



Mitteilungen

A publication of the
Sacramento Turn Verein
German-American Cultural Center - Library

Volume XXI, No. I

April, May, June 2022

My Scholarship Trip to Germany Nine Weeks at a Berlin Language School in 2021

The STV's German Language School has traditionally offered various scholarships, funded by the Irmgard Schlenker Memorial Scholarship Fund. The scholarships include annual awards of tuition for a class, and \$500.00 to a graduating high school student taking German. Additionally, every three years, an award of \$3,500 called The German Language Summer Study Scholarship, is given to a deserving student. The latter scholarship was awarded in 2020, but due to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, it wasn't fulfilled until the fall of 2021. The winner, Sooner Means, has written a report on her experience, which she gladly shares below with the readers of *Mitteilungen*. (Please note that the scholarship program is on hold until the GLS can find a willing chairperson. Contact the GLS if you are interested.)

Contributed by Sooner Means



I applied for the Irmgard Schlenker Memorial Summer Language Study Scholarship almost on a whim, and was so excited to learn I had been awarded the scholarship. My trip to Germany began almost a year and a half after I was awarded the scholarship, due to the Covid pandemic. I spent countless hours scouring websites on German language schools and daydreaming about a trip to Germany. Once I selected the school I was most interested in, with the assistance of the Sacramento Turn Verein German Language School Scholarship chairperson, details were worked out for my attendance at GLS in Berlin. During the wait time to be able to travel, I decided to add some of my own money to the trip and go for an extended stay. My stay at the school ended up being nine weeks, from September 6 through November 6, 2021. Also during the wait time, my wife suggested we could go over together and visit some of her family who

currently live there.

We left for Germany August 16, 2021, landed in Frankfurt and picked up our rental car outside of Heidelberg. I had hoped to travel around by train, but it turned out that with Covid, having our own transportation was so much more comfortable than wearing a mask on the trains.



We visited with family and traveled the back roads in the upper Bavaria region, staying in little picturesque towns for two weeks before driving to Berlin.

We had about five days in Berlin being tourists and visiting more with family before I was able to check in to the school.

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The Sacramento Turn Verein's German-American Cultural Center is dedicated to preserving the same proud German heritage that was instrumental in the founding of the Sacramento Turn Verein in 1854.

The Sacramento Turn Verein, a member of the German-American Heritage Foundation in Washington, DC, meets in the old "Turner Hall," at 3349 J Street in Sacramento where its German-American library is housed. Visitors are welcome.

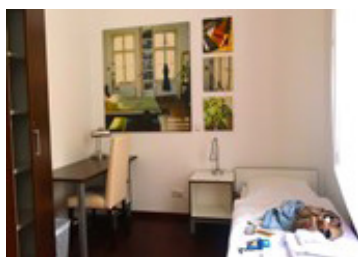
My Scholarship Trip to Germany, continued from page 1

On the first Monday, I had an interview to coincide with the written test I had already taken. I was placed in B1.2, but after 4 days requested to go down a level into level B1.1. During the nine weeks I was there, my class completed B1.1, B1.2 and the first week



of B2.1. Well beyond all my expectations. I met students from all over; Israel, England, France, Spain, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland, the

U.A.E., Brazil. Most students in my class were there to pass their B2 exam to either get a job in Germany or to be able to go to University there. And, most students were at least thirty years younger than me. I was very impressed with the teaching staff, the books used and the teaching methods. Everyone connected with the school that I encountered was positive, energetic and very helpful. My dorm room was comfortable and clean, and the kitchen small but adequate. There had been a cafeteria on campus with free breakfast and inexpensive lunches,



but it was closed due to the pandemic.

