

# Tulsa - Celle - Partnership Newsletter



President  
VP Tulsa/Celle Relations  
VP Exchanges & Education  
VP Finance  
VP Membership  
VP Publicity  
Secretary  
Member at Large

Margaret Bannochie  
Barbara Conrad  
Open  
Gabriele Blankenship  
Ursula Monroe  
open  
Linda Reins  
Stanley Conrad

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Published by : Gerald Taron

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Please send an E-mail to [taronger2@gmail.com](mailto:taronger2@gmail.com) if you would like to have your name removed from our newsletter mailing list, or if you know someone who wants be added to the list. Thank you.

## *Membership Updates*

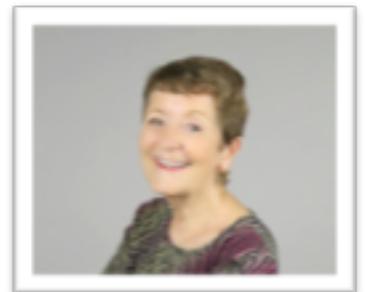
*We thank the following members for having renewed their memberships: Margaret Bannochie and Brian Bailey, Richard and Ellen Burgess, Joe and Ursula Monroe, and Jim and Marja Willis.*

## *Message from the President*

I am honored to have been elected President of the Celle Partnership and look forward to serving. We have had a meeting of the Board to make preliminary plans for the coming year and look forward to offering events that will be of interest to our members. One of our goals is to encourage new and renewed membership so talk to your friends and encourage them to attend our meetings and excursions. Please feel free to share any ideas and suggestions you may have. We will welcome your input.

I'd like to take this opportunity to offer heartfelt thanks to Gerald and Barbara Taron for their long years of service. They will be greatly missed.

Margaret



# Meet your new officers

President : Margaret Bannochie

Margaret was born in Aberdeen, Scotland and grew up there and in Salisbury, England. After studying German at the Goethe Institute in Berlin, she worked for Allianz Lebensversicherung. Eventually, Margaret moved to Japan, and worked for 10 years for Boehringer Mannheim Japan, a subsidiary of the German pharmaceutical company.

In 1982 Margaret and her sons, Peter and Richard moved to Tulsa. In 1984 she earned her real estate license, and has been a Realtor here since that time, currently working for Coldwell Banker Select.

Margaret Started the Japan-America Society of Tulsa in 1984, and in 1992 she was one of a group which accompanied Mayor Savage to Utsunomiya to establish a Japanese Sister City relationship.

Both of her sons have returned to Tulsa and live here with their families. Margaret has been married to Brian Bailey, a financial planner with Northwestern Mutual, for 20 years.



VP Membership : Ursula Monroe

Ursula has been a member of Tulsa Celle Partnership since its creation in 2000. After moving back to Tulsa from OKC she plans to take a more active part in the organization. Ursula works as an RN and volunteers for several civic organizations. She is married to Joe who is also a member of TCP. Hobbies are reading and playing piano.



Secretary : Linda Reins

Linda is married to Robert Reins. She retired from the University of Tulsa in January of 2015. She keeps busy - Linda belongs to several clubs: Book club, Investment club, and a Knitting club. She also volunteers at Catholic Charities, Hospice of Green Country, is a Docent at Philbrook Art Museum, and is a Republican Precinct Chair in Tulsa County.



# *Upcoming Events*

No official Partnership functions have been scheduled for the summer so that our members can fully enjoy their vacations and other summer activities,

The Executive Committee will be planning events for the upcoming year during the summer recess, and we are looking forward to resuming our activities in late summer or early fall.

## *Recent Membership Events*

The Partnership held its annual Election Meeting at the Hibachi Grill. Natalie Groeger thanked the members of the outgoing board, and introduced the board candidates for the year 2017/2018. As we were ready to vote Robert Reins made a motion, seconded by Gabriele Blankenship, that we hold a voice vote to approve the new slate of board members. The new office holders were unanimously elected as follows:

President	Margaret Bannochie
VP Exchanges	Open
VP Finance	Gabriele Blankenship
VP Membership	Ursula Monroe
VP Publicity & Historian.	open
VP Tulsa/Celle Relations	Barbara Conrad
Secretary	Linda Reins

After a leisurely dinner, Kay Kamish, a dressage instructor from Claremore, gave us a very interesting Power Point presentation about her Celle visit during the fall of 2015. She told us how much she enjoyed Celle where she not only met people with similar equestrian interests, but also had the opportunity to visit the Hunnesrück region where Hanoverian horses are being raised. While in Celle Kay was also given a tour of the Landgestüt, a horse breeding station and training school founded in 1735. She became friends with Joern Mirete and his wife Meike, as well as with Joern Sievers, and his wife Birte. Before returning to the states, she had the opportunity to attend the annual Hengstparade, and showed us several pictures of the horses being taken through their paces.

