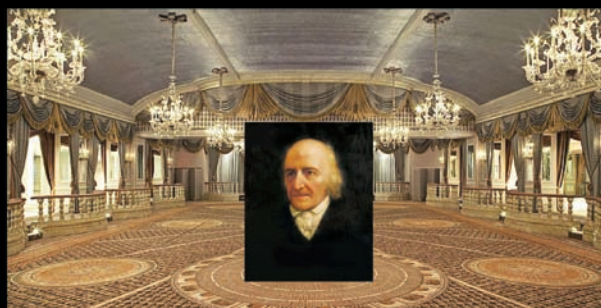
Wer den großen blonden R&B Sänger mit den blitzblauen Augen und adrettem Outfit kennenlernt, glaubt ihm seine vehemente Affinität zu Deutschland augenblicklich. Mikels, der 1968 auf der Ramstein Air Force Base als Sohn eines US-Kampfpiloten das Licht der Welt erblickte, ist auf der Suche nach seinen Wurzeln. Durch die Schule des Sohnes seiner Lebensgefährtin, in der er einige deutschsprachige Eltern traf, wurde die Vergangenheit wieder lebendig. Noch fällt es ihm schwer, die Sehnsucht nach Deutschland in Worte zu fassen. Obwohl er nie wieder zurückgekehrt ist, hat er nun das starke Bedürfnis, an die Vergangenheit anzuknüpfen. Der in Los Angeles verankerte Musiker mit eigener Band „Visual Flight Rules“ träumt von Auftritten in seiner Geburtsheimat und tauchte jüngst tief in seine Vergangenheit. Im Elternhaus in Arizona entdeckte er deutsche Memorabilia aus seinem ersten Lebensjahr, und erfuhr von der Begeisterung seiner Eltern für deutsches Essen, die vielbeschriebene Gastfreundschaft und den Wandel der Jahreszeiten. Mit seiner Musik, die unter anderem Einflüsse von Stevie Wonder, Sting, Jimi Hendrix und Joni Mitchell enthält, hofft er in nicht allzu ferner Zukunft eine Deutschlandtournee planen zu können. Seine Musik lässt sich als gelungener Mix aus R&B, klassischem Rock und Blues beschreiben; seine unaufdringlich angenehme Stimme erinnert entfernt an Al Jarreau. Mit seiner Band, allesamt hochkarätige Studiomusiker, arbeitet er derzeit an seinem zweiten Album „What are you waiting for“. Seine CD „Deep Enough“ (2006), war bereits ein Bestseller. ■

► **For concert dates, CD orders and other information:**
www.brettmikels.com

Those who know the tall, blonde R&B singer with the flashing blue eyes and neat outfit immediately believe his impassioned affinity to Germany. Mikels, born on Ramstein Air Force Base in 1968 as the son of a US fighter pilot, is on the search for his roots. His past came alive again when he met some German-speaking parents in the school of his girlfriend's son. He still finds it difficult to explain his longing for Germany. Although he never returned, he still has a strong need to connect with his past.

The musician, based in Los Angeles with his band "Visual Flight Rules," dreams of performing in his birth country and has recently plunged deeply into his past. In his parent's house in Arizona he discovered German memorabilia from his first year of life, and learned about his parent's enthusiasm for German food, the much-described hospitality, and the change of the seasons. With his music, influenced by Stevie Wonder, Sting, Jimi Hendrix and Joni Mitchell, among others, he hopes he can plan a German tour in the not too distant future. His music can be described as a successful mix of R&B, classical rock and blues; his pleasant, low-key voice is somewhat reminiscent of Al Jarreau. He is currently working on his second album "What are you waiting for" with his band, all top-notch studio musicians. His CD "Deep Enough" (2006) was a best seller. ■

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300 Jahre Meissener Porzellan

Eine Marke erobert die Welt

300 Years of Meissen Porcelain: A brand conquers the world

Von/By ANJA KNORR

August der Starke, Sachsens legendärer Kurfürst, gab öffentlich zu an der „Maladie de Porcelaine“ zu leiden. Symptome dieser Krankheit sind eine Schwäche für das feine, weiße Material gepaart mit einer unstillbarer Sammelleidenschaft desselben. Tatsächlich häufte er in seiner Regierungszeit über 35000 Porzellangegenstände an und ließ sogar ein ganzes Schloss aus Porzellan anfertigen, den Japanischen Palais in Dresden, das jedoch unvollendet blieb. Auf Augusts Betreiben hin wurde 1708 das europäische Porzellan erfunden, das bis dahin zu hohen Preisen umständlich aus Asien importiert werden musste, wie Christian Kurtzke, der Vorsitzende der Geschäftsführung der Meissener Porzellanmanufaktur erklärt. Schon zwei Jahre später am 23. Januar 1710 ordnete August die Gründung der „Königlich-Polnischen und Kurfürstlich-Sächsischen Porzellan-Manufaktur“ im sächsischen Meissen an, und patentierte die Herstellung. Denn das kostbare Porzellan war auch als weißes Gold bekannt und ein wichtiger Devisenbringer. Später ließ er aus Angst vor Fälschungen und Nachahmungen zwei gekreuzte Schwerter aus blauer Unterglasurfarbe auf jedes Stück Meissener Porzellan anbringen – eine weltweit bekannte Luxusmarke war geboren.

Bis heute wird das kostbare Erzeugnis in Meissen hergestellt und das für die Herstellung benötigte Kaolin wird noch immer von zwei Bergleuten in einer Grube bei Meissen in Sachsen abgebaut. Die Grube gilt somit als kleinstes aktives und ältestes noch in

Augustus the Strong, the legendary elector of Saxony, openly confessed that he suffered from the “porcelain malady.” Symptoms of this illness are a weakness for the fine, white material coupled with an insatiable passion for collecting it. In point of fact, during his reign he accumulated over 35,000 porcelain objects and even commissioned an entire palace to be made of porcelain, the Japanese Palace in Dresden, which, however, was never completed.

Under August's prompting European porcelain was invented in 1708, which until then had been laboriously imported from Asia at high prices, explains Christian Kurtzke, CEO of the Meissen porcelain manufacturer. Just two years later, on January 23, 1710, Augustus ordered the founding of the porcelain factory in Meissen, Saxony, and patented the manufacturing process. The exquisite porcelain was known as white gold and was an important money maker. Later, fearful of forgeries and imitations, he had two crossed swords fired in underglaze blue on every piece of Meissen porcelain — and a world-famous luxury brand was born.

Today, the precious commodity is still manufactured in Meissen, and the kaolin required for the process is still dug from the earth by two miners working in a cavern near Meissen in Saxony. The cavern is the smallest active and oldest kaolin mine in Europe.



Meissner Dom



Portrait of August I of Poland (August der Starke)

Betrieb stehendes Kaolinbergwerk Europas.

Dieses Jahr feierte die Manufaktur ihr 300 jähriges Jubiläum und veranstaltete aus dem Anlass zahlreiche Ausstellungen weltweit. Unter anderem die ganzjährige Sonderausstellung „Alle Nationen sind Willkommen – All Nations are Welcome“ im Meissener Porzellanmuseum. Die Ausstellung widmet sich den zahlreichen Geschenken, die Könige, Diplomaten und Liebhaber aus aller Welt über die Jahrhunderte aus Meissen erhalten haben. Besondere Highlights sind Porzellane für die russische Zarin Katharina II. und die Großplastik eines Weißkopfseeadlers für die amerikanische Botschaft in Berlin. Natürlich erhielt auch US-Präsident Barack Obama ein Set Manschettenknöpfe aus Porzellan als er im Jahre 2009 das Land Sachsen besuchte.

