



# Partnerstadtfreunde

## 35<sup>th</sup> Sister City Anniversary:

*A busy and FUN year ahead!*

In 2011, Peoria and Friedrichshafen will celebrate 35 wonderful years of sister city relations. The Friends of Friedrichshafen will have a lot to celebrate! Here are the events on our 2011 calendar:



### April — Member Dinner

Enjoy a delicious meal and time with friends April 29 at Two25, in the Mark Twain Hotel building. The chef created a German menu just for us, which will go well with their wide variety of excellent beverages. This will be a fundraising event, to begin a year-long effort to finance our exciting agenda of events. An exceptional guest speaker will give the evening special meaning. Return the enclosed invitation to secure your spot at this limited-space event.

### April — Friedrichshafen Mayor Brand visits Peoria

Officially, this visit is between the Zeppelin and Caterpillar companies. But it is Oberbürgermeister Brand's first visit to Peoria since being elected in 2009 to an eight-year term, so we're happy he is coming to Peoria!

### June — Beer Tasting

You will receive a special invitation to tantalize your tastebuds with the finest German beers available. This fundraising occasion will be open to the public and will include raffle items and other excitement. Exact location and date are still being determined.

### June — Peorians visit Friedrichshafen

Almost 60 Peorians will be visiting Friedrichshafen for the official celebration events. Some will stay in hotels ... others in private

homes. ALL will have a wonderful experience, as we are looking forward to the typically outstanding hospitality of our friends!

### July/August — Youth Exchange in Peoria

From July 27 through August 15, we will host 20 German teenagers who will be thrilled to "be Americans" for a short while. Keep your eyes peeled for huge smiles as our guests experience Midwest life with their new brothers and sisters. Host families are still needed (get an application on our website) and members will be invited to an event during the exchange to meet and greet all students and host families.

### September/October — WorldFest & Oktoberfest

We love taking part in Peoria's premier multi-cultural event and traditional German fest! It's a great chance to let folks know what we do, and to recruit new members/youth exchange participants.

### October — Friedrichshafen adults visit Peoria

A full slate of fun events is being planned for when it's our turn to host our German friends October 5 – 9. We will need help in many different ways during this time (see related story).

## Special guests to play in Friedrichshafen

*FOF partners with the Peoria Park District to make an impression*

In preparing for their anniversary events, the Peoria Club and the City of Friedrichshafen invited FOF to bring along a musical group that "represents Peoria and America." Other sister city groups visiting Friedrichshafen during this time will also bring musical groups.

The Friends of Friedrichshafen is partnering with the Peoria Park District's E.L.I.T.E. youth outreach program, organized by Carl Cannon. Together, we are offering a small group of talented youth the opportunity of a lifetime: to drum and sing their way into the hearts of the Friedrichshafen community!

They are called the Pulses of Hope. Their name comes from a belief that every strike of that drum represents a strike of hope against what some would say: "young people more likely to be part of the problem." The Pulses of Hope are part of the solution.

This group will perform at the official anniversary celebration banquet, twice during an International City Festival in Friedrichshafen, and perhaps at a local church service.

In this partnership, the Friends of Friedrichshafen has committed to raising enough funds to obtain passports and transportation

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## Special guests ... Pulses of Hope *continued*

for each of the 10 youth and one chaperone to be selected for this journey. No small task, to be sure.

Donations will go through the Peoria Park District Foundation, a 501(c) (3) organization — which qualifies all donations for tax deductions. FOF will collect donations for this purpose and submit them to the PPD, to help ensure they are earmarked for the Pulses of Hope.

The Pulses of hope will perform at various events to raise funds to help pay their way. Watch for future announcements.

Members can support this sister city effort in a number of ways: 1) attend fundraising events, 2) send a donation (you will be receiving a member-specific donation request), and 3) volunteer to help at our fundraising events (more details in a related story).

However you can help, you'll strengthen the "pulses" between our sister cities!



*The Pulses of Hope is E.L.I.T.E.'s drum line, and will represent Peoria at Friedrichshafen's anniversary events this summer. This diverse youth group takes the spirit of the drum and offers it to their audience.*

## Member volunteers needed during anniversary year

If you have scanned the other stories in this newsletter, you know that the Friends of Friedrichshafen have a lot to celebrate. But we also have a lot of work to do! And the board cannot do all of this on their own.

Here are the many ways we currently know we need help. If you can lend us an hour or two, please call Sue Ramey at 264-6374.

**Publicity** — You won't have to be a PR pro, just someone with the time and willingness to make a few phone calls. As you can see, we'll have a lot going on and will want the community to know about it. We'll provide you with press releases; you make sure they get to the right people, and follow up with a phone call.

**Photography** — Handy with a camera? Comfortable with being up front (but not the main attraction)? That's what's needed in someone willing to help document the events that will be going on this year. Better yet, recruit a friend and split up the duties!

**Envelope Lickers/Stuffers** — Here's a job anyone can do while watching TV. We'll have several mailings going out to different audiences this year. So if you can provide the moist tongue or sponge, we'll provide you with supplies to stuff, stamp and mail!

**Donate Items** — To travel to Friedrichshafen, the Pulses of Hope will need the following items: phone cards, backpacks (and/or the cost for embroidery with the FOF logo) and german-american dictionaries. If you can donate these items, please let us know!

**In-Home or In-Town Hosts** — When Friedrichshafen adults visit in October, we need volunteers willing to meet, transport and lightly entertain a guest/couple, but not host them in your home. If you're willing to show a specific guest around town and maybe even invite them over for a dinner, please let us know. If you're willing to take that one step further — actually host a house guest or two for the five days they'll be here, we need to hear from you as well.

**WorldFest & Oktoberfest Helpers** — Help us put a smiling face to the Friends of Friedrichshafen name at these public events. Your only duty would be to answer any questions about FOF (we'll give you an FAQ to work from) and hand out membership brochures. It's easy and fun!

Thank you to all who volunteer for the many jobs we'll have this year. Many hands make for light work, you know!

## Have you forgotten to renew your membership?

**That's OK. We understand.**

But if you want to be invited to the exciting anniversary year events going on this year — and several of them will be members-only events — then take the first step. Return the enclosed form to the address shown on the form, and get on the current membership roster.

Not sure if you've already renewed? Send an email to [duanezehr@gmail.com](mailto:duanezehr@gmail.com) and ask! Our VP, Membership, Duane Zehr, will be happy to help.

**Invite others ... share the fun!**

This will be a special year, in many ways. Please help us spread the word about FOF, our mission and our events to friends, family and neighbors. With more members, we can do more to be good Friends of Friedrichshafen!



### Friedrichshafen FYI

*This year is also the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Friedrichshafen as a town!*

Friedrichshafen was created from the former city of Buchhorn, whose coat of arms it adopted. The new city also incorporated the former village of Hofen, whose monastery was refurbished to serve as the summer residence of the Württemberger kings. The city was named after the man who joined two former communities, King Frederick I of Wurttemberg. Friedrichshafen literally translates into "Frederick's Harbor."