Contrary to advice of the STV Sacramento Scholarship Chairperson, I had also signed up for an afternoon class. This was to be in addition to the regular morning class of three and a half hours at 90 minutes additional each day. The chairperson was right, though. It was just too much and left me feeling overwhelmed and with not enough energy to get out in the afternoons and see Berlin. I talked to the Berlin educational advisor and inquired what my options might be, and they graciously set up a twice weekly 90 minute, one-on-one class for me. I had two different teachers for the afternoon sessions. One instructor spent most of our time working on grammar, and the second on helping and encouraging me to speak German without



This iron sculpture is just a couple doors down from GLS.

worrying about making mistakes. They apparently had talked to my morning instructors to determine what would be the most beneficial use of the time. All of that was terrific, challenging and fun, until a few weeks later when I got quite sick. I developed a terrible ear infection, had fevers and my asthma took a turn for the worse. I went again to my advisor who called and set up an appointment for me with a doctor who was within walking distance. I was able to see her the next day, and after one visit with her, and three with an ear doctor over a two-week period, I was on the mend. My visit with the general doctor cost an astoundingly low sum of 45 Euros. The ear doctor was a bit more. I couldn't imagine going to a GP here and paying such a low price. I had purchased insurance through a company the school deals with, and in retrospect, my only real complaint with the trip is with that company, as I have as yet not been reimbursed for my doctor visits or the medication.

I only missed a total of one and half days of class during that time. Maybe I shouldn't have kept going to class, but I couldn't bring myself to miss.

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Mitteilungen

Quarterly newsletter of the Sacramento Turn Verein's
German-American Cultural Center - Library
3349 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95816

German-American Cultural Center - Library OFFICERS:

President: Susan Pelz **Vice-President:** Olaavi Solander
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EDITORIAL STAFF

Ingeborg Carpenter, Susan Pelz, Markus Geissler

Volume XXI, No. 2

Werners Tagebuch (Werner's Diary) - Episode 4

The diary of young Werner Zywitzka's coming of age during World War II

A continuing story featured in the *Mitteilungen*

In Episode 3 of his diary, which was published in the previous edition of *Mitteilungen*, Werner Zywitzka provided an account of his challenging experiences during the first several weeks of his volunteer service in the German military during World War II. In this fourth episode Werner relives an exciting incident while on sentry duty.

Jetzt hören wir ganz deutlich, daß ein Mensch die Böschung hochkommt. Ich geb ihm ein Zeichen mit der Hand, das er verstanden hat. Das Geräusch kommt ständig näher. Ich schätze, daß Derjenige jetzt auf fünfzehn Meter ist und ruf ihn an. Sehen kann ich ihn noch nicht. "Halt, wer da!" ruf ich zum zweiten Mal, mein Kollege hat das Gewehr im Anschlag. Ich ruf den Fremden zum dritten Mal an, sag "Kennwort". aber es kommt keine Antwort. Ich sehe nur wie sich Sträucher bewegen, halt das Gewehr drauf und zieh durch, mein [Kollege] tat das Gleiche. Ein Aufschrei, ein Fallen und Rucheln im Gebüsch. Ich sag meinem Kollegen, er soll oben bleiben, ich geh ihm nach. Ich rutschte die Böschung runter so schnell ich konnte.

Zwanzig Meter unterhalb hat ihn ein Baumstumpf aufgehalten. Ich leuchtete mit der Taschenlampe und erkannte zu meinem Schreck den diensthabenden Scharführer. Oben wurde es lebendig, das Lager war voll auf den Beinen, sie dachten, wir wurden angegriffen. Der diensthabende Trupp-führer rief zu mir runter: "wer ist es?", ich rief zurück, daß er der diensthabende Scharführer aus der Kaserne sei. So schnell hab ich den noch nie laufen gesehen, so schnell war er bei mir unten. Er hat mich gefragt, wie und was war. Er sagte nur, "schnell, solange er noch besinnungslos ist, schaffen wir ihn nach oben". Wir packten ihn jeder mit einer Hand am Kragen und zogen ihn nach oben. Die Sanitäter waren zur Stelle, legten ihn auf die Bahre und machten sich auf den Weg zur Kaserne.

Now we very clearly hear a person coming up the hill, and I used my hand indicate as such to my colleague. I estimate that the person is now about 15 meters (15 yards) away, and I call to him, but I can't see him yet. For the second time I yell: "Stop! Who is there?" My colleague cocks his gun. I call to the stranger a third time and say "Password!" but there is no answer. I see the shrubs moving, aim my rifle toward toward them, and pull the trigger. My colleague does the same. We hear a scream, a fall, and a rustle in the bushes. I tell my colleague that he should stay on top of the hill and that I would pursue the stranger. I slid down the hill as fast as I could.

