

60 years  
Stuttgart-St. Louis  
Sister Cities

1960 – 2020



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STUTTGART



**Dr. Martin Schairer as a farewell gesture and an enormous thank-you for the many dedicated years as Stuttgart's international ambassador in the twin towns and throughout the world**

**Susanne Evens, 'our' president and the special person who guarantees the warm-hearted and professional relations between St. Louis and Stuttgart - 1960 was obviously a "very good year"!**

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The Television Tower - the symbol of the State Capital Stuttgart

1960 saw the beginning of a decade of political upheaval and freedom movements. John F. Kennedy is elected President in the United States, and in Greensboro Afro-American students hold the most known sit-in in the civil rights movement; at the same time 17 African states achieve their political sovereignty; in Germany, the unresolved situation in Berlin puts a strain on international relations.



This year marks the set-up of the town-twinning between Stuttgart and St. Louis, which, despite the great geographical distance, has taken on many different forms for 60 years now. From the outset, the focus was on education and a cultural exchange, and over the past sixty years lasting friendships have been formed and grown at all levels of social, political and economic life. In the hope that friendly relations and an exchange between municipalities and their citizens would advance mutual understanding and peace, US-President Dwight D. Eisenhower promoted the idea of worldwide town-twinning. The program "Sister Cities International" had paved the way for this in 1956. At the same time, the Federal Foreign Office in Germany had taken up the issue and intensified relations with North America on a municipal basis through the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations in Stuttgart.

As at the beginning of the friendship, this anniversary once again falls in a time of change and upheaval. Multi-lateral organizations and global agreements, which had been laboriously built up over the past years, are being called to question or shattered; with the Covid-19 pandemic, the world has been plunged into social, political and economic turmoil; the Black Lives Matter movement makes us aware that racism and oppression are by no means a thing of the past. In such a dynamic time, which is also witness to political dissonance, a sound town-twinning partnership between Stuttgart and St. Louis, based on mutual understanding and human relations, is a reassuring constant and provides a basis for new cooperation.

Due to the current situation, the events originally planned for this year have had to be postponed or re-organized in digital format. I am convinced that the partnership will still be fittingly appreciated, also in this form and can be expanded even further in the future. This commemorative publication shall also play its part and provide a comprehensive overview of the history of the town-twinning partnership, the diverse projects, as well as the personal experiences with and from the US-American twin town.

My thanks go to all those involved – from Stuttgart and St. Louis – whose impressive commitment and dedication strengthen these transatlantic relations in a very personal and sustainable way.

Handwritten signature of Fritz Kuhn.

Fritz Kuhn  
Mayor, City of Stuttgart



*The Gateway Arch – the landmark of the City of St. Louis.*

This year the City of St. Louis is proud to celebrate the 60th anniversary of our sister city relationship with the City of Stuttgart, Germany. Stuttgart is our oldest sister city and numbers among our strongest sister city relationships. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our planned anniversary celebrations and exchanges have been postponed. Despite the disruption, the relationship endures as it has for decades and reminds us of the power of people-to-people relationships to overcome adversity and thrive in times of turmoil, something that is at the very heart of the sister city movement itself.

In fact, research is currently underway to document the detailed history of St. Louis and Stuttgart's relationship to mark the 60th anniversary of sister city relations. Given the long tradition and history of German migration to our state, our region and our city, it seems more than appropriate that we should take some time to reflect on our shared experiences.

Over the years, we have received many visiting delegations from Stuttgart and have been graciously received on our reciprocal visits. Exchanges encompassing education, art, sports, choral, dance and music groups have taken place as well as professional and business groups sharing best practices and exploring possibilities for foreign direct investment in their respective markets.

Each year, St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities hosts the annual Winter Ball Karneval in the German tradition, supporting business, cultural and educational exchanges while enriching the lives of residents in the St. Louis region. None of these exchanges would be possible without the commitment, energy and dedication of the people of both cities who seek to understand each other and the wider world, for which we are especially grateful. At a time when global cooperation is needed more than ever, the basic tenets of citizen diplomacy, bringing communities together to tackle humanity's most pressing issues, continue to be important drivers for cooperation and mutual understanding and the betterment of society as a whole.

I would like to thank the people of Stuttgart for their support of our sister city relationship over the past 60 years and look forward to many more years of working together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lyda Krewson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lyda Krewson  
Mayor, City of St. Louis



### Ladies and Gentlemen,

With this commemorative publication, we would like to give you an insight into the history, encounters, projects, personal experiences and interesting facts about St. Louis, the US twin town of Stuttgart. For this compilation, we have appraised our inventory material, done extensive research in the Stuttgart City Archives and asked the people of Stuttgart about their experiences in and with St. Louis. Reading this, you will learn from a very personal point of view how encounters across the Atlantic take place:

- Exchange of the Ferdinand-Porsche-Gymnasium with the John Burroughs High School 1988 (Günter Schölzel)
- Performances of the Jazz Ensemble of the Stuttgart Music Academy in St. Louis 2005 (Bernhard "Böny" Birk)
- International Youth Volunteer Service in St. Louis 2016 (Jan Elm)
- about the benefits of the transatlantic expert exchange on integration policy (Ayse Özbabacan)
- how baseball can be an inspiration (Manfred Hinderer)
- how life can be an expedition from Germany – with a few diversions – to the USA:
  - 1989: Research trip retracing the steps of German-Jewish scholars (Dr. Regina Weber)
  - Emigration from Stuttgart to St. Louis in the 19th century (Ulrich Theurer)
- how the anniversary year has been planned and organized
  - DAZ network trip to St. Louis 2019 (Christiane Pyka)
  - Event dates 2020

You will also learn interesting facts about the similarities between the two cities, for instance, personified in the "American poet", Friedrich Schiller and the shared passion for winegrowing. You will get to know the supporting association of the St. Louis town-twinning project and what an active role the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (ifa) played at the beginning of the town-twinning.

In the early years, the main focus of the exchange was on education and culture, certainly established on the basis of the mutual relations between the two countries. While the legacy of German immigration in the 19th century still plays an important role in Missouri / St. Louis today, after the end of World War II, the 'American way of life' was characteristic to Stuttgart, as was the presence of the US garrisons and many Americans in the city.



The COVID-19 pandemic has made the realization of this anniversary year very different to the previous ones. Actual personal exchanges are not possible, so online formats have been developed, some events will take place on the web or will be held in smaller groups. The challenge to rethink things and realize almost everything digitally has unleashed a lot of innovative capacity in everyone involved, which is sure to be maintained over the years to come! In terms of content, the anniversary year is marked by current political movements and debates on racism and violence, and the upcoming US presidential election is also a topic in 2020.

This commemorative publication is available on the Internet, as are texts and photos – appropriate references are made in the printed version. You can read more at ► [stuttgart.de/stlouis60](https://stuttgart.de/stlouis60), where dates and event information will be kept updated.

These offers give you the opportunity to participate in the events of many dedicated people on both sides of the Atlantic, both digitally and in analog form.

I would like to thank all those already involved in both cities and those who have shared their experiences and knowledge with us for this brochure! Besides the mentioned authors and Dr. Frédéric Stephan, who has been playing a key role in shaping the relationship between the twin towns since 2002, these include Susanne Evens and Wilma Prifti for their views on the prospects and history of the partnership association SLSSC. For support in research, especially of the early years, we would like to thank the staff of the Stuttgart City Archive and the media department of the ifa. Especially for this brochure Dr. Maike van Rjin, curator and head of the collection at the Landesmuseum Württemberg, did the research and wrote about the participation of Stuttgart artists in the 1904 World Exhibition in St. Louis. Many thanks!

An anniversary year would be nothing without the dedication of the generations before us and the group of committed people in St. Louis and Stuttgart today. We would like to thank them for their farsightedness, perseverance and belief in the peace-building power of personal, intercultural and cross-border encounters.

Wishing you an informative and enjoyable read,

*Nadia vom Scheidt*

Nadia vom Scheidt  
Head of the International Relations Department



## History of town-twinning

On March 11, 1960, a group of active and internationally thinking people got together at the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations at Charlottenplatz 4 in Stuttgart and set up a partnership association for cooperation with St. Louis. At the time of its foundation, it was said:

*“The aim of town-twinning is not just something for the municipal administration – this is not what we want, and in particular not what the Americans want, although the City of Stuttgart, represented mainly by its Cultural Affairs Office, will also play an important role in the town-twinning committee”.*

Previous to this, there had been a similar formation in St. Louis and meetings in the course of 1959, bringing forward an organizing committee, “The Thousand Citizens” to promote the envisaged town-twinning with Stuttgart.

However, the shared history had begun a few years earlier.

### ifa as the driving force behind the town-twinning

Since 1956, the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (ifa) had been making efforts to find a North American twin town for Stuttgart.

On February 27, 1956, Dr. Kloss, ifa’s North America advisor, wrote to Mayor Klett asking whether he could “test the waters” as to acquiring St. Louis as a twin town: St. Louis was very similar to Stuttgart in many respects. It is an inland city of approximately the same size, with various industrial and commercial interests and a highly developed education system including a university.

The tasks of ifa included “twinning” West German and North American cities. In this respect, a 15-page brochure was published with “Proposals for cooperation between German and American sister cities”. This was also aimed at the City of Stuttgart, where the Foreign Office organization had its headquarters. St. Louis was an obvious choice for many reasons. First, Stuttgart and St. Louis as cities were considered to be very similar. Second, in 1955 Mayor Raymond Tucker had got to know Stuttgart on a trip through Germany he had made with US municipal politicians.

However, it was to be several years before the town-twinning actually became ‘official’. In St. Louis, the key people in the Council of World Affairs (an organization for international understanding founded in 1948) had backed out after their initial enthusiasm, and in Stuttgart there was also a general skepticism as to whether the relationship across the Atlantic could last at all. There were people who feared there would be too much “clubby behavior” and that no long-term relations with the USA would be possible beyond a mere profession of friendship.

The citizens actively involved in St. Louis, when they founded the association in 1959 (under the chairmanship of Prof. Erich Hofacker and the German lecturer, Frederick Kern from Washington University in St. Louis), were able to present facts so that in the following year, more than 20 people from the fields of culture and business in the city, representatives of religious communities, universities and the press came together in Stuttgart to found the town-twinning Stuttgart – St. Louis [Komitee zur Pflege der Städtepartnerschaft Stuttgart - St. Louis].

**Read more about the participants**  
▶ [stuttgart.de/stlouis60](http://stuttgart.de/stlouis60)

The first chairman was Peter Brenner, actively supported by Lieselotte Flacke (later Barth-Flacke), ifa’s America advisor, who actively steered the committee’s fortunes in the following years as managing director. The Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations did not see itself as the responsible body for the town-twinning, but as a mediating agency.

Once the committee in Stuttgart was founded, the relationship rapidly gained momentum:

Dr. Marianne Gurland, child and youth psychologist and research associate at the State Institute for Education and Teaching, became Stuttgart’s first “ambassador”; in the summer of 1960 she used a private visit to the USA to get to know people on behalf of the new partnership committee and to acquire projects. Reporting to the other committee members, her description of the commitment she encountered in St. Louis, especially at Washington University made quite an impact.

The minutes of the meetings – several times in 1960, later once a year – bear witness to the enormous efforts to bring, in particular, young people into the exchange program and to promote these efforts in the respective cities.

The exchange of business locations was also addressed and promoted early on.

### Highlights from 60 years

■ In 1964 – the 200th anniversary of the founding of St. Louis – the first “Stuttgart Day” took place within the framework of a two-week exhibition (October 15 - 29) in St. Louis, with the motto “What do we have in common? – Stuttgart and its economy”. The companies participating in the exhibition included Robert Bosch, Daimler-Benz, Porsche, Zeiss Ikon, the City of Stuttgart Traffic Office, the Academy of Fine Arts, the Stuttgart Youth Center and the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations. In 1965, the

“Counterpart Exhibition” followed in Stuttgart, and as the first official representative of Stuttgart, the City Councilor (and later Member of the Bundestag), Ernst Haar visited St. Louis as part of a five-week information trip to the USA, organized by the US State Department.

■ 1966, Edward Tenney, President of the Council of World Affairs of St. Louis, came to the new German twin town and presented the first of a series of models representing St. Louis’s new landmark, the Gateway Arch; he also brought along a proclamation from Mayor Cervantes declaring May 3, 1966 as Stuttgart Day in St. Louis.

■ Starting in 1969, the German-American Friendship Weeks in Baden-Wuerttemberg, which had been taking place in Stuttgart since 1954 and had been organized by the German-American Club and led by Gertrud von Berg, were to be considered as joint events. These included programs for teachers/lecturers and members of the army (from St. Louis) living in Stuttgart and the surrounding area, as well as a “St. Louis Day” to promote the American twin town and its economic sectors.

■ 1970 saw the first official visits of the mayors: on the way to St. Louis, Dr. Arnulf Klett used the stopover in Chicago to visit the Swabian Society and the Swabian Singers’ Association there; Mayor Alfonso J. Cervantes came to Stuttgart shortly afterwards during a trip to Germany and, as the newspapers reported, in the same airplane as the pop singer, Peggy March. Upon his return, Mayor Cervantes informed his counterpart that a steadily increasing number of Mercedes-Benz cars in St. Louis would remind him of the German twin town every day.

■ The Stuttgart Ballet had their first performances in St. Louis between 1969 and 1971.

**In the active 70s**

In the 1970s, political debates had an impact, mainly because of the political role of the USA; the media tended to describe German-American relations as difficult. An example of this was the opening of the German-American Week on April 30, 1972. In his opening speech, First Deputy Mayor Dr. Hahn took up the issue of relations with the USA, opposing one-sided debates and emphasizing the achievements of German-American friendship.

*"I find it just as regrettable when critics of American politics make things too simple. The wretched entanglement of the United States in Vietnam is both complex and problematic and it also directly affects us; as friends of the United States, but also as members of a people divided into two states, who are now confronted with their own crucial issue through the discussion of the Eastern Treaties, and the difficult decision has made the political scene gather such a momentum as never seen before.*

*The problems are not so wide apart as some people think. I hope for an acceptable, just and peaceful solution for the American people and ourselves. I would like to explain to our American guests that the critical voices here are mainly those of young committed people, without whom our state would not be what it has become since 1945. The categorically new attitude of many young people to war and violence, no matter from which side and for what purpose, is still also a consequence of a new awareness that the United States has brought us with the example of a real and critical democracy. And for this, I believe, we owe America a debt of gratitude - this is also the basis of our friendship with America."*

- The St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister City Committee (SLSSC) organized its first "street festival" in St. Louis on July 20, 1972; here, as at other events – apart from the socializing aspects – the main aim was to raise money to promote exchange programs and projects with Stuttgart; on this occasion Stuttgart sent three young lime trees to St. Louis, one of which was planted as the "Stuttgart Friendship Tree" at the foot of the Gateway Arch (Jefferson Memorial).

