



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

# Partnerstadtfreunde



From left, Isidor Ruscheinski and Roger Martin serve Gary Busse fine German wines at last summer's member wine tasting. The delicious wines were complemented by a variety of food, so everyone went away satisfied!

More member-only events will be planned for 2010, so watch for details!

## Peorians in Friedrichshafen

See stories on Page 2 to get their impressions about their time there and the people they met in Germany.

## Member Event Flashback: Summer Wine Tasting

Last July, several FOF members gathered at the home of fellow member Albert Zeller to enjoy pleasant weather, good conversation, and a wonderful selection of appetizers and German wines.

Nearly 70 members and guests mingled, making new friends or catching up with longtime acquaintances. The Zeller gardens and patio were a perfect setting for the convivial atmosphere and scenic views of the Illinois River valley which spread out below.

"We hope to schedule similar events in the future," said Friends of Friedrichshafen President Karen Robb. She noted that most other events where FOF members gather – the Worldfest celebration at the Peoria Civic Center or the Peoria Oktoberfest on the riverfront – are busy, even hectic events. "Our goal is to create at least one time for our members to meet and talk in a relaxed, unhurried manner. Much of our group's efforts are social ... so let's be social!"

An FOF calendar of activities will be posted to the website and distributed to members as soon as it is available.



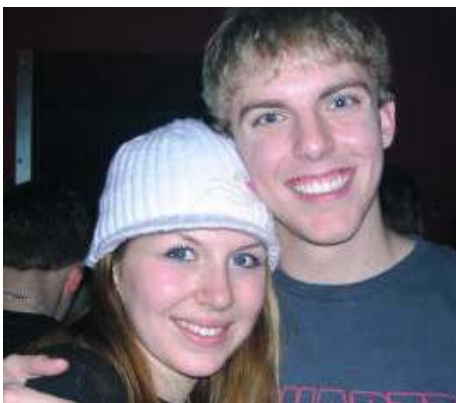
Member friends ... old and new ... gathered on the beautiful grounds of Albert Zeller's home to enjoy fine wine, taste delectable treats, and spend time together in an utterly relaxing atmosphere. Above left, Mike Quine and Bob Randolph touch bases. At right, Theresa Hoadley makes a point with Marty Morris and Jim McGill.

## Peorians visiting Friedrichshafen in 2009

For the last few years, Peoria Club President Willi Huster has been documenting the visits of Peorians on his group's website ([www.peoria-club.de](http://www.peoria-club.de)). Here are memories from a few of this year's visitors.

### Jacob van Hoorn, January

I had done a lot of international travel before I went to Friedrichshafen. After visiting those places, I said, "I enjoyed my time, but this is not someplace I would want to live." But after Friedrichshafen, my reaction was, "I loved it, and this is someplace I would want to live!" I had the privilege of participating in Fasnet, which had me peering in on a cultural event the likes of which do not exist here. Martha (Dudzinski) took me around, explaining the traditions while telling the people I was a visiting American. I was graciously made part of their community and, after leaving their sheltered confines, I feel a part of me is missing because part of me never left Friedrichshafen. The people of Friedrichshafen and my gracious host Martha are the reason I'm an International Business major.



### Sally Roach family, May

My family (Jackson 14, Olivia 12, and Schaefer 10) and I had a wonderful opportunity to travel to Germany this spring. We were put in touch with Willi, club President in Friedrichshafen. He was very gracious and treated us, including my friend Micha and her 2 chil-



dren, to an afternoon at the Zeppelin Museum. Willi brought his two daughters and his grandsons who were close in age to my children. We got through the language barrier just fine and enjoyed our time with them. We also stopped for a drink and Olivia's favorite: Pommess! (Fries!)

### George Jacob, July



In short, our trip was wonderful. The city is a true gem. The people of our sister city are warm, generous and exceptionally kind. We were taken on a tour of the hopfmuseum, where we walked fields of Tett nang hops. We also toured the local brewery of Tett nang. The eighth generation brewmaster took us into his cellar and poured a fresh draft right out of the lagering tanks ... heaven! Jeannine and I left with a deep and binding feeling for our sister city.

### Duane Zehr and friends, August

My wife Melinda and I, and our friends Ron and Stephanie Renken had a wonderful time visiting Friedrichshafen this summer. The hospitality we received from Heinz and Susanne Ewald and Willi, Erika and

Christine Huster was amazing, and we stayed in Friedrichshafen twice as long as we'd planned. We visited Konstanz with Heinz and Susanne, and went hiking with them in a beautiful spot on the border of Germany and Austria. Willi and Christine made our visit to the Zeppelin Museum fabulous as well. We had great food, drink and conversation with new friends there, and hope to go back again. Peorians won't find a more welcoming city to visit than Friedrichshafen.