Twenty meters down the hill a tree stump had stopped him. I turned on my flashlight... and, to my amazement, I recognized the duty sergeant. Up above everything came to life; the entire camp was wide awake now because they thought that we were under attack. The troop leader on duty called down to me: "Who is it?" I called back that it was the duty sergeant from the barracks. I had never seen him (the troop leader) run so quickly—that's how fast he got down to me. He asked how and what (had happened). He then said: "Quickly, as long as he is unconscious, let's get him back to the top." We each grabbed him with one hand on his collar and dragged him up. The medics were ready for him, laid him on the gurney, and started for the barracks.

Fortsetzung folgt.

To be continued.



Die Hermannssöhne: The Sons of Hermann

Contributed by Susie Pelz

Most Americans are familiar with the names of older organizations such as the Masons, the Odd Fellows, and the Elks, but they would be scratching their heads when asked about the Sons of Hermann, or the Hermannssöhne. This organization has been “in residence” monthly at the Sacramento Turn Verein for decades and has very loyal members. Presently, President Waltraud Krieger has provided leadership for the past eleven years. Other extremely active members and leaders include Erwin and Veronica



OdHS - 122nd Grand Lodge Convention in Stockton on May 24, 2001

Zacharias, Norbert Duester, and Karl and Henrietta Mindermann, each serving for ten years in the Grand Lodge.

The founding fathers of the Hermannssöhne resided in the Lower East Side of New York City, Dr. Philip Merkel, George Heiner, John Blatz, A. Auer, R. Schwendel and Philipp Germann. On July 20, 1840, these men decided to form a mutual benefit society to nurture and protect German customs, and to provide emotional, social, and financial support to members—especially new immigrants. The founding principles of “Friendship, Love, and Humanity” (Freundschaft, Liebe, und Humanität) were to be diligently followed, and the topics of religion and politics were avoided. There were to be few rituals, no pomp and ostentation, and only elective offices. Initially, only the German language was used. They choose the colors of black, red, and gold to represent German unity: black represented darkness, ignorance and indifference; red was for the light and enlightenment spread by German culture and the German spirit; and gold represented true freedom, which is attained through knowledge and labor.

But why “Hermann,” one might ask? What is the

significance of the name? In the wee years of the first century, A.D. (C.E.) when the Romans dominated much of Europe, the Middle East and part of Africa, a young warrior from the Germanic tribe of the Cheruskans, had trained with the Roman army as a military commander. The Romans had latinized his name, Irmin (meaning “great”) to Arminius, which eventually became “Hermann” in the German language, meaning soldier or warrior. Arminius did not want the Romans to cross the Rhine River and take control of German lands. He plotted with his companions

and famously defeated three Roman legions under the Roman general Publius Quintilius Varus in the year 9 A.D., near Kalkriese in the Teutoburg Forest. It was a historical upset, resulting in the warrior Irmin-Arminius-Hermann becoming a legend in history.

The founders wished to unite German-speaking citizens under one band of brothers to defend themselves against physical and intellectual servitude, as opposed to each individual trying to attain this goal alone. They viewed ignorance and vice as the greatest hurdle to overcome; members of all religions were accepted (although the Catholic Church frowned on the society due to the rituals followed at death.) For the unfortunate and the unforsaken, the society was to be a refuge and a source for support, truth, liberty and freedom. The sick and invalid were to be visited and comforted, the grief-stricken and orphans were to be solaced and financially supported. Those were lofty ideals, but the members admirably followed them.

Look for our next Side-by-Side Story in July!
All kidding a-side, the editors ran out of space
because of the other ex-side-ing stories in this issue.

By 1848, a National Lodge was formed in Milwaukee, as the organization grew. By the end of the nineteenth century, there were Grand Lodges in sixteen different states and scattered members



OdHS - Grand Lodge Officers in March 1978

in fifteen other states with a total membership of 90,000. There were 381 male lodges and 48 sister lodges (Daughters of Hermann). However, the number of members declined with the outbreak of WWI. The most numerous and active lodges were in Texas, which eventually provided a non-profit life insurance, offering sick benefits of \$5.00 a week during illness and recovery—that seems minor, but it was a nice benefit at the end of the 19th and early 20th. (Our Sacramento Turn Verein also offered this amount to its sick members.) The life insurance still exists, Hermann Sons Life. Texas also developed extensive youth activity programs and camps, scholarships, and even a retirement home in Comfort Texas. In 2008, there were more than 140 lodges with 74,000 members in Texas. Research shows that only Texas, Ohio, and California still have lodges today.



