

Tulsa - Celle - Partnership Newsletter

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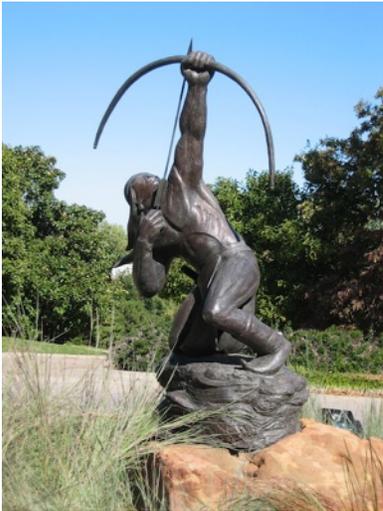
Deidra Rees
Ed Lenfestey
Katie Sloan
Arnold Bieber
Open
Patricia McLaurin
Gabriele Blankenship
Lindsay Klacko
Drew Rees

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Published by : Gerald Taron

E-mail taronger@windstream.net - Phone : 355-2370

Webpage: tulsa-celle-partnership.com



President's Message

October is in full swing! It is also our newsletter's eleventh anniversary. It is truly something to appreciate, because not all of Tulsa's Sister Cities have newsletters to enjoy. I would like to say a huge thank you to Barbra and Gerald Taron for their continued efforts in creating our Newsletter.

I also want to remind everyone it is ***Kid's World*** time! November is almost here and we need our members to participate and help make this year successful. Our Kid's World Chairs (Gabriele Blankenship and Katie Sloan) have been working really hard, but they need our help manning the booth. *This is a great time and event to get your kids or grandkids involved in volunteering.* I encourage each of you to support Celle during this event because we need your help! Please consider signing up for at least one shift during the three days or during set up or tear down.

Your President,

Deidra Rees



Boo HaHa Parade October 28th, in Brookside

 (submitted by Deidra)

Our partnership (along with the other sister cities) will be participating the Boo Ha-Ha parade, Sunday October 28. Please help us promote Celle and our Sister City Partnership by participating. Bring your grandkid's to help hand out candy. For more information please contact *Deidra Rees* at rees1024@yahoo.com.





DIE KINDER'S WELT (submitted by Deidra)

Kid's World is almost here!! It is Thursday through Saturday, November 15-17 at the Exchange Center, Expo Square. Shifts are in 3 hour increments. Sign up for one or more shifts and support your Celle Partnership. As a volunteer, you will be assisting a young child/student with simple activities to help promote our German Culture.

Contact Gabriele Blankenship at gabrieleb@aol.com or Katie Sloan at arcadiasloan@yahoo.com, Kid's World Co-Chairs with sign up and questions and availability.

The volunteer form can be found at www.tulsaglobalalliance.org under Kid's World. We will SEE YOU THERE!

Example of shifts:

Thursday 8:30-11:45 a; 11:30-2:30; 2:15-6:15

Friday & Saturday 8:30-11:45a; 11:30-2:30; 2:15-5:15; 5:00-8:00

Monthly Celle Runde Meeting 11/3/12 (Submitted by Barbara)

The next Celle Runde meeting will be held at Barbara Taron's home on Saturday 11/3/12, from 10 AM to Noon. The Celle Runde meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month, and they are attended by a small group of German speaking people who meet in a relaxed environment to discuss interesting topics related to German culture. Partnership members and guests who are fluent in German or want to improve their knowledge of the language are welcome to attend the meetings. Light refreshments are provided by Barbara.

Proposed discussion topics for this meeting are: is English creeping into "sophisticated German, GAST's Volkstrauertag Ceremony at Fort Reno on November 18th, and a Wall Street Journal report that in several cities traffic cameras are keeping track of our license plate numbers. As always your inputs will be also welcome.

Please contact Barbara at 918-355-2370 if you need driving directions to attend the 11/3 meeting.

Our October meeting took place on Saturday 10/6/12, and several interesting topics were discussed. The group had such lively interaction that time flew by. The meeting had gone half an hour overtime, before we realized that it was time to adjourn it.

Mark Clemons told us about his recent visit to Germany, and his yearly reunion of American GI's who served in Germany with some of their German counterparts. He also shared with us his observations of German efforts to integrate various faiths.

Our next topic was the "Kirchensteuer" (the German church tax). Last month, the German bishops issued a decree stating that all those who declare that they are no longer "registered" church members, in order to dodge the "church tax", will be denied sacraments such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Pros and cons led to comparisons of the very different ways of obtaining the funds for the various services provided by the churches, as well as volunteerism in general.

Logo Apparel for Celle Partnership (Submitted by Deidra)

Let's promote our Celle Partnership! Ed Lenfestey is working on an opportunity to have logo apparel available for purchase. He would like to have our member's thoughts of interest on this idea. Ed has been working to get a logo to represent Tulsa and Celle as Sister Cities. Here is an example design(s) that could be put on a collared shirt for example. A range of cost would be \$25-30 approximate to give an idea. *Please let Ed know of your interest or comments of preferred logo!* Contact him at elenfestey@cox.net so he can move forward with further details and give our Partnership more visibility.



Proposal A



Proposal B

The German Church Tax (reprinted from “thetrumpet.com”)

The German Catholic Bishops Conference issued a decree in September warning that those Germans who opted out of paying the country’s “church tax” would no longer be entitled to sacraments, religious burial or any part of parish life.

This “church tax” is a special tax collected in Germany and several other Western European nations that was introduced in the 19th century in compensation for the nationalization of religious property. All Germans who officially register as Catholics, Protestants or Jews on their tax documentation must pay a religious tax of 8 to 9 percent on their annual income tax bill.

“If your tax bill is for €10,000, then €800 will go on top of that, and your total tax combined will be €10,800,” Munich tax accountant Thomas Zitzelsberger told the BBC News website. The German government then passes this “church tax” on to the respective religious organizations. If any person does not want to pay the tax, he or she must officially register as being “non-religious.”

In 2011, the Catholic Church received €5 billion (US\$6.4 billion) from German taxpayers, making up the bulk of the church’s German income. Recently, there have been a large number of Germans who have been officially registering as “non-religious,” while still attending Catholic mass and/or other Catholic functions. This is what prompted the decree from the German Catholic Bishops Conference.

“This decree makes clear that one cannot partly leave the church,” the German Bishops Conference said last month, in a statement endorsed by the Vatican. So, from here on out, German Catholics either have to be full-fledged tax-paying members or they have to leave the church entirely, giving up all rights to the Catholic sacraments.

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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

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

Don’t forget to visit the **Tulsa Global Alliance** web site at: www.tulsaglobalalliance.org

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

