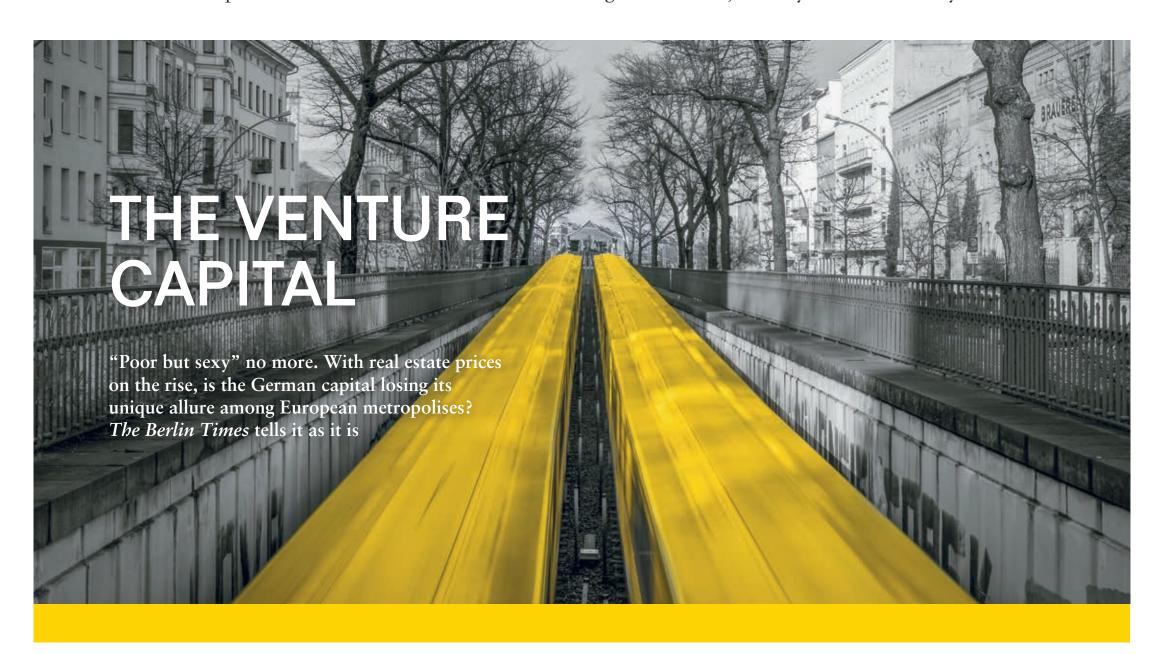
The Berlin Times

A special edition of *The German Times* marking October 3rd, the Day of German Unity



PARTY LIKE IT'S 1929

The hit TV show Berlin Babylon portrays the people and the excitement in the city in its final years of freedom during the Roaring Twenties. page 3

BASKETBALL NEVER STOPS

The Alba basketball team has developed a one-of-a-kind youth program – to find the next roundball star and teach all kids how to play the game. page 5

THE RAVAGES OF TIME

From Russian spies to haunted houses: The photographer Ciarán Fahey has captured both glorious and obscure Berlin relics of a time gone by. pages 6-7

CAPITAL CRIBS

The boom in luxury apartment buildings is but one reason for an increasingly tight real estate market. Who gets to live in the city tomorrow? page 8

A tale of many cities

Facets of meaning abound – in an ever-changing city. The novelist *Annett Gröschner* tells the tale of Berlin today

Berlin, Prenzlauer Allee, just behind the Ringbahn subway line. A drunk and staggering, somewhat shabby looking older woman with a second-hand cigarette butt in the corner of her mouth stretches her left fist into the air and shouts out to the folks waiting for the walk signal to flash green: "Enough of this nonsense! You all have enough blankies!"

I love these kinds of exclamations in public places. You surely hear them in most big cities, but in Berlin, where the locals – especially in the east and around the edges of the city – still foster a strong dialect, they are the most direct, at times mean and quite often comical.

The woman stands on the bridge over the Ringbahn, which demarcates the inner city from the outskirts of Berlin. Especially in the east and northeast of the city, the train line has become somewhat of a social barrier over the last ten years. Behind the Ringbahn bridge, SUVs turn into compact cars. As soon as pedestrians heading away from the inner city step off the bridge and onto solid ground, baby strollers suddenly become cheap or second-hand; coffee comes out of a big thermos and is actually called coffee – or Plörre, German slang for dishwater; an ice cream cone costs 40 cents less; and you can try your luck at the slots in any number of one-room casinos well into the wee hours of the night. There are old people who spend all day perched on a pillow in their window sill gazing down at the street, lighting one cigarette

after the other. But there's also the well-dressed woman who, on early Sunday mornings, moves from one trash bin to the next in search of returnable bottles.

This year will make 35 I've spent in Berlin – just about the whole time in Prenzlauer Berg. In this hot summer of 2018, as I was walking across Schönhauser Allee, I felt a few drops of rain turn to steam on the crosswalk baking in the sun, and for a brief moment I was able to recall the expectations of that young woman who had just fled the countryside. The hopes I had back then were inseparably linked to the big city's olfactory reservoir at that time: the scent of lime blossoms and water sprayed on dry streets, mixed with the crueler smells of season-old potatoes, pissoirs and dead mice, sooty chimneys and lentil soup with bacon, that is, if you happened to venture through a building's gate to its back courtyard.

The dilapidation of the city dovetailed with my vanquished illusions of childhood, which begged for something new to take their place. The city's unrenovated spaces and cemeteries ensured that past generations were never far from our thoughts. Another constant presence in our lives was the insuperable concrete wall, which I never imagined I would see disappear. Its virtually over-night disappearance six years later marked the advent of a truly exhilarating time.

The first few years after the Wall fell are rhapsodized, often by people who weren't there, as a time when property, houses

and apartments – especially in the east – seemed to belong to no one. Money was not an issue. A new culture was emerging from the rubble, like the vinegar trees that come to life in autumn, in colors so vivacious, a box of watercolors could never echo them. But the two halves of the city, in their own right and in competition with one another, had lived beyond their means, a gargantuan self-service shop of corruption and subsidy. Thus,

Ten years after the start of the financial crisis, it is clear who got the short end of the stick in Berlin – the renters, i.e. the overwhelming majority of Berliners. Low interest rates have made real estate investment a high-yield endeavor, the result of which has been a continual rental-price explosion with particularly grim results for Berlin; for, in contrast to other European capitals, 86 percent of the city's 1.6 million apartments are rental

THE IDEA OF BERLIN WAS ALWAYS LARGER THAN THE LIVED REALITY

at the start of the new millennium, the deeply indebted state of Berlin was forced to hawk its silverware, which included the sale of up to 60,000 apartments from non-profit housing associations at a give-away price to return-oriented, market-listed housing associations. There are barely any vinegar trees remaining today in the inner city; every once-vacant lot is developed, only rarely with social housing; open spaces for artists are shrinking; studios and rehearsal spaces have been repurposed or have simply become unaffordable.

flats, 72 percent of which are owned by private lessors. The rest are divided between housing cooperatives and municipal housing associations. The fragmentation of entire rental houses into individually purchasable condominiums, expensive and often pointless façade insulation and a modernization allocation of 11 percent still make for an unfettered business model and a license to print money – a situation that is quickly becoming an irrevocable reality.

"Berlin, where have you gone?" asked Fabian Hinrichs in his 2013

performance "Die Zeit schlägt dich tot" (Time beats you to death). In his book of the same name, actor and essayist Hans Zischler argues that "Berlin is too big for Berlin." It's one of the most truthful sentences I've ever read about Berlin. There are so many different ways one could interpret those words. One is that the idea of Berlin was always larger than the lived reality, and this contradiction produced decisions in Berlin that were disadvantageous to the rest of the world. Another is that Berlin transcends far beyond the conception any individual has of Berlin. The totality of opinions possessed by all 3.5 million Berliners on their city results in anything but a closed narrative.

Every Berliner who walks through the city sees something different. This fascinates me. A person who lives affluently in Zehlendorf moves through the city with a different orientation and knows a Berlin that is entirely different than that known to the young Turkish woman who grew up in Neukölln. The old women I spoke to for years about Berlin, and who are now almost all dead, were tough and unsentimental, sometimes mean and scared of nothing.

Those coming to the city to find success never let their image of Berlin crumble, and when it does, they just rebuild it. One of the old women had a saying back then: "Everyone gets their slice of Berlin." This is no less true today, only the slices have become more unfairly divided than they were 30 years ago.

Thus far, anyone who has come here with great plans and an arrogance stemming from prejudice has failed in Berlin. Even the worst blowhards who have been in town for just a day and start holding forth on the habits and customs of the city are swallowed up in a flash. One could say that Berlin has always drawn in people who would arrogate to clean up the city, and then rubbed their faces into the Brandenburg dust. The price has often been high, and sometimes required the help of others, as with the liberation of Berlin in 1945.