- The direct charter flight of Schwaben International in 1976 was probably unique. It brought 180 Stuttgart musicians and support staff from Stuttgart to St. Louis to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the USA. From June 25 to July 12, 1976, musicians from Stuttgart made their way to perform in the American twin town: the Stuttgart Youth Choir under the direction of Herbert Bähr with 69 young people, the youth band of the Gaisburg Music Association under the direction of Hans Wimmeler with 30 musicians and the Stuttgart Dixieland band "Royal Garden Ramblers".
- One year later, the St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister City Committee under the leadership of Joe Woerzer was awarded the Special Achievement Award for 'Sister City involvement in America's Bicentennial' by the Reader's Digest Foundation at the annual Sister City Congress.
- In 1981, Wilma Prifti, later chairwoman of the SLSSC partnership association, initiated a trainee exchange (International Business Intern Exchange Program), which resulted in a program that enabled hundreds of young people to receive vocational training experience and which is, still today sponsored by Webster University, the Ministry of Science, Research and Art of Baden-Wuerttemberg and its vocational academies, and the State of Missouri.

Over the years, the coordination and maintenance of the town-twinning in Stuttgart was increasingly transferred to the city administration: first the responsibility was with the cultural office, and from 1997 on in the mayor's office with a broad and committed network of various organizations and individuals.

**Milestones and anniversaries**

- In 1985, the 25th anniversary of the town-twinning was celebrated in a big way, with performances by the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra in the Stuttgart Liederhalle, which Dennis Russels (General Music Director of the Wuerttemberg State Theater and Director of the Wuerttemberg State Orchestra of Stuttgart) had previously conducted in the Powell Hall in St. Louis. The Stuttgart Youth Choir and the Youth Chamber Orchestra conducted by Charlotte Azone von Cube also performed in St. Louis.
- In 1987, under President Roy Leimberg, SLSSC launched its largest fundraising event to remain unmatched in the next decades, the German Winter Ball Carnival.
- When St. Louis was hit by a flood disaster in 1993, the people of Stuttgart showed amazing solidarity. After an appeal by Mayor Manfred Rommel to the citizens of Stuttgart to support the people in the twin town, a check for DM 15,000 was handed over to the American Red Cross at Mayor Bosley's office in St. Louis. The Marching Club in St. Louis and the SLSSC also made generous donations to the Salvation Army.
- On the occasion of the 40th anniversary in 2000, the Stuttgart Ballet gave two guest performances at the Fox Theater in St. Louis. A major delegation from the Stuttgart Municipal Council led by Mayor Dr. Wolfgang Schuster flew to St. Louis for the first official visit; there, on January 28, an official declaration of partnership was signed in the City Hall.
- In 2006, Susanne Evens took over the chair of the SLSSC and still has the responsibilities for the organization to date. Her main priorities have been youth projects, exchanges between artists and the expansion of business relations.
- On the occasion of the 50th anniversary in 2010, a joint agreement on cooperation in the field of environmental protection was signed during a delegation trip led by Mayor Dr. Schuster. Following the delegation trip, the contacts between St. Louis and Daimler AG were intensified in the development of new uses for the production facility in St. Louis, which had been closed down by DaimlerChrysler. To mark the occasion, the two breweries, Calwer-Eck-Bräu Stuttgart and the Schlafly-Brauerei St. Louis worked on an anniversary beer with the Dry Hop Maerzen. The official ceremony in the Stuttgart City Hall attended by Mayor Slay and other guests from St. Louis was held during the American Days, which take place every two years.
- With the anniversary came a lot of momentum for the next ten years, the key pillar of town-twinning being stable, long-standing and dynamic school partnerships. Initiatives were also launched in the economic sector, and relations between the universities were intensified. In St. Louis University, the University of Stuttgart found a reliable partner for student exchanges and project cooperation.
- In 2014, the city of St. Louis celebrated its 250th birthday. This was reason enough for Deputy Mayor Isabel Fezer to visit St. Louis, where she personally expressed Stuttgart's congratulations to Mayor Francis Slay and participated in the SLSSC's "Birthday Winter Ball" with young artists from Stuttgart.
- 2016 marked the beginning of a promising new collaboration between GEDOK Stuttgart and Paul ArtSpace, which continues to this day and will enrich the anniversary year 2020 with exciting exhibitions.

## ■ ■ ■ The partnership association SLSSC in St. Louis

In Stuttgart, the cooperation with St. Louis is organized and molded by a large number of associations, organizations and active individual persons, who get advice and financial support from the city's International Relations Department. In St. Louis, the town-twinning relations are among the tasks of the "World Trade Center St. Louis" (WTC St. Louis). There are civil society associations for each of the 16 twin towns of St. Louis, which are responsible for maintaining, shaping and supporting partnership contacts and connections and are supervised by the WTC St. Louis. From the very beginning "St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities Inc." – SLSSC has been a good, reliable, original partner and co-architect for Stuttgart. The precursor organization was founded in 1959.

SLSSC is run by volunteer members who often have a personal link to Germany and want to make a contribution to international understanding and cultural exchange.

What is most important to the SLSSC is that these connections also lead to life-long friendships, for instance by placing exchange partners with host families, where they can gain an insight into everyday life and the culture of another country.

Since the organization in St. Louis is almost completely privately financed, fundraising is necessary to ensure the various program work. Since 1988 one of these events has been the annual "German Winterball Karneval", the largest fundraising event in St. Louis. The Winter Ball with music and performances by various groups – also German groups – marks the official end to the carnival season. The donations given here are primarily used to support town-twinning projects and educational programs that facilitate the exchange between pupils, students and interns. The Paul Artspace Residency Exchange Program, which runs an artist exchange with Stuttgart, also benefits from Winter Ball donations.

SLSSC has set itself the goal,

- to promote understanding and cooperation between the cities of St. Louis and Stuttgart,
- to bring together people of all ages who are interested in raising an awareness for German culture, promoting friendship and peace and creating opportunities for civil society and economic growth in both cities,
- to promote trade and tourism as a member of Sister Cities International and the WTC St. Louis,
- in particular, to support educational exchanges at high school and university level, as well as internships in the business world and teacher exchanges,
- to intensify links in the fields of sport, culture and music through performances by adult and youth symphony orchestras, sporting exchanges and exhibitions.



*Carnival medal in St. Louis on the occasion of the 60th anniversary, which symbolizes the Ghanaian origin of Prince Cliff I, as well as the old Rhine-Hessian home of Princess Silvia I.*



*Susanne Evens and Princess Silvia I., 2020.*

Over the past 60 years, numerous programs have been initiated in this way, also cooperation projects with the City of Stuttgart. The commitment of the volunteers, who feel the relationship between Stuttgart and St. Louis very close to their heart, is literally "priceless". Thanks to the many supporters, this is often due to the commitment of the chairpersons:

- Edward L. Dowd (1960 - 1965)
- Helen S. Williams (1965 - 1967)
- Edward H. Tenney (1967 - 1975)
- Eberhardt W. Gress (1975 - 1977/8)
- Joe Worzer (1977/8 - 1982)
- Leonard L. Griggs (1982 - 1985)
- Robert Villaire (1985 - 1989)
- Roy Leimberg (1989 - 1997)
- Hans Vetter (1997 - 2001)
- Wilma Prifti (2001 - 2005)
- and currently Susanne Evens (since 2006)

**Susanne Evens**, was born in Aalen and found her new home in St. Louis in the early 1990s. In 2019, she wrote an article in the Missouri Humanities Magazine about how she came to the USA and what life is like, living with different cultures. This is available online ► [stuttgart.de/stlouis60](http://stuttgart.de/stlouis60)

In recent years, Susanne Evens has been the heart and soul – and driving force – behind the partnership in St. Louis. She has organized countless events and programs, either on her own or in a team. She has been and still is a passionate networker, host, mediator and organizer and has already proven her enthusiasm, stamina and staying power, having participated in the Stuttgart Run twice! For her untiring commitment to improving cooperation and understanding between Germany and the United States of America, Susanne Evens was awarded the Friedrich Hecker Peace Prize in 2013 by the German American Heritage Society.



*Susanne Evens, Christiane Pyka (DAZ) and Dr. Frédéric Stephan, at the reception of Mayor Lyda Krewson at St. Louis City Hall in 2019 (from left to right).*

## Similarities between Mississippi and Neckar

In particular in the early years it was often emphasized how similar the two cities were. This referred mostly to the large number of educational institutions, the publishing industry or the business location, which in both cities was strongly influenced by the automotive industry, and the automobile was very much predominant in the city landscape. In 1970, this prompted a visitor from St. Louis (Clarissa Start) to write after her stay in Stuttgart: *"This time there was a different match in our circumstances, which I'm reluctant to mention. At 5 pm we got into a terrible traffic jam – bumper to bumper – which is not normally usual in West Germany, but just like on our Highway 4"*.

In 1977, a columnist of the former daily newspaper St. Louis Globe-Democrat even cited "nearly identical twins" in this respect. Even if this description is somewhat exaggerated, there are certainly many similarities:

- In both cities, you can visit a famous building, which sets worldwide and national records and is of great architectural and symbolic importance.
  - In St. Louis the Gateway Arch is the largest arched structure in the world, the largest man-made monument in the United States and the largest building in the State of Missouri. The building is considered extremely aesthetic, also because of its symbolic character. The Gateway to the West has also won several national and regional architecture and design prizes and other awards.
  - Stuttgart's landmark, the Stuttgart Television Tower, marks the beginning of a new era in tower construction, both structurally and architecturally, partly because it was the first of its kind to be made of reinforced concrete. It is regarded worldwide as a model

for many other television towers. The significance of this structural accomplishment received the first Paul Bonatz Architecture Prize in 1959, and in 2009 the title "Historic Landmark of Civil Engineering in Germany" awarded by the Federal Chamber of Engineers. In 1986, it was also included in the list of Stuttgart's Cultural Monuments.

- Both St. Louis and Stuttgart are cities with large green, forest and recreational areas.
  - In Stuttgart, around 50 percent of the city is green space (parks, recreational areas, agricultural land, vineyards, forests and water areas) and around 40 percent of this is under nature and landscape protection. In the "Green U", a park more than 8 kilometers long across the city, the people can enjoy and benefit from the flora and fauna. The public parks and recreational facilities cover an area of 5.6 square kilometers. Another special feature is that for all Stuttgart citizens the next green space is never more than 300 meters away, so always easy to reach on foot.
  - In St. Louis, the situation is very similar: there are 105 public parks within the city limits, ten of which are State Parks – nature or heritage protected areas. The largest of these, Forest Park, the former site of the 1904 World Fair, is considered one of the most beautiful urban public parks in the United States. With its 5.37 square kilometers, it is almost as large as the "Green U". More than 40 other parks are also located in the suburban area. Another common feature with Stuttgart is that about 78 percent of the locals can reach a park on foot.

- Both cities also have wonderful zoos and a botanical garden. The botanical garden in St. Louis is even one of the largest in the world and a center for botanical research.
- Both St. Louis and Stuttgart are considered to be the home of hip-hop, as many big names in the scene started their career there, and this new music genre has since developed further.
- Many of the Germans who emigrated to St. Louis have their roots in Baden-Wuerttemberg and also Stuttgart. Swabian clubs, beer breweries founded by Germans, and folk festivals pay tribute to the rich German cultural heritage in the USA. After Spanish and French, German is the third foreign language most frequently learned at private high schools, colleges and universities in St. Louis.
- Both are major industrial cities with a high gross domestic product (GDP) and of great economic significance for the country. The economic strength is also reflected in the unemployment rate, which, taking the entire region into consideration (before the Corona crisis), is just over three percent – below the national average.
- St. Louis and Stuttgart are both important centers for science in their country. The research priorities reflect the economic strengths of the cities. There are two renowned universities in Stuttgart and three in St. Louis, as well as other state, church and private higher education institutions and research centers, which drive innovation, research and economic power in the cities and guarantee companies highly qualified, academic personnel.
- Due to their numerous research projects, their proximity to the universities and their economic strength, both cities are also considered strongholds for start-up companies.
- The automotive industry has been a defining factor for both cities:
  - St. Louis was the second largest automobile manufacturing center in the United States in the 1970s. From 1959 to 2009, DaimlerChrysler produced its minivans in St. Louis until production was relocated and the plants were closed down in 2011.
  - Today large corporations and suppliers still have their headquarters in Stuttgart, and a large proportion of the population is employed in the automotive industry. The research platform Agenda 2036, in which major Stuttgart companies are involved, is promoting new forms of mobility, production and innovation.
- Both cities have a planetarium. Stuttgart offers information mainly about aerospace, the "St. Louis Science Center" also offers a science exhibition in addition to the planetarium.
- With their extensive range of museums, theaters, orchestras, bands and art associations, both cities have so much to offer on a cultural basis (see also the section "Cultural Wealth").
- Both St. Louis and Stuttgart have a common twin town in Russia – Samara: Samara's partnership with Stuttgart has existed since 1992, that with St. Louis since 1994.

- Beer brewing is a tradition in both Stuttgart and St. Louis.

- St. Louis is home to the Anheuser-Busch brewery, which was founded in 1852 as the “Bavarian Brewery” by the German-American brewer and saloon owner, George Schneider and taken over by Eberhard Anheuser from Bad Kreuznach in 1860. In the mean while, many smaller breweries have become established.

- In Stuttgart, there are also larger breweries, such as the family-owned Dinkelacker Brewery, whose company history dates back to 1861, as well as smaller and craft beer breweries.

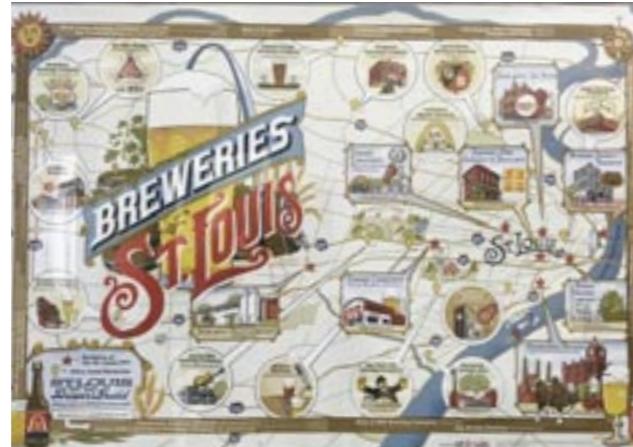
- Both cities are sports cities with outstanding clubs:

- In St. Louis, there are the St. Louis Cardinals (baseball), the St. Louis Blues (ice hockey) and successful and nationally renowned college and university teams.