OdHS - Sacramento Installation in 2022

In an interview, Henrietta Mindermann reminisced how she and her husband, Karl, would travel to forty different lodges in forty different cities to install officers when they presided over the Grand Lodge for ten years. This was a similar experience for the Zacharias's and Dusters. It was a time filled with developing lasting friendships and support throughout California. Many people became members as they were looking for people with a similar background and mentality, and they enjoyed celebrating German culture and language. Henrietta described the special social events where everyone dressed in formal clothing, danced, and shared good food and drink. There are now just nine lodges in California, including two more nearby in Petaluma and Lodi. The friendship, loyalty, and devotion among members is extraordinary.



OdHS Grand Lodge - 128th Convention on May 24-26, 2007

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Et kölsche Jrundjesetz

The Cologne Constitution

Contributed by Markus Geissler

As all of us have experienced various changes and restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic over the past two years, it has become apparent that some deal with extraordinary challenges better than others. Some are more likely to worry, while others will more readily find the levels of strength and comfort necessary to adapt to new situations. And while mental health researchers will undoubtedly spend the next several decades analyzing how people dealt with lockdowns, mask requirements, and other modifications to social and commercial settings, this native son of the beautiful city of Köln (Cologne) found himself investigating how the people who live in the Rheinland today were able to adapt better than most... and arrived at a unique piece of Rheinland culture, *Et kölsche Jrundjesetz* (The Cologne Constitution).

The unique cultural customs and traditions--or dare we say, treasures--maintained in Köln and its surrounding Rheinland region are widely recognized throughout Germany. And this rich *Kulturgut* likely played a role in why the denizens of the Rheinland



A Roman-built road in Köln

handled the pandemic-related challenges as well as anyone, or better.

People from *Kölle*, which is how the city's name is pronounced in its local *Kölsch Platt* dialect, share a certain outlook on life, which not only makes them very accepting of how others approach the

human experience, but which also allows them to approach difficult situations with a healthy sense of humor. If you have visited Köln, especially during the pre-Lenten celebration of Karneval, you surely understand. And if you are planning to visit the "Stadt mit K" (city with a 'K') in the future, you will likely experience its unique atmosphere as you

explore the *Altstadt* (old city) or one of the city's unique *Veedel* (neighborhoods).

Though neither its age nor its original authors are known, *Et kölsche Jrundjesetz* captures this happy-go-lucky attitude. And its *Artikel* (wisdoms) help those who know and appreciate it to remember, and balance as much as possible, what is truly important. And of course there are eleven *Artikel*, matching the number that is associated with many Karneval-related activities.

Take a few moments to study and enjoy *The Cologne Constitution*, with its articles listed in the *Kölsch Platt* dialect followed first by a more literal translation into English and then an English interpretation. You will find that this collection of



Cologne Cathedral

wisdoms is a hearty yet pragmatic recipe for how to approach life, both as an individual and as a community. And the next time you find yourself remembering how COVID-related restrictions limited sharing time with one another, you may just find comfort in contemplating *Artikel 1-11*. The people from *Kölle* certainly have, and do, and they will continue living (and laughing) by their *Jrundjesetz* for many generations to come.

