



St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities, Inc.

SUMMER NEWSLETTER – July/August 2006

Meine Reise nach Stuttgart, Germany

My trip to Stuttgart has to be one of the highlights of my twenty years of life on this planet. Thanks to St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities for making it possible for 10 of us to participate in the UNESCO Fan Camp in Stuttgart. Never in my life have I been thrust into such a multi-national and multi-cultural experience before, and I must say, it was one of the most memorable experiences of my life. I remember arriving in Stuttgart at roughly 8 AM local time after what felt like an entire day on an airplane, and being greeted warmly by several of the people that were in our group and one of the German tutors. From this point, the excitement began and didn't end until I got on the plane headed for Saint Louis.

Michael Edelmann, I and eight students connected to Women's Spirit did a great deal of exploring within the Schlossplatz and finding our bearings within the city during the first day. We also found our Youth Hostel and set up our rooming arrangements. The most interesting part was speaking with so many youth from all around the world. The first day, I was playing chess with a Tunisian. Considering this is only the second time I have left the United States, I honestly did not expect such a thing to happen. It's amazing to realize the fact that people in foreign countries are not so different, as matter of fact; they aren't very different at all! The same ideas of common courtesy are pretty widespread throughout the world. Over the week, we saw a great deal of soccer, and more importantly, Germany at its finest. The people parading and cheering in the streets, the cheers at the soccer matches, the chants of "Stuttgart ist viel schöner als Berlin!" (Stuttgart is much more beautiful than Berlin), and the city itself will always be held among my fondest memories.

Lastly, and most importantly, the greatest part of this entire trip was the friends I made along the way. It's a frightening situation to be dumped together with about twenty other people from around the world that you don't even know, but that was the beauty of it, it taught us to get to know each other quickly. We made bonds of friendship that will remain strong in our lives. These friends were

the most important part of this trip to me, the city was wonderful, the soccer was amazing, but sharing it with the friends I've made from around the world really made the trip perfect. From our literature workshop in the Literatur house in Stuttgart, to our museum visits, to the nightlife and games in the public viewing in the Schlossplatz, and seeing all these things with the most diverse and interesting group of people I have ever met; this has to be the greatest trip I have ever taken.

– Submitted by Shane Gummersheimer

International Business Internship Exchange

St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities has been a long-time supporter of the IBIE. Since 1980 the program has arranged exchanges and home-stays for students from Germany. In 1999 the program expanded with a grant from the MO Department of Economic Development. This year American students went to England, Germany, Ghana, Japan and Mexico. Interns came from Germany – 11, Ghana – 2, Japan – 2 and Mexico – 10. A recognition ceremony will be held at Webster University on Wednesday, August 2 where Mr. Gregory Steinhoff, Director, MO Dept. of Economic Development will speak. For information contact Wilma Prifti, Director, IBIE, at 314 968-6912.

Strassenfest

Summer in St. Louis means bratwurst, hot dogs, beer, lemonade, funnel cakes and dancing in the streets! Join us at Strassenfest August 4-6 at our beer booth at 13th and Market Streets, across from City Hall. There will be traditional German music on three stages, arts & crafts, carnival rides, games, a children's village and a VW auto show. As usual: a lot to eat and drink. Come by the **St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities** beer booth for your refreshment.

Members Only Event-August 29 5:30-7:30 p.m.

All members are invited to a Happy Hour for members only on Tuesday, August 29, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Growler's Pub, 3811 S. Lindbergh in Sunset Hills. Join us for a fun time, enjoy free appetizers and get to know all of our members! Cash bar. Free Parking. E-mail Chris Galli at christophergalli@hotmail.com (preferred) or call (314) 255-8706.

Oktoberfest Dinner Dance

September 22nd at the Stegton Regency Banquet Center located at 1450 Wall Street in St. Charles. Music by "Larry Hallar's 2 Star Final". The doors open at 6 PM, an Open Bar will continue throughout the evening, a German buffet will be served at 7 PM. The evening will include a silent auction, a chance to win a basket full of "spirits," and an adult lollipop pull. The troop, Efsan, will entertain at the dinner dance and they will also perform towards the end of the evening. These dancers are from, Jevpatorija, a city in Ukraine that is a Sister City of Ludwigsburg. For tickets (\$45), call: Mary at 636-959-0100 or Marcia at 636-946-7123. Ask to be seated at a St. Louis-Stuttgart table.

SLSSC Board of Directors

At the July meeting of the board, the following were approved as board members: Anna M Avett, Christopher G. Galli, Robert Roeder and Mary Lee Salzer. Longtime member, Mark Naski has resigned. Thank you Mark for your service.

Dates to Remember for German Organizations:

August 27: Deutscher Kulturverein Kirchweihfest at German Cultural Society Hall, 3256 South Jefferson 11 a.m. Information: 771-8368

September 23: Deutscher Kulturverein Oktoberfest, Donau Park. Info: 771-8368 or 842-0332

October 7: St. Louis German/American Day at the German Cultural Society Hall, 3256 South Jefferson. Food from 6:30 to 10:00 p.m., Dancing from 9:00 to Midnight. Info: 647-6291

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