Kay invited Joern and Birte Sievers to come the US in June 2016. They drove route 66 from Chicago to Tulsa where they were hosted by Kay. While in Tulsa they were able to visit with their friend Joerg Adlung who has worked at the Landgestüt before coming to Tulsa, and is the one who facilitated this cultural exchange. Joern and Birte came, back to Tulsa once more in March 2017 to Give a brief workshop on Carriage Driving to the local Carriage Driving Club.

Before closing her presentation Kay thanked the Partnership, and particularly Barbara Taron, for facilitating her trip and allowing her to become acquainted with new aspects of the equestrian world.



After her presentation, Kay Kamish drew Margaret Bannochie's name as the winner of the small Celle mantle clock donated by Mieke Epps.



## *Newsletter Editor Search*

We have greatly enjoyed publishing the TCP newsletter over the last few years, and we thank all the reader who have told us how much they appreciate reading it. However, the time as come for us to pursue other endeavors and this edition will be our last newsletter.

Please contact either Gerald or Barbara Taron at 918-355-2370, or at [taronger2@gmail.com](mailto:taronger2@gmail.com) if you are interested in becoming the newsletter editor, and have any question about composing and publishing it..

# *Interesting information*

The following excerpts from the law page of DLA PIPER (an international law firm), explain the basic German vacation rules:

## **How much vacation pay and time are employees entitled to?**

Starting off with the basics, German employment legislation already entitles an employee to a minimum vacation time after only one full month of employment. Surprisingly, the full annual vacation entitlement is gained after six consecutive months of employment. The statutory minimum amount of time off an employer must grant its employees is 24 working days per year, whereby a working day refers to a working week of Monday to Saturday. This means effectively that the vacation entitlement is four weeks, and thus the courts translate the vacation for employees on a normal five day week to a **20 day** minimum vacation entitlement.

However, the amount of vacation an employee is entitled to is governed by the employer's own collective agreements, contracts and policy, with a minimum amount prescribed under the mandatory employment legislation. As a standard, many employers provide five weeks paid vacation, and some as much as six weeks.

## **When can an employee take a vacation?**

Where a lot of confusion occurs, is if an employer has the power to instruct their employees when they can take vacation. While legally the employee has to request vacation which the employer shall grant, the practice is much easier: Simply, employers have the final say as to when an employee can go on their vacation, as long as their decision is based on operational requirements and needs.

## **Can a business close down for a week in the summer and have the employees use that as part of their vacation time?**

Yes. A company can close down for a week or two and have the employees take that as part of their annual vacation. It is legal, simply because it is up to the employer when an employee takes their vacation.

## **If an employee is short on cash and would like to just take their pay as additional salary and not time off, is that possible?**

No. Employees cannot simply say they do not want to take vacation time and receive vacation pay instead. Vacation has the purpose to ensure employees recover from the demands of work and remain healthy and have a balance to their private live. This cannot be waived against additional salary

## Can untaken vacation rights be carried forward to future years?

No. Employees shall take their vacation during the calendar year which is the relevant vacation year under German law. By law, all vacation rights shall lapse at the end of the year. Only if an employee has requested vacation and was told not to take it for business reasons or was unable to take it due to personal reasons, e.g. sickness, he shall be allowed to carry statutory vacation over into the new year. There is a legal obligation to use this vacation carried forward by the end of March of the following year at the latest. Vacation carried over and not used by end of March of the following year shall lapse without compensation.

In practice, however, many employers do not pay attention to vacation carried over

# *Birthday Celebration*

Barbara Taron will celebrate her 80th Birthday on Wednesday, July 12th. People who appreciate her lifelong commitment to teaching foreign languages, and all her efforts on behalf of the Tulsa-Celle-Partnership can send her birthday greetings at [btaron2@gmail.com](mailto:btaron2@gmail.com), or via regular mail at 6562 South 218th East Ave, Broken Arrow , Oklahoma, 74014

Gerald

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For continuous **updates on our partnership** and links to the Celle newspaper etc., please visit our website at : [www.tulsa-celle-partnership.com](http://www.tulsa-celle-partnership.com)

**Celle Tourism** : click on <http://www.celle.de>

**Tulsa Global Alliance** web site at: [www.tulsaglobalalliance.org](http://www.tulsaglobalalliance.org)

**German American Society of Tulsa**: <http://www.gastulsa.org>

**Celle German American Club** : <http://www.celle-usa.de>

**German Information**: <http://www.germany.info>



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