Weisheiten

**Wer den Pfennig nicht ehrt,
ist des Talers nicht wert.**

*Ye who does not honor the cent
is not worthy of the Dollar.*

German proverb

Et kölsche Jrundjesetz

Kölsch (Cologne dialect)	English	Meaning
Artikel 1 - Et es wie et es.	It is like it is.	Face up to the facts.
Artikel 2 - Et kütt wie et kütt.	Whatever will be, will be.	Don't be afraid of the future.
Artikel 3 - Et hätt noch immer jot jejange.	Things have always worked out in the end.	Learn from the past.
Artikel 4 - Wat fott es, es fott.	Whatever is gone, is gone.	Don't hang on to what's gone for good.
Artikel 5 - Nix bliev wie et wor.	Nothing remains as it was.	Be open to and accept change.
Artikel 6 - Kenne mer nit, bruche mer nit, fott domet.	What we don't know, we don't need; be gone.	Be critical when improvements get out of hand.
Artikel 7 - Wat wellste maache?	Whatcha gonna do about it?	Yield to your fate.
Artikel 8 - Mach et jot ävver nit ze off.	Fare well but not too often.	Take care of your health.
Artikel 9 - Wat soll dä Quatsch?	What's the fuss about?	Always, first ask the meaning of life.
Artikel 10 - Drinkste ene met?	Join us for a drink!	Always be hospitable.
Artikel 11 - Do laachste dech kapott.	That is hilarious!	Always maintain your sense of humor.

Adapted from <http://www.jrundjesetz.koeln/>

**Traditional German
Family Festival
"Maifest"**

Maypole Dancing
Live Music
Arts & Crafts
Games
Spätzle
Sausage
Coffee and Cake
Ice Cream
And more!



SAVE THE DATE!

Maifest

A Traditional German
Family Festival

**Sunday, May 1st
2022**

11am-5pm

\$5 per adult/kids are free!

Sacramento Turn Verein
3349 J Street
Sacramento,
95816

Hosted by: STV-German Language School
www.stv-germanlanguageschool.org





Remember when...?

Do you remember when and where this was?

Do you recognize any of the people in the photo?

Tell us via e-mail at gacclibrarystv@gmail.com.

Did you remember?



Nancy Tilcock, Shirley Riemer, and Hank Stoffel in the STV Library.

STV German Language School (GLS)

Spring 2022 Youth Program - March 26th until May 21st, 2022

(No classes 4/16 - 4/20 for Easter break)

Class	Times	Dates	Place
Young Children (ages 0-7)	Saturday, 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM	Tina	In Person
Children's class (ages 8-12)	Saturday, 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Tina	In Person (Zoom possible)
Heritage Speakers (ages 7-9) <i>Online only</i>	Wednesdays, 4:30 PM - 5:15 PM	Andrea	Zoom
Heritage Speakers (ages 10-12) <i>Online only</i>	Wednesdays, 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM	Andrea	Zoom
Heritage Speakers (ages 7-9) <i>Zoom and In Person</i>	Wednesdays, 4:30 PM - 5:15 PM (Zoom) + Saturdays, 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (In Person)	Andrea	Zoom + In Person
Heritage Speakers (ages 10-12) <i>Zoom and In Person</i>	Wednesdays, 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM (Zoom) + Saturdays 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (In Person)	Andrea	Zoom + In Person

Heritage Speakers: This semester we are continuing with online instruction (via Zoom) on Wednesdays. On Saturdays an In Person class is offered at the Turnverein for all youth heritage speakers. This time is used for fun projects, hands-on activities, and games in alignment with the topic of the Wednesday class. Children can choose to only participate online on Wednesdays or to sign up for the combined online Wednesdays (via Zoom) and In Person Saturdays.

Children's classes are offered In Person ONLY for ages 0-7, and In Person preferred/Hybrid possible for ages 8-12.

Tuition for the Young Children's class (ages 0-7) is \$65 per child for this session. The Children's class (ages 8-12) is \$85 per child. The Heritage Speaker (ages 7-9) is \$140 (with In Person Saturdays), and the Heritage Speakers class (ages 10-12) is \$200 (with In Person Saturdays). The **Online Only** fee for the Heritage Speakers (7-9) class is \$70, and for the Heritage Speakers (10-12) class it is \$100.

Fees are due on enrollment and are non-refundable. The minimum number of students per class is four. Please contact the teacher before classes start to receive the Zoom link, if needed.