Unfortunately, there is at present a tendency to segregate, as it is commonplace in the big cities of the world. But Berlin has no such tradition, as one sees from the few villa districts in the southwest of the city. Living in close proximity to people with vastly different origins, income levels and education - a finde-siècle apartment block is a popular and revelatory example - was a wonderful peculiarity of Berlin. But now every prewar apartment building is in great jeopardy. The "locals" - long-established tenants are now commonly referred to by this English or "new German" term - are seen as inherited liabilities among stacks of gold bricks. They are increasingly being forced out of their familiar neighborhoods in the inner city and deposited in the outskirts of town. Berlin, now as before, is a conglomerate of 3 cities, 59 villages and 12 former estates. Those who have lived in Prenzlauer

continued on page 2

IT'S ABOUT EDUCATION, STUPID

Filmmaker and author Güner Balcı argues that Germany is neglecting its immigrant children. A polemic

by many Germans with is creating an even greater rift in to wake up in time to get their L regard to migrants are German society. All too often, kids to school on time. Accordsteadfast and long-standing. This public debate on integration is ing to the report, these kids are will not come as a surprise to characterized by a willingness to often made to attend school only anyone who has taken the time focus solely on the shortcomings to render their parents eligible to examine the state of migrant of "others." integration in German society Indeed, it would seem that for a social security payout for all that often comprises crude collo- 60 years of recruitment agreequialisms and expressions in their ments, the prospect of having a enough to warrant a thorough native tongues. In fact, no matter head of state with Arab or Turk- analysis of how and where things are cared for and receive their spectrum, people who are quick ceivable. to criticize migrants inevitably false sense of superiority.

he misgivings harbored as equals. Today, this inability are told that many parents fail

over the past decades. What is years no one has been prepared parents and guardians). A teacher alarming, however, is the number to take the social and political with a thick Eastern European of Germans who judge the failed responsibility needed to be able to accent - a man who thinks the integration of migrants and their seek out and find new solutions. plural of "crisis" is "crisises" - is children more harshly than they How else can we account for the seen lamenting the lack of interest do the failings of their fellow fact that over several decades, in education among his students. Germans. It's not only those on large numbers of youth socialized The film them shows close-ups of to be mixed in with the major-kids, the Muslim ghetto is their port programs, the school has the right who see every criminin a Muslim context in Germany children who, though they appear nal with Turkish, Iraqi or Tuni- have consistently lost out in terms self-conscious, are nevertheless sian roots as an opportunity to of education? How else can we proud to be the object of media demonize all migrants; they are explain why Germany's current attention. Although most of these the state actually carries out its ents' culture become the benchnot the only ones who sneer at government has not been able to students were born in Germany, supervisory duty with regard to mark for their lives in Germany. "Kanake" talk, a derogatory fill a single cabinet post with a not a single one of them can term used to describe the German person with a "migration back-deliver a grammatically correct spoken among migrant youths ground"? And even after nearly sentence in German. Scenes such as these should be

for Kindergeld (child benefits -

where they stand on the political ish roots remains wholly incon- went wrong. How is it possible that huge numbers of children A recent TV program examined circumvent the legal obligation have one thing in common: a the conditions at a school in the to attend school? How can this Berlin district of Neukölln where happen in a country that had Many of us in Germany have almost all students come from a €48.1 billion GDP surplus in in areas where large numbers of never known he could play piano. yet to learn how to share our lives immigrant families, including so- the first two quarters of 2018 immigrants reside. From a stawith people who are "other." called problem students, that is, alone. And what's wrong with tistical perspective, they are the we cannot single out teachers This seems to be a value and an those whose families depend on the students themselves? Can it "losers" of German society. After as being solely responsible for approach to life that we rarely welfare funds (Hartz IV). The be possible that all their proball, the cold hard reality is that the thousands of students who strive to achieve. Few people report begins by stating that 18 lems are related to their oft-cited access to education is directly leave school every year without in Germany seem to even have of the 24 students in the class "migration background"? In all related to a child's social and attaining their degree or with a 2016 the ability to view "strangers" arrive late for first period. We honesty, do we even want them economic background. For these certificate that condemns them to



ity of students? Should they lead "normal" lives, where they attend school regularly, that is, where ditional values of their grandparmothers and fathers who are overwhelmed by their circumstances? These children live marginalized lives in districts that many nonmigrants actively avoid; and they education in kindergartens and

Kids like these can be found throughout Germany, especially

only place of influence, a place where the often romanticized tra-By the end of the TV report,

to notice – almost accidentally – the longings and hardships etched into the heart and mind of one particular pimply-faced teenage boy. This boy with Turkish roots schools that are widely known to sits down and begins to play a piece on the piano – something he taught himself to do. His teacher admits that all these years, she's the goals of integration. It goes without saying that

attentive viewers will have begun

is a consequence of massive political neglect, as well. In fact, the school featured in the TV report was slated to be shut down due to declining student numbers – a fact that was left unmentioned by the producers of the program, which was broadcast on German public television. Instead, the school became a repository for students who were not accepted elsewhere. Now, with an increased budget and new friendly-sounding supwho are more or less biding time before a likely adulthood spent on Hartz IV or in prison. I guess it didn't occur to anyone to put the few remaining students into

dead-end jobs. This state of affairs

Instead of disrupting a classroom populated by the children of the ambitious middle class, these children are left to fend for themselves, causing more strain on weary teachers and creating fertile terrain for Islamists in search of new souls. These are clearly not

is a documentary film maker journalist and author. Her latest Gotteskrieger (The girl and the

BY URSULA SCHEER

To one evades the undertow of ecstasy, nor the vortex of doom. As the first double-episode of Babylon Berlin comes to a close and the denizens of a packed nightclub throb to the music, entranced and infatuated by the androgynous charm of the Russian performer on stage, elsewhere in the city Stalin's henchmen unload their Gatling guns on an underground band of Trotskyite dreamers. A lady of the night finds her John; confetti litters the air; bodies fall in a flurry of gunfire. The singer lowers her mask, banana-skirted dancers contort their bodies à la Josephine Baker and a love-struck youth looks

Everything spins, everything happens at once and everything relates to everything else: the glamorous and the gruesome, lust for life and fear of death, desire and pain, the lives of the little people and the global political order. The images in the final sequence are cut to the rhythm of the music, forming a wide shot in the mind's eye: Such is Babylon Berlin, the capital of the German Reich in the year 1929, six years after the hyperinflation of the early Weimar Republic, and four years before Hitler comes to power. We find ourselves at the peak of the Roaring Twenties, a year in which the Worker's Revolt meets its bloody suppression, Alfred Döblin pens his Berlin Alexanderplatz and Bertolt Brecht delivers the triumphant Threepenny Opera. Lead director Tom Tykwer

(Run Lola Run; Sense 8), who also co-created the series with Achim von Borries and Henk Handloegten, claims he is trying to hurl his audience into a time machine. The mammoth project shot at 300 locations for 185 To make it all happen, the fee- Nazi propaganda films and the financed public television station repressive kitsch of post-war ARD first had to join forces with cinema would later teach Ger-

Party like it's 1929: Charlotte Richter (Liv Lisa Fries) is out on the town in Berlin Babylon And why not? Is Germany not Väter (Our mothers, our war order was unshakable. This Gereon Rath. The commissioner the underworld and an Armeshooting days with over 5000 the country that - in the era in fathers) tried, at last, to culti- order is crumbling before our of the homicide division comes nian stir up trouble. The series

a budget of (gulp) €40 million. produced films like Metropolis? language that critics compared creaking; Europe is struggling is concealing a secret mission as gruesome corpses or gross

BFDIII TIINFS

Weighty, warmhearted, brutal – Berlin Babylon is the German TV series

of the year, depicting life in the German capital during the Roaring Twenties

to Band of Brothers. the subscription channel Sky. The mans a healthy skepticism of *Berlin* is now venturing such a most expensive German series of the seductive power of imagery. feat – it first ran on Sky in 2017, all time is seeking to step out of The medium became rather pro- and now currently on ARD the provinciality of German TV saic, often a bit superficial and finding large audiences and and onto the world stage without never experimental. Toeing the already drowning in awards. betraying its roots in European line was the order of the day. This is a symptom of something Berlin is a sensuously shudder- girl and a product of Berlin's to become fully submerged in culture. It wants to speak to both Epic television was dedicated darker, as were a series of recent ing glance into a distant mirror. grim working-class districts. By Babylon Berlin. a domestic and a global audience, to the Middle Ages, the present, exhibitions on the art of the fans who for almost 50 years have the division of Germany or the era. For Germans, the splendor back at us from the panorama, Alex, Berlin's infamous police religiously watched the successful catastrophe of the Third Reich. and misery of the first German each conflicted, morally suspect headquarters. By night she's crime series Tatort as well the In terms of the latter, Philipp democracy seem closer at hand yet likeable, and each portrayed a prostitute, who dreams of a devotees of The Sopranos and Kadelbach's 2013 World War II than they were just a few years by outstanding actors. Volker career as criminal investigator. drama Unsere Mütter, unsere ago, when trust in the post- Bruch is the Great War veteran And then a character - straight

for cohesion; the refugee crisis well as his love life and a morimprobabilities, yet it invokes, But looking back at the 1920s and the fear of radicalized Islam phine addiction. Only drugs can indeed flawlessly, the classics is something new. Babylon is dividing society; the estab- quell his would-be disqualifying of the era of silent film. Its lished parties are faltering and tremors that he and many other greatest success, however, stems right-wing populists are gaining soldiers brought home from the from its atmospheric depth. If momentum. Germany is inch-trenches. At his side, played you've seen even three episodes, ing closer to "Weimar condiby Liv Lisa Fries, is the young you need only hear the menactions." But a series like Babylon Charlotte Richter, a modern ing brass section in the intro

Two main characters stare day she's a stenotypist at the

out of Döblin - that figures in the fate of each our stars: the weighty, warmhearted vet brutal Bruno Wolter (Peter Kurth), who passes himself off as something like a fatherly friend.