### Rex Linder (and friends), September

Twenty-four Peorians had a wonderful 12-day trip through southern Germany, including three days in our sister city, Friedrichshafen. As usual, the Peoria Club and City of Friedrichshafen did an outstanding job filling our time in that city with interesting and fun activities. Willi Huster and Walter Bretzel arranged a wonderful schedule of activities, including a welcome reception at the Buchhorner Hof Hotel, a tour of the new Dorniermuseum, and a tour of Meersburg and the castle. Peoria Club members hosted couples from our group for a traditional dinner. We toured of the Zeppelinmuseum and Insel Minau. Friendships were renewed and many new friendships made!







## Youth exchange letter from Friedrichshafen

Dear friends in Peoria,

Four months have passed since we were with our 20-member youth group from Friedrichshafen for a visit in Peoria.

This was a wonderful and good time for all participants. It was important for the chance to make new friendships or to renew old ones. We were taken up warmly in your host families, and were looked after affectionately and supervised well. This is not a natural thing to do, and for it we say again, warmly, thanks.

Thank you also for the many activities which we experienced with you. No matter whether these were the visit in Wildlife Prairie Park, the journeys to Springfield and to Chicago, the welcome or farewell parties, the unique beach party at Lake Bloomington, or the visit with the mayor. Now Peoria and Illinois are not foreign to us anymore.

These three weeks passed like a breeze and we had to leave our sister city Peoria too quickly. We took something in our luggage and in our hearts as a present.

Now, we are very happy to begin planning the youth exchange for next year. We will work very hard to also find for your children good and hearty host families. And of course, we are also preparing to give an understanding of the area around Friedrichshafen, Lake of Constance and the prealpine area with a diverse program.

We are already excited about the pupils' exchange in July, 2010, and we hope for an active and big group.

Your German chaperones  
Iris and Joachim Seliger

---

## Apply now for 2010

Member families may now apply to send a teen on our 2010 Youth Exchange. They will be considered immediately after 2009 host families. Visit our website for an application, which includes deposit and mailing information.



## Friends of Friedrichshafen

### Contact Information

#### Mailing address:

Friends of Friedrichshafen  
8124 N. Blackbridge Road  
Edwards, IL 61528-9625

#### FOF phone:

(309) 691-5754

#### E-Mail:

[info@peoriasistercity.org](mailto:info@peoriasistercity.org)

#### Web Site:

[www.peoriasistercity.org](http://www.peoriasistercity.org)

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

## Goodbye, good friend

With great sadness, we learned of the passing of Wayne Oberlander in September. Our thoughts and prayers — and those of his many friends in Germany — were with his family.

It can easily be said that the Oberlanders have supported our youth exchange as no other family has. They hosted a beach party during each host year dating back to the early 1980s. Their unflagging commitment to our program, long after their children participated, was a testament of selfless service that led us all by example.

At the beach party meals, Wayne always offered heartfelt prayers of thanksgiving for the opportunities provided by the exchange. The impact of his words, and the open arms with which he greeted each group of students, will be felt for years to come.

Beer steins hundreds of years old adorn the museum at Bad Schussenried, well within reach of a daytrip from Peoria's German sister city.



## Only a stein's throw from Friedrichshafen

Less than an hour's drive north of Friedrichshafen on the B30 highway, past Ravensburg and the gently rolling hills of forests and fields — and about 10 minutes from the Birkenstock outlet closest to Friedrichshafen — stands the charming town of Bad Schussenried.

The town of 10,000 boasts a former monastery, founded in 1183, containing impressive architecture and artwork, including intricate ceiling frescoes. It is also home to an Olympic silver medal cyclist.

However, another of the town's unusual claims to fame is an outstanding beer stein museum. For Americans, who are often served beer in plastic cups, the variety and artistry on display transcend the mundane task normally assigned to glassware.

The museum is owned and operated by Jürgen Ott, who started collecting only about 1990, but he has assembled an impressive array. His collection features a wide variety, including early Norwegian wood, ivory, silver and silver gilt, early stoneware, enameled milkglass, regimentals and characters. However, the collection is not distinguished by size, variety or technical or artistic execution.

What sets it apart is the display technique: the steins are displayed the-

matically, in settings evocative of day-to-day German life of the period. In several cases, mannequins have been dressed in appropriate costume and arranged with old paintings, photographs, postcards, furniture and related "props".

Notable among these are the young student complete with sash, cap and foil; the monk seated for his simple meal; the fireman in full uniform carrying a fire hose; and the bicyclist with an early bicycle. The effect is to see the steins as integral parts of the rich tapestry of German life in the second half of the 19th century.

The displays are located on three floors of what had once been Mr. Ott's great-grandfather's home. Extensively renovated, but leaving many touches of the old homestead, it is well worth a visit next time you are in Germany.

Germany has many museums with fine steins on display, but this museum provides a unique learning experience and should not be missed. And right next door is the Schussenrieder Brewery. Heaven!