Please register on our website at www.stv-germanlanguageschool.org. **Thank you!**

STV German Language School (GLS)



A Section of the Sacramento Turn Verein
3349 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95816
www.stv-germanlanguageschool.org
director@stv-germanlanguageschool.org



“Devoted to the Promotion and Teaching of the German Language”

Spring 2022 Classes for Adults - March 21st until May 18th, 2022

(No classes 4/16 - 4/20 for Easter break)

Class	Time (PM)	Dates	Place	Teacher	Book
Beginner A	Mi 7:45-9:15	3/23 - 5/18	Schule	Jeanette	Netzwerk Neu A1.1
Beginner C + D	Di 6:00-7:30	3/22 - 5/17	Lodge Hall	Tina	Netzwerk Neu A1.1
Beginner F	Mi 6:00-7:30	3/23 - 5/18	Lodge Hall	Tina	Netzwerk Neu A1.2
Beginning CN	Di 7:45-9:15	3/22 - 5/17	Lodge Hall	Tina	N/A
Intermediate D	Mo 7:45-9:15	3/21 - 5/16	Lodge Hall	Chad	Netzwerk Neu A 2.2
Intermediate F	Mi 6:00 -7:30	3/23 - 5/18	Schule	Jeanette	Netzwerk Neu A 2.2
Intermediate CN	Di 7:45-9:15	3/22 - 5/17	Schule	Sonja	N/A
Advanced B	Mo 6:00-7:30	3/21 - 5/16	Lodge Hall	Chad	Netzwerk Neu, B1.1
Advanced D	Mi 7:45-9:15	3/23 - 5/18	Lodge Hall	Tina	Netzwerk Neu, B1.1
Advanced K	Di 6:00-7:30	3/22 - 5/17	Schule	Sonja	Sicher B2
Advanced Exp	Mo 6:00-7:30	3/21 - 5/16	Schule	Barbara	Sicher C1
Advanced CN	Mo 7:45-9:15	3/21 - 5/16	Schule	Barbara	N/A

The Sacramento Turn Verein (STV) opens to students 30 minutes prior to class. Students must leave the STV at the end of each class, no later than the teacher. The classes will be in person but Zoom access will be available, if necessary. For online participants the teacher will send a Zoom link so you can log on to the class from your home computer or phone. Please contact the corresponding teacher to receive Zoom link, if needed.

Adult fees are \$110 for 8 weeks, 1.5-hour night classes (12 hours of instruction). Please register for classes online. Adult textbooks are additional and can be purchased on our website at www.stv-germanlanguageschool.org/books or the school on the first day of instruction. Fees are due on enrollment and are non-refundable. If enrollment does not meet the minimum number of four students per class, we will attempt to consolidate classes on a single day, change the class time, or- as a last resort - we may be forced to cancel the class for the session.

Students can register online with a credit card or PayPal approximately one week before classes start. Our website address is www.stv-germanlanguageschool.org. If you are unsure about which class to take please contact the directors at director@stv-germanlanguageschool.org. We make every effort to enroll all who come, we cannot guarantee that your first choice of class, date and time is still available. This applies especially to the beginning classes.

THANK YOU!

What is Going on at the Turn Verein?

Below is a list of the main STV and all Sections. Although the STV building can now be used for some section activities, it is up to individual Sections to decide if they are going to hold meetings/activities in the building or online. Additionally, any meetings or activities must be coordinated with the STV office in advance for the time being. It is not advisable to assume that the Sections will be hosting meetings at the times listed below. Please contact your particular Section for exact information. You may also refer to the STV website at www.sacramentoturnverein.com for general information.

SACRAMENTO TURN VEREIN (Main Club)

Meetings in the Ruhstaller Room

Membership Meeting:

September-May: First and Third Wednesdays, 20:00;

June-August: First Wednesday only, 20:00

STV Board & Trustee Meetings:

Fourth Wednesday, 19:00

President: Freddie Diringer;

Trustees: Ingeborg Carpenter, Gery Frankenstein,
Walt Zacharias

Contact: www.sacramentoturnverein.com

STV Actives

Membership Meeting: Fourth Thursday, 20:00 (location to be announced)

President: pending

STV Alpentänzer Schuhplattler

Membership Meeting: dates vary

Dance Practices: Thursdays, 19:00 in the Banquet Hall (seasonally)

Band Practices: dates vary; check www.alpentanzer.com

President: Markus Geissler

Contact: president@alpentanzer.com

German-American Cultural Center - Library (GACC-L)

Membership Meeting: Second Thursday, 19:30

Special Events: Third Friday, 19:30 (none presently scheduled)

Open Hours: Starting January 19th, Saturdays, 9:00-12:00; (No Tuesday hours for now)

