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Dear friends and members,

Here is the fall newsletter for the AATG Massachusetts chapter. I hope you enjoy reading it and find the articles your colleagues wrote interesting and inspiring. I wanted to take the occasion to encourage all of you to submit anything you think could be of interest to other German instructors. We'd appreciate any contribution to this newsletter from articles about past or upcoming events, dates you consider important for the German community, including dates that might be of interest not only to the teachers but also to the students and their families.

We are also planning on sending the newsletter via email and we need your input. Please let us know, if you would prefer to receive the newsletter as usual by snail mail or by email. Some of the benefits of an email newsletter would be:

- ⇒ No mailing costs
- ⇒ Quarterly newsletter
- ⇒ More updated information
- ⇒ Etc.

Please let us know what you think. Email: Judith_Bach@hmco.com

Thanks in advance for your suggestions and contributions,



Tschüss

Judith Bach
Newsletter Editor

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GERMAN SCHOOL BOSTON

September 5, 2001 saw the opening of the German School Boston in Cambridge, MA for preschool children from age 3.9 to 5, and for grades 1 to 3. Higher grades will be added in successive years until the full range up to grade 12 is reached. The German School Boston is one of four German Schools in the United States after New York, Washington, D.C., and Silicon Valley, CA.

Under the educational leadership Mrs. Beate Nedel, the School Principal, pupils are immersed in European and American culture and thus learn at an early age to appreciate diversity. While the curriculum is based on German educational standards meeting the requirements of the German School System (curriculum approved by the Cultural Ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany), it also satisfies the requirements of the local school system. Standard American School English courses are offered for all grades. Starting in grade 5 the children will learn a third language. GSB is working with accredited teachers.

The high standards of the German School Boston will make it possible for the student to transfer at any time to another German or an American school in the US, or to public schools in Austria, Germany or Switzerland. Graduates of the German School Boston will qualify for entry into universities in the United States and Germany and, depending on language adequacy, in other European countries.

For more information please contact. Mrs. Mareen Weigele, Administration:
GERMAN SCHOOL BOSTON, INC.
54 Essex Street, P.O. Box 391497
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-497-8454

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“MY SEMINAR IN BERLIN....”

This past summer, I took part in a Goethe Institut Seminar in Berlin. The title of the seminar was "Erlebte Landeskunde und Methodik / Didaktik" and the participants were German teachers from all over the world. The seminar was specifically designed for those new to the profession and all participants were under 30 years of age.

The three weeks I spent in Berlin proved to be an invaluable experience because we were able to experience the city first-hand. I lived with a host family while I was there and was treated to a "traditional" German breakfast each morning. My host family was wonderful and I spoke almost exclusively German with them over the three weeks.

The seminar provided me with an opportunity to learn a tremendous amount about Berlin and gave me valuable materials to take home and use in the classroom. Many of the topics covered in the seminar were very practical, such as: Musik / Kunst im Unterricht, Technologie im Unterricht, and many fun classroom activities that you can apply to your high school or middle school classes. I received so many practical materials (i.e. music tapes, CDs, pictures and various classroom exercises) that have truly complemented my lesson plans this year.

We took many field trips inside of Berlin and were also able to speak with many Berliners about the current social / political situations, specific to Berlin and Germany. Another highlight of the seminar was being able to compare teaching styles / ideas with colleagues from Africa, Asia, and Europe.

I thoroughly enjoyed my three weeks and encourage other teachers to take advantage of the opportunities (specifically the seminars) that the Goethe Institut offers. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Doris Demmel and the Goethe Institut in Boston for sponsoring me and allowing me to learn a tremendous amount this summer in Berlin.

Max Achtau

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KINDER LERNEN DEUTSCH

Wie Vorschulkinder und juengere Schulkinder am besten und am liebsten Deutsch lernen und welche Unterschiede es zur Spracharbeit mit Erwachsenen gibt, darauf wollte ich eine Antwort finden und nahm am diesjaehrigen "Kinder lernen Deutsch" - Seminar am Regis College in Weston, MA teil. Ein wenig "dazulernen" wollte ich, neue Ideen bekommen, um meine gewohnte Unterrichtspraxis zu vervollstaendigen und an die juengere Lernergruppe "anzupassen".

Diese Erwartung gab ich jedoch bald auf und stellte fest, dass Deutschunterricht fuer Kinder ein komplettes "Neulernen" erfordert. Ich stand vor der Aufgabe, mich von allgemein etablierten und durchaus erfolgreichen Methoden in der Erwachsenenbildung zu loesen und mich einer neuen didaktisch-methodischen Herangehensweise zu oeffnen: "Storyform", "TPR" und "Outcomes" wurden die Schlagworte der Woche, "classroom management" die groesste Herausforderung fuer mich.