- In Stuttgart, these include VfB Stuttgart (soccer), MTV Stuttgart (women’s volleyball) and TVB Stuttgart (handball).

- Names, coats of arms and symbols reminding us of the other city:

- The St.-Louis-Weg am Wartberg was created for the 1993 International Horticultural Exhibition. “St. Louis” is also the name of a room in the Stuttgart International Youth Hostel. The coat of arms of St. Louis, as the coat of arms of Stuttgart’s other twin towns, is part of the crest rondel on Koenigsstrasse and also hangs in the entrance area of the city hall.



*Poster of the breweries in St. Louis at a glance*

- In St. Louis, a lime tree from Stuttgart was planted as the “Stuttgart Friendship Tree” at the foot of the Gateway Arch (Jefferson Memorial Park, now Gateway Arch National Park); in the 1960s, it had been planned to name a street “Stuttgart Highway”; the Stuttgart flag sometimes hangs in the city hall.

- To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the partnership, a Stuttgart city railway will be launched and christened “St. Louis”, using water from the St. Louis banks of the Mississippi River.

- Both in Stuttgart and in St. Louis, the important German poet Friedrich Schiller, who came from Marbach near Stuttgart, is honored with statues.

## Winegrowing as a common cultural heritage

In the Stuttgart Region, the history of winegrowing possibly dates back to Roman times. At least since 1108 vines have been cultivated in the inner city area – this is also officially documented. In the Middle Ages, viticulture was the main source of income for the people of Stuttgart and in the 16th century, Stuttgart was one of the largest winegrowing communities in Germany. The Thirty Years’ War brought much destruction and saw a significant decline in the wine business, followed by a growth in urban infrastructure.

On the other hand, viticulture in St. Louis is closely linked to immigrants from Germany, especially from the Rhine region, and other parts of Europe. The immigrants from Europe not only brought the art of beer brewing to Missouri in the middle of the 19th century, but also established the first wine region of the USA west of St. Louis.

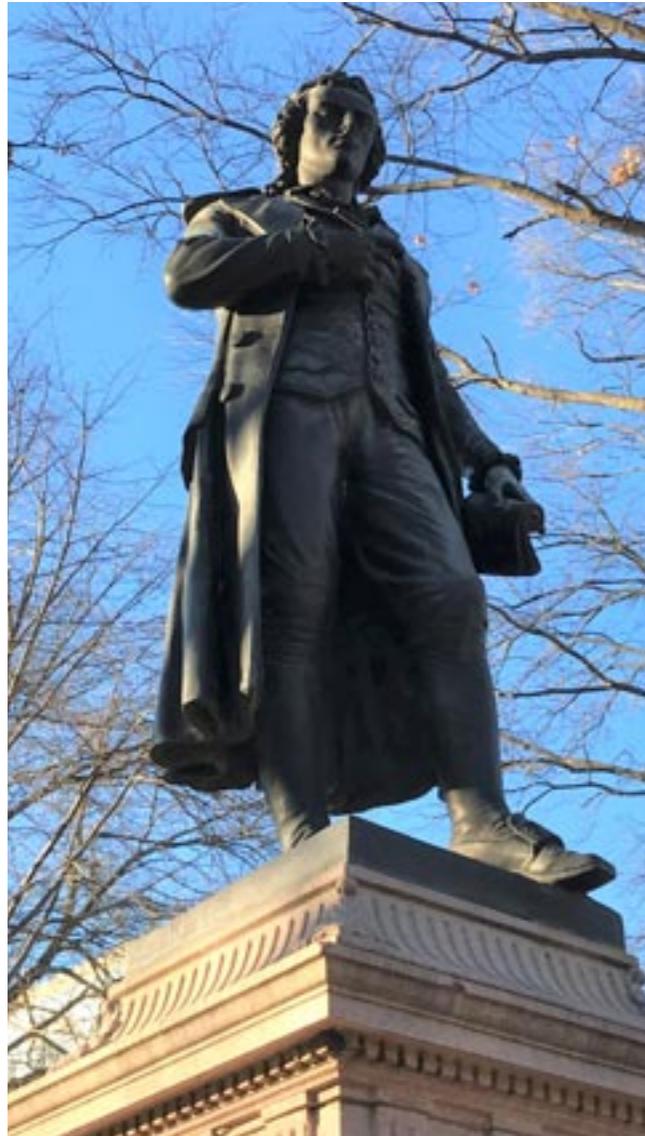
The Stone Hill Winery in Hermann, Missouri, was the third largest winery in the world at the beginning of the 20th century. Between 1873 and 1904, wines from there won eight gold medals at world exhibitions. 1876 saw the spread of the treacherous vine pest, which had come to France from America and threatened the harvest in France and soon all over Europe, here viticulture in Missouri could gain international prestige: three men played a decisive role in saving European viticulture; Professor George Hussman from Hermann and the winegrowers and cultivators, Isidor Bush from St. Louis and Hermann Jaeger from Neosho, whose wife came from St. Louis, worked closely with the state entomologist Charles Valentine Riley during the European vine pest crisis. They cultivated and researched vines that were resistant to the pest and then sent them to France, where they were a basis for strengthening the resistance of French noble vines. The vines from Missouri proved to be particularly suitable for the French climate and soil conditions. Viticulture remained important for the Stuttgart and St. Louis regions also after the vine pest

epidemic. In the USA, as of 1920 the Prohibition made the production and sale of alcohol an offence and the result of this was that many families lost their livelihood. Wineries were closed down and the wine industry in Missouri came to a complete standstill. Only the novitiate of St. Stanislas in St. Louis, where the Jesuits continued to produce communion wine was able to survive the Prohibition.

After the lifting of the Prohibition as regards the production and sale of alcohol the wine industry in Missouri was able to recover, but with the high restrictions it never again reached its previous magnitude. Even today, a certain charm of Stuttgart remains in its vineyards, just taking a walk or exploring the history of winegrowing on the way. Today, the Stuttgart Region is the sixth largest winegrowing region in Baden-Wuerttemberg and has 4,000 hectares of vineyards.



*Viticulture in Stuttgart*



*Friedrich Schiller is honored with monuments in St. Louis (left) and Stuttgart (right)*



## Schiller, the “American Poet”

There is no doubt about the importance of Schiller in Germany. However, the fact that Schiller was in the past revered by St. Louis and the USA as the “American poet” is perhaps not so familiar. On the other hand, if we take a look at the history of the USA, we can explain his immense influence there, because at the time of the wars of secession some 250,000 German emigrants fought on Lincoln’s side. They were aware of and entrusted with Schiller’s ideals of universal human rights and political freedom and played an important part in the election of Lincoln as the US president. The election ultimately led to the end of the American Civil War and the abolition of slavery. Schiller was called the “poet of freedom” in the USA at this time; his plays were translated into English and performed and went down very well with the population.

One of these so-called Forty-Eighter immigrants was the German revolutionary, **Friedrich Hecker**, who took part in the wars of secession, fought alongside Lincoln and campaigned for his election. Because of his political involvement during the March Revolution (1848), he fled with his family into American exile in 1848 and spent some time in St. Louis before he died on his farm in Illinois in 1881.

Soon afterwards, statues were erected all over the country to commemorate the poet. The model for many of these monuments is the Schiller bust of the famous Stuttgart sculptor, Johann Heinrich von Dannecker, a childhood friend of Schiller. On the death of the poet in 1805, he created a bust, which he completed in 1814.

In Stuttgart, after it was permitted at the beginning of the 19th century to erect monuments in honor of citizens and not only aristocrats, military officers or saints, two statues

were erected in honor of Schiller. The first, dating from 1839 by Bertel Thorvaldsen at Schillerplatz, is the first major monument to a poet in Germany. The second was designed by Adolf von Donndorf and erected in front of the Wuerttemberg State Theater in 1913.

In St. Louis, the ceremonial unveiling of the Schiller Memorial took place in 1898 after a three-day celebration during which German music was played, a huge parade was held and dramas by Schiller were performed. The Wuerttemberg emigrant, Colonel Charles G. “Carl” Stifel, who had made a name for himself in St. Louis as a veteran and master brewer, bequeathed the monument. The statue in St. Louis is an exact replica of the monument, which was erected in Schiller’s birth town Marbach designed by Ernst Rau and inaugurated in 1876. The German sculptor was a student at the Stuttgart Art School and lived in the State Capital until his early death in 1875.

The monuments in Stuttgart on Schillerplatz and in St. Louis are very similar. Both represent an upright, dignified and respected Friedrich Schiller – someone to look up to. In his hand, he has a writing pen and a scroll, the characteristic attributes of a poet. However, they differ in their attire. In St. Louis Schiller wears a contemporary coat, in Stuttgart, as a feature of classicism, he is donned in a Roman toga with a laurel wreath on his head. The second Schiller monument in Stuttgart by Adolf von Donndorf also has something in common with the St. Louis “American poet”. Johann Heinrich von Dannecker’s bust of Schiller served as the model for the design of the head of Schiller.

## ■ ■ ■ Dedication to youth and educational exchange

In the course of time, the encounters between the schools have become a stable pillar of the partnership, providing the students then and now not only with new experiences but also with friendships and an understanding for life. The fact that the young people have a longer stay in the twin town – it is a long way between the cities – and that they are mostly placed with guest families has a lasting effect on the participants. The same applies for those in a university exchange or youth projects.

The issue was on the agenda of the first partnership committee in Stuttgart early on and it started with architecture students who did an internship in St. Louis and also a teacher exchange between the Leibniz Gymnasium in Feuerbach and the University City High School.

### School Exchange

It all started in 1960 with the school partnership between Schickhardt-Gymnasium and Beaumont High School. The kids exchanged letters and tape recordings. In 1967, a group of students from St. Louis visited the State Capital. In 1983, a group of students from Parkway Senior High School, St. Louis got together with students from Schickhardt-Gymnasium, one year later a student group from Oakville High School met their counterparts from the Evangelisches Mörikegymnasium. These exchanges were just one-time happenings, and it would be another four years before regular student exchanges between the twin towns took place.

In 1988, the Ferdinand-Porsche-Gymnasium Zuffenhausen and the John Burroughs High School began their cooperation. This long-standing cooperation is the oldest of all the school partnerships in Stuttgart. This exchange program is also the reason why students at John Burroughs High School are still keen to learn German – the courses are always full.



*Student exchange between Hegel-Gymnasium and Parkway South High School 2016.*

## Exchange with Ferdinand-Porsche-Gymnasium 1988

By Director of Studies (ret.) Günter Schölzel

The Amtrak train is winding its way around the city a good half-hour, along the Mississippi levee under the majestic Gateway Arch, and you can see the imposing skyscraper landscape from every side. Yes, we're arriving in St. Louis by train, but the central station is shabby and rundown and the area looks like something between Stuttgart's wholesale market, slaughterhouse and harbor – just that it's American.

Here our host families are waiting for us, with friendly and warmhearted "hellos" and "welcomes" as if we were good old friends, and they also apologize for the American railway company and these conditions – "a thing of the past!" [...]

We were all overwhelmed by the warm-heartedness, kindness, helpfulness and generosity of our host families, but also of all the others we met in St. Louis. And, gradually we came to learn that the "Midwesterners" are something special. They call themselves "flyovers", but with their close family structures and friendly nature they don't fit into the hectic pace of New York or the laid-back California lifestyle.

Here we were able to enjoy the "American way of life" – lots of space, BBQ parties with more than 50 guests – no problem. But we also experienced the downside of being without a car or having no public transport with the long distances in American cities (in St. Louis you drive about 35 to 40 miles across town) and with no public transport system, especially in the residential areas, we had to depend on the friendly "chauffeur services" of our host families.

With a school partnership, school attendance is of course the focus of interest, and we could savor this from early in the morning until late in the afternoon.

Thinking about the Easter holidays at home, this full school day meant a real change of rhythm. We had chosen courses that suited us, plus an elective subject, and in the afternoon program we had various activities from a wide range of sports.

In the classes we liked the relaxed, almost noncommittal teaching atmosphere and the friendly teacher-student relationship, but as we soon noticed, the real work had to be done at home: in the evenings and on the weekends, including Easter Sunday – which resulted in a painful lack of contact with friends and free time on the part of our American partners.

The explanation for this, as we see it, quite exceptional work ethic – where copying homework is considered an absolute disgrace – is short and sweet: John Burroughs is a private school, the parents pay 6,000 dollars a year for their son or daughter. The school is accordingly extremely well equipped, from the library to the art studio, from the three computer classes to the sports facilities – a situation we can only dream of in Stuttgart!

Of course, this is not the typical and much-maligned downtown American High School, which often has a ghetto reputation with all the related problems. There are, however, also public, i.e. not private, schools in the suburbs, with a similar design and purpose as John Burroughs: they provide school graduates with access to the best universities in the country. They have a college counselor specifically for this task.

Despite all the hard schoolwork, we also had enough opportunity to chill out after the long and exhausting school days with the right sightseeing tours. Some of our host parents

privately organized various visits: to the zoo, the botanical garden and some interesting museums in St. Louis.

The St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister City Committee mobilized four volunteers with their private cars, who took us on a big city tour and organized the traditional adventure trip on a Mississippi steamer for us. The "TOM SAWYER" is of course no longer a steamship, even the picturesque stern paddle wheel is missing, it's now a small boat with modern diesel engine; but still the general appearance of these river ships with their bow landing stage and two chimneys rising at the sides brings us a touch of old pioneer-day Mark Twain-romanticism.

The Mayor's reception was brief but dignified – even the yellow and black flag with the Stuttgart horse had been hoisted in the large foyer of City Hall.

And on the last evening before our departure we received private tuition in American professional baseball: at the game of the St. Louis Cardinals in the 50,000-seat Busch Stadium (donated by the world's largest brewery Anheuser-Busch) we were even welcomed on the electronic scoreboard: "Welcome Students and Guests from Stuttgart, Germany" – and promptly the Cardinals went on to win their first game of the season.

