

Belleville Sister Cities

Das Mitteilungsblatt

November 2008



General Meeting

Thursday,
November 20th
Fischer's
Dinner at 5:30 p.m.
Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
RSVP Dinner
Reservations by
November 18th to
Steve & Hilda Koluch
222-2210

Up Coming Events

**Belleville Christmas
Parade**

•
**BSC Christmas
Party**

•
**Youth Exchange
Reunion**



President's Message

The summer has gone by fast with all the events that took place the past few months. Our summer exchange students left here July 11th, spending three weeks with their hosts in Paderborn, attending the Libori fest and traveling to Berlin and Koln. Upon returning some of the students attended our August general meeting telling us what a great time they had in Germany with their hosts and sightseeing.

A delegation of 22 BSC members traveled to Paderborn July 25 thru 29th for the 20th anniversary of the DAFK celebration. Mayor Mark Eckert, his wife, Rita, and three children accompanied us on the trip. We were given a warm welcome on Friday night by President Bernd Broer, Landrat Manfred Mueller and members of the DAFK and at Kloster Dalheim. Saturday, we attended the Libori fest with Burgermeister Heinz Paus, who tapped the keg at the festhall. A reception at the Rathaus in honor of DAFK's 20th anniversary was held on Monday. Dr. Allendorf gave a presentation with pictures of the past 20 years. Later that evening we dined at Das Gastliche Dorf for the farewell dinner. Tuesday, we bid our friends farewell. Our time in Paderborn was memorable...

(Continued on page 3)

News From Paderborn

Dear Friends in Belleville and Around:

Looking back at last summer we are proud to focus on several exchanges between our two cities and regions. Belleville students were in Paderborn in July (see Newsletter of August), a delegation from Belleville came to Paderborn to attend the 20th anniversary of DAFK on July 28th, six high school students stayed in Belleville for three months (August-November) and a group of policemen and their partners visited Belleville in September.

The 23 person delegation from Belleville, including Mayor Mark Eckert and BSC President Ron Fritz, arrived on July 25th and left Paderborn on the 29th. Besides the Libori Festival which the group attended, the biggest highlight of their stay was the celebration of the 20th anniversary of DAFK on July 28th at the City Hall. DAFK made Mayor Eckert, Paderborn's Mayor Paus and Rich Berkel Honorary Members. The visit was a wonderful time for the hosts and we hope for the guests as well. Mayor Eckert and his family stayed longer in Paderborn, in part to attend an official meeting of Paderborn's six sister cities on August 2nd and 3rd.

For pictures of these days go to DAFK's website:

<http://www.dafk-paderborn.de/archiv/2008/080728dafk20jahre.html>

(Continued on page 2)

Paderborn's Message Continued

Six police officers from Paderborn and three partners visited Belleville from September 19th thru 23rd. Landrat Manfred Mueller and Mayor Eckert had prepared this visit while the Mayor was in Paderborn. Arriving at St Louis Lambert Airport on Friday, the group headed by Manfred Greitemeyer was warmly welcomed by their hosts. During the next days Mayor Mark Eckert, Police Chief William Clay and his colleagues as well as President Ron Fritz of BSC and Sheriff Justus and Major McLaurin of the County's Sheriff's Dept. showed them around, informing them about the City and how Belleville Police and County Jail operate. Their visit also included tours to Scott Air Force Base, the St. Louis Arch, the Anheuser Busch Brewery and Eckert's Farm. During the official function at the City Hall the German policemen also wore their uniforms, see picture on DAFK website:

http://www.dafk-paderborn.de/archiv/2008/080918polizei_belleville.html

The policemen and their partners returned home (after a stay in New York City) enriched and with wonderful memories, they talked with enthusiasm about the hospitality they experienced in Belleville. They are now looking forward to welcoming their Belleville colleagues for a counter visit to Paderborn. On behalf of DAFK we also want express our warm thanks to everybody involved!

One of the exchange students from Belleville this summer, Kyle Pointer wrote in his blog of July 23rd, "I'm going to regret having to go home. There's a lot of stuff over here that I have really come to appreciate. ... But I do miss my friends, and I do miss colloquial English (who wouldn't?). I also miss drumline and band."

And when he was home he wrote: "Now all I need to do is find out how I can become an English teacher in Germany... which is essentially what I want to do with my life... either that or be an airplane pilot. I'm not quite sure yet, but I think I'm finally deciding what I want to do with the rest of my life, and I think I'd like to keep German involved. Thank You Frau"

(26.08.08). We think with "Frau" he means his English teacher. Isn't this a statement a teacher can be proud of? From August 15th thru November 8th six students from Paderborn had a wonderful 3-month stay in Belleville. Three attended Belleville West High School, Lea Mischendahl (staying with Family Davis), Daniel Schmidt (Nick Stauder), Christian Stemberg (Ms. Robin Dronen) and three were at Belleville East, Maren Ruerup (Amanda Reichling), Eva Wallaschek (Victoria Francis), Simon Potthast (Jonathan Crawford).