A political sex scandal provides but a succulent introductory segue to the main events that will ensnarl the main characters: a bloody massacre and a conspiracy involving a freight train from Russia. Poison gas, bounteous amounts of gold and the ambitions of the "Black Reichswehr," a group of generals out to restore the Kaiser to his throne - these are just a few of the factors our stars face in season one. Season two features the specter of communists and brownshirts marching the streets, as a pincer movement of right- and left-wing enemies of democracy threatens to take down history's actual Foreign Minister Gustav Stresemann and the fictitious, Jewish Deputy Police Commissioner August Brenda. Babylon Berlin is no history

lesson. It is an adaptation of Volker Kutscher's novel Der nasse Fisch (The Wet Fish) with a slew of historical details thrown in a manner somewhat lacking in academic rigor, but the broad strokes of history more or less hit the mark. And Tom Tykwer exploits certain of his talents that have brought him success in the past: his use of kaleidoscopic imagery, his expertise at combining the fates of many individuals into one dynamic narrative whole and his inimitable sense of tempo and timing. It's no matter that the plot is sometimes overwrought - what a ride! We have love, sex, syphilis, crime, the state, and we're just getting started; a woman dies but lives on, a tattooed priest of

URSULA SCHEER editor for the Frankfurter

continued from page 1 A tale of many cities

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Tempelhofer Ufer 23-24, 10963 Berlin, Germany

www.times-media.de

Hohenschönhausen, especially terminated because her landlord

there are many in Berlin - who or tents? old neighbor came down the stairs district, it's only 34 percent.

heads and a lock on their door. hoot if your hat's on crooked, more visible. Many people with your skin is dark? To live in aban-

rely on the dole or are raising The number of born-Berliners In the past five years, Berlin children alone are afraid of losing who still live there is dwindling. has become a Noah's Ark, not of the Wall, when it served as their homes and having to live on At present the figure is 47 percent, only for refugees from Syria center stage for the Cold War. the street. I will never forget the while in Berlin Mitte, the city's and Afghanistan, but for artists moment when my almost 90-year- most central and most gentrified and intellectuals from Hungary, those who moved to the city over

ment himself. But where to go if come from Brandenburg, Ham-For decades, the poor in Berlin Berlin is the only place that gives burg, from Dresden and from had always had a roof over their vou life, where no one gives a the Ruhr Valley, and despite the cliché, not so much from They have now become much your belly is big and round or Swabia. In terms of non-Gerprecarious employment - and doned shacks, allotment gardens Poland, followed by Turkey, posed in facing these changes. Russia, Syria and Bulgaria.

in places like Reinickendorf or ing her that her lease was being young people without a penny tolerate the rise of new nation- them their habits and customs, to their name are moving to alism in their countries or have the tables lining the sidewalks when they haven't moved there wanted to move into the apart- Berlin to try their luck. They lost their work prospects for in front of cafés, the late-night more or less mixed, but often exist in parallel as well. Most of the older generation of

mans, most newcomers are from born Berliners is relatively com-Their city has always reinvented this nonsense!" itself anew, even during the time Imagine, if you will, that all

Poland, Turkey, Croatia and the past 30 years disappeared

political reasons. They are all convenience stores, the fruits, forming communities that are spices and meals, and the ways of walking, dressing, dancing, working and raising families. Even the most parochial born-Berliners wouldn't wait a minute before screaming: "Enough of

> ANNETT GRÖSCHNER professor at the University of the Arts Berlin.





The Berlin Times The Berlin Times October 2018 October 2018

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Einsteinium (252)

BY PAUL OSTWALD

andra Maischberger's TV talk show in the fall of 2015 was drawing to a close when she gave the last word to a guest from the audience. In nearly accent-free German, Hakim spoke about his studies in Syria, his trek across the Mediterranean and his new job as a geriatric nurse in a small town in Lower Saxony. Before applause broke out in the studio, a caption showed viewers at home who exactly this exemplary young Syrian was: "Hakim, refugee."

vouch that the word "refu- exchange or discourse. ferent shades of negativity.

ing moment, as this was one and unfinished articles in all disof the first opportunities for ciplines. a refugee to represent himself At 19 years of age, none of us in the "refugee debate." The had the capacity to assess the daily reportages, comments and academic relevance or integrity interviews on the new "task of of articles written by professors the century" (Angela Merkel and researchers. So we set up a on Jan. 14, 2016) had all been multi-level peer-review process, delivered by politicians - it as is common with scientific pubremains the exception that a lications: subject matter experts person who had himself fled receive and rate the essays withto Germany was given a voice. out being told the name and

to Europe than a bundle of biography. fessors, students and research- many people have; they may be tive. Our biggest hope, however, robots could replace missing self-published, we were able

Refugee journal

Sending a message to the political and academic world – why a young Berliner at Oxford founded a science publication for refugees

in a debate on the dangerous compassion, regrettably, often refugees are concerned with the enable and inspire our authors who had fled to Europe in the and expertise untouched and contributions on television and

word for "refugee," Flüchtling, cupied with the subject in the has the diminutive suffix *ling*, fall of 2015. To facilitate a new implying that a person must discourse in this situation, my somehow be pitiable as well roommate Mark Barclay and I as from a distant, unknown founded the Journal of Interculture. Reports frequently rupted Studies. It was to become painted the same image in dif- an academic journal that would give refugee scientists the oppor-It was also a rather liberat- tunity to publish their finished

There was widespread dis- history of the author. Texts were

cast a better light on refugees,

WE WERE ABLE TO CAST A BETTER LIGHT ON REFUGEES, ONE THAT WOULD **REACH FAR BEYOND**

AUDIENCES

OUR ACADEMIC

It was a revelatory moment ers. To treat them only with less fearful if they realize that was that our publication would teachers. The linguist Husam Aldeen al-Barazy from Damasdenigration of those refugees meant leaving their knowledge same issues as they are. Through to pursue their academic careers. cus described the importance of Countless submissions started intonation when learning new summer of 2015. Hakim can thus limiting any intellectual in print media, we were able to flowing in. Many of them languages. He had fled Syria, focused in some way on migra- and now lives in the tranquil gee" had become a new label My fellow students at Oxford one that would reach far beyond tion: an article by a lawyer from German town of Düppenweiler almost overnight. The German University and I were preoc- our academic audiences. At the Bangladesh argued that people in Saarland.

Gaining the authors trust involved a great deal of responsibility. We set about building a small editorial office and "refugee"? We chose to leave recruiting the first academ- that classification to the authors ics for peer reviews. The vast themselves, to those who were majority was surprisingly open expelled or had to flee. to our project, enlisted more of their colleagues and added third edition, and one new us to their mailing lists. But factor is the institutionalization we were missing one crucial of the journal. We are working component: €1,500 to cover to create legal and editorial printing expenses. We started structures that will ensure the by May 2016 we were able to less of whether we stay on as publish the first issue.

As expected, there were mixed feelings: while BBC, NPR and the German weekly Der Spiegel gave us a warm welcome, we received quite a few hateful remarks on social media: "The regard for the fact that most to be selected based on their same time, we wanted to send displaced by natural disasters only knowledge these people refugees brought much more quality, not on their author's a message to the academic and should be integrated into the bring with them is rape," was political world: the knowledge international legal system. A one. The totality of reactions, clothes. Some brought their We were hoping to change the and diversity of discourse are Syrian student visited schools however, showed us that the knowledge: in their native perception of refugees and coun- jeopardized when refugee aca- during the civil war in order to project had found an audience. countries they had been pro- teract the understandable fears demics are not given a perspec- ascertain whether, in the future, While the first issue was

to acquire funding from the German Academic Scholarship Foundation and work with the Dutch publishing house Brill to publish our second edition. Our new budget finally allowed us to pay the authors an hono-

rarium, albeit a very small one. In 2018, not only did German migration policy change, the origin of our authors did as well. Turkey had replaced Syria and Iraq, which presented the editors with new challenges. For example, the migration stories were often comparable to those of many Syrian academics; in addition to civil wars, environmental disasters and political persecution were now prominent factors; fleeing across the Mediterranean has in many cases been replaced by resettling in a more peaceful region of migrants' home countries.