No wonder that after such experiences and with this overwhelming friendship and hospitality we didn't want to leave! It's amazing and awesome how in such a short time friendships can be formed and families extended across continents, oceans and language barriers – some of the participants would have preferred to stay there, and almost everyone wanted to return and experience more of America. But first of all, we were looking forward to the return visit from our new friends from St. Louis to the Ferdinand-Porsche-Gymnasium in Zuffenhausen and hoping our school partnership will continue for many years.



*Günther Schölzel and students*

The Geschwister-Scholl-Gymnasium Stuttgart-Sillenbuch has had a similarly long tradition of joint student encounters with St. Louis: from 1989 to 2000 there was a student exchange with Fox High School in Arnold, south of St. Louis. In 1993, the Lindbergh High School joined "the family". This exchange program still exists today and is very popular among students on both sides. The 2003 exchange report described the very special experience for the students of the senior high school to drive home after school with their still-young host siblings at the wheel or to experience the spirit and atmosphere of cheerleading and American football at school sports events in the afternoon.

For several years, numerous students from the Königin-Charlotte-Gymnasium and its partner schools Francis-Howell-North and Hazelwood West (1992 to 2001), the Realschule Stuttgart-Freiberg and Kirkwood High School (1993 to 1999), as well as the Hegel-Gymnasium and

Parkway South High School (2006 to 2017) also had the opportunity to get to know the culture and way of life of their partners through their exchanges.

The "Käpsele vom Katzenstift", as the Stuttgarter Zeitung called the students of the Königin-Katharina-Stift, were able to establish very special relationships with St. Louis: in 2016 and 2017, they took part in the World Finals of the FIRST-Tech-Challenge competition in St. Louis. FIRST-Tech-Challenge (FTC) is a robotics program for 14 to 20 year-olds. The teams face a yearly changing challenge on a ten-square-meter playing field and, with another team, have two and a half minutes to solve tasks with their own (planned and programed) robot. In the meantime, the Königin-Katharina-Stift has three teams and is therefore top of the league in Germany.



*Spirits were high in the Königin-Katharina-Stift team at the World Finals of the FIRST-Tech-Challenge competition in St. Louis, 2017*

### University Exchange

Scholars and employees at Washington University in St. Louis were the driving forces behind the town-twinning, so that this university was, from the outset very much in focus. In 1960, there were discussions as to establishing an outpost in Stuttgart, similar to Stanford University with its overseas campus in Weinstadt from 1958 to 1974.

In 1960, the first two exchange students, Hannemann and Mühlich, traveled to St. Louis for a two-year internship.

Organized by the American Department, Helmut Reuschle and Klaus Geiger worked as youth workers at the Presbyterian Church in St. Louis in 1963 and 1964. On his return, Klaus Geiger reported of his experience:

*“There is another America – quite different to that of skyscrapers, cars, streets and machines. The America of poverty, prejudice, racial hatred, crime, garbage, the America of the underprivileged – as it calls itself. It can be found in slums and backyards, mostly on the periphery, as a rule inhabited exclusively by blacks, by the outcasts of modern American society. A “sightseeing tour” or the 50 Cent city tour never takes you there. You have to look for it yourself. You have to work there to get to know it.*

*The children who grow up in this “other” America are shaped by their environment. They are not characterized by having no money, no clothes or not enough to eat. What they lack is to cope with a world that is bigger than just the block they live on. [...] The Second Presbyterian Church has set itself the task of helping here. Their endeavors include an extensive program of physical exercise, especially basketball for different age groups, craft classes, youth groups, scout groups, tutoring for school classes and for individual students. Of course, there are various incidents: theft, boys trying to solve differences of opinion using a knife and much more. Working here calls for no end of patience.*

*No one can say to what extent this goal will be achieved – in most cases probably never. Nevertheless, at least for one or two hours a week, the Presbyterian Church is glad to have these young people out of the stronghold of their apathy, a stronghold against everything that does not directly concern their very being. This stronghold can only fall if we do not tire of trying to break it down. And that is what counts in this work in the ‘other’ America.”*

Throughout the years more and more projects have been sponsored and established between the various universities and other educational institutions, which have given students and interns the opportunity for further education in the partner cities. Ensuring this, the St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities Committee has been a co-sponsor of the “International Business Intern Exchange Program” since 1981, which promotes the exchange of interns between Webster University, St. Louis and Stuttgart.

### Academic programs and projects

Cooperation agreements and exchange programs have been in place between the University of Stuttgart and the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL) since 1982, and between the Hohenheim University and Washington University in St. Louis since 1994. Since then, summer language courses, workshops, specialist conferences or interesting guest lectures by professors have been regularly scheduled.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the partnership in 2010, the American Studies project “In conversation with Globalization”, initiated two years earlier by Dr. Wolfgang Holtkamp with a partner in Mumbai, was joined by the St. Louis University (SLU). Until 2016, joint online seminars and joint projects took place in one of the partner cities to be able to link theory and practice in the learning process. The project is currently running with partners in South Africa and Russia.

In fall 2019, an intensive workshop in St. Louis with representatives of the University of Stuttgart at the UMSL (see also DAZ article), brought forward numerous ideas for the expansion of university partnerships. In February 2020, plans were extended during the return visit to Stuttgart by Liane Constantine, acting managing director of the UMSL Global Office and responsible for international partnerships. This resulted in various online presentations in the anniversary year; she also presented UMSL as a partner for start-ups, also from Germany, on its large campus area, as a venue for cultural events and proposed the organization of a transatlantic innovation conference for the Midwest of the USA.

In addition to establishing joint academic programs and offers and intensifying student exchanges, the University of Stuttgart initiated the project “Middle West at its best, field trip and reporting from the Midwest on the US election”, which had been planned for autumn 2020.

### Extracurricular education and involvement

Not only within the framework of music, sports, cultural and school projects, but also through committed youth organizations, do young people have numerous opportunities to come into contact with the people and traditions of the twin town.

The Stuttgarter Jugendhaus Gesellschaft mbH was already represented in St. Louis at the beginning of the 1960s as Stuttgarter Jugendverein e.V. However, the major and annual youth projects and exchanges didn't take place until 2000 – 2010, in cooperation with the SLSSC.

Particular mention should be made to the first UNESCO World Youth Festival, which was organized by the State Capital Stuttgart during the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany. During the festival, the Jugendhaus Gesellschaft looked after more than 2,000 young people from five

continents for a week, including young people from St. Louis. St. Louis also participated in the essay competition based on the World Cup motto “A Time to Make Friends” organized simultaneously by the then European Information Center and the Literaturhaus Stuttgart with all partner cities.

Also for the UNESCO World Youth Festival, the Eltern-Kind-Zentrum Stuttgart-West e. V. [Parent-Child Center Stuttgart-West e. V.] initiated a dialog between young people from St. Louis and Stuttgart with the support of the State Capital Stuttgart and the Jugendhaus Gesellschaft [Youth House Society]. The cooperation partner here was WomanSpirit St. Louis Inc.

In 2009, the Stuttgarter Jugendhaus Gesellschaft organized a second UNESCO World Youth Festival for the State Capital Stuttgart, this time on the subject of climate change under the motto: “Life is an encounter – youth in the dialog of cultures”. Again, young people from St. Louis took part in this international event.

Jan Elm had a special project. He did a voluntary international social year in St. Louis in 2016 and worked in a social circus project; he regularly blogged about his experiences and encounters with people in St. Louis; read his 2016 report

▶ [stuttgart.de/stlouis60](http://stuttgart.de/stlouis60)

Thanks to the support of the St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities Committee, some 530 students from the St. Louis and Stuttgart regions have been able to participate in exchange programs since 1960. At the same time, with the support of the State Capital Stuttgart and SLSSC, around 2,600 students and young people have been able to participate in one of the exchange programs.

### Success with the Circle of Hope Dialog

Promoting family-friendliness in local communities and developing sustainable future prospects were the goals of the Parent-Child Center in Stuttgart (EKiZ) in 2004 in the dialog process "Learning with and from families". The project took place in cooperation with La Doris Payne-Bell, chairwoman of the WomanSpirit Association in St. Louis, and Stephen C. Jeanetta from the University of Missouri in Columbia.

The dialog between families and local decision makers was to be of great importance in this process. The project benefited in particular from the exchange with Payne-Bell on the "right" way to conduct a dialog. With the WomanSpirit Association, which she founded in 1993, she pursued the goal of helping disadvantaged Afro-American women in St. Louis through mutual networking and support. This was aimed at reducing violence and contributing to the economic independent lifestyle of these women.

To this end, La Doris Payne-Bell and WomanSpirit developed the Leadership Support method further into the "Circle of Hope". One of the aims of this method is to create a constructive working atmosphere and an attitude of mutual respect through dialog. This way, the strengths of all those involved are to be bundled and further developed to enable disadvantaged groups to play an active part in social life.

This concept of "Circle of Hope" was intended to be applied in Stuttgart in order to develop, for instance, more family-friendly opportunities for involvement and active perspectives in Stuttgart.

The success of the event led to the EKiZ initiative being included in the "Local Alliance for the Family". This German federal government program, which is funded by the European Union, ensured better networking of the Stuttgart dialog model and supported those involved in its implementation. In the following year, the EKiZ program was also

extended to help parents with work/family balance, develop initiatives to combat family poverty and organize further meetings to promote family friendliness.

The cooperation with the unswerving La Doris Payne-Bell and WomanSpirit organization was continued over the next few years: in 2006 with the said youth meeting, and in March 2013 as part of the Gebrüder Schmid Foundation's conference "Creating spaces for cooperation of the generations".



*La Doris Payne-Bell (second from left) next to the then Mayor Dr. Schuster and young people from St. Louis at the reception in the Stuttgart City Hall on the occasion of the UNESCO World Youth Festival, 2006*

## ■ ■ ■ Sport brings people together also across the Atlantic

Even though the sports exchange cannot be as close as with other twin towns, simply because of the distance between the two cities, plus the organizational and financial challenges and the different structures we have in sport, enthusiastic organizations and individuals have always managed to initiate and realize sporting exchanges.

The first "forerunner" of sporting exchanges was likely the City Councilor, Richard Schaufele, who was also Vice-President of the German Athletics Association and visited St. Louis in June 1963. Four years later, it was the turn of the first women's basketball team of MTV Stuttgart 1843 team. Further exchanges followed but it was mainly soccer that became established in the long term. However, at the invitation of the State Capital, runners from St. Louis have also regularly taken part in the annual Stuttgart Run since 2005.

### Soccer

Soccer was more widespread in St. Louis than in other cities in the USA. There, dozens of schools and church congregations set up their own soccer teams early on, long before the sport became popular in the USA. The teams from St. Louis were way ahead in the American soccer leagues, whether amateur or professional, as well as in the youth sector and some of them were able to chalk up many successes.

One club from St. Louis that was very successful in the amateur league was the "Kutis Soccer Club", founded in 1947 and sponsored from 1953 by the Czech businessman, Thomas Kutis. As early as 1955, the club won the National Amateur Championship in the USA and nine more championship titles followed up to 1968, including the victory in 1957 at the Open Cup Final, the most important cup competition in the USA. The team received a very special honor when the entire squad of the club was selected for two qualifying matches for the US national team at the FIFA World Cup

in 1958. In June 1971, the youth team of Kutis Soccer Club with their German coach, Friedel Geissert (formerly of Eintracht Frankfurt) visited Stuttgart and other southern German cities. Here they played a friendly match against TSV Zuffenhausen. In the amateur sector, several youth soccer teams from Stuttgart and St. Louis competed in tournaments afterwards, including the Stuttgarter Kickers Amateurs.

In 1978, a friendly match was staged at the Busch Memorial Stadium between VfB Stuttgart and the St. Louis All Stars, a team of well-known players led by Pat McBride, who for many years had played for the St. Louis Stars soccer team and also for the US national team. Founded in 1967, the St. Louis Stars were a well-known soccer team in the USA, which also appointed the German coach Rudi Gutendorf as General Manager for two years in the 1960s – after he had previously coached VfB Stuttgart. The team was later sold to California.

VfB Stuttgart in turn traveled to St. Louis again in 1984, this time for a friendly match against the US Olympic team. Mayor Manfred Rommel and his colleague, Vincent C. Schoemehl made a bet on who would win; Mayor Rommel won and got his crate of Budweiser beer delivered to Stuttgart.

Today, St. Louis wants to hook up to the glory days of the 1970s, when it was considered the capital of soccer in the United States. In August 2019, St. Louis was chosen as the 28th location for a professional team in the US professional league Major League Soccer (MLS), which is expected to start playing in 2022. A new stadium seating 22,500 is currently being built in a central location. So, in the future soccer could once again be a good link between St. Louis and Stuttgart.

### Baseball

The importance of soccer in Germany is probably only matched by baseball in the USA. St. Louis is a baseball city par excellence. Over the years the St. Louis Cardinals have won the World Series eleven times, the last time in 2011.

During the visit of a Stuttgart delegation to St. Louis in April 2010 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the city's founding, it was a very special honor for the then Mayor, Dr. Wolfgang Schuster, to open the game of the St. Louis Cardinals against the New York Mets with the "first pitch", the first throw before a game.



*Delegation of the Stuttgart Reds, who traveled to St. Louis in 2011, from left: Jannik Denz, Matthias Schmitt, Fabian Weil and Coach Markus Weil*

The Stuttgart Reds are the baseball and softball division of the Turnverein Cannstatt 1846 e. V. The first men's team has been competing in the first Baseball League South since 2012. In 2014, the team had its greatest success so far, reaching the playoff semi-finals. In the next few years a new baseball stadium will be built in Stuttgart.

In August 2011, three players from the Stuttgart Reds and their coach participated in a junior tournament organized by the Cardinals with international participants (from Europe, Japan, Australia, USA). Intensive discussions during a network trip organized by the German-American Center and supported by the State Capital Stuttgart in fall 2019 in St. Louis led to more tangible plans for cooperation in the youth sector.

In further meetings with the baseball officials of the University of Missouri at St. Louis (UMSL), various possibilities for cooperation were explored in order to realize an exchange of players.

## The St. Louis Cardinals and their star

by Manfred Hinderer

One of the superlatives that St. Louis in the state of Missouri has to offer is the world's largest brewery, after which the baseball stadium is also named, the Busch Stadium. This is where the St. Louis Cardinals play, whose standing in the national baseball league I never really followed, since I've never understood the rules of the game. However, when in the 1990s I was on business in St. Louis several times, I got caught up in a wave of euphoria or hype around the team's star. He was the first baseman and called Marc McGwire – or simply "Big Mac".