Im September 2010 veranstaltete Meissen als Teil der Deutsch-Amerikanischen Steuben Parade in New York eine Ausstellung im New York Hilton & Towers während einer Galaveranstaltung. Dabei präsentierte die Manufaktur ein neues fünfteiliges Gedeck, das für festliche Anlässe genauso passend ist, wie für den Alltag und sich damit perfekt dem modernen Alltag anpasst. Denn es ist den Meissenern wichtig, innovative Wege zu gehen. So setzt die Manufaktur zum Beispiel auf ein umfangreiches Schmuck, Architektur und Inneneinrichtungsprogramm. Neben Porzellan sollen deshalb künftig auch Tapeten, Teppiche, Tische und Wandverkleidungen aus Porzellan verkauft werden. Somit stellt die Meissener Porzellanmanufaktur sicher, dass sich auch in Zukunft Liebhaber aus aller Welt für das Edelmateriale mit den gekreuzten blauen Schwertern begeistern werden. ■



This year the porcelain manufacturer is celebrating its 300-year anniversary and is organizing numerous exhibitions around the world. Among them is the year-long special exhibition “All Nations are Welcome” in Meissen Porcelain Museum. On display in this exhibition are the numerous gifts kings, diplomats and lovers from around the world have received from Meissen over the centuries.

Special highlights are porcelain objects made for Russian Empress Catherine II and the large statue of a bald eagle made for the American embassy in Berlin. Of course, US President Barack Obama received a set of porcelain cuff links when he visited Saxony in 2009. In September 2010 Meissen hosted an exhibition in New York Hilton & Towers as part of the German-American Steuben Parade in New York during a gala event. At this time the porcelain maker presented a new five-part place setting fit for festive occasions as well as for everyday use, thus perfect for the modern world. The Meissen company values innovation. For this reason the company invests in an extensive range of jewelry, architecture and interior design. In the future carpets, rugs, tables and wall decorations made of porcelain will also be available for purchase. This way the Meissen porcelain manufacturer can be sure that even in the future lovers around the world will still be passionate about the precious material with the blue crossed swords. ■



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Enjoying vacation in Germany: Matthias Bernd with his wife Elke & his daughter Ava.

Matthias Bernd

How German led me to a career in the finance industry

are not comingled like mutual funds. Managed futures are also completely transparent — clients can view their accounts 24 hours a day and have total access to their funds.

Investing in futures is risky. For whom is an investment in futures best suited?

Futures are highly speculative and are only suited for those with sufficient risk capital. Moreover, I believe that most individuals lack the experience needed to trade them. Using a professional money manager may, therefore, be a better fit for some investors. The value of professionally managed futures was thoroughly researched by Dr. John Lintner, of Harvard University, in a 1983 landmark study, "The Potential Role of Managed Commodity Financial Futures Accounts (and/or Funds) in Portfolios of Stocks and Bonds." Lintner wrote that "the combined portfolios of stocks (or stocks and bonds) after including judicious investments in leveraged managed futures accounts show substantially less risk at every possible level of expected return than portfolios of stocks (or stocks and bonds) alone." According to the CME Group brochure, "Managed Futures: Portfolio Diversification Opportunities," allocating up to 20% of an overall portfolio to managed futures can potentially lower risk, while enhancing returns. Managed futures can be used in a variety of qualified retirement plans, including IRAs, trusts, and pensions. Please be advised that trading futures and options involves substantial risk of loss and is not suitable for all investors. There are no guarantees of profit no matter who is managing your money. An investor must read and understand the commodity trading advisor's current disclosure document before investing. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results.

What made you choose this particular career?

Although I originally studied German Literature, I was always fascinated by the markets. After returning to the U.S., I found a job with a futures firm looking for people who speak more than one language. So, being able to speak German was a real asset for me. After working awhile, I felt the need to gain a formal education in finance, and enrolled at UCI, where I received my MBA degree. In 2004, I met one of the owners of Alpha Futures, who was like a mentor to me, and made the decision to move my Series 3 broker's license to his firm.

With regards to your professional experience with people from both countries, what is, in your opinion, the biggest challenge for Germans and Americans working together?

Now I am generalizing here, but I believe that a German businessperson will tend to focus mainly on finding a match in a product or service. He or she may wallow in the details. An American, on the other hand, will obsess over building a relationship with a business partner above everything else. An American wants you to decide to do business with him or her first, and then the product or service comes second.

DEFINITION OF FUTURES:

In finance, a *futures contract* is a standardized contract between two parties to buy or sell a specified asset of standardized quantity and quality at a specified future date at a price agreed today. The contracts are traded on a futures exchange.

When we met Matthias Bernd, a California native with a very German name, we were completely taken by his fluency and proficiency in German. Bernd, who works as a managed futures specialist for Alpha Futures, Inc., told us about his upbringing in a German-speaking household, his frequent trips to Germany and his time in Tuebingen, where he got his Masters Degree in Comparative Literature. He has a natural affinity for the coastal towns on the North Sea, where he spent his childhood summers visiting his grandmother. Yet, he has learned to love the "Gemuetlichkeit" in the South and has especially fond memories of Cologne, where he got married in the Koelner Dom.

Matthias Bernd, who also holds a BA in German from the University of California, Riverside and an MBA in finance from the University of California, Irvine, has worked as a futures broker for seven years. In 2004, he joined Alpha Futures Inc., a Guaranteed Introducing Broker of Vision Financial Markets LLC. In times of great economic challenges and volatile financial markets, we wanted to know more about the futures industry and how German played a role in Matthias Bernd's career.

GW: Alpha Futures specializes in managed futures, an asset class which had positive returns in 2008 — a year when many people lost money. How was that possible?

MB: According to the Barclay CTA Index*, managed futures returned an average of 14% to investors in 2008, a year when many portfolios suffered severe losses. Historically speaking, there is a low degree of correlation between managed futures and traditional asset classes, like stocks and bonds. As a result, managed futures can potentially perform well during periods when stocks are underperforming. Please be advised that past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results.

**The Barclay CTA Index is a leading industry benchmark of representative performance of commodity trading advisors. There are currently 533 programs included in the calculation of the Barclay CTA Index for the year 2010, which is unweighted and rebalanced at the beginning of each year. This material mentions services which rank the performance of commodity trading advisors. Please note that the rankings apply only to those CTAs who submit their trading results. The rankings in no way purport to be representative of the entire universe of commodity trading advisors. The material in no way implies that these results are officially sanctioned results of the commodity industry.*

What's the difference between managed futures and, for example, mutual funds?

Managed futures are similar to mutual funds in that a professional money manager trades on behalf of investors. Just like mutual funds, managed futures are regulated by government entities. However, the primary difference between the two investment vehicles is that with managed futures, investors have their own customer segregated accounts. Funds

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DEUTSCH TAG

Erster Deutsch-Tag in Miami ein voller Erfolg

First German Day in Miami very successful

Ein Chor von 35 Kindern singt begeistert auf der Bühne „Wunderbar, wunderbar. Alles klar, alles klar!“ Hinten im Saal entdeckt ein 17-Jähriger gerade sein Interesse für ein deutsch-sprachiges Ingenieurstudium an der Clemson University in South Carolina. Und mittendrin bastelt Laura (10) eine Grußkarte: „I love Germany“: Impressionen vom ersten „Miami Deutsch-Tag – German Day“ an der Terra High School im Miami-Dade-County, der am 6. November rund 300 Gäste an die neu erbaute Schule im Süden von Miami gelockt hat.

