



**Alumni Association Newsletter**  
**no. 1, 2002**

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*The Alumni Association is organized to promote and support the general welfare of the John-F.-Kennedy-School and to offer a forum through which alumni can stay informed of school-wide and alumni issues.*

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**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PHILOSOPHY**

In addition to fostering a feeling of community, we believe that the importance and benefits of our institution should be expanded so as to keep in touch with students and individuals who have attended or have been associated with the John-F.-Kennedy School in the past.

Such an association should be structured so as to

- 1) promote communication both internally (graduates) and externally (school wide community), as well as
- 2) offer networking opportunities among the members in order to promote and encourage personal, professional, and social contacts.

The Alumni Association should also provide the opportunity for graduates and former teachers to give back to the school what they received during their stay, yet at the same time profit from the knowledge and contacts as may be provided by the general membership.

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**STOP!!**

Take a deep breath! This is a historic moment! We are proud to present to you our first Alumni Newsletter after many years of absence and look forward to your input for the upcoming editions! Before we continue to tell you about all our plans, we'd like to introduce the editorial staff: Birgit Begehr, class of '85, Elisabeth Hoedt (former Hagen), class of '83, and John-Christoph Hagen, class of '82. We want to express our sincerest thanks to Marla MacKay, class of '86, who has generously offered to print the paper free-of-charge for us. To cut costs even more, we have decided to send the newsletter out via e-mail to most of you. To obtain a printed copy, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: John-F.-Kennedy-School c/o Alumni Association Teltower Damm 87 -93, 14167 Berlin.

The idea of the newsletter is to inform alumni of upcoming events, going on in school and to provide a forum for your own information. The section „Class Notes“ is meant to grow with your help in the future. We will provide a „mailbox“ ([classnotesalumni@jfks.net](mailto:classnotesalumni@jfks.net)) for you to send in your information. We do, however, maintain the right to edit your letters. We will not print rude or racist statements of any kind.

## **ABOUT US - the Alumni Association Organizational Committee**

November 2001 marked the first alumni meeting in hopes of restarting the Alumni Association. A group of dedicated alumni from all decades ('70 - '00) met to discuss projects for the future. Our goals for now are to:

- 1) meet once every 2 months to discuss events, projects and ideas,
- 2) set up a central Alumni Address List/ Directory,
- 3) obtain more visibility,
- 4) initiate a bi-monthly Stammtisch (see calendar for details),
- 5) publish a newsletter at least twice a year (June and December editions),
- 6) be involved in Fun Days, and
- 7) reinstating the traditional „Night Before Fun Day Alumni Reception“.

Our positive feelings for the school, wanting to communicate with old friends, and the desire to become an integral part of the school community in the long run were all initial reasons for meeting.

In addition to the aforementioned goals, many other ideas were voiced at our bi-monthly meetings - a few of these are: setting up a network for professions, an Alumni Scholarship Fund, a yearly ball, and providing the school with support from businesses for „Betriebspraktika“ (internships).

Those of you who are bursting with ideas of your own, are willing to help on one of our many committees, or who just want to listen in during our monthly meetings are more than welcome to join our group. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 10, at 19:00 hrs. in room GR 116 of the Kennedy School. For those receiving the newsletter after that date, the next meeting will be held after summer vacation on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, at 19:00 hrs., again in room GR116 (next to the Aula). At these meetings we will be focusing on Reception and Fun Day planning.

Organizational Committee: K.Ahrens '87, B.Begehr '85, C.Cho '93, J.Cornwall, C.Eifrig '83, C.Eyper '93, B.Falley '72, S.Gerris (Peaedel) '72, J.Hagen '82, E.Hoedt (Hagen) '83, K.Janson '84, K.Kay '95, K.Konduktorow '85, S.Kraul '93, G. Lohrmann (Olavarria) '82, N.Maaß '93, M.Mackay '86, B.Moegelin (Gretschel) '78, M.Olavarria '85, P.Perret '85, P.Rose '79, C.Strasiewsky (Hardey) '83, S.Stühmer '86, N.Weissmann '92 and Chris Hanna, managing Principal of JFKS

### **RECEPTION / FUN DAY**

The annual Alumni Reception on the night before Fun Day will be reinstated on Friday, Sep. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2002 at 18:00hrs. We invite all alumni and former as well as current teachers to come, mingle and exchange memories as well as thoughts for the future. We will be selling drinks and will provide small snacks for everyone. Please spread the word so we will have a good turn-out.

The following day is the John-F.-Kennedy School's 42<sup>nd</sup> year Fun Day Celebration where we alumni will have both an info booth as well as a fund-raising game booth. The money we will be raising will be used for future mailings and to cover any other costs. We still need alumni who would be willing to spend some time on Saturday (for one or two hours between 11am and 5pm) manning the booths. Please contact Elisabeth Hoedt, Tel. 784 16 53 if interested.