In the summer of 1998, my business partners were so keen to invite me to join them at an important game because everyone was so excited about whether their star would be able to crack the long existing record of 61 "home runs" per season. This is about striking the ball thrown by the opposing pitcher and hitting so hard that the opposing team needs longer to play it back than one's own team to completely change their positions. Marc McGwire was already well on the way, probably having hit well over 50 home runs, but the league's best rival, Chicago Cubs' Sammy Sosa, was breathing down his neck. That night in August, the opponents in the Busch Stadium were the Chicago Cubs and the stadium was sold out. Big Mac's performance turned into an absolute spectacle.

The giant made several home runs and when he launched the last ball way over the stadium roof, the cheers were deafening for what seemed like ages, the record had been cracked, the spectators were hugging and embracing one another. The recording was shown on the video screen again and again. The star threw balls into the spectator stands. His opponent, Sosa congratulated graciously and St. Louis was exultant.



*The Busch Stadium, home of the St. Louis Cardinals*

At the end of the season, I later learned that "Big Mac" had, with 70 home runs, set a new record, which then would last three years. The fact that he was known to have used doping substances that had long been banned in other sports – but not in baseball – did not harm his reputation at that time.

*The author was often in St. Louis in the 1990s as a quality expert. His visit to the baseball game described was actually only meant to bridge the time between two dates, but it remained in his memory for a long time.*

## ■ ■ ■ Cultural wealth

In such lively and dynamic cities as Stuttgart and St. Louis, art and culture play a very characteristic role and there are many similarities. When Mayor Rommel returned from his first visit to St. Louis in 1978, he was very enthusiastic about how the citizens support the city's cultural life, which is largely in private hands. Almost all museums in St. Louis have been and still are free.

Many of these museums and the zoo are located in Forest Park, which was also the location of the 1904 World Fair and the first summer Olympics in the USA. The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra is one of the best orchestras in the USA and has received a total of six Grammy Awards and 56 nominations.

In literature, biographical references to St. Louis include Maya Angelou, T.S. Elliot, or Tennessee Williams, whose work 'The Glass Menagerie' is set in St. Louis in the 1930s. In her essay "What St. Louis tells us about America", published in the New York Times in 2019, the Pulitzer Prize



*Saint Louis Art Museum (SLAM)*

winner, Jane Smiley describes her hometown as perhaps the most revealing place to discover what the USA is all about.

### Early cultural ambassadors

The first cultural ambassador was the puppeteer Ernst-Günter Schmidt in 1961. Ten years later, the unforgotten Anni Weigand performed in St. Louis with her puppet theater La-Plapper-Papp (which, like the town-twinning, was founded in 1960; Anni Weigand died in the anniversary year 2020 at the age of 100). The Stuttgart Youth Choir also performed in St. Louis.

1971 was a very busy year in both cities, with each hosting a twin town day: a Stuttgart Day in St. Louis on June 14 and a St. Louis Day in Stuttgart during the German-American Weeks on May 7. This included an exhibition in America House on the history, development and industry in St. Louis. In the same year, as before in 1969, the Stuttgart Ballet gave a performance in St. Louis on Stuttgart Day with the solo dancers Marcia Haydée and Richard Gragun in the leading

roles in 'Romeo and Juliet'. According to the 'Saturday Star', the audience was thrilled: "A ballet company of such beauty and force that it has literally shaken the entire world of dance." (Saturday Review). Further performances followed in 1973 and in 2000 in St. Louis.

In 1976, 56 Stuttgart artists exhibited "Stuttgart Art" in the Public Library in St. Louis in an exhibition project of the Künstlerbund Baden-Württemberg commissioned by the State Capital Stuttgart; the fotoclub stuttgart 1938 e. V. showed views of Stuttgart in the Christ Church Cathedral in St. Louis for the first time; two years later, a return-exhibition with photos of St. Louis was held in Stuttgart City Hall.

The museums in Stuttgart and St. Louis have been able to benefit in many ways from the town-twinning. In 1990, for example, the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart exhibited works by the German artist, Max Beckmann, which were on loan to Stuttgart by the St. Louis Art Museum (SLAM). Max Beckmann lived in St. Louis from 1947 to 1949, and the SLAM has the largest public collection of his paintings worldwide.

In return, the SLAM presented 123 works to the Staatsgalerie under the title "The Romantic Age of German Art". At present, the Akademie der Bildenden Künste (ABK) in Stuttgart and the SLAM are working on a cooperation as regards the restoration of works of art. Exchanges, internships and guest visits of ABK students are planned at the SLAM, which, however will have to be postponed until 2021 Corona.



**Joseph Pulitzer**, son of a wealthy Hungarian-Jewish grain merchant, having lost everything after the death of his father, applied to join the US Union Army at the age of 17 as a recruit and came to the USA via Boston in 1864.

He learned English, did a degree in law and then became a reporter for the German-language "Westliche Post" in St. Louis in 1868. Four years later at the age of 25, he bought the newspaper and became the publisher. Further business deals were to follow, which evolved into the "St. Louis Post Dispatch" in 1878.

Pulitzer set up a training program for journalists at both Columbia University and the University of Missouri St. Louis. After his death, a school was opened at Columbia University in 1912 with money from his estate: the "Graduate School of Journalism". The founding of the "Missouri School of Journalism" in St. Louis in 1908 was initiated by Pulitzer, but was followed up and realized by Walter Williams, the official founder.

Since 1917, Columbia University in New York has organized the Pulitzer Prize for Journalism, which is considered one of the most prestigious journalism prizes in the world.

## A Stuttgart masterpiece at the 1904 World Fair

By Dr. Maaike van Rijn

The 1904 World's Fair was not only a major event of nationwide interest for the city of St. Louis, but the "Louisiana Purchase Exposition" in the American state of Missouri was also of significance for the Kingdom of Wuerttemberg and Stuttgart. The reason for this was the gold medal that Wuerttemberg received for a music salon commissioned by the "Königlich Württembergische Zentralstelle für Handel und Gewerbe" [Royal Wuerttemberg Center for Trade and Commerce] and carried out by Bernhard Pankok (1872 to 1943).

Only parts of the prize-winning furnishings of the Music Salon, which was exhibited in the Industrial Products Department, Room 28 in the Palace of Arts and Crafts still exist. The grand piano, a table with two armchairs and three glass panes, which were originally part of a large wall vitrification, have been saved. All parts are now in the collections of the Landesmuseum Wuerttemberg in Stuttgart. The grand piano is now exhibited in the Haus der Musik am Fruchtkasten, the glass window can be viewed in the display collection of the Landesmuseum Wuerttemberg in the Altes Schloss.

The concept of the room, the entire furnishings and all the individual pieces of furniture were designed by Bernhard Pankok, who was at the time professor at the Royal Teaching and Experimental Workshop in Stuttgart. Work on the salon was carried out by renowned Stuttgart companies. The furniture and carpentry were made by Georg Schöttle, the grand piano by the Schiedmayer pianoforte manufacture and the bronze and crystal lighting fixtures by the Paul Stotz iron foundry. What was once seven-axis double-glazing and covered the entire length of the room was the work and art of the Saile art glazing company. This large-scale window glazing was a major point of discussion and hailed as particularly

"modern" and as a stylistic innovation of the time. Each window was decorated differently. The existing glass painting illustrates an ensemble of intertwining plant stems and elongated lancet leaves. They are axial and frame a bright central field divided into three-leaved blue and yellow flowers.

Bernhard Pankok's music salon was highly praised both internationally and in the German design journals as a successful mixture between the organic forms typical of Art Nouveau and a modern, more unadorned and less "decadent" interpretation. This is illustrated in a review in the *Kunstgewerbeblatt* of 1906, which emphasizes precisely these aspects: "He [Pankok] is one of the most outstanding creative forces in German decorative art. The more closely one looks at the large salon Pankok designed on behalf of the Royal Wuerttemberg Center for Trade and Commerce in Stuttgart, which received the highest award in St. Louis. (...) The room gives an impression of noble, dignified splendor and shows such an abundance of decorative motifs (...) that one can't help but wonder at Pankok's inexhaustible surge, yet not unrestrained imagination."

### World Expo and State Trade Collections

Participating in a world exhibition was at that time a major event for artists and manufacturers. It was considered an exhibition of nations and people, not only for technical and industrial innovations, but also where questions of style could be addressed and discussed. The issues of modernity and national artistic styles characteristic of the early 20th century were to be discussed, as were technical innovations in the arts and crafts and architectural designs. At the same time, such a world exhibition was an opportunity to learn about art, architecture and the technical-industrial developments in other countries.

World exhibitions were also a market place with many pieces on sale. It was frequently customary for the individual countries, often by royal decree – providing the money to commission buyers, as was the case in Wuerttemberg – to buy the most beautiful and important pieces for the arts and craft collections at home. Many pieces from the collections of the former Landesgewerbemuseum Stuttgart, which are now kept in the Landesmuseum Wuerttemberg, were at the world exhibitions of the early 20th century. The aim of these large-scale collections was to present these exemplary best pieces to local artists and industrialists.

Following the World Exhibition in Paris in 1900, the German states also played an increasingly important role in the discussion on design appropriate to the industrial age. With the increasing industrialization of consumerism, there was the desire to bring together architecture, craftsmanship and industry.

### Bernhard Pankok and Stuttgart

For Stuttgart, the success of the Music Salon at the World Exhibition in St. Louis was certainly important to help Bernhard Pankok in his further efforts in the arts and crafts – for example, the new building of the Royal Wuerttemberg School of Arts and Crafts, which opened in Killesberg in 1913.

The renown of Stuttgart's arts and crafts is closely linked to the name Bernhard Pankok; in the early 20th century, with the Royal Training and Experimental workshop, the School of Arts and Crafts that was to follow, the State Office of Arts and Crafts and the State Museum of Applied Arts, was well positioned in national comparison and was personally protected by King Wilhelm II of Württemberg. Pankok was one of the co-founders of the Vereinigte Werkstätten für Kunst im Handwerk and was appointed to the Royal Wuerttemberg School of Arts and Crafts in 1901, where he was director from 1913.

His career as an architect also began in 1901 with the construction of Haus Lange in Tübingen. In 1907, he was one of the co-founders of the Deutscher Werkbund [German Association of Craftsmen]. In the period that followed, his field of work continued to be very varied and, in addition to teaching, he worked on architectural designs, interior decoration for steamships and zeppelins, arts and crafts, and also art painting and opera settings.

*The author is curator and head of collections for fashion, textiles and modern arts and crafts from the 19th century to the present in the Landesmuseum Wuerttemberg.*



*View into the Music Salon designed by Bernhard Pankok, World Exhibition St. Louis 1904*

### Musical dialog

The love of music also unites the people of St. Louis and Stuttgart. With a wide range of first-class orchestras, ensembles, choirs and artists, who are active in the Stuttgart Opera, at the Music Festival or the University of Music, the State Capital is considered one of the leading music cities in Germany. The basis comprises about 100 music associations, more than 200 choirs, countless amateur or semi-professional ensembles and orchestras, as well as a wide-spread rock and pop scene. Since the mid-1990s, one of the largest jazz festivals in Germany, jazzopen, has been held in Stuttgart every year. With the famous rappers Cro, Rin or Marz, as well as Die Fantastischen Vier, Freundeskreis or Die Orsons, many German hip-hop artists have their musical home in Stuttgart, which has given the city the by-name "Home of German Rap".

The early establishment of new American music styles in Stuttgart goes back to the presence of American troops after the Second World War. This was inspired and encouraged by the intercultural exchange between the people of Stuttgart and the soldiers and their families stationed locally.

The many diverse musical styles which were formed and established over the last years and have made artists famous in the music industry can, in many ways, also be attributed to the USA. The culture of the USA itself has always been shaped by immigrants from different backgrounds, from all over the world, and can therefore enjoy a wealth of musical styles.

This wealth can also be found in St. Louis, where music plays a very important, almost decisive role.

### Repertory Opera Theater in St. Louis – a set-up from 'Stuttgart'

In 1961, the US soldier Robert H. Colwell, who was stationed in Stuttgart, visited a friend and got to know his sister, Anke von Bardeleben. An encounter with a happy ending, as some time later the two got married.

The Colwells then emigrated to St. Louis, Robert Colwell's home town. There in late 1965 or early 1966, Anke Colwell founded the "Repertory Opera Theater" (R.O.T.) together with the music teacher, Hazel Slayback. As the Stuttgarter Nachrichten reported on October 29, 1966, Anke Colwell had been an opera fan ever since she experienced a performance of "La Bohème" at Milan's La Scala at about the age of ten; following this she took singing lessons and later worked as a manager in the music industry.

This first opera ensemble in St. Louis comprised 21 singers from the region, some of whom, like Colwell herself, had German roots. One year later, the R.O.T. – which initially concentrated on performing well-known operettas and musicals – was able to mark up first successes in the USA with small performances.

In April 1967, Anke Colwell returned to visit her former hometown, bearing greetings from Alfonso J. Cervantes to Mayor Klett. There were discussions about a possible appearance of the ensemble in the State Capital, but this unfortunately was not able to be realized. Following the visit, the Stuttgart newspapers reported often about the opera ensemble and the former resident of the city.

## St. Louis, hometown to the blues and hip-hop greats

St. Louis is considered the hometown of the blues, which is closely related to jazz and ragtime. In 1925, W.C. Handy dedicated his piece "St. Louis Blues" (1914) to the city and it was covered by many renowned performers, such as Bessie Smith and Louis Armstrong. Besides W.C. Handy, the blues greats, such as Albert King, Little Milton or Robert Nighthawk all started out in St. Louis. The original musical styles of jazz and ragtime are also an important part of St. Louis culture and can be heard any day in concerts, in restaurants and bars. With the world famous ragtime composer, Scott Joplin, who lived in St. Louis for many years, ragtime spread throughout Missouri. Joplin's most famous compositions include the "Maple Leaf Rag" (1899) and "The Entertainer" (1902).

Not only blues and ragtime musicians, also St. Louis' jazz musicians are famous beyond the state borders: Charles Creath, Clark Terry and Oliver Nelson and of course Miles Davis, who was one of the most innovative and influential jazz musicians of the twentieth century. His compositions are regarded as classics and masterpieces, which have been honored with numerous Grammy Awards and secured him a place in the St. Louis Walk of Fame. Every year to celebrate this great heritage of blues and jazz, the city stages the St. Louis Blues Festival and St. Louis Jazz Music Festival.