President: Susie Pelz

Contact: susipelz@yahoo.com

STV Handball-Racquetball

Court Games: Monday through Friday, 16:00

Membership Meeting: Second Thursday, 18:00 in the Holzkiste

President: Dan Hagan

Contact: Visit <https://stvhandball.weebly.com>

STV Harmonie

Rehearsal: Mondays, 19:30 in the Banquet Hall (*A members' potluck is scheduled for April 04, 2022.*)

Board Meeting: First Monday, 18:30

President: Lorna Martens

Contact: stharmonie@gmail.com

STV Soccer

Membership Meeting: Second Wednesday, 18:00 in the Trophy Room

President: David Telfer

Contact: presidentstvsoccer@gmail.com

STV German Language School

All adult sessions will be on Zoom for the present;

Youth program: Please check the schedule.

Our information under normal circumstances:

Membership Meeting: First Thursday, 19:30 (not meeting until announced)

Executive Board Meeting: Third Thursday, 19:30 (presently via Zoom)

President: Emily Via; GLS Co-Directors: Tina Bruno & Sonja El-Heliebi Wissink

Contact: Visit www.stv-germanlanguageschool.org;

Co-Directors: Tina Bruno: gl.s.stv.tina@gmail.com and

Sonja El-Heliebi Wissink: gl.s.stv.sonja@gmail.com



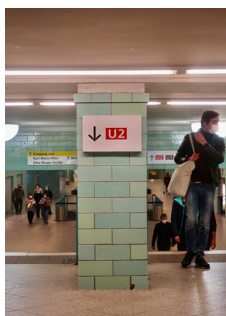
My Scholarship Trip to Germany, continued from page 2

Partly because I wasn't sure what that would do to my place in class, if I would have to go to a different class when I did go back, and partly because I was so miserable. I couldn't stand the thought of being alone for that much time. Being sick, alone and far from home was extremely difficult, and it adversely affected my experience. There was a period of more than a month when I didn't do anything other than my class. That was depressing and added to my Heimweh. I was truly surprised at how homesick I became. After I got well, I was able to get out and be a tourist in Berlin again.



I guess I did all the normal tourist stuff: Brandenburg Gate, Berliner Wall, Pergamon Museum. An appointment was required at almost all attractions and proof of vaccine. Masks were required on

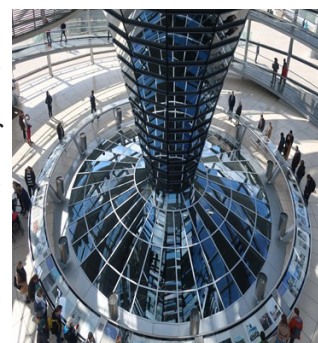
public transportation. Two of my favorite attractions were The Reichstag (I was able to go to the top and enjoy the terrific views and stroll back down inside the glass walled spiral.) and the Jewish Museum. Checkpoint Charlie was oddly insulting with fake U.S. soldiers in sloppy uniforms and a plethora of curio shops selling supposed pieces of the wall. Twice I set out to visit Charlottenburg Palace but got lost both times. Just walking around Berlin was an experience. Everywhere you look there are bits of history.



I loved taking the S-Bahn, U-Bahn, or regular Tram. Sometimes when I wanted to do something, but had nothing in particular in mind, I would get on the tram and travel to different neighborhoods, get off when something looked interesting, and just walk around.

The neighborhood where the school is located is called Prenzlauer Berg, a trendy and popular neighborhood which formerly was an East Berlin

neighborhood. After the wall fell, it was inhabited by artists and bohemians. Even though a lot of Prenzlauer Berg has been somewhat gentrified, the artsy feeling still exists. The streets are lined with cafes and restaurants with every kind of food imaginable. I sampled as much of it as was possible. My overall experience with the school and Berlin



was very good. I feel so lucky to have been able to go, and am grateful for the opportunity the scholarship gave me.

GLS is a good school and I would recommend it to anyone wishing to learn German. Berlin is a wonderful city full of life and history. I hope to return one day after Covid and see more of the sites, eat more great food, and speak more German.



These old ceramic water dispensers are everywhere in the neighborhood.



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