Eva Wallaschek, one of the six exchange students from Paderborn, wrote in her blog (October 18th, three weeks before the end of her stay), "Those were the best days of my life." We have the impression from what we have heard from the other five students that they would easily agree with that statement. Our thanks go to the principals of the schools, the teachers, the students and host families, to the board of BSC and to Doris Roach, chairwoman of the Youth Exchange Committee. Picture of students and hosts:

<http://www.dafkpaderborn.de/archiv/images/fotoalbum/2008/080823highschool2008welcome2.jpg>

This summer Linda Stephan stayed with two families for six weeks, Family Hutchinson (Columbia) and Family Welge (Highland), her comment, "Both families made me feel at home and welcome. They allowed me to experience America. I am so happy and pleased that I got the honour to meet them." Our thanks go to Mac Chamblin of the Itty Bitty Theatre Group in Belleville who helped to arrange this stay.

We think that such exchanges have a deep impact on forming the character of young people that are involved on both sides.

On October 26th we welcomed two Belleville area residents working for Boeing Corporation in St. Louis: Scott Martin and Mike Hayes. Boeing is one of the partners in the Direct Manufacturing Research Center (DMRC) at the University of Paderborn.

We congratulate Mayor Eckert on being honored with BSC's "Hermann Award" and John Roach receiving BSC's "Membership Award" during this year's TOG.

Sincerely,

Bernd Broer
President

Dr. Otmar Allendorf
Secretary

President's Message Continued

making new friends, greeting old friends and visiting with friends we had not seen in years. Twenty years of friendship, **this is what Sister Cities is all about!**

On Aug. 15th six students from Paderborn arrived for the 90 day exchange. A welcome reception was held at the Sundowner Swim Club with hosts and board members. Thanks to Marie Reichling, her daughter and Doris Roach for getting everyone together.

We had our very first policeman exchange Sept 19th thru Sept 23rd. Six officers and three of their wives came. Saturday, the officers, wives, hosts and 90 day students were guests at the Scott Air Force Base air-show. The performance by the Air Force Thunderbirds was outstanding. On Sunday, the group toured the St. Louis Arch and Anheuser Brewery. That evening Mayor Eckert and Rita welcomed everyone to their home for dinner. Monday began at City Hall with breakfast followed by tours of the county jail, city hall and jail, and the county courthouse. Lunch was at Eckert's Restaurant where Police Chief Clay was presented with a uniform of the Paderborn Police. A short tour of downtown Belleville followed. Monday evening Sully & Jackie Sullivan opened their bar and patio for the farewell dinner hosted by Bob & Ruth Fritz. By the conversation that evening, I think everyone had a great time over the weekend, making new friends and looking forward to seeing each other again. I would like to thank everyone that helped make this exchange a success--- Mayor Mark Eckert & Rita, Chief William Clay, the Belleville Police Dept., Bob & Ruth Fritz, Norma Bergkoetter, Doris Roach (who served as translator for the weekend); and especially the hosts—Dennis Bielke, Officer Steve & Stephanie Britt, Robert & Julia Cole, and Bill & Cindy Wetzig.

The following weekend everyone pitched in for the Oktoberfest. With weather that was perfect and a hard working crew, we pulled off another winning year. The final results will be in soon. Many thanks again to all the many volunteers who worked a shift or, in some cases, worked all day. Food chairman, Doris Roach and Beer Chairman, Larry Schaltenbrand—great job!

This year's Taste of Germany dinner was a great success. Many commented on the delicious food and wonderful entertainment from Rothenbach, Germany. Many thanks to Rich Berkel, chairman of the dinner, Herm Schoener, ad chairman and all those members who devoted their time and hard work to make this a success, also a special thanks to Robert "Chick" Fritz Inc. who donated a Warsteiner beer glass and coaster to each attendee. This year's Hermann Award was presented to Mayor Eckert and the city of Belleville for outstanding support of Belleville Sister Cities and BSC programs. The membership award went to John Roach for his dedication, hard work and support of BSC. Congratulations to both!

Our next project will be a float in the Christmas Parade on Friday Nov. 28th starting at 10:00AM. Anyone with ideas for a float or willing to help, contact me at 235-3795.

To all our members and their families, Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Ron Fritz,
President

Stammtisch Report

At the August General Meeting/Stammtisch at Fischer's Restaurant, Christy Klein-Lehr won a bottle of '00 Niersteiner Paterberg Riesling Kabinett.