Born and raised in St. Louis, Chuck Berry went down in history as a pioneer of rock'n'roll. His influence on the world of music had a significant impact on bands like the Beatles, Rolling Stones or the Beach Boys. With his greatest hits "Roll Over Beethoven" (1956) and "Johnny B. Goode" (1958) Berry embodied the mentality of rock'n'roll. In 1985, he was included in the Blues Hall of Fame and in 1986 he became the first member of the

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Of course, Chuck Berry also has a very important place in the National Blues Museum in St. Louis, which opened on April 2, 2016 and traces the exceptional history of the blues.

In addition to the big rock'n'roll, blues and jazz scene, rap and hip-hop are very big in St. Louis today with rap artists like Nelly, Murphy Lee and J-Kwons. With the large number of well-known hip-hop artists, St. Louis has come to be regarded as one of the world centers of rap.



Chuck Berry: Graffiti on a house wall in St. Louis

**Concert tours**

To date, more than forty concert tours and exchange visits of music ensembles have taken place in the twin towns:

- In 1981, for example, Stuttgart was host to the St. Louis Chamber Chorus at the international choir festival "Stuttgart 81 – Partner singen".
- Performances by the famous St. Louis Symphony Orchestra in the Liederhalle followed in 1985, 1993 and 1998.
- In 1996, the first blues and jazz elements in the partnership were set with the St. Louis Blues All Stars from St. Louis – and then in 1999 the Soulard Blues Band – performing at the Stuttgart Summer Festival. The "Slick Salzer Stuttgart Swing Quartet" did a return concert at the 10th Annual Gateway Jazz Festival in St. Louis.
- In 2010, the jazz musicians, "The Bosman Twins" brought the musical style typical for St. Louis to the State Capital with an exhilarating show at the opening of the American Days; they joined forces with the Stuttgart jazz ensemble Trijo, capturing the stage of the Theaterhaus with their music and thrilling the audience the following day at the official ceremony to mark 50 years of the St. Louis-Stuttgart partnership in the Stuttgart City Hall.

St. Louis also benefited from renowned guest appearances from Stuttgart:

- In the 1980s, the youth chamber orchestra of the music school under the direction of Charlotte Azone von Cube regularly performed in St. Louis during their tours of the USA, for example in 1980, 1985 and 1988,
- In 1995 and 1996, the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra also played in St. Louis,
- In 2005, the CANTUS vocal ensemble of the Stuttgart Bach Choir,

- In 2007, 2009 and 2010 the instrumental ensemble Concertino Stuttgart gave performances,
- In 2014, also the boys' choir collegium iuvenum stuttgart (CIS).

At the annual "St. Louis Street Festival" and the Winter Ball of the St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities Society (SLSSC), many bands were involved, including the Stuttgart Dixieland band "Royal Garden Ramblers" or, as in 2005, the "StuttgARTists". Bernhard "Böny" Birk, today a freelance pianist, accordionist, arranger and composer, and very much at home in the fields of jazz, pop, chanson, wrote about this; read his report at

▶ [stuttgart.de/stlouis60](http://stuttgart.de/stlouis60)

On February 3, 2020, the DAZ honored four African American artists born in St. Louis with a Facebook post during the 'Black History Month':

*In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month to honor the accomplishments of African Americans – and #BHM has been celebrated ever since. Not only in the US, but all over the world. This year, Stuttgart is also celebrating 60 years of its sister-city arrangement with St. Louis #STR60STL, which is why – as a tribute to Black History Month – we would like to honor four very special African Americans that were all born in St. Louis:*

- *Josephine Baker, an entertainer, dancer and civil rights activist who refused to perform for segregated audiences.*
- *Maya Angelou, poet, singer and civil rights activist, who defended African American culture through her works.*
- *Chuck Berry, a singer and songwriter who, according to Billboard Charts, was the inventor of Rock'n'Roll and someone who told stories by singing them.*
- *And Nelly, a rapper, singer and songwriter who broke record after record thanks to the diversity in his songs.*

**Exhibitions and Awards**

A constant element of the last few years has been readings and lectures on the humanities and cultural links between the two cities. These have been staged by partners, such as Amerika-Haus, the German-American Center DAZ, the Stuttgart Citizens' Foundation and other committed institutions and individuals. For example, in 2006 Dr. Ulrich Bernhardt gave lectures in St. Louis on Max Eyth, a well-known engineer, author, poet and artist, who studied in Stuttgart and had spent some time in St. Louis – as he had in other later twin towns of Stuttgart.

In 2008, the Johann Friedrich von Cotta Literature and Translation Prize of the State Capital Stuttgart was awarded to the writer, Egon Schwarz from St. Louis (and to the translator, Hartmut Köhler).

In 2010, the fotoclub stuttgart 1938 e.V. presented a photo exhibition "Stuttgart – Faces of a City" at the German Cultural Center at the University of Missouri – St. Louis, while its partner "Louis Camera Club" showed St. Louis portraits in the Stuttgart City Hall. The DAZ also participated in 2010 with a photo exhibition entitled "Post-Acropolis Metropolis: St. Louis After the Age of Brick and Steel".

Since 2016, there has been a successful cooperation between Paul Artspace in St. Louis and the GEDOK – Gemeinschaft der Künstlerinnen und Kunstförderer e.V. in Stuttgart. Since the cooperation began, joint exhibitions have been organized every year and with these a lively exchange has come into being. The first joint event took place in 2016 in St. Louis with the Stuttgart artists, Julia Wenz, Peter Franck and Christian Eickhoff under the title "artist talk Stuttgart – Saint Louis sister cities – playing together".

The next exhibition was presented in 2017 in the Stuttgart City Hall under the title "Westwärts to the East" and opened with the St. Louis artists present. This year's anniversary of the partnership is already in full swing, and the cooperation

– extended to include the vhs as a partner – is also set to fill the public space in the fall of 2020.

From March 6, 2020, the Stuttgart City Hall presented a visual and text exhibition, documenting the famous aviation pioneer, Charles Lindbergh who, as a single pilot, made the first Atlantic crossing from New York to Paris with his "Spirit of St. Louis" aircraft.

The Stuttgart Artists' Association presented another anniversary exhibition in Stuttgart City Hall from March 9, 2020. Here, 36 artists presented their works under the overall term "America", some works showed the Gateway Arch or elements of jazz music with reference to St. Louis.



*St. Louis impressions by Karin Mozbeichel in the exhibition "America" in Stuttgart City Hall, 2020*

## Bernhard Blume and his encounter with Egon Schwarz

By Dr. Regina Weber

May 1990 was my first ever visit to the USA, my destination, as a literary and art historian, was St. Louis. I was on a research field trip financed by the German Research Foundation (DFG) tracing the German-Jewish scholars who had, under National Socialism, emigrated to the USA. Their literary bequests were stored in the German Literature Archive in Marbach; these were mostly mediated by their family or students who had settled in the USA.

One of the sources for my research was the estate of the Germanist, Bernhard Blume from Stuttgart, married to Dr. Carola Blume, née Rosenberg, who in the 1920s had set up the women's department of the Stuttgart adult education center under the founder of the Stuttgart adult education center, Theodor Bäuerle.

After the Nuremberg Laws were passed, Bernhard Blume (1901 to 1978) had to leave Germany in the mid-thirties, being "closely related" to a non-Aryan as he was – Carola was Jewish: he and his wife had no chance of work. Blume, who had initially embarked on an academic career in German studies, but then became a successful and much sought-after playwright, managed to do a swift doctorate under Hermann Pongs at the Stuttgart Technical University before emigrating. This way, he was able to work as a university professor in the USA, teaching at various American universities, his last station was Berkeley in California.

I came to St. Louis at the invitation of Egon Schwarz, a Germanist and Blume student, who had taught at the University of St. Louis for many years. We had previously exchanged correspondence on Bernhard Blume, who had played a decisive role in Egon's life. Egon Schwarz is not exactly unknown in Stuttgart, and we met later around



*Egon Schwarz and Dr. Regina Weber*

2005, in the Stuttgart City Hall, where he was invited to present the new edition of his novel 'Keine Zeit für Eichendorff. Chronik unfreiwilliger Wanderjahre'.

Egon Schwarz, who died in St. Louis in 2017, had certainly had an adventurous life. He was born in Vienna in 1922 into a Jewish family, and when Austria was annexed in 1938, he had to leave the city with his parents as a 16-year-old without a high school graduation, but with all his school reports in his luggage. Via Hungary, he and his parents made their way to South America, to the highlands of Bolivia, all other countries refused to accept them. With more or less luck, he managed to eke out a living as a traveling salesman, translator, miner, but always continued with his education on his own, and after the end of the Second World War, he completed his schooling.

His first and foremost goal was to get to the USA and pursue an academic career there. He sent his school reports from Vienna to American colleges and universities, but mostly in vain, until he finally received an answer from Bernhard Blume – an invitation to work as a language teacher at a college.

In May 1990, Egon Schwarz was at St. Louis airport to welcome me. He was a lively, very charming gentleman and, with his dark curls and moustache he reminded me of Charlie Chaplin. I wasn't the first one to notice this resemblance as Egon himself told me with a smile. Apart from the invitation to his home for discussions about Bernhard Blume and American German studies, I also got to know the city of St. Louis a little during my first visit. I was out and about with Egon's students, and obviously also on the very top of the Gateway Arch – the huge archway that pointed the way west, with a magnificent view over the Mississippi.

I saw Egon Schwarz again from time to time, at 'Exile Conferences' in Marbach, in Harvard, USA, and again in 2004 in St. Louis, in the German Department of the University, where I had been invited to give a lecture. From that visit I brought back a beautiful photo of Egon, where I am sitting very happily next to him – two speakers from a congress at the University of St. Louis, taken by his second wife, Irène Lindgren (Swedish).

*The author's studies focus on research in international exile. Since 2000, she has been the director of the literature group of the municipal educational institution Stuttgarter Frauen e. V.*

### Carola Rosenberg-Blume

Carola Rosenberg-Blume (1899 to 1987) completed her studies of philosophy in 1923 with a dissertation on "The professional attitudes and interests of young women". The following year she began working at the adult education center [Volkshochschule (vhs) Stuttgart], where she established the women's department. She wanted to improve the general education of women and to attract factory workers to the vhs by offering an extensive and varied program. Carola Rosenberg, now married to Bernhard Blume and mother of two children, led the women's education work with great commitment and success until she was dismissed without notice as a Jew in 1933. In 1936, she managed to emigrate with her family to the USA. She initially took on teaching positions in adult education and received her doctorate in clinical psychology in 1949.

In 1991, a hall at the TREFFPUNKT Rotenbühlplatz at vhs was named for her, and in 1998, the Frauenakademie Stuttgart was named the Carola Blume Academy. Since 2010, there has been a Carola-Blume-Weg in Stuttgart. Anne-Christel Recknagel wrote the standard work about her life and work: "Weib, hilf dir selber!" ["Woman, learn to help yourself!"]. Stuttgart - Leipzig 2002 (publications of the Archive of the City of Stuttgart, Vol. 92).



*Carola Rosenberg-Blume with her son Michael, shortly before emigration to the USA in 1936*

## ■ ■ ■ Leaving home/Finding home

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame*

*Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand  
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command  
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.*

*"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she  
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,*

*The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me:  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door."*

This excerpt from the sonnet "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus has been inside the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty since 1903. It was originally intended as a contribution to an art exhibition that was to raise money for the construction of the base of the Statue of Liberty in 1883. The Statue of Liberty greeted the arriving immigrants on Ellis Island in New York Harbor. The poem addressed the millions of immigrants who had left their homeland and wanted and hoped to find their happiness in the USA.

By the middle of the 19th century, some 500,000 emigrants from Germany had moved to the USA. From 1850 to 1930, another five million people emigrated from Germany to the USA. Their influence on the country and its culture can still be felt today through German folk festivals, food and drink but also through names, and many Americans can trace their roots back to Germany. During the Second World War, some 130,000 predominantly Jewish people, fled from the National

Socialists to the USA, often via third countries, and were able to find a new home there. This immigration led to an enormous enrichment in the cultural, scientific and economic life of the USA.

And again today, there are still millions of people leaving their old homeland and, full of hope, venturing to distant lands. The reasons for this are many and varied, ranging from a longing for freedom and peace to a new-found love or simply better economic prospects. Through emigration many people hope that they can find protection from war and political persecution for themselves and their families. What they all have in common is that they arrive in a completely different country, get to know another culture and start a new life.

„St. Louis“ is also famous as the transatlantic steamer of the same name, which was supposed to bring 937 Jews from Hamburg to Havana in 1939. With Cuban holiday visas and valid papers, the majority of them hoped to be able to emigrate to the USA afterwards. But shortly before their arrival, the Cuban government changed the entry regulations, and only a few passengers were allowed to leave the ship after lengthy negotiations. Shortly afterwards the USA and Canada also refused entry. The coastguard service prevented an illegal landing of the ship in Florida, and in the light of the upcoming election campaign, US President Roosevelt also opposed the admission of the refugees. In this hopeless situation, the ship's captain, who under no circumstances wanted to bring the people on board back to Germany, planned to feign an accident off the coast of Great Britain. Shortly afterwards, thanks to the mediation of Jewish organizations, Belgium allowed the ship to dock in the port of Antwerp, and the refugees were re-located to France, Great Britain, Belgium and the Netherlands. In the years to follow, at least 254 of these refugees were murdered in the NS-extermination camps.

## Stuttgart is home - St. Louis is home

By Ayse Özbabacan

The two cities, Stuttgart and St. Louis have been in close contact for 60 years. Internationality and cultural diversity, these are the trademarks of both cities, which have a great attraction for people from all over the world. What the two twin towns also have in common was something I was able to experience for myself back in the fall of 2008. Thanks to a research fellowship from the Robert Bosch Foundation at the Transatlantic Academy of the German Marschall Fund of the United States, I had the opportunity to conduct a comparative study on the local integration policies of the City of Stuttgart and several American cities.

### International Institute of St. Louis

In addition to Washington DC, New York, Albany and Detroit, St. Louis was of course also on my list to get a picture of the many different integration measures and initiatives for immigrant communities – especially developments in the Bosnian community. Many of the Bosnians had initially lived in Germany for some time after fleeing from former Yugoslavia, some of them also in Stuttgart – but at that time they had no legal residence perspectives. Due to this uncertain residence status as tolerated persons in Germany and the appeal of the Refugee Resettlement Program, in the mid-1990s many decided to emigrate to the USA and in particular to St. Louis.

