



Partnerstadtfreunde

"Sister City Friends" is the member newsletter for Friends of Friedrichshafen, official partner of the city of Peoria's Sister City Commission

"Friedrichshafen (holds) a special place in (Peoria's) heart."

- Rex Linder, Chairman of the Peoria Sister City Commission



Youth exchange 2007: The fastest 3 weeks of summer

Lesson learned by our host families: hosting a student speeds the summer because it's so much fun!

"This was one of our best groups of kids," said FOF President Karen Robb. "Both sets of chaperones worked hard to match the kids well. So even though it was a sometimes hectic schedule, everyone had a really good time."

The most popular event was the Chicago daytrip. It began on top of one of the world's tallest buildings and kept on a high all day long.

Rated a close second was a day at the beach, courtesy of longtime friends of the program, Wayne and Joyce Oberlander. Every host year, they open their hearts and their Lake Bloomington home to our students who just love this

day of fun in the sun. We thank them for their generosity.

Voted next best: a limousine scavenger hunt. Stretch limos whisked our kids around Peoria, followed by a pizza party. Our thanks to the Skarvan family for their support of this event.

Two new events earned rave reviews. Paintball, not allowed in Germany, was loved by those who took part. Bowling was rated fifth best of ten events, proving kids just enjoy being together, no matter what they're doing.

Want further proof this program works? Look at the smiles in the exchange photos in this issue. Then you won't be shocked to learn that one German student has already returned to visit her host family since August!



Exchange students were all smiles at a baseball game (above) and the farewell party (top).

Sister cities build mutual respect and understanding one city at a time

By Rex Linder

As Peoria's first sister city, Friedrichshafen will always hold a special place in our community's heart. And as the Peoria Sister City Commission Chairman, I intend to take my role in developing the strong relationship between our cities very seriously.

I know exactly what my role is in this endeavor. I'm a facilitator. Through the Friends of Friedrichshafen, the other "Friends of ..." connected with Peoria's other sister cities, and several other groups, I can put people in touch to build stronger relationships and stronger communities. I look forward to that responsibility.

But I cannot do it without the members of the "Friends of ..." and the community at large to help me. After all, it is through your volunteer action that we can develop our local communities.

The FOF youth exchange is a perfect example of this volunteerism in action. When you think of how many lives have been enriched just by this one program over its 29 years, you realize how powerful the sister city program is.

My goals in this position are clear. They are as follow:

- Develop more partnerships between people and groups in our sister cities
- Provide opportunities for our citizens to explore the others' cultures
- Create an atmosphere in which our economic and community development can grow stronger
- Stimulate environments that will encourage further reciprocal business, cultural, educational, municipal, professional and technical exchanges and projects.

But I cannot achieve any of these goals alone. I need help.

If you are not already supporting at least one of the "Friends of ..." groups already, I urge you to do so now. Together, we can make a difference ... one city at a time.

Hot times in Illinois

Our guests were convinced that Peoria was one of the hottest spots on the planet! Temperatures during their visit regularly passed 90 degrees. But that did not keep them from having fun. All visiting students were members of the Peoria Chiefs' "Dream Team" the night of our visit to O'Brien Stadium, including Simon (on mound) and Martin (dark shirt) who threw out first pitches. Selina (lower left), took in the spectacular view from atop the Sears Tower before visiting Buckingham Fountain, Navy Pier and the Magnificent Mile. And all the students had a rollicking good time at the Oberlander's on Lake Bloomington. There's nothing like a refreshing dip to take the edge off the summer's brutal heat!





Several of our students took part in the exchange's first-ever service project. In very little time, we cleared Family House's lot of overgrowth and weeds. Even though it was not fun and games, our students understood that giving back to the city that makes the exchange possible was worthwhile and the right thing to do.

FOF Members get priority treatment

With membership comes privileges. So, before we announce the 2008 Youth Exchange to Friedrichshafen to the public, we are making it available to member families. Even better, this includes grandchildren who may not live with member grandparents!