Therefore, in addition to translators, we also had to establish some new guidelines: Who should decide whether an author is actually considered a

We are now working on the g our first donations and survival of the project regard publishers.

PAUL OSTWALD

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GETTIN' SCHOOLED

Alba's basketballers are taking the game to the classroom



BY HORST SCHNEIDER

L name. But even lesser fans will be hearing the 7-foot center's were very eager to work with Alba name in the future. He has – after and offered their school gymnasi- cannot even run backwards – is a successful college career with the ums for basketball clubs.

than just basketball programs and education. well beyond the confines of Berlin.

ate vicinity, where his popularity Alba. It was made possiblewith helped him consistently vanquish funding from the Berlin Senate his mightiest opponent: the school Department for Education, Youth or Basketball lovers, Moritz receptionist. As he got to know and Family in the capital. principals and teachers, they turned out to be interested contacts who children at school have lives that are

Michigan Wolverines – signed an However, these sessions, led by project, which youth coaches have NBA contract with the Los Ange- the Alba coaches after classes and les Lakers, thereby becoming the during holidays, were just the begin-care centers for the past two years. first Berliner to play for the best ning. Harnisch's realization that the basketball league in the world. introduction of the Ganztagsschule When he was picked 25th by the (all-day school) has fundamentally Lakers in the NBA draft in June, changed the relationship between ones get a taste for the satisfaction "Moe" mounted the podium at school, sports and after-school Brooklyn's Barclays Center in a activities, triggered his innovation. can even dunk. Forty years ago, the custom-tailored suit and casually If children sit in school until 4, young Henning Harnisch had to set opened his jacket, flashing the two they're left with little time or energy up a trampoline under his logos inside: the golden capital M to actively play on a basketball team of the University of Michigan and or participate in other after-school his first shots. the white albatross of Alba, where activities. The logical conclusion his basketball career was born 12 was to directly integrate basketball liga (primary school into the school curricula. The pro- league) founded The now 7-footer grew up in gram Alba macht Schule was born. by Alba, in which Berlin's Prenzlauer Berg district, ("Alba macht Schule" is a pun that around 90 Berlin just a few blocks away from Max-roughly means both "Alba does schools compete for

Schmeling-Halle, the former home school" and "Alba catches on.") court of Alba Berlin. The leap from "At school, on average, a single at the annual championship intramural basketball at school to teacher must encourage 28 chil- in the Max-Schmeling-Halle, regular training at Alba was rather dren to do sports. There are many and the associated Oberschulmanageable, as the head of the great teachers, but that's almost liga (high school league) with developed a new youth concept were quickly eliminated, as teach- in all youth of that today - highly lauded and ers realized that teaching in pairs and U19). frequently copied for its successful was more effective, and students combination of schools and sports were instantly excited by the new just about recruiting new basketclubs – is a role model for more life being breathed into physical ball stars. He also cares about the

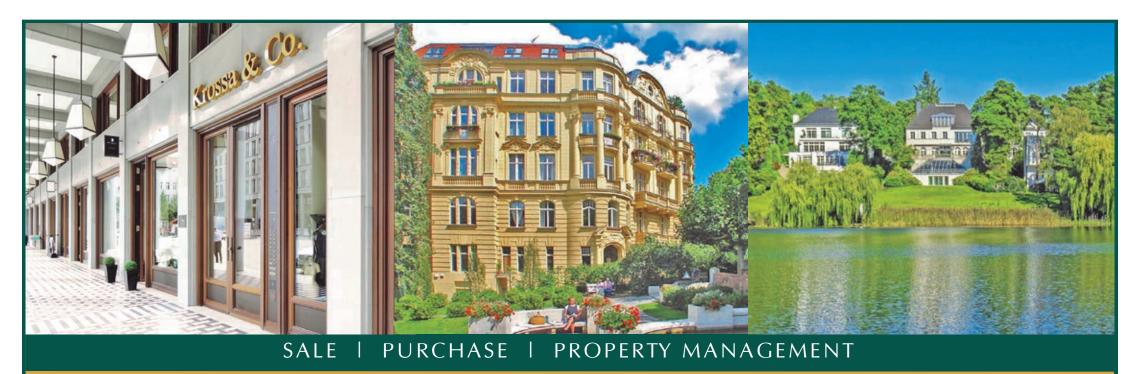
The fact that more and more too stationary – some, for example, the basis for the Alba Kitasport been implementing in Berlin day Alba's pioneering initiative to install height-adjustable basketball hoops at Berlin schools lets even the little when the ball finds its mark. They basketball hoop to take

Berlin division, just twelve years impossible, especially since elemenabout 80 schools, ensures that ago, decided to make a push for tary school teachers with no back- competitiveness is kept alive. youth players. Henning Harnisch, ground in sports often have to teach Those on school teams that do a former national player and bas- sports," explains Harnisch. So Alba very well automatically get the ketball idol of the 1990s, found macht Schule puts teachers in the urge to fight for Alba wins. Last his calling in Alba management at classroom, with a qualified basket-season, Alba was the first club the end of his playing career and ball coach by their side. Initial fears ever to be the German champions

For Henning Harnisch, it's not 999 out of 1000 students that don't By now, more than 50 Alba youth make it to the NBA, or even to the Harnisch came to the realization coaches at 19 Berlin "schools with Bundesliga. If the majority of these that it will not do to wait for talent sports profiles" support teachers 999 students become "sports citito walk through the door and sign in physical education. Since 2012- zens" and continue to play sports up to train: "We have to go to 13, five other major Berlin clubs after graduation or even watch the schools!" Harnisch, who in - Hertha BSC and 1st FC Union Alba games from the bleachers, his playing days sunk shots like no (soccer), the Foxes (handball), the the former basketball pro knows other and made dunking a German Polar Bears (ice hockey) and the BR that his going door to door in Bundesliga staple, eventually visited Volleys (volleyball) – also attend Prenzlauer Berg 12 years ago was all the schools in Alba's immedithese schools and collaborate with most definitely not in vain.



Big stage: Alba youth during an exhibition game in the Mercedes-Benz Arena

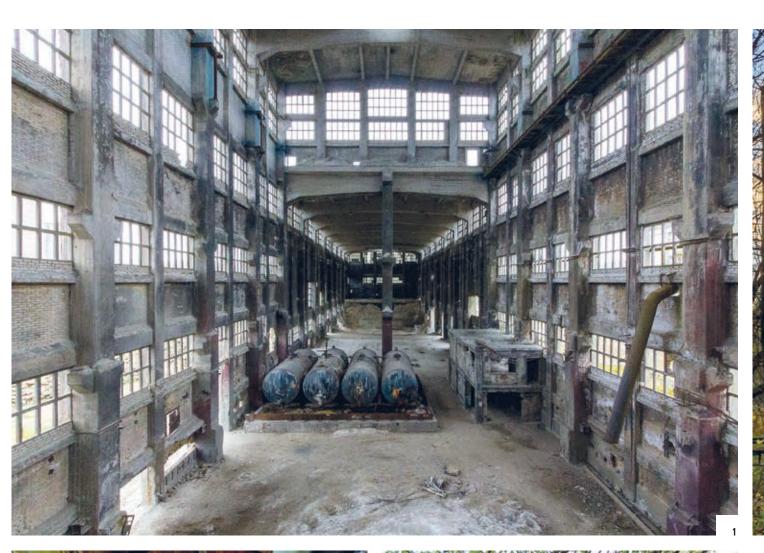


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The Berlin Times October 2018 The Berlin Times











see it clearly through the trees, decaying structures. even from a distance. It stood He usually sets out by himself. within the fenced-off grounds "I'm more focused when I'm of a former amusement park in alone," says Fahey. "That way, the Plänterwald district of what I don't have to talk and there once was East Berlin. As they are no time pressures. It allows got closer, they saw several signs me to get a deeper sense of the saying ZUTRITT VERBOTEN past. When you find yourself (NO TRESPASSING) on the in the very spot where an event fences surrounding the erstwhile took place, it allows you to feel fairgrounds. But nothing was the history much more intensely going to stop Ciarán Fahey. He than in a museum." turned to his girlfriend: "I've got On the other hand, setting out to get in there." In the summer of 2009, Fahey of the associated dangers alone:

overcame his fear of the security guard dogs, security guards, guards and German shepherds ghosts, falling ceilings, crumbling that might be awaiting him on stairs and tricky entrances that the other side. He climbed over can't be used as exits. But that the high green security fence, never stopped Fahey. To this roamed around the abandoned day, he still gets tips from read-Spreepark and photographed ers and now has a list of more the rusted and uncanny remains than one hundred further sites of East Germany's theme-park to explore before they disappear. culture. He then published his That is, before Berlin becomes as images and an accompanying clean as Munich. And, seeing as history of the amusement park the ravages of time continue to on his website abandonedber- gnaw away at the structures and lin.com. He also posted dozens sites, time and speed are indeed of reports on other abandoned of the essence. In other words, properties in Berlin. Soon there- whenever possible, Fahey says: after, The Guardian newspaper "I've got to get in there." rated his blog as one of the best City Blogs in the world.