„Deutsch ist die meist gesprochene Sprache in der Europäischen Union und längst nicht so schwer zu erlernen, wie immer wieder behauptet wird“, sagt General-konsulin Eva Alexandra Gräfin Kendeffy, zum Auftakt des Deutsch-Tages, der von ZfA-Fachberaterin Petra Reuter initiiert und organisiert worden ist. Dass Deutsch lernen jede Menge Spaß machen kann, ist wohl die wichtigste Botschaft des Aktionstages, die sich wie ein roter Faden durch das Pro-gramm zieht. Zehn Deutschlehrerinnen und – lehrer von sechs Schulen im Miami-Dade-County beteiligen sich mit Workshops, darunter auch Anthony Krupp, Lehrer an der DSD-Sprachdiplomschule Coral-Reef High School, der an diesem Tag für seinen dynamischen Unterricht, seine guten DSD-Ergebnisse und überzeugende Sprachkom-petenz mit dem „German Embassy Teacher of Excellence-

A chorus of thirty-five kids are enthusiastically singing on stage “Wunderbar, wunderbar. Alles klar, alles klar!” In another corner of the hall, a 17-year old is discovering his interest in a German-speaking engineering program at Clemson University, South Carolina. And in the midst of all this Laura is making a seasonal greeting card that reads “I love Germany.” These are impressions from the first Miami German Day at Terra High School in Miami-Dade County, which attracted more than 300 visitors to this recently opened school in southern Miami.

“German is the most spoken language in the European Community and by far not as hard to learn as people assume,” says Eva Alexandra Countess Kendeffy, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, in her opening remarks that launched Miami’s German Day, which was initiated and organized by ZfA German language advisor Petra Reuter. The most important message of the day is the idea that learning German can be fun, a common theme expressed throughout the event. Participating in German Day were ten German teachers from six schools in Miami-Dade County, among them Anthony Krupp, a teacher at Coral Reef High School, a DSD German Language Diploma school, who received a surprising tribute that day: He was honored as one of three prize winners of this year’s German





New York's Mayor Michael Bloomberg (r.) presenting the proclamation of German-American Friendship Month to Lars Halter applauds "invaluable contributions" made by German immigrants and thanks Halter and his team for their hard work throughout the year.

Award" gewürdigt wird. Vom McDaniel College in Washington D.C. ist Deutschprofessor Mohamed Esa angereist, der über Rammstein und Tokio Hotel so geläufig spricht wie andere Professoren über binomische Formeln oder Geschichtstheorien. Zweimal hintereinander versammelt der geborene Palästinenser knapp 30 Jugendliche in seinem Workshop, in denen er voller Eifer Bezüge zwischen dem Rammstein-Song „Dalai Lama“ und der Goethe-Ballade vom Erlkönig herstellt.

Bei Johannes Schmidt, Deutschprofessor an der Clemson University in South Carolina, finden sich immer wieder ältere Schüler ein, die sich für Deutsch in Studium und Beruf interessieren. „Da meine Universität eng mit BMW zusammenarbeitet,“ so erklärt Schmidt, „können wir genau für dieses Profil etwas Passendes bieten.“

Feuer und Flamme für Deutsch sind auch die Sechs- bis Zwölfjährigen, die mit dem in New York lebenden deutschen Musikpädagogen Uwe Kind zu rappigen Rhythmen über die Bühne in der großen Schul-Cafeteria tanzen. Kind vermittelt in seinen Lernliedern Redewendungen und Ausdrücke mit eingängigen Melodien. „Uwe, you rock!“ sagt auch Professor Esa anerkennend nach Kinds Auftritt.

Ein Highlight des Tages, der „Deutsch-Koffer“ des „Echo-Projektes 2010“, der auf seiner Weltreise durch neun Regionen heute in Miami Station macht, um auch hier mit vielen Ideen und Anregungen für einen zeitgemäßen Deutschunterricht, der Spaß macht und junge Leute in aller Welt für Deutsch und Deutschland begeistert bestückt zu werden. Diesen Beitrag hat der erste „Miami German-Day“ für die Region Florida ganz gewiss geleistet. - gw/ps

Embassy Teacher of Excellence Award acknowledging his dynamic teaching, his good DSD German examination scores and outstanding language skills. Also attending Miami German Day was German professor Mohamed Esa from the McDaniel College in Washington DC, who talks about German music groups like Rammstein and Tokio Hotel as casually as other professors talk about binomial formulas or theories of history. Twice the German professor from Palestine gathered about 30 youth in his workshop, in which he enthusiastically drew references between Rammstein's song "Dalai Lama" and Goethe's ballad "Erl-King."

Johannes Schmidt, German professor at Clemson University in South Carolina, was approached by the older students who are interested in learning German for their studies and careers. "Since my university works closely with BMW," explains Schmidt, "we have something to offer these students. The auto manufacturer is always interested in young people who have a more nuanced knowledge of Germany."

Also full of passion for German are the six and twelve year-olds who danced across the stage of the school cafeteria to rapping rhythms with New York-based German music educator Uwe Kind. Kind teaches colloquial and idiomatic expressions in his educational songs with catchy melodies that includes supportive body movements. "Uwe, you rock!" says German professor Esa appreciatively after the performance.

A highlight of German Day is the "Deutsch Koffer" (German suitcase) of the Echo Project 2010 which stopped in Miami on its journey through nine regions of the world to collect ideas and suggestions for contemporary German lessons that are fun for students and will attract children around the world to German. This the first Miami German Day has definitely contributed. - gw/nj

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By JODY GARCIA

Linguistic Differences still exist

Thoughts on the German language before and after the wall fell

It has been said that, although they both speak German, East and West Germans don't truly understand each other. The erection of the Berlin Wall in 1961 created an impermeable barrier which separated East and West into two speech communities. Even the Wall itself was given different nicknames. The West German *Schadenmauer* (Wall of Shame) was called in East Germany the *Schutzmauer* (Wall of Protection — to keep East Germans safe from Western decadence). After 40 years of separation, East and West Germany differed linguistically in distinct ways.

Three different lexical phenomena governed the division between East and West Germany. First, different words in the East and West carried the same meaning, giving rise to *das Territorium* (East) and *das Gebiet* (West) for territory; *der Ministerrat* (East) and *die Bundesregierung* (West) for government; *die Landstrasse* (East) and *die Bundesstrasse* (West) for highway; and *die Kaufhalle* (East) and *das Lebensmittelgeschäft* (West) for grocery store. Second, one word used by both communities came to mean different things. *Brigade* in the West meant an army unit but in the East it meant a group of people working toward a common goal. Third, special vocabulary for items that did not exist in the other regime were created. This last category includes proper nouns like *Trabi* (East) and *Coca Cola* (West). Additionally, West German speakers were influenced by contact with English whereas East Germans were not.

Language is constantly changing and the partition caused East and West German to change in different ways. The East created new words to describe their new way of life: *Exquisitladen* was a term for stores that sold luxury foreign goods; *Konsum* was a communist co-operative store. They also created words to describe conditions

under socialism such as *nichterfasster Wohnraum*, housing for rent not through the housing authority and various forms of class collectives. *Gastarbeiter* (guest worker) was the linguistic result of thousands of immigrants pouring into West Germany following the end of WWII to help rebuild the country. The East did not have this influx so this term appeared only in the West.

East Germany put forth a policy of *Beurteilung*, professing socialist ideology through speech. Party members were encouraged to refer to women by masculine nouns to show equality between the sexes and developed a series of Party euphemisms for use in discourse.

West Germans in the professional arena had been taught to value experience and qualifications whereas East Germans were more likely to express how they feel. This seemingly brash self-promotion meant that East Germans, even with equivalent qualifications, were at a disadvantage in the job market as they were perceived to be less capable.

Post-reunification conversational differences were also noted. There were significantly different ways of dealing with problems: A *Wessi* was much more likely to respond to a problem with "I have the solution to your problem," whereas an *Ossi* was more likely to respond with "Let's talk about it."

