



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

Partnerstadtfreunde



Blended families

Alex Nerz, center, lived with the Leet family (trio to left) while attending Peoria Notre Dame High School this past semester. His family (trio to right) came to the U.S. to bring him home. While here, they also visited friends in Cincinnati and saw the highlights of Chicago.

Member events planned

See stories on Page 2 for info on entertaining member-only events planned for this summer.

Get involved!



Alex Nerz relaxes on the bus trip to Munich in last summer's exchange trip in Germany. Repeated visits — and extended stays like Alex's — shows that our program is opening doors!

Friedrichshafen visitor attends U.S. school, wishes for more

German teen's stay in Peoria positive, but far too short

Alex Nerz of Ailingen, a neighboring town of Friedrichshafen, graduated from Peoria Notre Dame High School last month. Now he has only two more years of school before he graduates from "high school" in Germany.

That's just one of the many differences Nerz experienced during his five-month stay in the Peoria area, in the home of Jeff and Madeline Leet of Washington. The Leet's daughter, Jennifer, visited Friedrichshafen as part of the 2008 youth exchange. During his time here, Nerz also spoke to 2009 exchange families, helping them prepare for their summer guests.

"I really enjoyed American high school," said Nerz. "The whole social part of it — the friends you have in class are the friends you have in sports, and everyone coming together to support the teams — these are things we don't have in Germany. School friends you know mostly in school. Sports are done through clubs, so you have a different set of friends there. In American high school, you see everyone everywhere! I liked that."

But the distances involved in everyday life in America sometimes created problems. "I've never felt more dependent on other people in my life," said Nerz. "To really 'go anywhere,' you need a car, which I did not have or could not drive even if I had one." This was an aspect of his experience he hadn't realized until after he'd arrived, but he managed to make enough friends to help see him through.

Continued on Page 2

What we're up to in '09

The Friends of Friedrichshafen will be active in 2009. If you see us at one of these events, say "Hello!"

- West Peoria Parade, July 4
- Youth Exchange Welcome Party, August 2
- WorldFest, September 12
- Peoria Oktoberfest, September 18 – 20
- Member Dinner, Date & Location TBA

Wine tasting event for FOF members

If you're not yet a Friends of Friedrichshafen member, here's the motivation you've been waiting for!

All members of record are invited to taste fine German wines and sample delicious hors d'oeuvres in a relaxed, friendly environment this summer.

Fellow member Albert Zeller has graciously offered to host this event. His kind hospitality promises to make this tasty evening one to remember!

Sunday, July 12, 4 – 7 p.m.
548 E. High Point Road, Peoria
\$10 per person

It's not too late to become a member (or renew your membership) and join us! Print a membership form from our website and return it to the address shown. **If attending the wine tasting, include a note saying so,** along with your membership fee and \$10 for each member attending this very special event.

View real-time images from
Friedrichshafen and the area!

<http://www.bodenseewebcam.de/>

Friends of Friedrichshafen Contact Information

Mailing address:

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Promoting friendship
and understanding
between Peoria and
Friedrichshafen

Members invited to meet youth exchange guests & chaperones

This summer, Friends of Friedrichshafen members are invited to "meet & greet" our youth exchange guests and chaperones.

The 2009 youth exchange delegation will be in our area from July 30 through August 20. They'll be busy as bees, but FOF members will have the chance to sit down, eat and visit with them at the official Welcome Party, scheduled for 5 – 8 p.m. on August 2 at Shore Acres Park in Chilli-cothe.

"This is a fun event, and we'd like to share it with our members," said FOF President Karen Robb. "Those new to the program will still be getting to know one another, but those rekindling friendships from last summer will pick up where they left off."

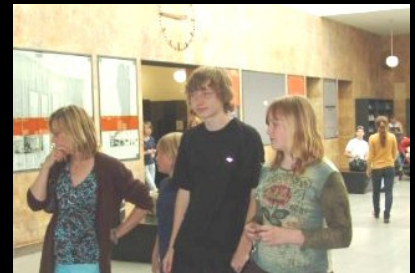
Members can attend for \$10 per person, which includes a full meal. **To make a reservation, send a note with the names of those attending and the meal fee to:**

Eric & Theresa Hoadley
243 S. Ohio Avenue
Morton, IL 61550

All reservations must be received by July 20.

Peorians in Friedrichshafen

FOF member Sally Roach took her family to Germany recently to see friends. While enroute to Konstanz, she and her children — Jackson, Olivia and Schaefer — spent a few hours in our sister city. Peoria Club President Willi Huster and his family took the Roach family under their wing, taking them on a city tour and visiting the Zeppelin Museum before enjoying the view from the shops along the Bodensee.



Visitor, continued from Pg. 1

One suggestion he'd make to other German teens considering this experience would be to come for the whole school year. While he's happy to be going home, Nerz's experiences have left him with wanting more.

"I'm looking forward to seeing my hometown friends, and I really miss German food! But if I had come sooner, I could have been involved in more things — maybe even being part of the Notre Dame championship soccer team — made more friends, and really made more of the experience.

"But I cannot thank my host family enough. I'm so glad I met Jen during last year's exchange and that her family let me stay with them. My stay in Peoria has been great!"