Ask Fahey what motivates him and the Irish-born journalist and photographer will explain that his goal is to capture the transient nature of things, to show the beauty of structures decaying in front of our eyes before they are demolished or reclaimed by nature. Just like people, he argues, buildings too are not made for eternity. As a journalist, Fahey doesn't limit himself to just visiting and taking pictures of these sites; he researches

The giant Ferris wheel the whole "biography" of his loomed silently in the objects, seeking out the full story ■ Berlin sky. They could often hidden behind the city's

by himself also means facing all

The pictures shown here are taken from Ciarán Fahey's book

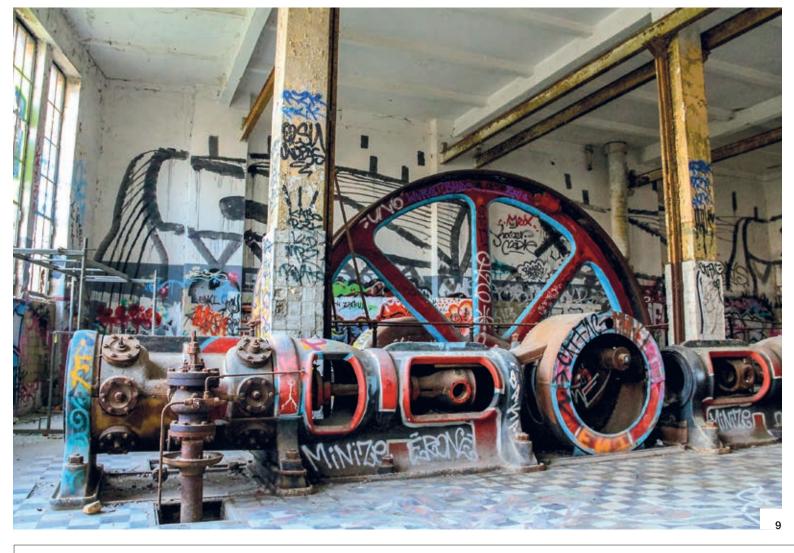
Verlassene Orte/ Abandoned Berlin German/English be.bra verlag, 2015, 192 pages, 22,00 euros



RICHES OF RUINS

NO TRESPASSING signs never stopped Ciarán Fahey from exploring Berlin's many abandoned and forgotten buildings

BY PETER H. KOEPF







1 COLOSSUS OF CEMENT AND IRON

After 100 productive years, German reunification spelled the demise of the VEB Coswig Chemical Plant, which operated this factory in Rüdersdorf. A barbed-wire fence did not stop Ciarán Fahey from sizing up this industrial-era cathedral, which started producing animal feed phosphates back in 1899 and continued to do so even after World War II. // Chemiewerk Rüdersdorf, Gutenbergstraße, 15562 Rüdersdorf

2 THE FUN'S OVER

In 1969, on the 20th anniversary of the GDR, the government gifted its subjects a second television channel and a public amusement park, the only permanent one if its kind in the country: the VEB Kulturpark Plänterwald. The roller coaster and Ferris wheel have now rusted through, and the dinosaurs have died out. // Spreepark, Kiehnwerderallee 1-3, 12437 Berlin

3 BAD DOCTORS

Waldhaus Buch was a sanatorium and a hospital, but also a research institute. The clinic was involved in the Nazi's euthanasia program. The house, which served as an orthopedic clinic during the GDR, was closed in 1992. Time has since taken its toll. // Waldhaus Buch, Alt-Buch 74, 13125 Berlin

4 TRAIN TO NOWHERE

Trains no longer pass here; even the rails have disappeared. But when you stand in one of the decaying sheds and close your eyes, you can almost hear the whirr of trains, the cries of diesel engines and the din of workers piling goods onto cars. Nothing gets loaded here today. All that remains are loads of rot. // Güterbahnhof Pankow, Am Feuchten Winkel 137-145, Berlin 13089

5 TOP SECRET

Vogelsang was one of the few military sites the Soviets built themselves. They mostly took over German ones, but this one, all 5,800 hectares of it, was top secret - they built nuclear weapons here. Let's be thankful it's no longer in use. // Vogelsang, 16792 Zehdenick

6 TRABI GRAVEYARD

This old garage began to rot during the GDR. It houses dozens of automobiles in various stages of decline, including a EZ P70 Zwickau manufactured in the fifties, a Sachsenring P70, forerunner of the Trabant P50, and a number of Moskvitches from Russia in very critical condition. // Trabiwerkstatt, Schönerlinder Straße 5, 13127 Berlin

7 AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED

Two abandoned houses with a common family history in Waidmannslust. Wind whistles through the shattered windows of Villa Schade, whirling letters and magazines up through the air, taking with it the memory of what once was here. Ciarán Fahey captured this image before the villa was turned into apartments. The cinema will presumably soon meet the same fate. // Villa Schade, Waidmannsluster Damm 167/163, 13469 Berlin

8 THE EARS OF THE WEST

This radar station allowed the Americans to overhear enemy plans on the other side of the Iron Curtain. The large hill where the remains of the station stand is not the work of the devil – despite its name, Teufelsberg, or Devil's Mountain – it's the work of Berliners themselves. Over 12 million cubic meters of rubble were deposited here, most of it the remains of buildings bombed by the Allies in WW2. // Teufelsberg, 14055 Berlin

9 SNAP-FROZEN

Cool, it isn't. For 99 years, this ice factory delivered ice to all of Berlin, and right from the freezer, back when Berlin households, breweries, pubs and fishmongers didn't have their own fridges. All that's left now is this frozen asset. // Eisfabrik, Köpenicker Straße 40/41, 10179 Berlin

10 TANGO TRISTE

They're like twins, Dance Hall Riviera and Event Location Grünau. So splendidly they shone in the 1890s. Partygoers and night owls from far and wide came to Berlin's southeastern district during the German Empire, Weimar Republic and two dictatorships just to visit them. And now? The party's over. The crowds moved on to discos and now clubs, leaving the former dance palaces to endure the people's indifference to their fate. // Ballhaus Grünau, Regattastrasse 161 & 167, 12527 Berlin

11 DOWN THE DRAIN

As rats partied in the baby pool, the days of the Blub Water Park became numbered. In the 1980s and 1990s, up to 600,000 visitors got their feet wet here every summer. In 2002, years after it closed, there was an attempt to re-open the waterpark – but only as a health spa. Judging by this photo, it didn't succeed. // Blub, Buschkrugallee 64, 12359 Berlin

12 RISEN FROM THE ASHES - NOT

The villa of August Hinderer was destroyed by fire on March 24, 1944. The A professor and director of the Evangelical Press Service, Hinderer was arrested by the Nazis in 1934, yet survived. After the unsuccessful attempt to assassinate Hitler in July 1944, he survived yet another interrogation. . Hinderer died in October, 1945. Today, his granddaughter dreams of restoring the building. // Hinderer's Villa, Location: not disclosed for fear of rioters



The Berlin Times The Berlin Times October 2018 October 2018

Rich and sexy

Booming Berlin is driving up real estate prices, and the city's endless red tape is making the problem worse

BY TONG-JIN SMITH

Tt was one of the last vacant plots in Berlin's trendy dis-Lirict of Prenzlauer Berg – a prime location nestled between historical buildings and in direct vicinity of shops, restaurants and the heavily frequented U2 subway line. For years the plot remained barren - nothing to see here. Then, one day a sign appeared advertising a housing project initiated by an architect seeking co-builders for a multi-family house. The idea was a combination of streetfront apartments and courtyard townhouses - a modern take on Berlin's traditional housing structure. Bit by bit every unit was sold. Several months into the project, the homeowner group was ready to build on the lot. And in the spring of this year they finally moved into their new homes.

"It was a long process but well worthwhile. I love my new home and I'm starting to feel very comfortable in my new neighborhood," says Kristina Kutsch who just finished furnishing her penthouse in May. "But over the course of the last five years, since we first started the project, we've certainly seen an upward surge in costs. Just finding a craftsman or company to do the flooring or tiling has been a challenge, no matter how much they charge."