The 1991 edition of *Duden* had the challenge of not only updating the German language but also teaching half the country how German in the West was different. This reunited *Duden* included material from both East and West Germany. During the 40 years of the division of East and West Germany the *Duden* was published on both sides of the Wall, and the editions were quite different.

The author, Jody Garcia, is a graduate student at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. ■

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teachers who **inspire**

Blake Peters, Oregon

Can four weeks at a German immersion summer camp influence the rest of a student's life?

For Blake Peters, it certainly did! Coming from a family with no second language experience, Blake had chosen German over Spanish in the ninth grade. In the summer before his tenth grade year, a generous woman in his home town in Michigan sponsored his participation in a four-weeks summer camp at Concordia's German language village Waldsee in Minnesota.

Although he had had only one year of high school German, he started dreaming in German at Waldsee. His summer experience allowed him to skip German 2, and he ended up taking German at the local community college, majoring in German in college. He eventually became a nationally known in the German teaching profession.

During Blake's junior year as a German and Human Development and Social Relations dual major with a Michigan Secondary Teaching Certificate at Kalamazoo College (MI), he studied in Erlangen and lived with a host family. Blake loved his Germany experience so much that he arranged to do his student teaching in his senior year on a US military base in Germany, just so he could return to Germany. A Fulbright Fellowship allowed him to teach in Bad Salzuflen for the year after his college graduation.

Blake returned to the US to teach German at Louisville Collegiate School in Louisville, Kentucky, from August 1999 to June 2003. At LCS he developed the curriculum for five German courses, including Advanced Placement German.

"Blake is an innovative leader in German language education," noted Dan Hamilton, who serves as professor at Johns Hopkins University during the academic year and dean of Waldsee during the summer. "His hands-on style energizes students and his tremendous cross-cultural skills really pay off when it comes to encouraging German-American collaboration."

Although Blake attended Waldsee only once, he returned 10 years later as an MA student in German at Ohio State University. Returning

as a graduate student showed him that teaching was his calling rather than research. He worked there as a credit teacher and eventually became dean of the Waldsee Abroad program. Since moving to Oregon (and losing his summers), Blake has stayed connected to Waldsee as an author and presenter on how to bring Waldsee methods into classrooms around the country. Blake acknowledges, "The four-week experience after my 9th grade year changed my life. Waldsee, and the community of talented individuals who work and live there have been instrumental in my development ever since. Dan and Heidi Hamilton, Jon Berndt Olsen and many more have mentored me."

In 2003 Blake became the Head of School at the German American School of Portland (OR) (www.gspdx.org), which in a small non-profit school means he is principal, maintenance man, and whatever else is necessary. The school is one of five bilingual schools in the United States officially recognized by the Zentralstelle für das Auslandsschulwesen (Central Agency for Schools Abroad). Blake is the only "Schulleiter" among the 140 schools worldwide who is not a native German.

The recipient of several scholarships, including a Fulbright, Blake is active professionally. Since 2000 he has been an author, curriculum developer, and presenter for *Gute Idee: A Handbook of Good Ideas for Teachers of German*. In 2006 he was elected to a three-year term as Northwest Representative to the Executive Committee of the American Association of Teachers of German.

Blake met his wife Sharon while he was teaching at Louisville Collegiate School and she was finishing law school. Their son Nathan (4) is learning German at the German American School's preschool. Jeffrey (2) is learning German from Blake while in the car and on adventure hikes. Blake's hobbies are reading, hiking, running, tennis and trying to get some sleep. ■



Prepared by Dr. Cecilia Cloughly

Test Your German:

Select the missing words from the choices below. Some omissions are more difficult than others to challenge students on different levels.

Die **Deutsche Demokratische Republik** (DDR) war bis 1989 ein diktatorisch regierter realsozialistischer Staat in Mitteleuropa. (_1_) existierte von 1949 bis 1990. Die Hauptstadt (_2_) DDR war Ost-Berlin.

Herkunft

Die Gründung der DDR fand (_3_) 7. Oktober 1949 auf dem Gebiet der Sowjetischen Besatzungszone (SBZ) vier Jahre nach Ende des Zweiten Weltkrieges statt.

Der Aufbau der DDR (_4_) hauptsächlich durch die Gruppe Walter Ulbricht bestimmt, (_5_) die Unterstützung Josef Stalins hatte. Wahlen (_6_) der Legitimation der kommunistischen Partei SED (Sozialistischen Einheitspartei Deutschlands), waren aber von Beginn an manipuliert. Nach dem Ende des Zweiten Weltkrieges lebten in der Sowjetischen Besatzungszone (_7_) 19 Millionen Menschen. Die Bevölkerungszahl nahm aber in der DDR kontinuierlich ab. (_8_) 1949 und 1961 flohen etwa 2,6 Millionen Menschen aus der DDR, obwohl „Republikflucht“ strafbar war.

Die (_9_) Mauer

In der Nacht vom 12. auf den 13. August begannen Truppen die Grenze rings um West-Berlin mit Stacheldraht und bewaffneten Kräften abzusichern. Diese Berliner Mauer wurde das Symbol der Teilung (_10_) und Europas sowie des Eisernen Vorhangs.

Das Ende der DDR

Die (_11_) Revolution 1989/90 markierte den wirtschaftlichen und politischen Untergang der DDR. Die 1990 erstmals frei gewählte Volkskammer beschloss die Wiederherstellung von ostdeutschen Ländern und den Beitritt der DDR zur Bundesrepublik Deutschland als einen Akt der Selbstbestimmung. Die Existenz der DDR wurde damit zum 3. Oktober 1990 mit der deutschen (_12_) beendet.

Which is the right answer? ANSWERS: PAGE 37

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. A: Er; B: Sie; C: Es; D: Die | 9. A: Berlin; B: Hamburger; C: Frankfurter; D: Berliner |
| 2. A: die; B: das; C: einer; D: der | 10. A: Polens; B: Frankreichs; C: Deutschlands; D: Deutschlands |
| 3. A: an; B: am; C: on; D: zu | 11. A: friedliche; B: freundliche; C: feindliche; D: furchtbare |
| 4. A: wurde; B: würde; C: war; D: wäre | 12. A: Wiedersehen; B: auf Wiedersehen; C: Wiederholen; D: Wiedervereinigung |
| 5. A: der; B: das; C: die; D: den | |
| 6. A: nach; B: durch; C: dienen; D: und | |
| 7. A: etwa; B: etwas; C: sind; D: von | |
| 8. A: Seit; B: Zwischen; C: Es; D: Nach | |

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY

DDR: The German Democratic Republic, Communist East Germany	die Grenze, -n: Border
Der Zweite Weltkrieg: World War II	Die Mauer: Wall
die Wahl, -en: Election(s)	der Flüchtling, -e: Refugee, person who flees
	die Wiedervereinigung: Reunification

Welcome
to Josef M. Goodman,
DDS, DMD

Dr. Josef Goodman studied at the University of Aachen, Germany, and immigrated to the United States in 1998. He participated in a post doctoral program at UCLA and USC with special emphasis on cosmetic, root canal, implant and reconstructive dentistry (crowns, bridges, veneers, dentures.)

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The opening of the Goethe International Charter School in September 2009

people who **inspire**

Elke Miller-Schweigert, California

How a happily married businesswoman and mother of two still found time to initiate the first full-time German-English immersion school and the first German kindergarten in Los Angeles.