The September Stammtisch was held at Big Mama's BBQ (at the Clinton Hill Golf Course location on Old Collinsville Road), one of our "Taste of Germany" advertisers. I heard quite a few favorable comments about the food. Nancy Macklin won a bottle of '06 Bernkasteler Kurfürstlay Riesling Spätlese.

Hilda Koluch
Stammtisch Co-Chairperson
618-222-2210

Congratulations to our Annual Award Winners!



Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert receives the Hermann Award from BSC President Ron Fritz



Long-time BSC member John Roach receives the Annual Membership Award from Ron Fritz

Photos by Doris Roach

HELP! Volunteers Needed: Historian, Membership Chair

If you'd like to help Belleville Sister Cities, Inc by gathering, cataloging and maintaining our proud history and heritage, or, if you'd like the challenge of keeping names, numbers, addresses and dues status in order, please contact our President, Ron Fritz, at (618) 235-3795 or rntfritz@sbcglobal.net.

Meeting, Stammtisch & Event Schedule

November 20, 2008 General Membership Meeting Dinner @ 5:30 p.m.
Fischer's Restaurant, 2100 W. Main St, Belleville **Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.**
<http://www.fischersrestaurant.com> Reservations by Tuesday, November 18, 2008

November 28, 2008 Belleville Christmas Parade Starts 10:00 a.m.
Contact President Ron Fritz at (618) 235-3795 or rntfritz@sbcglobal.net

December 18, 2008 BSC Christmas Party Starts at 6:00 p.m.
Römer Topf Restaurant, 1415 McKinley St, Mascoutah, IL
<http://www.roemertopfllc.com> Reservations by December 15, 2008

January 7th, 2009 Youth Exchange Reunion Starts at 7:00 p.m.
Nichols Community Center, 515 East "D" Street, Belleville, IL
Contact Norma Bergkoetter at (618) 768-4459 or nvb@egyptian.net

January 21, 2009 January Stammtisch Starts at 6:00 p.m.
Mariachi's, 400 S. Illinois, Belleville, IL
<http://www.mariachisrestaurant.com/> Reservations by January 18th, 2009

Youth Report

Not too much to report on the summer students. We need to start recruiting host families for the two weeks in July 2009. As far as I know, there will be 14 students from Paderborn coming over here around July 3rd. If you know of anyone that would like to host, please let me know.

With just a few days left until our 90-day students return to Paderborn on November 8, I am looking for host families for next year as well. This year we had 6 students going to school here from August 18 thru November 7. From what I hear, they have had a wonderful time over here. Thanks to our host families, they had the opportunity to get to know our culture, the school system and also visited several different places. Some went to Chicago and others to the Ozarks. These students truly enjoyed their stay over here. Again, I would like to thank all the host families for offering their homes and hospitality to these young students. I have been reading their "blogs" on line, and so far I have heard nothing but good reports. I am sure that they will be missed by their hosts. School has been no problem to any of them, and they participated in sports and cheerleading as well.

Let's hope that we can continue this program for years to come.

Doris Roach
Youth Chairperson

Vote on Proposed Changes to the BSC By-Laws

The By-Laws Committee will present proposed changes to the current by-laws at the November general meeting. These changes will affect how our organization will be run in the coming years. Members will be able to ask questions and or make suggestions regarding these changes but you must be present at the meeting to do so. After the presentation and discussion a vote will be taken for approval of the changes.

Rich Berkel -- Chairman
Committee Members: Nancy Macklin, Marie Reichling, Jim Sheridan

Festival of Faiths and Cultures at the Shrine

This year was the first time that Belleville Sister Cities, Inc. participated in the annual Festival of Faiths and Cultures at the "Shrine of our Lady of the Snows" held on September 6th. There were 70 different nationalities, faiths and organizations represented, and we were proud to be part of it. The weather was absolutely beautiful.

Belleville Sister Cities set up a stand inside the lobby with pictures of Germany, lots of memorabilia, and of course our German and American flags. There was a map of Germany indicating the surrounding countries. Many people stopped and pointed out places they had been.

Karl Mandl, a Past President of our organization and an excellent artist, exhibited a beautiful painting of the church in Ramsau, Bavaria. A few of us even had our German attire on.

I want to thank everyone that helped to make this possible: Ron Fritz, our current President, Karl and Ann Mandl, Herman Schoener, Rich and Sally Berkel, Hilda Koluch and John Roach.

We are looking forward to participating in next year's festival (it will be the Shrine's 11th annual festival) which will be held on Saturday, September 12th, 2009.

Thank you again for all your help

Doris Roach

First Annual Youth Exchange Reunion!