Her experience is not unique. Berlin has become a boomtown for the building industry, as condominiums and rental apartments have been going up in neighborhoods all across the city. At the same time, real estate and rental prices have doubled in the past ten years, edging Berlin closer to the top of the list of Germany's most expensive cities. Only Munich, Frankfurt, Hamburg and Stuttgart are still ahead. the city with the largest increase between 2016 and 2017, with prices going up by a whopping 11.4 percent. Real estate buyers are now expected to shell out close to €3,700 per square meter on average, according to a recent

With a growing number of upscale and luxury condominiums currently under construction or in planning for the near future, prices can be expected to continue their upward trend. More than 2,000 apartments are currently on the market for €4,500 or more per square meter, which constitutes roughly half the condominiums for sale, both new and old. The sky is the limit with penthouses and apartments between €5 and €10 million the boom and own a piece of the authorities, 194,000 new units pie – or a pad in Berlin.

For the city, this is a new phenomenon. For years, Berlin as public housing companies and reasons for Berlin's tremendous



will be needed by 2030 - an

objective that seems out of reach

was "poor but sexy" – a phrase private developers struggle with coined by former mayor Klaus bureaucracy and rising costs, let Wowereit. But today we see a dif- alone properties adequate for ferent situation. "There are four urban development. "And lastly, the average stanprice development," says Till dard land value for residential Johannes Brühöfener-McCourt, plots zoned for closed construcwho heads the research depart- tion has increased sevenfold expensive," says Robert Mom- prices. "Although construction higher construction costs is a lack them from purchasing homes in ment at Ziegert, a Berlin based in the past nine years," says berg, managing director of the is pretty much a local business of skilled workers. "The market Berlin - much like in New Zeabanking and real estate consult- Brühöfener-McCourt. "Simulta- Building Industry Federation relying on regional sourcing, we is practically void, which is due land - developers, builders and ing firm. "First of all, Berlin's neously, residential developers East, representing 260 build- are nevertheless susceptible to in part to demographic change, Berliners are still waiting for costs positive economic development. have seen an increase in costs of ing companies in Berlin, Bran-global market price changes," but also to image problems con- and red tape to decrease and the In the last ten years, we've seen over 25 percent." The result is denburg, Saxony and Saxony- he explains. In other words, struction professions have among number of available and affordan annual GDP increase per clear: buying or renting a home Anhalt. "One contributing factor when the Chinese administration younger generations," says Momworking person of 4.6 percent. has become a lot more expensive being higher demand resulting in decides to create the next mega- berg. "And you have to remember Secondly, in the same timeframe, in Berlin, a city that has been higher prices. A simple case of city and construction companies that construction requires a lot we've seen the workforce grow known as the most affordable demand and supply. But there's involved in its development buy of manpower. In fact, up to 28 by 20.6 percent." This, he says, and hip European capital. more to it." Momberg lists raw up all the steel they can find on percent of building costs are comhas had a stimulating effect on "There is no denying it: con-materials as a contributing factor the market, building a multi-prised of labor costs." Increased

REAL ESTATE AND RENTAL PRICES HAVE DOUBLED IN THE PAST TEN YEARS

for minerals and mineral oil. the corner to attend viewings In fact, between February 2017 have become the norm in many and February 2018, German conneighborhoods. "You have to be struction companies have seen creative and willing to make a the cost of concrete rise 2.7 per- number of compromises to find cent while the cost of bitumen an apartment you can actually used for road surfacing and roofing rose 8.6 percent. Steel used in stabilizing concrete structures sity, who has spent more than six saw a price increase of almost months looking for an apartment. 20 percent, and even softwood timber has been affected with a Müller (SPD) pointed a finger price increase of 4.5 percent.

Another factor contributing to interview, and considered banning struction has become more resulting in higher real estate family house in Berlin becomes digitization may help create new

is only slowly starting to happen, leaving the construction industry with a skill shortage for the time What seems more troubling, however, is the amount of time

job profiles and actually cut some

of the labor costs, but the change

and energy construction companies and developers spend on dealing with bureaucracy. In Germany, building is strongly regulated and companies must conform to literally thousands of rules and regulations. "We've asked our members to calculate their expenses in dealing with bureaucracy and found that 82 percent felt rather burdened, if not overly so. In fact, in 2017, about 17,000 employees in Berlin, Brandenburg, Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt worked exclusively on bureaucratic matters resulting in these companies spending a good €500 million just on paperwork. As a result, many projects have been delayed, or even cancelled," says Momberg. It is now abundantly clear that bureaucracy has also become a decisive factor in real estate price increases.

Add to that a massive increase in land prices and you have an explanation for Berlin's loss of affordability. For one, many private landowners have been holding off on developing or selling their properties with hopes of cashing in on the boom. Meanwhile, the public sector, a major landowner in Berlin, continues to enforce the policy of selling to the highest bidder instead of seeking the best concept, which could lead to more sustainable and socially balanced urban development.

"When you look at the pure building costs per square meter for a new residential building - whether it be a single-family home or an apartment in a multistory building - you currently Momberg explains. Add on the cost of the property itself and total prices soar. Thus, a family looking to buy a two-bedroom, 90 square-meter apartment in an upscale neighborhood will more often than not need to spend over €500,000. With salaries increasing at a far slower pace than real estate prices, affording a home of their own has become significantly more difficult for Berliners.

Similarly, finding a rental unit has become a challenge for most, as the market situation shows no sign of relief. Young professionals, university students and lower-income families are being hit especially hard.

More than a hundred applicants per apartment and lines of more expensive. The same goes potential tenants cueing around afford," says Marie Steffens, a student at Berlin's Free Univer-So while Berlin's mayor Michael at foreign investors in a recent

TONG-JIN SMITH



Red parade: The leaders of today's Left Party Sahra Wagenknecht, Dietman Bartsch, Bernd Riexinger and Katja Kipping (top; left to right) lead the flag bearers (right) to Rosa Luxemburg's and Karl Liebknecht's grave (bottom





Sacred socialist procession

A solemn march for the Goths of socialism and a folk festival for the left: the wintertime march honoring Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht is a bizarre parade of the pious in eastern Berlin. This year will mark the 100th anniversary of the death of these two icons of the workers' movement

hands with familiarity; they know

know they are united in their

Later on, after the Goths of

each other from back then. They

BY KLAUS GRIMBERG

trudging towards the exit at the Berlin Lichtenberg S-Bahn station. The color spectrum worn leadership and the ruling com- der Rosa Luxemburg reichen wir Wall in 1989. by the members of this crowd ranges from gray to beige, while their facial expressions run between reverent and grim. The East Germany each year. Nothing most of the elderly comrades at form caravan is headed, namely

tary vigilante militias comprising These men and women shake in protests in several East German former soldiers from the Prussian

procession to the Memorial to defiant adherence to the ideals - a demonstration of continued the GDR went: "Dem Karl Liebstruggle – carried out by the state knecht haben wir's geschworen, munist party. It was designed to die Hand" (We have sworn to symbolically renew the legacy of Karl Liebknecht we'll give Rosa Luxemburg and Liebknecht in Luxemburg a helping hand). For only splash of color in this pro- was left to chance at this carefully the annual march, these words cession of seniors is the red car- prepared march that started at continue to inspire. nations they often carry. These Frankfurter Tor at the edge of flowers provide the decisive clue downtown East Berlin. For loyal socialism have laid down their as to where their strangely uni- party bigwigs, it marked a solemn carnations, things get a bit more day on the socialist calendar. The colorful. To this day, party chairto the official Memorial to the majority of the other "demon- men and leading left-wing party Socialists in Berlin-Friedrichs- strators," however, were forced members from all over Europe to attend by various factory use the opportunity to make place every year on the second groups. It became quite clear that Friedrichsfelde at the head of a Sunday in January. It is held in the longer the GDR existed, the mass demonstration. This coming honor of Rosa Luxemburg and less enthusiasm there was for the January, an especially large crowd

Karl Liebknecht, two of the lead- event. Apart from the apparat- of celebrities is anticipated. An ing figures of the German work- chiks and devout comrades, the alliance of a wide spectrum of left-wing groups is expected to march to the memorial. It seems the memorial march allows them to forget their trench battles and turf wars for a couple of hours. And then, as soon as they arrive at their destination, the event starts to look more like a community fair featuring stalls with food produced in socialist solidarity and musical groups playing old battle songs to lift leftist

to foster more in-depth study of leftist theories. But things weren't always this peaceful at the annual Luxemburg-Liebknecht demonstration. In 1988, citizens' rights activists in the GDR had already begun to advocate for a democratization of their country and were planning to participate in the state-orchestrated mass gathering. Their goal was to take Rosa Luxemburg at her word by rendering some of her quotes onto the self-made banners they intended to display during all persuasions participate in this rather listlessly past the graves the official march: "Freedom is always freedom for the one who thinks differently" and "Those

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spirits. Of course, there are also

the obligatory bookstands where

one can find literature designed

cities against the mass arrests that their deaths, many a battle has comrades from the GDR and had taken place both before and been fought over the true legacy young leftists from today will after the demonstration. Some of Rosa Luxemburg and Karl come together in their worship historians see the events of Jan. Liebknecht. Time and again, the of these two larger-than-life role the Socialists represented an of socialism. The beginning of 17, 1988, as the first evidence of thoughts and writings of the two models. And yet, if you sat these important Kampfdemonstration one popular children's song in a tangible beginning to the Peace- socialists have been interpreted groups down for a discussion ful Revolution in the GDR, which and instrumentalized, as they at a single table, they would would eventually bring down the surely will continue to be in the likely have very little to say to

In the hundred years since in early January 2019, the old future. At the memorial march each other.