Whenever I see Elke Miller-Schweigert, a native from Munich who came to Los Angeles in 1989 to study International Sales and Marketing, it always amazes me how calm and relaxed she is. This is a miracle considering her super-busy schedule as a mother of two daughters, 7 and 9, and the owner and founder of KiGaLa Preschool and the founder and chairperson of the Goethe International Charter School in Mar Vista. Elke also serves on several boards of German-American organizations and still makes time for friends and family. She also started a German community network group, Deutsche Gemeinde LA (German Community LA), and organizes events for families, children and women. Before venturing into the field of German-American education five years ago, she was director of finance of a governmental contracting company. However, she and her American husband Philip Miller, an Emmy nominated film editor from Philadelphia who also speaks German, always felt very strongly about raising their two daughters bilingually. After visiting the Albert Einstein Academy in San Diego, the first successful German-English immersion school in Southern California, five years ago, she decided to devote as much time as needed to the development of a similar school for Los Angeles and an international preschool offering German, Spanish and English. In 2006, she started the journey with a German language program for small children in

Santa Monica which became the KiGaLa International Preschool, a fully-licensed preschool with its German, Spanish and English language programs and continued with the development of an elementary school. The Goethe International Charter School was approved by the LAUSD in July 2008 and opened its doors in September 2009 offering classes from K – 5. Today, the Goethe International Charter School teaches 258 students and has a long waiting list. The school has just submitted its application for Middle School in November 2010 and is looking for a new building in order to be able to expand. This is a wonderful success after five years of many personal sacrifices and relentless work. “I am deeply grateful to my husband,” she says in an interview with *German World*, “who supported me 100% at all times and to the founding parents of the Goethe International Charter School who dedicated all their personal time during the founding phase in order to make our initiative successful.” Elke’s initiatives are indeed successful and one can only congratulate her on these accomplishments. - gw/ps



Elke enjoying her work at KiGaLa

Answers for “Test your German”:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1.A Er (refers to der Staat) | 6.C dienen (served, verb needed in 2nd position) | 11.A friedliche (peaceful, without armed conflict) |
| 2.D der (gen., fem, sing. referring to die DDR) | 7.A etwa (approximately) | 12.D Wiedervereinigung (Reunification) |
| 3.B am (dat., masc., sing. contraction an + dem) | 8.B zwischen (between 1949 and 1961) | |
| 4.A wurde (sing. past tense of werden, to become) | 9.D Berliner (add –er to show a person from a city) | |
| 5.C die (refers to Gruppe, which ends in –e and is fem.) | 10.D Deutschlands | |



A Very Merry Christmas...

Der unvergessliche Wally Bronner machte Frankenmuth in Michigan zur Weihnachtsmetropole der Welt

The unforgettable Wally Bronner turned Michigan's Frankenmuth into the Christmas metropolis of the world

Von/By UWE SIEMON-NETTO

Wer in Michigans Industriestädten Detroit, Flint und Saginaw das Geld dazu hat, möchte am liebsten im Ruhestandsalter nach Frankenmuth ziehen; kein anderer Ort weit und breit hat eine so geringe Verbrechensrate; keiner ist so wie dieser. Aber nicht nur das: das lutherisch geprägte Frankenmuth nennt sich mit Fug und Recht die Weihnachts-Metropole der Welt, und dies ist das Werk eines treuen Glieds der lutherischen St. Lorenz-Gemeinde, Wally Bronner, dessen Augen bei unserer letzten Begegnung kurz vor seinem Tod vor zwei Jahren glitzerten wie die abertausend Christbaumkerzen in seinem Supermarkt namens „Bronner's CHRISTmas World“, dessen Ladenfläche die Größe zweier Fußballplätze hat.

Wally, der mit Bibelsprüchen auf riesigen Transparenten entlang der nach Frankenmuth führenden Autobahnen und Fernstraßen auf sein Geschäft aufmerksam machte, hatte sich als Oberschüler mit Schildermalerei sein Taschengeld verdient und dieses Talent nach und nach auf sein Hobby konzentriert, Weihnachten nämlich. Seit dem Ende des Zweiten Weltkrieges feierte er sozusagen täglich das Christfest – und dies mit einer ständig wachsenden Kundenschar aus der ganzen Welt; über zwei Millionen kommen jedes Jahr in hunderttausenden von Autos und Bussen.

Sie kommen und staunen über das künstliche Schneegestöber, das Bronners Firma zweimal stündlich am Südeingang seines Supermarktes veranstaltete. Mit verklärtem Blick ergötzen sie sich an einem schier endlosen Wald blinkender Weihnachtsbäume, an Herden von Plüschtieren, an 500 verschiedenen Krippenszenen, 150 Arten von Nussknackern und an fünf Meter großen Weihnachtsmännern aus Plastik, die bis zu 7.000 Dollar kosten.

Wally Bronner hat sich, wie er einmal sagte, auf besondere Weise bei Gott für den Erfolg seines Unternehmens bedankt. Er ließ auf seinem fast



Picturesque downtown Frankenmuth in Michigan



Christmas enthusiasts: The late Wally Bronner (l.) & his son

Those in Michigan's industrial towns of Detroit, Flint and Saginaw with the money want to retire to Frankenmuth. No other town far and wide has such a low crime rate; no other place is quite like this one. The Lutheran-dominant Frankenmuth justly calls itself the Christmas metropolis of the world, and this is the work of a faithful member of the St. Lorenz Lutheran Church, Wally Bronner, whose eyes when we last met shortly before he died two years ago sparkled like the thousands of Christmas tree lights in his supermarket "Bronner's CHRISTmas World," whose surface area is equivalent to two football fields.

Wally, who advertises his business with Bible verses on giant billboards along the highways and freeways heading to Frankenmuth, earned his pocket money as a high school student as a sign painter. This talent gradually focused on his hobby: Christmas. Since the end of the Second World War he has celebrated Christmas every day, with a constantly growing number of customers from around the world. More than two million visit Frankenmuth every year, arriving in hundreds of thousands of cars and buses.

They come and marvel over the artificial snowflake show that Bronner's company stages twice an hour at the southern entrance to his supermarket. With misty eyes they feast on the seemingly unending forest of blinking Christmas trees, herds of stuffed animals, 500 different nativity scenes, 150 types of nutcrackers, and five-meter-tall, plastic Santa Clauses that cost 7000 dollars.

Wally Bronner had a special way, as he once said, of thanking God for the success of his business. On his nearly 20 hectares of land on the outskirts of town he had a chapel built in the likeness of the original St. Nikolaus Church in Oberndorf, Austria, the chapel in which



20 Hektar großen Areal am Stadtrand die St. Nikolaus-Kirche in Oberndorf in Österreich originalgetreu nachbauen, also das Gotteshaus, dessen katholischer Pfarrer Joseph Mohr 1818 das Weihnachtslied „Stille Nacht“ dichtete und von seinem Organisten Franz Gruber vertonen ließ. Das Oberndorfer Rathaus gab dazu sein Einverständnis, wie Wally betonte, und der Bürgermeister kam gar zur Einweihung der Kopie nach Frankenmuth.

Danach ließ Bronner 300 weiße Tafeln mit dem „Stille-Nacht“ in dreihundert Übersetzungen beschriften, und diese stehen nun auf dem Fußweg zur Kapelle Spalier, während Lautsprecher pausenlos das berühmteste Weihnachtslied der Welt zu Gehör bringen. Am Heiligabend aber stand Wally Bronner mit einem Gitarristen vor dem Altar und stimmte zusammen mit vielen hundert Touristen „Stille Nacht“ an.

Heute führen Wallys Kinder Wayne, Carla und Maria das Geschäft und sorgen für den Erhalt des Familienbetriebes, doch am Heiligabend in der Kapelle wird der Gründer von Bronner's CHRISTmas World immer noch schmerzlich vermisst. ■

Catholic priest Joseph Mohr composed the Christmas song "Silent Night" in 1818 and had it set to music by his organist Franz Gruber. The Oberndorf town council gave its approval, important for Wally, and the mayor of Obendorf even came to Frankenmuth for the dedication of the imitation chapel.