Why St. Louis? As a culturally diverse city, St. Louis was well-known in the Bosnian community for its wide range of assistance and support services for new immigrants, largely through civil society and in particular through the International Institute of St. Louis, which has a long tradition in welcoming refugees. Since its foundation in 1919, the

Institute has been supporting and accompanying people who have had to leave their homes due to wars and sought shelter and a new home in St. Louis and other cities, whether during the two world wars, the civil war in the former Yugoslavia of the last century, or the wars in the Middle East now in the 21st century.

Thanks to the Refugee Resettlement Program of the State of Missouri, the Institute, as a center for contact, counseling, and service, offers services and measures in the core areas of our lives, such as language, school, education, work, housing, and leisure, to support the integration and help immigrants to participate in the social life of their new home country. The aim is to strengthen the new immigrants in such a way that within a short time they can stand on their own two feet and help shape the society they are part of. The approach is: self-sufficiency – becoming independent and economically self-sufficient in order to play a role in social life.

I was able to see that this can be achieved and, above all, how it can be achieved – during project visits to and discussions in the neighborhood Affton and in conversations with Anna Crosslin, Director of the International Institute of St. Louis, Prof. Dr. Joyce Mushaben from Saint Louis University, Susanne Evens, entrepreneur and chairwoman of St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities Association, Bosnian families and students who had come to St. Louis as refugee children and managed the massive leap to university, Bosnian entrepreneurs and many other people who really impressed me at how they have managed to build a perspective for themselves in this country.

As early as the end of the 1990s St. Louis had become the new home for former refugees from Bosnia. From the first day, they were able to attend an English language course, their children were able to go to school, soon they could pursue a professional activity and within a few years they could even afford a mortgage for their own home. In 2012, to support the successful integration and refugee work, the St. Louis Mosaic Project was launched to promote the regional economic development of St. Louis by attracting immigrants, including many refugees.

### Stuttgart model

The State Capital Stuttgart, with more than 600,000 inhabitants and one of the most international and culturally diverse cities in Germany with a 45 percent share of migrants, had, by the end of 2016, also taken in up to 10,000 refugees. Thanks to many years of experience in working with refugees according to the Stuttgart model and the well-established integration policy concept of the Stuttgart Alliance for Integration, the City was able to master the reception and integration of the refugees, hand in hand with partners from administration, politics, welfare work, business and civil society.

Within a very short time, living quarters were built in all districts of the city. The vital pillars necessary for refugee integration work were and are the many volunteer groups who accompany refugees in their everyday lives. The task force on integration across the various administrative agencies set up cooperation structures, which later became regular arrangements. This way the refugees soon had access to language courses, educational, leisure and cultural offers.

At an early stage, the Integration Policies Department sought a dialog with the refugees on an equal footing to involve them in the further development of integration work. Its aim was to encourage the refugees to make use of their strengths and skills and to take part in shaping social

life – in short, to promote empowerment also in the sense of the self-sufficiency approach. Thanks to the funding provided by the local council, more than 50 empowerment projects were initiated within two years by refugees for refugees, for instance, courses in their mother tongue, homework assistance, sports, art, theater and film projects. Sewing workshops were also set up in which refugee seamstresses shared their skills with other people.

### Learn from one another

I was happy to recall my experiences in St. Louis and at the International Institute and was pleased to see that in Stuttgart it is also possible to do what has been practiced in St. Louis for decades – to offer people with good ideas, diligence and innovation, perspectives for arriving and finding a new home, not least thanks to the support of the integration and refugee policies of the Federal and State governments. Today, Stuttgart has become home to many of those who have had to leave their home.

An important issue for the two twin towns was and still is social cohesion. On the occasion of the 60th anniversary and in the light of the current global pandemic, I would love to see an exchange between the two cities on how they use the commitment, potential and resources of their immigrant communities for social cohesion. Because both cities are home to people, each in its own way: Stuttgart is Heimat – St. Louis is home.

*The author, Integration Commissioner of the State Capital Stuttgart, was in St. Louis for a research stay in 2008.*

## Swabian relatives in St. Louis

By Ulrich Theurer

I became aware of St. Louis, Missouri as early as the 1950s. My grandmother had told me about her forefathers, Bregler, Schorndorf, and Simon, Grunbach, who for economic reasons had emigrated to the German Belt of the USA (Milwaukee, Cincinnati, St. Louis) in the 19th century. The Breglers and Simons were mainly active in the beer-brewing industry and as owners of liquor stores, but there were also doctors and pastors in these families. I still have letters today, which reached the family in Stuttgart before and after World War I at Alte Weinsteige 22, the house of my great-grandfather Gustav Adolf Simon, mostly with reports of how they were personally faring.

From time to time, there would also be parcels or packages; the contents were often wrapped in the "Mississippi-Blätter, Westliche Post", a very extensive German-language newspaper, which was founded in St. Louis in 1857. I still have a copy of a newspaper from 1896 and one from 1898. In the 1920s, the letters also sometimes contained money. In 1964, when I was a student in Vienna – and a bit hard up for money – I changed one of the 20 US dollar bills which had a portrait of a native American. Later I saw such a dollar bill in New Orleans on offer for 1,475 US dollars!

After my studies I decided to travel to the USA with two friends. The brother of one of my friends worked for the company, Stihl in Malvern/Arkansas. Our journey there was pretty adventurous. I really wanted to visit a friend who was a medical student, working at a Washington hospital, where we would be able to find a bed. The "sightseeing tour" in Washington D.C. turned out a bit different than planned, showing the consequences of the "Riots" after the assassination of Martin Luther King on April 4, 1968, during which 1,200 Washington buildings were destroyed.

In Malvern, we were given a big Ford automobile, so we only had to pay the ridiculously cheap gas on our 7,000-kilometer long journey through the USA. Our itinerary was to lead us to the area west of the Mississippi, and it seemed to be of a certain symbolism to pass through the "Gateway to the West" (Gateway Arch) in St. Louis, opened in 1965. Having neither the finances nor the time, we decided not to use the elevator and so we missed the view over the Mississippi, which ten million visitors were to enjoy until 1979. However, I experienced the Ol' Man River on many trips from Memphis to New Orleans, also passing through Stuttgart/Arkansas, the "Rice and Duck Capital of the World", founded in 1878 by Adam Bürkle from Plattenhardt (today part of Filderstadt). I didn't get round to visiting my relatives in St. Louis, because my friends were pushing to go west. However, I was able to do the visit later.

My school, the Burg-Gymnasium Schorndorf, was able to participate in the German American Partnership Program (GAPP) from 1984. This program was founded in 1983 by the Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs in Bonn. The American partner school (MHHS,



*Ulrich Theurer with a family-owned edition of the 'Westliche Post'.*

Mountain Home High School) is in the far north of Arkansas on the border to Missouri. From 1985 until my retirement in 2005, the German teacher at the MHHS, Nancy Reed, and I were responsible for this student exchange, with hundreds of German and American students participating.

During a stay at Mountain Home I told my hosts, the Reed family, about my interest in St. Louis. They were so kind and took me to a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game. At that time, the Cardinals still played in the old Busch Stadium, which existed from 1966 to 2005 and takes its name from Adolphus Busch, son-in-law of Eberhard Anhäuser. In the meantime, Anheuser-Busch-InBev is now the largest brewery in the world. From 1984 to 1986, 2,637,563 spectators came to the stadium. If you're talking about passion, such a baseball game is just as exciting as any international soccer game. And, if you know the rules of the game, you get carried away.

A second event made my heart beat even faster. I knew from the letters from our American relatives that there was a Lutheran church at 110 Victor Street in St. Louis, which was called the "German Lutheran Church" until the USA entered World War I in 1917. Close to my destination, there was an intersection where four churches of different "denominations" were located.

So, when I asked one of the few passers-by about "my" church, I was somewhat brusquely turned away. Probably I had asked a member of a "competing" denomination. I had more luck with the next lady. She introduced herself as Mrs. Woehrle, showed me the church I was looking for and even showed me inside. Immediately I saw a huge oil painting about two by three meters in size, showing the doctor and pastor Christian Simon, who was still alive when I first visited St. Louis in 1968. Mrs. Woehrle expressed her extraordinary admiration for this pastor, who during the First World War – despite a ban from 1917 – had preached in German. I now really regretted that I had not visited him in

1968. I was told that he had worked as a very competent doctor during the Spanish flu epidemic, a worldwide pandemic after the First World War with millions losing their life. The exemplary measures taken by the St. Louis Mayor Henry Kiel were excellent, ensuring that St. Louis came through the crisis much better than many other areas.

A small consolation for me was that Christian Simon's son, Kurt, still lived in St. Louis. I was able to visit him in 1988. In Mountain Home there was now a small airport so I could take a small plane for St. Louis. From the St. Louis Lambert International Airport, a taxi took me to Kurt and Hildegard Simon's home. Kurt was 97 years old and surprisingly sprightly. Only his eyes had become a bit weak and so he had constructed a wooden box with a very large magnifying glass. With the help of this he could read his newspapers and books and keep up to date. He died at the age of 99, his father had reached the age of 97 and Kurt's brother 105. They were a lovely couple and I was so sorry that I was not able to visit them again on my next visit to Arkansas and Missouri.

The relationship with the Reed family in Arkansas has become closer over the 35 years, contacts to the relatives in St. Louis have not been kept up for a long time now. This short article makes me want to look up old St. Louis addresses again. Of course, who knows: the younger members of the family on both sides of the Atlantic might get together. And here, St. Louis could play a decisive role in this.

*The author first visited St. Louis in 1968. 20 years later he got to know relatives of his, whose ancestors had emigrated in the 19th century and whose stories had always been part of his family in Stuttgart.*

## Anniversary year 2020

An anniversary is always an occasion that offers the opportunity to focus on a twin town, its people and their topics. This time we had the fantastic opportunity to start with this celebration a year in advance with the support of the German Foreign Office: the German-American Center/ James-F.-Byrnes Institute (DAZ) seized the opportunity and used the "Germany Year" to organize a network trip to St. Louis in cooperation with the State Capital under the motto "Wunderbar Together!"

**DAZ** is the place in Stuttgart where German-American friendship is actively lived every day. Bilingual and intercultural, it has, with its diverse events for all ages, been contributing to the culture of welcoming since 1995. Located in the center of Stuttgart, DAZ today, as the successor of the Amerikahaus, it is a platform for encounters, information, dialog, exchange and networking in a transatlantic environment. Although the big celebration of the 25th anniversary has had to be postponed to next year for corona reasons – Happy 25th birthday, dear DAZ!

In preparation for this special year, the International Relations Department of the City of Stuttgart invited the people and institutions active in the partnership to several round table sessions at the end of 2019/beginning of 2020 to develop projects together.

The Round Tables and the trip of the German-American Center gave rise to new initiatives with the aim of establishing networks between citizens and those involved from all areas of society – both in Stuttgart and in St. Louis itself.

The start of the event in February 2020 was an official visit by Deputy Mayor Dr. Martin Schairer, who, together with the Head of the International Relations Department, Nadia vom Scheidt, attended an anniversary event of St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities (SLSSC) and other projects and institutions active in the partnership. The article in the Official Journal reporting on this event can be found at [stuttgart.de/stlouis60](https://stuttgart.de/stlouis60)



Participants of the network trip 2019 in St. Louis City Hall with Mayor Krewson (third from right).

## Network trip 2019 of the DAZ “Meet us in St. Louis”

By Christiane Pyka

In the early summer of 2018, the Federal Foreign Office Berlin invited all German-American Institutes (dais) in Germany to participate in the “Germany Year USA”. The project was supported by the Goethe-Institut and the Federation of German Industry. The dais decided to carry out programs in their respective partner cities, primarily for young people, but aimed at everyone from all walks of life.

After first research work on the profile of the twin town St. Louis in Missouri and comparing relevant topics in Stuttgart, DAZ designed a network trip for multipliers with a view to youth and education, sustainability and urban society. This invitation from DAZ was accepted by the Geschwister-Scholl-Gymnasium, the University, the Baseball Club Stuttgart Reds, the Co-Working-Space wizemann space, Lightwood Productions, the Zoological-Botanical Garden Wilhelma, the Bürgerstiftung and the International Relations Department of the City of Stuttgart.

DAZ had the following goals for the project: the trip was to take place from September 27 to October 4, 2019, in cooperation with the State Capital Stuttgart and Susanne Evens, the president of the St. Louis-based Friendship Society St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities (SLSSC). Exchange relationships and contacts were to be extended and further cooperation projects established, also in view of the 60th anniversary of the town-twinning in 2020.

### Departure and getting to know one another

On September 27, 2019, full of expectation, twelve travelers set off from Stuttgart Airport for St. Louis via Atlanta. In the following week with 26 program items, the group was able to get to know the twin town from its many different sides and meet many discussion partners for a lively exchange of

expertise and brainstorming on joint projects. The first weekend was packed full: some of the city’s remarkable historical, cultural and architectural sights, such as the Art Museum, Forest Park, the Great Arch and the Blues Museum, were on the agenda so that the travelers were able to get a very good first impression. With activities such as a St. Louis Cardinals game and a visit to the Oktoberfest with members of the Friendship Association the visitors got a feeling for the twin town and had the opportunity for initial intercultural reflection.

### Reception and exchange

The official start was marked by Mayor Lyda Krewson’s invitation to the City Hall, where she greeted the travel group and representatives of the Friendship Association. Afterwards the original troupe was split up into smaller groups. At the World Trade Center, some members of the group talked to CEO Rodney Crim and colleagues about how the education situation is in the two cities and how new citizens with a migration background can be involved and take advantage of the employment opportunities.

At the same time, representatives of social start-ups got to know several start-up organizations and explored possible market opportunities. A representative of the baseball club discussed a possible youth exchange with her colleague from the St. Louis Cardinals. The enormous financial and also structural differences between US professional baseball and the situation in Germany became very clear. The representative of the Bürgerstiftung Stuttgart also had a similar experience in discussions with her colleagues from the Community Foundation. There were no direct points of contact for joint projects; the scale, content and financing of the projects were just so very different. At the meeting of the representatives of

Wilhelma and the St. Louis Zoo, the advantages and disadvantages of the German system, which is mainly financed by the public sector, and the American system, which is supported by companies and private donors, were also discussed. However, the basic discussion was about possible cooperation in the field of species protection.

During the visit to the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL) tangible plans for cooperation did emerge. For instance, an exchange with the university’s baseball team is planned for the Stuttgart Reds, lecture events are planned for the DAZ cultural program, and the idea surfaced to set up a kind of permanent information representation at UMSL for the University of Stuttgart to promote student exchange.