Berliner Morgenpost

DAS IST BERLIN





FREEDOM IS ALWAYS FREEDOM FOR THE ONE **WHO THINKS** DIFFERENTLY, **ROSA LUXEMBURG FAMOUSLY SAID**

slow walk, which ends at the last and the VIP stand. of right-wing Freikorps, voluntakeover by imperialist forces. around the world. This resulted

ers movement at the beginning majority of the participants forced of the 20th century. Leftists of to attend could be seen trotting

were both murdered by members German reunification as a hostile of the activists were broadcast

resting ground of these two icons In contrast, the individuals and other estimable socialists. who have been taking part in who do not move do not notice In the coming year, this annual the march since the fall of the their chains." Of course, the commemorative gathering will GDR have done so with vigor GDR's secret security forces were have a special significance, as it and sincerity. It's the pensioners already well-informed about the will mark the 100th anniversary above all who cling unbendingly plans and went about stifling the of the death of Luxemburg and to the socialist tradition. These action. However, there also hap-Liebknecht. On Jan. 15, 1919, cadres of yesteryear are individupened to be West German camera after the brutal defeat of the als who boldly continue to believe teams on site, and their images Spartacist uprising in Berlin, they in the victory of socialism and see capturing the rabid suppression

The Berlin Times The Berlin Times October 2018 October 2018

Runway model

Berlin is spotlighting the history of the former Tempelhof Airport during the Nazi era. The city is gearing up to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift with a festival featuring almost 40 original aircraft

BY JAN KEPP

(West) Berlin residents first and nal building, which functioned weapons manufacturing for the The western part of the airport foremost as the main take-off as such up until the end of the Luftwaffe. Living in barebones was opened for civil aviation and landing strip used by the war, appeared almost as a dwarf barracks at the edge of the air- under German administration American and British "Ros- in comparison to it. inenbomber" (transport planes) With the outbreak of war, the to work for ten or more hours during the Berlin Airlift 1948-49. new airport complex was transeach day, all the while with inad-This "gateway to the free formed into a large-scale aircraft equate amounts of food. They with the start of the Berlin Airlift world" would continue to factory. The roof of the building faced draconian punishments West Berliners from the 1950s "apron" and given a wooden offense and there was very limon. In contrast, very little is exterior, thus creating spacious ited medical care. This meant the city – which had been sealed known about the role played factory halls. The companies that many of the forced laborby Tempelhof Airport during known as Weser Flugzeugbau ers did not survive their time between June 24, 1948, and May the era of National Socialism (1933-1945).

The exhibition "Ein weites Feld" (A Wide Field - Tempelhof Airport and its History), which is on display until the end of the year in the former General Aviation Terminal, seeks to change this. Curated by the Topography of Terror foundation in Berlin, the exhibition focuses on the strategic expansion of the airport starting in 1936 and its later use as a weapons production site. Emphasis is also placed on the fate of the thousands of laborers who were forced to work on the assembly of combat

of area covered; in the post- Nazi Luftwaffe.

field, the forced laborers had in 1951.

A NEW GENERATION OF BERLINERS WILL BE **ABLE TO EXPERIENCE** THE AIRLIFT WITH THEIR **OWN EYES**

Large sections of the monuthe facilities as an important site killed in Allied bombing raids.

mental airport complex at Temfor the manufacturing of equip— While the old manufacturing pelhof were built between 1936 ment for the Luftwaffe during buildings were almost comand 1939 at the edge of the then the war. Among other things, pletely destroyed in the war, returning to Germany. A number States, and a DC-4 will be coming is currently being debated in Berlin airfield. Although never fully Tempelhof saw the production the new main building remained completed, at the beginning of of roughly 2,000 Ju-87 dive intact. The order to demolish Douglas DC-3/C-47, Douglas One owner has indicated that he permit good just for the exhibithe 1940s it comprised the larg- bombers, which would go on it was apparently ignored by DC-4/C-54 and Junkers JU-52 intends to make the flight all the tion is theoretically conceivable, est building in the world in terms to become the backbone of the the airport commander, and the models - will make their way way from Australia to be a part it seems highly improbable. The Allies also spared the complex, from several different corners of of the reunion. war period, that position would During the war, the only way seeing as they planned to use it the world, first to the Wiesbaden With the help of these original which was decommissioned in be usurped by the Pentagon in to guarantee the efficient assem- for their own purposes. The Red Erbenheim Airbase (June 10-12) aircraft, organizers will reenact 2008, is now a park mainly used

Arlington, Virginia. The dimenbly of aircraft was to use massive Army was actually the first to sions at Tempelhof in the Nazi numbers of forced laborers taken occupy Tempelhof airport, but era reflected a preoccupation by the Nazis from German-occu- in July 1945, the US Air Force empelhof Airport is with overly large buildings that pied territories. More than 3,000 took over and maintained an air firmly anchored in the was typical of National Socialist men and women were ruthlessly base in the eastern part of the 👢 collective memory of architecture. The original termi- exploited and forced to work in building all the way up to 1994. The image of the US soldiers in West Berlin changed deeply

or "Luftbrücke" (air bridge). influence the emotional lives of was extended over the airfield's for the slightest negligence or After the unprecedented supply of food and especially coal to off on all sides by the Russians -12, 1949, Berliners started to see the GIs more as protectors than as occupiers. From that moment on, this new relationship was reflected and celebrated once a in Hessen, then to Fliegerhorst the actual schedule and time year at the US Air Force's Open Faßberg (June 12-15) in Lower intervals from 1948-49 at the Door Day at Tempelhof, a huge Saxony and finally to the air- three airports. In other words, festival attended by hundreds of field in Berlin-Schönhagen (June for the first time in 70 years, a thousands of people.

The gratitude of Berliners for the energetic and extensive solidarity shown by the Allies for their walled-off city will be on display again in the coming year. A week-long festival is currently locations and commemorate the and Deutsche Lufthansa used at Tempelhof; some were even end of the Berlin Airlift 70 years have already agreed to particifest: those historical "Rosinenbomber" transport planes will be 20 will be flying from the United of the original planes - including to Germany from South Africa. political circles. While a special



only roughly 160 left in operation worldwide. Individual fans, ciations spend a lot of time and in the works for June 2019; the effort to keep them in good flying to visit up close. Plans include event will take place at three condition. For the one-week festival in Germany, almost 40 planes prior. The special feature of the pate. Some of them will be coming school and youth projects. from diverse European cities, over

new generation of Berliners will Of the many airplanes that parbe able to experience the Airlift ticipated in the Airlift, there are with their own eyes. At the airports in Wiesbaden-Erbenheim, Faßberg and Berlin-Schönhagen, foundations, museums and asso- crews and aircraft will also be on display for the general public a "Luftbrücke zum Anfassen"

(hands-on airlift) accompanied

by multiple-day public events and

Whether the airplanes will be able to land at Tempelhof Airport spacious tarmac of the airport, by the residents of its surrounding and Berlin Airlift, are thus not neighborhoods. The technical and chronologically identical. logistical arrangements required The lifting of the Blockade and

lion tons of supplies to Berlin. of the former airport. Thus, more than 270,000 flights, One of the honorary guests i.e. almost 1,000 flights per day at the 70 Years Berlin Airlift to guarantee the survival of the festival will be none other than hungry and freezing citizens Gail Seymour "Hal" Halvorsen, of West Berlin. The technical born Oct. 10, 1920, in Salt Lake and logistical feats of air trans- City, UT. Halvorsen was the first port executed by the pilots and pilot to - just before landing ground crews remain one of a at Tempelhof - delight children to the history of Berlin.

by news outlets all over the world each equipped with its own little focusing on the Allied air deliveries in 1948–49 and the burgeoning reputation of the Western their airplanes to be called "Rospowers constituted one of the inenbomber," or "Candy Bombhistorical events, Berlin Blockade that he would "wiggle" his wings to bring a little happiness to the

for a three-day commemorative the end of the Airlift marked the event will presumably end up resolution of the first true crisis being too protracted to incorpo- of the Cold War by peaceful rate the central site of the Airlift. means. However, the absence For recent generations of Ber- of military force did not prevent liners, the sheer scale of the larg- all loss of human life during est humanitarian relief action in the Air Lift. Airplane accidents the history of the world can be accounted for the death of at hard to comprehend. For more least 78 people, the names of than a year, propeller planes whom are engraved on the base delivered a total of two mil- of the Airlift Memorial in front