After the chapel's construction Bronner had 300 white candles inscribed with "Silent Night" in three hundred translations. These candles stand like guards of honor on the path to the chapel while the most famous Christmas song in the world blares nonstop from loudspeakers. But on Christmas Eve Wally Bronner would stand with a guitarist in front of the altar and sing "Silent Night" together with hundreds of tourists.

Today Wally's children Wayne, Carla and Maria run the business and make sure the family-owned company survives. But on Christmas Eve the founder of Bronner's CHRISTmas World is sorely missed in the chapel. ■



The legendary Wally Bronner who died in 2008

About the author: Uwe Siemon-Netto, a veteran foreign correspondent from Germany and Lutheran lay theologian, is scholar-in-residence at Concordia Seminary, Irvine, California.

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THE ORIGINAL BREW OF BAVARIAN KINGS!

GERMAN WORLD presents you with
the most popular Christmas markets

By ANJA KNORR

Hot Spiced Wine & Carolers

Romantic Christmas season in Germany

Finally the cozy time of year has arrived, at least in Germany. Advent season is around the corner and with it the traditional Christmas markets. What could be more romantic than rummaging through festively lit wooden huts for Christmas presents, meeting with friends and warming yourself by sipping hot spiced wine to the sound of carolers singing in the dark night.

The distinctive flair of German Christmas markets is known throughout the world. No other country has more Christmas markets. Let yourself be inspired and make plans for the Advent season – we will help you plan.



THE BERLIN CHRISTMAS MARKET AM GENDARMENMARKT

Lively Berlin is always worth a trip, and in the Advent season you'll be presented with the agony of choosing among the city's numerous Christmas markets. The festively lit Christmas market Am Gendarmenmarkt in Mitte has a distinctive backdrop. Framed by the Französischer Dom (French Cathedral), the Deutscher Dom (German Cathedral) and the Konzerthaus, the popular Christmas market is sprawled amidst a historic ambience.

Approximately 1600 yards of Christmas light strings, more than 1000 Christmas tree balls, 100 sparkling Moravian stars, and 5000 twinkling lights on the giant spruce from Zillertal create a wonderful Christmas atmosphere. The program is varied: international art craftsfolk present their goods while choirs, dancing choruses and acrobats provide for entertainment. In the cozy and heated eating area you'll find traditional Christmas delicacies as well as outstanding meals from renowned chefs. A unique highlight is the specially staged, turbulent Christmas Magic Revue.

- November 22 through December 31, 2010
- Christmas Eve: 11am - 6pm,
- New Year's Eve: 11pm - 1am
- Monday to Sunday: 11am - 10pm

HEIDELBERG

The charming Christmas market in Heidelberg is a one-of-kind experience. The picturesque town on the Neckar river with its winding alleys and gentle hills is the ideal place for a relaxed stroll in the Advent season, especially evenings when the town is brightly lit by the illuminated Heidelberg castle and Old Bridge. Over 140 huts lure guests to six different squares in the Old Town, and an open-air ice skating rink turns Karlsplatz into an impressive icescape.



- November 24 through December 22, 2010
- Christmas on Ice on Karlsplatz:
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- Opening hours: 11am – 9pm

STUTTART

One of the oldest Christmas markets in Germany, the Stuttgart Christmas market was first documented in 1692. Over 280 festively decorated huts make this Christmas market one of the largest in Europe and transforms the area between Schloss-, Schiller- and Marktplatz into a fragrant and glittering oasis. Sparkling children's eyes guaranteed!



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Chicago's Christkindlmarket

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Inspired by the Christkindlmarkt in Nuremberg, Germany, one of the oldest dating back to 1545, the Christkindlmarket in Chicago has been bringing a cherished German and European tradition to Chicago for 15 years now.

Nestled amidst Chicago's downtown skyscrapers, Daley Plaza is aglow during the holiday season with twinkling lights and filled with red and white striped huts.

Since 1996, the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest has hosted the largest traditional Christmas market outside of Germany in Chicago, which was first held on Pioneer Court in 1996 and moved to Daley Plaza in 1997. Today the four-week event attracts more than 2 million visitors.

More than 65% of the vendors travel all the way from Germany to participate in this cultural event, making the Chicago version highly authentic. Visitors have plenty of opportunity to not only practice their

German but to learn more about German culture while browsing the vendor tables which offer an abundance of one-of-a-kind treasures or while indulging in German delicacies, such as bratwurst, potato pancakes, and schnitzel or stollen, strudel, pretzels, and roasted nuts. Visitors can quench their thirst with a refreshing imported German beer or warm up with a cup of gluehwein (hot spiced wine) served in a red anniversary souvenir boot-mug.

The name "Christkindlmarket" refers to the myth of the Christkindl who — in German-speaking countries — is celebrated as a fairy-like being dressed in a gold and white robe with a crown upon her golden locks, and who is traditionally the bearer of gifts for children. The market welcomes the German Christkind to the city of Chicago to recite her famous welcoming decree during the Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony, which officially opens the market to all visitors. ■

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A snowboarder in the Bernese Oberland. Eiger (3970 m), Moench (4107 m) & Jungfrau (4158 m) provide an impressive panorama.

Die Skisaison ist da

Ski Heil in der Schweiz

Find out where insiders go for best skiing in Switzerland

Von/By ANJA KNORR

Durch ihre zentrale Lage im Herzen der Alpen ist die Schweiz das Mekka des Skisports. Nirgends sonst in Europa liegen die Wintersportorte dem Himmel so nah wie bei den Eidgenossen und nirgends sonst sind die Pisten so scheinbar endlos. In dem Alpenland finden sich jedoch nicht nur Weltklassebedingungen für Skifahrer und Snowboarder, sondern auch gemütliche Bergdörfer, fantastische Panoramaaussichten und gastfreundliche Menschen. Laut Werbeslogan des Schweizer Tourismusverbandes tun die Schweizer „alles für Ihren perfekten Skiurlaub“ und daher verwundert es nicht, dass fünf Schweizer Hotels auf die Top 10 Liste der besten Hotels Nordeuropas gewählt wurden bei den Condé Nast Traveler's Readers Choice Awards 2010. Wir stellen Ihnen die Highlights dieses Skiparadieses vor.

• Zürich

Zürich ist nicht die Hauptstadt des attraktiven Alpenstaates, wie viele annehmen, doch die Stadt mit dem größten Flughafen in der Schweiz, der aufgrund seiner Übersichtlichkeit, guten Verkehrsanbindung an die Innenstadt und extrem kurzer Abwicklungszeiten international sehr geschätzt wird. Zürich ist also ideal als

Switzerland's idyllic location in the heart of the Alps makes it a mecca for winter sports. Nowhere else in Europe are the winter sport resorts so close to heaven than in Switzerland and nowhere else are the ski runs so seemingly endless. In this Alpine country you will find not only world-class conditions for skiing and snowboarding but also cozy mountain villages, fantastic panoramic views and hospitable people. According to the advertising slogan of the Swiss National Tourist Office, the Swiss "do everything for your perfect ski vacation." So it is not surprising that five Swiss hotels were selected for the Top 10 list of the best hotels in Northern Europe by Condé Nast Traveler's Readers Choice Awards 2010. Switzerland is simply an top-notch destination for every winter sport fan. Here we present the highlights.

• Zürich

Zürich is the international metropolis but not the capital of the attractive Alpine country, and it is the city with the largest Swiss airport, which is highly esteemed internationally because of its transparency, good connections to the city center, and its great efficiency. Zürich is also ideal as a starting point for your ski vacation. However, you should definitely take time for a short trip to the many upscale



Fire works, New Year's celebrations in Zurich. At the left, the Fraumuenster Church & St. Peter's, on the right the Grossmuenster Cathedral.