Wouldn't your son, daughter or grandson/daughter benefit from the enriching experience that comes with our exchange? New cultures, new sights and sounds, and new friends await everyone who participates.

2008 Youth Exchange Details

Dates: July 10—31, 2008

Cost: \$1,795, which includes transportation from Peoria to Friedrichshafen (and back!) and administrative fees.

To Sign Up: Get an application from our website and return it with a \$250 deposit to the address on the form.

Program: Students are chaperoned each way and stay with a host family in Friedrichshafen. Activities typically include museums, festivals, a Munich daytrip and other points of interest.

Take advantage of this member benefit. Send the teen in your life to Friedrichshafen now. Last year's participants have already begun to apply!

Peoria Club celebrates 25th anniversary

The Peoria Club celebrated a quarter century in November, and a few of our members were on hand to take part.

The event began with a medley of American songs sung by Suzanne Ewald, VP of the PC. Local dancers then gave a rousing performance.

The club recognized its founding members as well as the current board. Memories of PC history filled the room, either through a slide show of prior events or memorabilia posted on the walls throughout the hall.

As a member of the Peoria Sister City Commission, Tom Stanesa thanked the PC for its efforts and read a letter of congratulations from FOF president Karen Robb. Fellow FOF member Marty Morris read a letter from Peoria Mayor Jim Ardis. Both men thanked the PC for its instrumental role in allowing the FOF youth exchange and the Bradley University student exchange to take place.

We could not be partnered with a better group. Our congratulations on the Peoria Club's first 25 years!

Peoria Club President Willi Huster and charter PC members pose for a newspaper photographer. The US was represented by Marty and Sandra Morris as well as Tom and Agneta Stanesa.



Friends of Friedrichshafen

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**Promoting friendship
and understanding
between Peoria and
Friedrichshafen**

Annual meeting to be held on January 17

All members are invited to the Friends of Friedrichshafen annual meeting, which will be held on Thursday, January 17, at 6:15 p.m. at the East Peoria's Avanti's restaurant.

We'll begin with dinner; attendees may order food from the regular menu at their own expense. The agenda will include an election of select officers, a brief review of the 2007 youth exchange information on the 2008 youth exchange, and other points of interest. The business meeting is expected to last about 30 minutes.

If you or someone you know is interested in the 2008 youth exchange, it's a great time to see what goes on and ask questions.

We hope to see you there!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

At this festive time of year, people count their blessings and give thanks. We members of FOF have even more to be thankful for than most.

Many of us have taken advantage of the opportunities our FOF membership affords to connect with those living in another country. Therefore, we can count among our friends those who, although they live half a world away, hold dear many of the same values as we. They also look forward to the next time we'll meet again.

In today's age of increasing tensions between governments, personal relationships mean more than ever. We at FOF are happy and proud to create opportunities that foster these relationships. We wish you and your family the Merriest of Christmases

and the Happiest of New Years. We thank you for your continued support of the Friends of Friedrichshafen in our efforts to meaningfully connect our sister cities.



Mayor Buchelmeier (far right) looks on as Father Christmas reads a story at last year's Christ-kindlesmarkt in Friedrichshafen.

In and Around Friedrichshafen: Unteruhldingen

Editor's note: In and Around Friedrichshafen will be an occasional feature, briefly exploring the sights to be found near our sister city.

In areas liable to flooding, pile constructions are still built today, a tradition which goes back to 4000 B.C. in the Lake Constance region. Fishermen and hunters lived in this sort of dwelling as early as the Neolithic Period and the Bronze Age. After

the first discoveries in 1853, there was an outbreak of what can be called pile dwelling euphoria. About 100 pile dwelling settlements have been discovered to date around Lake Constance. Three such settlements have been reconstructed in the open-air museum in Unteruhldingen, giving a vivid picture of our ancestor's way of life.

The photo at left was taken from the museum's website, which has many

more photos and descriptions (in German) of the activities taking place there (www.pfahlbauten.de/).

The copy for this article was taken from *Journey Around Lake Constance, Upper Swabian Baroque Route*, which is available in many gift shops in and around Friedrichshafen.