> parachute. This Operation Little Vittles led to the Airlift pilots and

kind and will forever be linked waiting atop the mountains of as he approached, earning him needy children of bombed-out rubble in Neukölln by pitching the nickname "Uncle Wiggly Berlin. Historical eyewitnesses The incessant, positive reports from his plane bags of candy, Wings." quickly picked up by the press, unleashing a wave of support. He and his crew were soon given 425 kilos of sweets to drop on Berlin reasons the Soviet Blockade was ers." As the airplanes landed at each day. By the end of the Air lifted on May 12, 1949. None- Tempelhof every 90 seconds, the Lift, a total of about 25 airplane theless, the Airlift carried on for children on the ground could not crews threw 23 tons of candy over another four months until late tell which one was Halvorsen's. the city. Halvorsen would later summer of that year. The twin He thus arranged with the kids explain that he had just wanted

agree that he had a tremendously Halvorsen's initiative was positive impact on the image

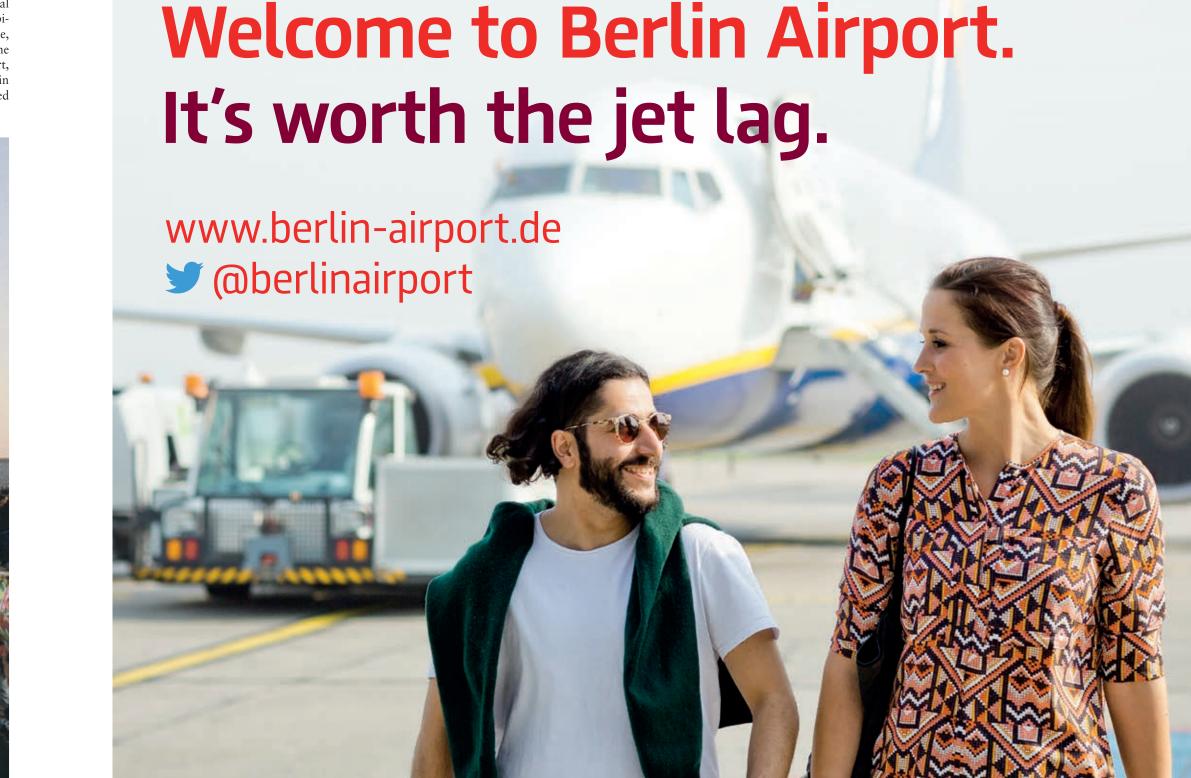


Sent from above: Uncle Wiggly Wings

A WIDE FIELD - TEMPELHOF AIRPORT AND ITS HISTORY

An exhibition by the Topography of Terror foundation at the former Tempelhof Airport; until Dec. 30, 2018.

Free entrance daily from 10AM to 7PM.









For a short time in 2017 it looked like Friedenauer Presse would have to close its doors. But after the 87-year-old Katharina Wolff stepped down, Friederike Jacob (left) could not let the storied publishing house vanish, and decided to take it over herself: "I invite everyone to discover Friedenauer Presse, again or for the first time."

BY LUTZ LICHTENBERGER

n inconspicuous street in Berlin's Wedding dis-Ltrict: in a light-flooded apartment on the second floor of a classic pre-war tenement stands a seemingly ordinary bookshelf. A closer look reveals that it holds nothing less than the history of German-Russian publishing, literature and culture. And, along with Friederike Jacob, it also holds the future of this tradition. The 35-year-old Slavicist is the new publisher at Friedenauer Presse, the widely renowned Berlin publishing house also known as a one-stop shop for German translations of Russian world literature.

Friedenauer Presse was founded in 1963 in the eponymous southwestern district of Berlin by Andreas Wolff, the grandson of the St. Petersburg publisher M.O. Wolff. From the very beginning it was the mission of the publishing house to make previously untranslated and unpublished works accessible to German readers. Wolff's successor, his daughter Katharina Wagenbach, describes the idea as follows: "It's about enabling readers to make discoveries, regardless of time and language – novelties as well as the (unjustly) forgotten, the excavations that lie unrecognized and dormant in archives, anthologies and complete editions.'

Friedenauer Presse began in the 1960s with a focus on German contemporary literature. The first book they published was written by the later Nobel Prize winner Günter Grass – it was a thread-bound brochure. To this day, the house continues to publish such booklets of bibliophilic elegance in its Presse-Ducked series.

In 1983, Wagenbach took over the management of the publishing house, and with her came increased attention on Russian literature. For the woman who had never lived in Russia but grew up surrounded by Russian parents and grandparents, Russian literature was a time machine, her homeland in the pages of a tattered book. In the midst of the Cold War, her mission was not a political one. However, Wagenbach's publications had, as all successful books do, just enough global awareness. The publisher also takes on translations from French, Spanish and Polish, but Russian works remain the focus.

Jacob, who was born that same year, remarks that the publishing house has stayed unequivocally loyal to its initial mission. "Literature is not simply reporting."

embarked on an adventurous journey to Moscow in search of the lost manuscript. There, she managed to track down Babel's widow, Antonina Pirozhkova, who was about to emigrate to Florida. Though she put herself at risk by doing so, she had kept the remaining parts of the diary for all those years. Wagenbach needed barely one afternoon to gain Pirozhkova's trust. She then retyped the manuscript on her typewriter and journeyed back to Berlin, where the publisher's star translator, Peter Urban, trans-

tution, thanks in large part to the efforts of its tireless patron and prose stylist, Peter Urban. Urban, who died in 2013, translated all the big names: Daniil Kharms, Nikolai Gogol, Ivan Goncharov, Maxim Gorky, Alexander Pushkin and especially Anton Chekhov. Anyone witnessing one of the countless Chekhov performances being staged at any given time experiences it in the tone set by Urban. It comes without the flowery, almost lovely touch of the older translations, but shines in its sober, elegant timbre. Jacob, who devoured Dostoyevsky as a teenager and later learned to love Chekhov, is publishing a new edition of his

Seven Stories. And in the spring, Friederike Jacob is waiting, as did her predecessor thirty years earlier, in a similarly confused political situation for a supposedly lost trove. Then came the stories of Vsevolod Petrov (1912-1978), whose discovery in the Pushkin Archive in Moscow was a recent cultural spectacle in Russia. "Literature is more direct, it's a fictional reality - and yet can convey a different image of a society, and thus resonate beyond the private space of the reader," says Jacob. She sounds very much like her great predecessor Katharina Wagenbach. The tradition of the house is ready for the future.

Literary mission

Friedenauer Presse is rekindling the international understanding through great works of art

She also wanted to paint a different picture of Eastern Europe. Considering the current political conflict between Russia, the US and Europe, media coverage, irrespective of political direction, is always necessary from a specific perspective. "Fortunately, the raison d'être of literature is and genuine. It has its own space, it makes it possible to approach a country without receiving a pre-emptive interpretation of it."

One of the most important books published by Friendenauer remains Isaac Babel's Diary: 1920, the basis for his famous novel Red Cavalry. In

lated the text into German. Friedenauer Presse finally published the book in 1990.

Friederike Jacob has already reissued Babel's Red Cavalry in her first program this autumn, which will be followed by a new edition of Diary: 1920 next year.

Friedenauer Presse has become different. Literature is immediate the mid-1980s, Wagenbach a German-Russian literary insti-