### **CLASS NOTES**

This space is reserved for your future articles, news, and short messages. Please mail these to: [classnotesalumni@jfks.net](mailto:classnotesalumni@jfks.net)

## **JOHN-F.-KENNEDY'S FIRST AMERICAN TEACHER WILL RETIRE AT THE END OF THIS SCHOOL YEAR ! SHE JOINED THE SCHOOL 40 YEARS AGO !**

When Mrs. Jean Hagen joined the school in March, 1962, the school was still called the *German American Community School (GACS)* and was situated within the Mühlenau School on Molsheimer Straße in Berlin-Dahlem. Her arrival at the school marked the beginning of a bi-cultural and bi-lingual faculty. As her former colleagues and founding teachers, Frau Gudrun Adam and Frau Bärbel Sotscheck, remarked, Mrs. Hagen „paved the bureaucratic way for all of the American teachers who followed“. Now, at the age of 65, Mrs. Hagen will leave the school at the end of the school year 2001 / 2002.

Mrs. Hagen, who was born in Chicago, Illinois, acquired her degree from the University of Wisconsin. For a short while, she taught in Chicago. She was wed to her German husband, Rev. Hans Hagen, in 1961 – also in Chicago – and came to Berlin the same year. After the birth of their first son, Mr. And Mrs. Hagen moved back to the USA and on to Canada, where their daughter (now a JFKS teacher) was born. Mrs. Hagen returned to Berlin and the JFKS in 1968. All of her children, including their second son, attended the JFKS from *Vorschule* on, and acquired the High School Diploma and / or the Abitur. Mrs. Hagen has taught classes from *Vorschule* through second grade throughout her career. She has worked with several student teachers from the Free University.



*Mayor Willy Brandt visits Jean Hagen's ES Class at the German-American Community School (later JFKS) in Zehlendorf 1963*

## **OTHER RETIRING TEACHERS – 3 SAILORS ARE LEAVING THE SCHOOL**

### **Uwe Nieguth**

1974 "Referendar" at JFKS, High School teacher for Sports and Geography, since 1980 Department Head of Sports, Oct. 2002 trip to Australia and spends his early retirement sailing with Teddy

### **Teddy Pfeiffer-Nieguth**

Since 1979 Sports and homeroom teacher in Elementary School, Sports and German Partner Tongue teacher in High School, Oct. 2002 "Beurlaubung" to travel with Uwe

### **Robin Beus**

Since 1981 Sports teacher and Basketball Coach June 2002 sailing with his wife (former Arts teacher at JFKS) from Berlin to South France, where they have bought an old shepherd's house

## JFKS AND ALUMNI CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(June 2002-Dec.2002)

June 6 (Tuesday)	High School Music Eve. 19:30 Aula
*June 10 (Monday)	Alumni Association Organizational Meeting 19:00 GR116
June 13 (Thursday)	High School Music Concert 19:30 Aula
June 20 (Thursday)	Elementary Music Concert 19:00 Aula
June 25(Tuesday)	Abitur Feier 18:00 Aula
June 29 (Saturday)	Class of `82 20th Reunion
July 1 (Monday)	GRADUATION 19:00 Aula
July 4 - August 26	JFKS Summer Vacation
*July 6 (Saturday)	Alumni Family Picnic 10:30 a.m. Schönower Park (bring your own food and drink. Will meet only if it does not rain.)
*July 18 (Thursday)	Alumni Stammtisch/Get-Together 20:00, Leibnizstr. 17 (Ecke Schillerstraße) at the Mystery Island Café
August 26 (Monday)	School begins for students
August 30 (Friday)	Einschulung for Grade 1. 9:30 a.m.
September 2 (Monday)	Labor Day - School holiday
*September 9(Monday)	Alumni Association Organizational Meeting 19:00 GR116
*September 19(Thursday)	Alumni Stammtisch/Get-Together 20:00 Leibnizstr. 17
*September 27(Friday)	Alumni Association Reception 18:00 JFKS-AULA
*September 28(Saturday)	JFKS 42nd Anniversary Celebration/Fun Day 11:00-17:00
October 3 - October 20	JFKS Fall Vacation
October 21 (Monday)	School resumes
*November 4 (Monday)	Alumni Association Organizational Meeting 19:00 GR116
*November 21 (Thursday)	Alumni Stammtisch/Get-Together 20:00 Leibnizstr.17
November 28 & 29	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 21 (Saturday)	Christmas vacation begins
*December 28 (Saturday)	Irish Harp Alumni Get-Together 21:00 Giesebrechtstraße/Ecke Sybelstraße

Note: All alumni events have been noted with an \*. All dates could be subject to change.

For upcoming school events such as Plays, Musicals, etc. from September - December 2002, please get on-line at [www.jfks.de](http://www.jfks.de) or look out for the upcoming newsletter.

The Alumni Stammtisch will take place on every 3rd Thursday of every second month.