A reunion will be held at the Belleville Nichol's Community Center, on Wednesday, January 7th, at 7:00 p.m. for all young men and women who have taken part in either the Sister City Youth Exchange or 90-Day school exchange programs. We've timed the reunion for the holiday break when college students are still at home.

This is an opportunity for the past participants to reunite with friends made during the exchanges, speak about continuing contacts with Paderborn friends and share how the experience influenced their lives and careers. We have often heard, from both students and parents, of a desire to reconnect with former friends in the program.

We are excited to arrange this opportunity for a get-together and hope that there will be a crowd for the reunion. Soft drinks and snacks will be provided.

Members, please encourage those you know to attend, so the connections made through the exchange program can be fostered and enjoyed. We hope that during the reunion, former Youth Exchange participants will consider creating an Alumni organization.

For those former participants who can't attend this event, we'd love an e-mail describing your contacts and your experiences.

Norma Bergkoetter, Program Chairman
nvb@egyptian.net — (618) 768-4459.

Taste of Germany Report

The 17th annual "A Taste of Germany" was held on October, 26th. Attendance was off slightly from previous years (254), but that is still a respectable figure. The Jubilee Room at Fischer's was beautifully decorated by our decorating committee under the direction of Board Trustee, Paul Reis.

I heard many favorable comments about the food this year. Many people liked the chicken cutlet which was a first time item on the buffet. And of course the Rinder Rouladen, prepared by our cooking crew under the direction of Doris Roach, was also very good. I thought the Rouladen were the best in a long time.

The music during the cocktail hour and dinner was again provided by the Larry Haller Duo. They always provide a perfect setting with their tunes. The after dinner concert by the Musikkapelle Roethenbach from Roethenbach, Germany provided an hour of great band music. Clapping of hands to the rhythm of the music was quite prevalent all through the concert.

Each guest received a very nice souvenir of the evening in the form of a Warsteiner Brewery beer glass through the generosity of the Warsteiner Brewery near Paderborn, Germany and the Fritz Distributing Co. here in Belleville. There were numerous vinyl posters throughout the room promoting Warsteiner beer and the band from Roethenbach. Several of these posters went home with band members as souvenirs of their evening in Belleville.

All in all, I think it was a great evening, and I hope all those in attendance thought so, too. It is too early to present any monetary results as all of the bills have not been paid. Our treasurer, Jerry Reilmann, will have a financial report available at the next general meeting in November.

I want to again thank all of our members who were involved in any way to make this a successful evening, with a special thanks to Fritz Distributing Company for the souvenir glasses and the vinyl signs. And lastly, thanks to all of our members and non-members who were in attendance.

Now I think Sally and I will take a nice rest.

Rich Berkel --- Chairman TOG

Honorary Members of the DAFK!



Flanked by DAFK President Bernd Broer (l.) and DAFK Secretary Dr. Otmar Allendorf, BSC Past President Richard Berkel, Burgermeister Heinz Paus and Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert proudly display the certificates establishing them as Honorary Members of the DAFK.

Photo by IP Jens Reinhardt

BSC Ladies Day Out

The women of BSC and their friends are invited to take part in a fun day out on December 6th, to attend the annual Okawville Christmas Stroll and House Tour. We'll meet in Okawville at the Welcome Center on North Hanover, across from the IGA, at 10:30 am for complimentary punch and cookies. We'll tour the Heritage House Museums; the Schlosser Home and Harness Shop, the Schlosser Brick House from circa 1869 and the Dr. Poos home and medical office museum. We will have lunch at the Boiler Room in the 1800's Original Hotel and possibly tour the building and bathhouse. The afternoon house tour (\$8) features four houses beautifully decorated for Christmas. Two are new homes, one built in the 70's and one of ancient vintage. We'll finish the afternoon at the Festival of Trees. Residents decorate trees according to the chosen theme, and about fifty are on display at the village park building. A craft show is also held in the building where you can look or shop as long as you like before heading home. There are also some interesting craft and antique stores in Okawville.

You will need to provide your own transportation. Carpooling is suggested. Okawville is about 25 miles east of Belleville on Illinois Route 177.

Please contact Norma Bergkoetter for more information, at nvb@egyptian.net or (618) 768-4459.

Holiday Greetings from BSC Board & Members

Happy Thanksgiving to our friends in Paderborn as they celebrate at their annual Thanksgiving dinner. We hope your holiday season will be a special time with family and friends.

❄ ❄ ❄ **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!** ❄ ❄ ❄

Belleville Sister Cities, Inc.
P.O. Box 333
Belleville, IL 62222-0333

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 Please remit your membership dues for 2009 by February 1st, 2009. Thanks!!!

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Belleville Sister Cities website: www.belleville.net

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