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Photos: © Flughafen Zürich AG / Hanspeter Egger

Ausgangspunkt Ihres Ski-Urlaubes. Sie sollten sich unbedingt Zeit für einen Abstecher in die vielen illustren Shopping-Meilen der Stadt nehmen; von Luxus über internationale Marken und traditionsreiche Geschäfte ist für jeden Geschmack etwas dabei. Von Zürich aus erreichen Sie mit der Swiss Rail abgelegene Bergdörfer genauso bequem wie die größeren Orte in der Schweiz und genießen dabei einen atemberaubenden Ausblick auf die ursprüngliche Landschaft des kleinen Alpenlandes.

> **UNSER TIPP: Silvester in Zürich.** Jedes Jahr begrüßen mehr als 200 000 Partywütige das neue Jahr mit einem Feuerwerk der Superlative. Zahlreiche Veranstaltungen, Budenzauber und Open Air Parties vor historischem Ambiente locken zu einem unvergesslichen Erlebnis.

• Skigebiete Berner Oberland – Eiger Jungfrau

Egal ob Sie im erstklassigen Wintersportparadies Interlaken vor der gigantischen Kulisse der Eiger-Nordwand die Pisten hinunter fahren oder lieber im exklusiven Gstaad auf Promijagd gehen wollen, im Berner Oberland bewegen Sie sich immer vor einer atemberaubenden Hochgebirgslandschaft – in unmittelbarer Umgebung zu den Eis gekrönten Gipfeln der Viertausender Eiger, Mönch und Jungfrau. Das High Society Dörfchen Gstaad ist in dieser Ski-Region sicherlich der bekannteste Ort und bietet mit seinen rund 250 km Pisten bis 3000 m ü. M. die perfekten Bedingungen für Wintersport-fan – natürlich immer mit einem Hauch von Glamour.

> **Unser Tipp:** Eine authentischere Erfahrung als im **Restaurant Aebi in Adelboden** werden Sie nicht finden. Im Aebis erwartet sie ein jahrhundertealtes Holzhaus, frische Zutaten aus der Region sowie eine herzliche Atmosphäre.

• Skigebiete Graubünden

Die Skigebiete in Graubünden hören sich an wie das

shopping areas of the city. Here you will find every international luxury brand name as well as traditional shops that offer something for every taste and budget. From Zurich you can travel by Swiss Rail to picturesque Swiss mountain villages such as Zermatt and Sas Fee or just as conveniently to larger towns in Switzerland such as Interlaken or Bern, where you can relax while admiring the breathtaking views of the diverse and pristine scenery of this small but fine Alpine nation.

> **OUR TIP: New Year's Eve in Zurich.** Every year more than 200,000 partygoers greet the new year with a sensational firework show. Innumerable events, jamborees and parties set in a historical ambience draw visitors to the city for an unforgettable experience.

• Berner Oberland Ski Region — Eiger Jungfrau

No matter whether you want to hit the slopes in the world-class winter sport paradise of Interlaken against the impressive backdrop of the Eiger North Face or prefer to hunt celebrities in exclusive Gstaad, in Berner Oberland your every move will be in view of a breath-taking high mountain backdrop — in direct proximity to the ice-crowned, 13,000-foot peaks of Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau. The high-society village of Gstaad is certainly the most famous resort town in this ski region, which, with its approximately 155 miles of ski slopes at 9850 feet above sea level, offers the perfect conditions for winter sport fans — naturally with a whiff of glamour.

> **OUR TIP:** You won't find a more authentic experience than in **Restaurant Aebi in Adelboden**. Awaiting you in Aebi is a centuries-old wooden house, fresh regionally-grown ingredients, and a warm-hearted atmosphere.

• Graubünden Ski Region

Naming the ski resorts in Graubünden is like reciting

Who's Who der berühmtesten Wintersportorte der Welt: St. Moritz, Davos, Klosters, Arosa. Diese traditionsreichen Orte und erstklassigen Wintersportparadiese bieten alles, was das Skifahrerherz höher schlagen lässt. Dabei gilt St. Moritz als Geburtsort des alpinen Wintertourismus im Jahr 1864 und ist legendär für sein trockenes, prickelndes „Champagnerklima“.

> **UNSER TIPP:** Im „**Bolgen Plaza**“ in Davos gibt es den besten Party Floor für das Après Ski. Tanzen mit einer verrückten Partymenge bis in die frühen Morgenstunden liefert unvergessliche Nächte. Das „**Berghaus Diavolezza**“ in Pontresina ist mit 2978 m der höchste Whirlpool Europas und bietet eine atemberaubende Aussicht auf das Bernina Bergmassiv.

• Skigebiete Wallis und Westschweiz

Im Wallis gibt es die höchsten Berge in der Schweiz, beeindruckende Gletscher und beschauliche Chaletdörfer wie das VIP-Dorf Saas-Fee und Crans Montana. Das weltweit bekannte Matterhorn erstreckt sich hier 4478 m über dem Meeresspiegel. Im beschaulichen Zermatt erwartet den Skifahrer eine Pistenvielfalt von über 300 km Länge mit jedem gewünschten Schwierigkeitsgrad. Hier kann man vom höchsten Punkt, dem Kleinen Matterhorn, bis ins Tal hinabfahren – das sind unglaubliche 2260 Meter Höhenunterschied.

> **UNSER TIPP:** Das „**Chalet de Prafandaz**“ in Leysin serviert das beste Fondue in der Schweiz. Wählen Sie aus mehr als zwanzig verschiedenen Fonduesorten auf der Menükarte aus. ■



Good News from Air Berlin: Ski equipment carried free of charge on all flights

Air Berlin, Germany's second largest airline, and its Austrian partner NIKI are offering skiers and snowboarders an even better service this winter. Six kilograms (13.2 lbs.) of cabin baggage and 20 kilograms (44 lbs.) of checked baggage generally make up the standard allowance. But now all passengers going on a winter sports vacation can take their skis and poles or snowboards with them free of charge. It is the first time that Air Berlin is offering this service to passengers on all Air Berlin flights worldwide and not only for flights to a German, Austrian or Swiss destination. The offer applies to flights throughout the winter schedule.

• **To book this additional service, call the airline's Service Center at 866.266.5588. Passengers must notify the airline that they will be taking ski equipment with them at least 48 hours prior to departure. that they will be taking ski equipment with them.**

the Who's Who of the world's most famous winter sport resorts: Moritz, Davos, Klosters, Arosa. These tradition-steeped resort towns and first-class winter sport paradises offer everything that makes a skier's heart pound. Among them St. Moritz is regarded as the birthplace of alpine winter tourism in 1864 and is legendary for its dry, invigorating climate that is often called a "champagne climate."

> **OUR TIP:** **Bolgen Plaza in Davos** has the best après ski party floor. *Dancing with a wild party crowd until the wee hours of the morning is guaranteed to leave you with memories of unforgettable nights. The Berghaus Diavolezza in Pontresina has Europe's highest whirlpool at 9770 feet and offers a breathless view of the Bernina mountain range.*

• Wallis and Western Switzerland Ski Region

Wallis is home to the highest mountains in Switzerland, as well as impressive glaciers and laid-back chalet villages such as the glacier village Saas-Fee and Crans Montana. Here is where the world-famous Matterhorn towers 14,691 feet above sea level. Awaiting skiers in quiet Zermatt is approximately 200 miles of ski slopes with a variety of levels of difficulty. You can ski from the highest point, the Klein Matterhorn, down to the valley — an unbelievable 7415 feet difference in altitude.