A further visit was to Cortex Innovation Community, one of the main centers for technology start-ups in the entire USA. The group was impressed by the overall facility and what it had to offer, plus a visit to Boeing, where they had the opportunity to talk to a CEO about sustainable fuels in aviation.

### German heritage and hospitality

On German Unification Day, the last day in St. Louis, the group made an excursion with stops along the German Heritage Corridor, including the Weldon Springs Site, the former German settlement, Hamburg and the Bryan Haynes Gallery in Washington, Missouri. This day was organized and professionally accompanied by enthusiastic representatives of the Missouri Humanities Council. Experiencing how the material and immaterial heritage of the German-influenced region was for everyone both extremely interesting and touching.

In addition to the various experiences and inspirational professional discussions, the travel group was particularly impressed by the generous and warm-hearted hospitality of Susanne Evens, the members of SLSSC and the other host organizations. Here, transatlantic bridges were certainly built

and these will have a very lasting effect on a working and personal level and ensure a lively continuation of the town-twinning.

The commitment of the “chauffeurs” from the SLSSC was outstanding. They drove the travel group through the sprawling city of St. Louis for the entire week; as is the norm in USA public transport services are few and far between. For the travel group, it was precisely these very open and personal conversations that took place during the car journeys and joint undertakings that will remain with them as a treasured memory. The encounters brought the travelers closer to life in their twin town, illustrating the bright, as well as the challenging sides, the differences to Stuttgart and Germany and of course bringing the people themselves a bit closer – friendships were formed. We were able to clearly experience the idea underlying town-twinning: people of different nations should come together in a peaceful and friendly way. This was international understanding at its best!

### Program in the Anniversary Year

In view of the Corona crisis, DAZ is converting some of the projects planned for St. Louis in the anniversary year 2020 into digital format. Together with those involved in the partner city, several lectures and a teacher training course will be organized. A school presentation and artistic contributions have also been developed at DAZ.

The DAZ team wishes our “Sister Cities Stuttgart-St. Louis” a very happy birthday, and we look forward to new contacts and encounters with the people of St. Louis, also beyond the anniversary year.

*The cultural scientist Christiane Pyka has been the Managing Director of the German-American Center [Deutsch-Amerikanisches Zentrum, DAZ] in Stuttgart since 2010.*

## Dates and meetings

Two exhibitions were able to be launched in the Stuttgart City Hall, after which in March the first state government measures to combat and contain the Corona pandemic came into force, so that many of the planned projects have since had to be canceled or postponed. This was followed by the cancellation of school and music exchanges, professional and project visits, and other events, such as the series "America Explained – DAZ for Schools": the intercultural experience for students with US native speakers was to focus on St. Louis and the social and political challenges of the region.

With the reopening of the German-American Center at the end of May it was, however, possible to stage an exhibition in the entrance hall, paying tribute to the 60th anniversary. Writers in Stuttgart created a collage with haikus and photographs that emphasize the importance of the partnership between the two cities: writers in Stuttgart honor #STR60STL – a special work of art for the celebration of "60 Years' Twin Towns Stuttgart - St. Louis".

### Digital and analog events

- **May 12:** Lecture and discussion with Prof. Dr. Kimball from the University of Missouri - St. Louis (UMSL) on "U.S. Election System: Friend or Foe to Donald Trump?" (DAZ in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation).
- **May 28:** Let's Read! – DIGITAL. Group Meeting. Under discussion was "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" by Maya Angelou, her first and most famous memoirs, which directly became a modern American classic. Born in St. Louis, Maya Angelou was an author, poet, historian, songwriter, playwright, dancer, stage and film producer, director, performer, singer and civil rights activist. However, she was best known for her seven autobiographical books (DAZ).

- **June 18:** Workshop with Prof. Simone Bregni, St. Louis University, on the topic "(E-)Life is (not) Strange": Video Game-Based Language Learning in Higher Education & Adult Education" (DAZ and State Capital Stuttgart in cooperation with the Volkshochschule Stuttgart).
- **June 19:** Training seminar with Prof. Simone Bregni, St. Louis University, on the topic "Assassin's Creed taught me Italian: video games and the acquisition of the Italian language" (Italian Cultural Institute with the Volkshochschule Stuttgart).
- **July 6:** Lecture and discussion with Prof. em. Dr. Joyce Mushaben, formerly of the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL) on "Making Democracy Work Again – What's at Stake in the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election?" (DAZ in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation).
- **August 9:** Live streaming encounter concert "Seasons" "Die Telemänner" Youth Baroque Orchestra of the GEDOK e.V. and the Orchestra Lindbergh High School at Schloss Solitude.
- **August 30:** Expert discussion moderated by Bärbel Mohrmann, Managing Director Pro Stuttgart e.V. between P. Charles 'Chuck' Dressel, Mount Pleasant Estates, and Andreas Zaiß, Zaißerei Weingut Stuttgart, at the Virtual Wine Village in Stuttgart.
- **September 25,** 'Long Night of the Consulates' in Stuttgart, with 26 consulates participating and presenting their work and the respective culture of their countries. The International Relations Department of the City of Stuttgart will also be participating in the event at the Haus der Wirtschaft, where it will set up a virtual meeting with people from St. Louis.

- **September 19 - November 22** work from photographers from St. Louis will be exhibited in the vhs-photogalerie at the meeting point Rotebühlplatz. This will be presented indoors and outdoors. The exhibition "Vote for..." is curated by Julia Wenz and Peter Franck (Stuttgart), David Johnson and Michael Behle (Paul Artspace St. Louis/USA) as well as Bettina Michel for the vhs-photogalerie.
- **October 8:** Teacher training "America Explained Special: Understanding the U.S. Presidential Election in 2020" (DAZ and USML).
- Starting **October**, a virtual discussion series is planned with the University of Missouri St. Louis (UMSL), which will focus on multicultural education in schools (Prof. Dr. Shea Kerhoff), structural racism in the USA (Prof. Todd Swanstrom), identity issues and the history of racism in the USA (Prof. Matthew Taylor) or the role of diversity officers at US universities (Vice Chancellor Dr. Tanisha Stevens).



Members of the youth baroque orchestra 'Die Telemänner' before their performance in the White Hall of Solitude Palace on August 9, 2020

- **October 22 - 25:** St. Louis Days at Theater am Olgaek:
  - **October 22**, Opening Ceremony of St. Louis-Tage im Theater am Olgaek, with a photo exhibition "On the way to St. Louis", a discussion with Charles Urban: An American in Stuttgart, and a live radio play in English: Guest performance by Neues Englisch-Amerikanisches Theater (NEAT)
  - **October 23, Premiere:** Drama adapted from The Glass Menagerie and memoirs by Tennessee Williams (further performances 10/24 and 10/31 and 11/20, 11/21 and 11/29).
  - **October 25**, St. Louis Kitchen – Cooking as in St. Louis, cooking course with music and tasting.
- **23. October:** Mayor Fritz Kuhn of Stuttgart talks to his colleague Lyda Krewson, Mayor of St. Louis, about the successful relationship between the two cities, the local impact of COVID-19 and how cities are addressing climate change. This virtual event is part of a series organized by the American Council on Germany entitled [virtual] Transatlantic Town Halls: German-American Mayors Forum, which takes place under the auspices of "Wunderbar Together USA 2020".
- **12. November:** In the online stream of the film "For Ah-keem", organized by TAVMA Show, the student Daje is accompanied through her everyday life in St. Louis, which illustrates the racist structures of today's American society; followed by discussion with directors and audience.

Further projects, meetings and events, which had to be canceled from mid-March onwards due to the Corona crisis, will be held at a later date as soon as the situation allows. Go to [stuttgart.de/stlouis60](https://stuttgart.de/stlouis60) for updates.

## Selection of activities of the St. Louis–Stuttgart Sister Cities Committee 2020

- **February 12 – 19:** Organization and realization of the visitors' program for the Stuttgart Deputy Mayor, Dr. Martin Schairer and Nadia vom Scheidt, Head of the International Relations Department. Alongside meetings in International House, with representatives from the University of Missouri St. Louis (UMSL) led by the Dean, Prof. Dr. Kristin Sobolik or the Maryville University there were also appointments scheduled in the St. Louis City Hall.
- **February 15:** The annual fundraising event, "Winterball Karneval" (with an auction, tombola and live music from "Übercool" and the "Lindbergh Strolling Strings") went under the motto "The Sixties" – fitting for the anniversary. Deputy Mayor Dr. Schairer thanked the association and its President Susanne Evens for the enormous non-material and financial work which above all makes it possible for young people to come together and experience exchanges. He also presented a short video greeting from the Stuttgart Carnival Prince and Princess to their St. Louis counterparts, Silvia I and Cliff I, who returned the best wishes to Prince Harun I and Princess Lena I with a photo.
- **August 28 - 30:** Festival of Nations. The popular event in the International House, which normally takes place in the Tower Grove Park and in which the SLSSC is a regular participant, will be carried out on a virtual and interactive basis. The aim here is to give everyone a multi-cultural experience with numerous events and programs.
- **September 25:** This year, the annual business event 'Growing Global' organized by the World Trade Center, will be held virtually. Its topic is to prepare St. Louis for the opportunities and challenges of changing globalization.
- **October 17:** The motto of the virtual gala of the organization Missouri Humanities is "What Our

Community Tells Us About America"; the guest speaker will be the Pulitzer prize laureate, Jane Smiley, whose speech will then be available for the twin towns for exchange.

- **October 24 - November 8:** An exhibition of Stuttgart artists in cooperation with the Bermuda Project from Ferguson near St. Louis with work from Traci Kelly, Eva Schmeckenbecher, Thomas Ulm, Nicole Kather, Bruno Nagel, Peter Haury, Julia Wenz and Peter Franck.



Deputy Mayor Dr. Schairer with Colonel John W. Hayden (left), St. Louis Police Commissioner, in the office of the Director of Public Safety, Judge Jimmie M. Edwards (right)

## Organizations and contacts involved

### Schools Education

**Ferdinand-Porsche-Gymnasium**  
ferdinand-porsche-gymnasium.de  
fpgz@stuttgart.de

**Geschwister-Scholl-Gymnasium**  
geschwister-scholl-gymnasium.de  
geschwister-scholl-gymnasium@stuttgart.de

**John Borroughs High-School**  
jburroughs.org

**Königin-Katharina-Stift**  
koenigin-katharina-stift.de  
koenigin-katharina-stift@stuttgart.de

**Lindbergh High-School**  
lhs@lindberghschools.ws  
go.lindberghschools.ws

**University of Stuttgart**  
uni-stuttgart.de  
international@uni-stuttgart.de

**University of Missouri in St. Louis UMSL**  
umsl.edu/global  
global@umsl.edu

**St. Louis University SLU**  
slu.edu  
internationalservices@slu.edu

**Washington University in St. Louis WashU**  
wustl.edu  
global@wustl.edu

### Sport

**St. Louis Cardinals**  
mlb.com/cardinals  
community@cardinals.com

**Stuttgart Reds**  
stuttgart-reds.de  
manske@stuttgart-reds.de

**Württembergischer Leichtathletik-Verband e.V.**  
wlv-sport.de  
info@wlv-sport.de

### Culture

**„Die Telemänner" – Das Jugendbarockorchester der GEDOK e.V.**  
gedok-stuttgart.de  
sbb@sbb-musik.de

**fotoclub stuttgart 1938 e. V.**  
fotoclub-stuttgart.de  
info@fotoclub-stuttgart.de

**GEDOK-Stuttgart Gemeinschaft der Künstlerinnen und Kunstfreunde e.V.**  
gedok-stuttgart.de  
gedok@gedok-stuttgart.de  
**Julia Wenz/Peter Franck**  
juliawenz.de/peterfranck.de  
mail@juliawenz.de /post@peterfranck.de

### **Lindbergh High-School Orchestra**

go.lindberghschools.ws  
lhs@lindberghschools.ws

### **Paul Artspace**

paulartspace.org  
info@paulartspace.org

### **Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste Stuttgart**

abk-stuttgart.de  
info@abk-stuttgart.de

### **Stadtbibliothek am Mailänder Platz**

stuttgart.de/stadtbibliothek  
stadtbibliothek@stuttgart.de

### **St. Louis Art Museum SLAM**

slam.org  
learn@slam.org

### **Theater am Olgaek**

theateramolgaek.de  
Theater@theateramolgaek.de

### **vhs-Fotogalerie Stuttgart im TREFFPUNKT Rotebühlplatz**

vhs-photogalerie.de  
info@vhs-stuttgart.de

### **vhs - international-interkulturell**

vhs-stuttgart.de  
info@vhs-stuttgart.de

## **Youth**

### **Circus Harmony St. Louis**

circusharmony.org  
circusday@circusharmony.org

### **Stuttgarter Jugendhaus gGmbH**

jugendhaus.net  
kontakt@jugendhaus.net

## **Economy/Business**

### **Impact Hub Stuttgart**

stuttgart.impacthub.net  
stuttgart@impacthub.net

### **St. Louis Makes**

stlouismakes.org  
info@stlouismakes.org

### **Urban Chestnut Brewing Company**

urbanchestnut.com  
info@urbanchestnut.com

### **Wichtel Hausbrauerei**

wichtel.de  
info@wichtel.de

### **World Trade Center St. Louis**

worldtradecenter-stl.com  
info@worldtradecenter-stl.com

## **Clubs and Associations**

### **Deutsch-Amerikanisches Zentrum**

**James-F.-Byrnes-Institut e.V. DAZ**  
daz.org  
info@daz.org

### **International Institute of St. Louis**

iistl.org  
info@iistl.org

### **Karnevalsgesellschaft Möbelwagen**

gesellschaft-moebelwagen.de  
info@gesellschaft-moebelwagen.de

### **Missouri Humanities**

mohumanities.org  
caitlin@mohumanities.org

### **PRO Stuttgart e.V.**

prostuttgart.de  
info@prostuttgart.de

## **Partnership Association St. Louis**

### **Saint Louis – Stuttgart Sister Cities (SLSSC)**

Susanne Evens  
stl4stuttgart.com  
sevans@aaatranslation.com

## **State Capital Stuttgart**

stuttgart.de

### **International Relations Department**

Dr. Frédéric Stephan  
international@stuttgart.de

### **Office of Sports and Physical Activity**

Alexander Fust  
sportinfo@stuttgart.de

### **Office of Cultural Affairs**

Gesine Becher-Sofuoglu  
kulturamt@stuttgart.de

### **Economic Development**

wifoe@stuttgart.de