> **OUR TIP:** **Chalet de Prafandaz** in Leysin serves the best fondue in Switzerland. *Their menu offers you a choice of twenty different fondues.* ■

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53rd Annual 2010 Steuben Parade in New York City Going Strong Despite Economical Difficult Times

With thousands of marchers and over 25 colorful floats, the Steuben Parade demonstrated again that it is still the most important German-American event in the US. Despite difficult financial situations for many, 15 groups from Germany and Austria, and several German-American groups from as far as California, Florida, and Illinois traveled to New York to participate along with numerous local organizations. This year's Grand Marshall were the famous radio host and sex therapist Dr. Ruth Westheimer and Dr. Michael Moeller, CEO Staatliches Hofbraeuhaus Munich. For the first time, the German TV broadcaster "Deutsche Welle" participated in the parade as one of the major sponsors and presented a fabulous float designed as a TV studio. They also set up a booth at the Oktoberfest in Central Park which traditionally follows the parade on Saturday, September 25. Sylvia Viljoen, Head of Distribution for the Americas at Deutsche Welle, was very content with the whole experience. "This will definitely not be our last time," she said.

The Oktoberfest, which is the biggest in New York City, featured music and entertainment by many music and dance groups. A relatively new popular event was also the finals of the 2nd Annual US Championship in Masskrugstemmen (beer mug weight lifting), a nation-wide Bavarian-style strongman contest. The winner won a trip to Munich.



Steuben Parade Chairman Lars Halter, his wife Christine & Dr. Moeller. (f.l.t.r.)



Herb W. Stupp & the Queen Miss German-America



The Deutsche Welle Team came all the way from Bonn



Consul General Dr. Freitag, Sylvia Viljoen, Deutsche Welle, Fred Schumacher, Hofbraeu USA (f.l.t.r.)



Darlene & Bill Fuchs (l.) with "Dr. Ruth" (center) & Lars & Christine Halter



Happy to be this year's Grand Marshall: Dr. Ruth Westheimer with Fred Hanson, GAHF

All photos: GWips



Sopranos Jacquelynne Fontaine (l.) & Michelle Patzakis along with Peter Nathan Foltz (tenor) entertained the guests



Nedra Zachary & Maestro Frank Fetta

A Sold-Out Affair: Viennese Luncheon of the Zachary Society

Despite financially difficult times, Nedra Zachary, president of The Loren L. Zachary Society for the Performing Arts, had no problems in filling the elegant ballroom at the Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills on October 10 for the society's annual fundraising luncheon to benefit young opera singers. This year, the guest of honor was Maestro Frank Fetta, the long-term conductor of the Zachary Society Vocal Competition's final concert. Sopranos Jacquelynne Fontaine (l.) and Michelle Patzakis along with Peter Nathan Foltz (tenor), accompanied by Daniel Faltus, piano, entertained the guests (large photo). - gw/ps



Erika Ross (l.) congratulated freshly engaged Dr. Carol Spanier & her fiancé Lee Ladwig



Dr. Siemon-Netto (center) with Helga, Kyle and Serge Kasimoff (3.f.l.), Dr. Thompson (3.f.r.), Consul General Drautz (2nd f. r.) and Dr. Michael Reksutak (r.)



Dr. Siemon-Netto congratulating Gabriele and Mark Hayes on their film.

German Day in Irvine

On the occasion of 20 years of German Reunification, Dr. Uwe Siemon-Netto, journalist, professor at Concordia Lutheran University in Irvine, and Executive Director of "The Faithful Masks," put together a very ambitious one-day program of musical performances, lectures by eyewitnesses, a reading by Dr. Angela Thompson, and the screening of "One Germany, Twenty Years Later," a film directed by Gabriele and Mark Hayes. The event was sponsored by Kasimoff-Bluethner Piano, and Serge Kasimoff, an accomplished pianist, performed jazz on a Bluethner piano, one of the highlights of the event that attracted many students and professors from the university. It was a very informative day that gave new insights about recent German history to a young American audience - gw/ps



Austrian National Day Celebration in Los Angeles

On October 28, the Consul General of Austria, Dr. Karin Proidl (photo, l.), invited the VIPs of the Austrian-American community to a festive reception on the premises of her Brentwood residence to celebrate Austria's National Day, October 26. City and county officials attended the event, among them Billie C. Greer (center), director of Governor Schwarzenegger's office in Los Angeles who expressed her regrets of —

due to the governor's parting from office in January 2011 — not being able to attend the event in this function again. Austrian music performed by a chamber orchestra quartet and Austrian culinary delights made this evening again a very memorable event. - gw/ps

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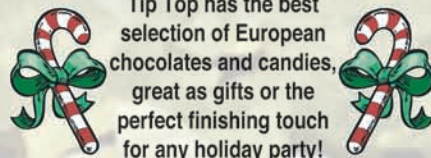
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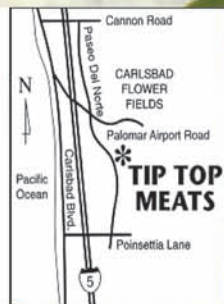
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Thirteen Year Anniversary of Austrian-American Day

Left photo: Front row: Consul General Dr. Proidl (center) with her colleague (l.) & Rudolf Thaler (r.), AAC West President Veronika Reinelt (l.) & AAC West VP Liliانا Popov-Alexander

By DR. KARIN MEMMERT

For the 13th anniversary of Austrian-American Day, whose yearly celebration on September 26 was proclaimed by President Clinton in 1997, the Austrian-American Council West (AAC) in Los Angeles came up with something special and invited guests to attend a benefits event with the theme of "Let's Dance" on September 25. Austrian Consul General Dr. Karin Proidl offered to host the event in the garden of her residence in Brentwood, where a large dance floor was built for the more than 120 guests, which included German Consul General Wolfgang Drautz with his wife Sabine and his Hungarian colleague Balazs Bokor. Thanks to the lively music performed by vocalist Renate Halstead and Frank Lenz on the accordion, the floor was filled with happy dancers all evening long.

The highlight of the evening was a performance by Astra Dance Company, who enthralled the audience with their dances and costumes. They garnered much applause for their performance of excerpts from the first and second act of "Astra," a waltz opera set in the Austrian Empire and featuring 19-century classical style and instrumentation. The Astra Dance Company, founded by Professor David Wilkinson of UCLA, promotes and preserves the art of the classical Viennese waltz. Their performance also incorporated modern Gothic influences and amazing visual effects

Following tradition, the proceeds of the evening will be donated to a charity as Austrian-American Council West Annual Award. Veronika Reinelt announced that this year's award will go to the Kidspac Museum Pasadena.

After an exquisite dinner with coffee and chocolate cake as dessert the guests returned to the floor and danced until shortly before midnight. Many guests affirmed: "We will definitely come back next year."

"German Currents" in Los Angeles: Small festival, but powerful movies

The Goethe Institut Los Angeles opened its fourth annual showcase, *German Currents*, on October 20 in cooperation with the American Cinematheque and German Films. The showcase opened with Feo Aladag's movie "Die Fremde" (When we leave), a moving story of a battered Turkish wife who fights for an independent and self-determined life against the resistance of her Turkish family in Berlin. Aladag managed to portray the psychological conflicts of a traditional Turkish family living in Germany in a very balanced and moving way.

Another highlight of the festival was the epic Pope Joan starring the amazing German actress Johanna Wokalek (Der Baader Meinhof Komplex) and directed by film director Soenke Wortmann about the woman Johanna who according to a legend — disguised herself as a man and became Pope struggling with faith, love, and women's role in society. - gw/ps



Oliver Mahrdt, German Films, Feo Aladag & the Turkish Consul General Hakkan Toktas

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