Fussend auf dem Buch "Languages and Children - Making the Match" diskutierten wir Teilnehmer(innen) im taeglich stattfindenden Methodikunterricht mit Susan Thorne Gagnon theoretische Aspekte dieser Unterrichtsfuehrung. Deren unmittelbare praktische Umsetzung erlebten wir mit staunender Begeisterung im Demonstrationsunterricht von Hildegard Merkle, der fuer mich Hoehepunkt des Seminars war. Irmgard Hicks machte uns mit unzähligen Liedern, Spielen, Geschichten und Bastelarbeiten vertraut, was von den Seminarteilnehmern dankbar aufgenommen und zum Teil direkt in die eigenen Unterrichtsversuche einbezogen wurde. Diese Gelegenheit, das Gelernte selbst in 4 Unterrichtseinheiten in der Praxis auszuprobieren, unterschied dieses Seminar von vielen anderen Fortbildungsseminaren, die ich bisher besucht habe. In Zweiergruppen fanden wir uns zusammen, um Unterrichtseinheiten mit einheimischen Kindern zu planen und durchzufuehren, um aus eigenen Erfolgen und Fehlern lernen zu koennen. Besonders schaezte ich hierbei die "unaufdringliche" Art der Hospitationen seitens unserer Betreuerinnen. Als besonders hilfreich empfand ich die jeweiligen Auswertungsgespraechе mit allen Seminarteilnehmern im Anschluss an jeden Unterrichtsversuch.

Ganz sicher werde ich mich oft und gern auf das Gelernte stuetzen, wenn ich im September die Mitarbeit an der Deutschen Sonnabendsschule Boston wieder aufnehme. Und vielleicht werde ich mich auch an das ein oder andere Lied oder Spiel erinnern, wenn ich mich dann wieder meinen gewohnten Lernergruppen am Goethe Institut und der Tufts Universitaet zuwende.

Nochmals vielen vielen Dank an Irmgard, Hildegard und Susan fuer ihr Engagement und ihre Unterstuetzung und vor allem auch an Joan Murray fuer



die liebevolle und reibungslos funktionierende Organisation der
Rahmenbedingungen am Regis College.
Peggy Wunderwald-Jensen

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“LET’S RAISE SOME FUNDS”

At the last officer's meeting for the AATG Massachusetts chapter it became apparent to me that our budget for this year is extremely tight. Membership dues alone will not cover all of the expenses that our Chapter has. We discussed this topic in depth and realized that even by "penny pinching" - we will need more money to get through the year.

I suggested that individual schools in Massachusetts become more proactive and help raise some money for our chapter. Because the AATG Massachusetts Chapter works to benefit / support our programs and efforts, any money donated is well justified.

At Wellesley High School, a raffle or bake sale alone can raise \$300 - \$500. I propose the following: If teachers could organize a fundraiser this year and donate some of that money to the AATG Massachusetts Chapter, it would help us tremendously. I am organizing a fundraiser for National German week in October. I am confident, that by having the students sell *Toblerone* chocolate, - we can easily raise a couple hundred dollars and I am ready to donate \$150 to the AATG Massachusetts Chapter. Any contribution would be beneficial. Please contact me if you can help.

Thanks,
Max Achteu / maxachteu@yahoo.com

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AUSTRIAN - AMERICAN DAY

The 26th of September marks Austrian-American Day, which was established by the Senate and by many governors in the United States. For several years the Austro-American Association of Boston has received its own proclamation for Massachusetts, signed by the governor.



This day was established to recognize the friendship between the United States and Austria, and to honor the contributions by Austrian and Americans of Austrian descent to America. Such contributions range from Nobel Prize recipients, inventors, researchers, and scholars to artists and actors.

The reason that the 26th of September was chosen is that on this day in 1945 a conference was held in Vienna among the four Allies that occupied Austria after World War II and representatives of all nine Austrian provinces. They were invited at the insistence of the United States. Elections were held in December 1945, and Austria was spared the fate of being divided between East and West as Berlin had been after the war. Just over two years later, the European Recovery Program (Marshall Plan) was established and the aid that Austria received became the cornerstone of its recovery. *Reprinted from the Newsletter of the Austro-American Association of Boston*

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NATIONAL GERMAN WEEK

This first annual National German Week Celebration (October 1-7) is planned to enable members of AATG Chapters and colleagues in neighboring towns and the German-Austrian-Swiss-American community to celebrate a week, which includes German-American Day (October 6). Teachers now have an opportunity to broaden the scope of activities to a full week in and outside the classroom.

The Nebraska AATG Chapter has prepared a packet for National German Week. It contains sample proclamations, press releases, and announcements, activities, a quiz on German immigration, a list of famous German-Americans, and contacts and websites. This packet and much more is available from the AATG Materials Center in Cherry Hill, NJ.

Why not send our Newsletter Editor information on how you and your German classes celebrated National German Week this year. We will publish your ideas in the next chapter newsletter.

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DATES by DATES

OCTOBER 2001

October 16: 2 - 6:30 PM Brandeis University, Rapaporte Treasure Hall, Goldfarb Library: Second Annual Colloquium on European Jewish Writers at Brandeis will take place on. Swiss Author and Journalist Daniel Ganzfried will speak about "Switzerland, Holocaust and Back". Introduction by Mariatte Denman, Assistant Prof. of German, Duke University. Mr. Ganzfried will read from his book *The Sender (Der Absender)* and his latest work *The Holocaust-Projekt (Das Holocaust-Projekt)*. Contact, Sabine von Mering at vonmering@brandeis.edu or (781) 736-3227 for more information on any of these events. For directions to the campus please call (781) 736-4660:

October 19: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM 10th Annual GAPP-Seminar
New England high school teachers of German with exchange programs sponsored by the German American Partnership Program will meet at the *Goethe-Institut Inter Nationes* Boston, 170 Beacon Street to discuss issues relating to the organization and planning of well-established as well as new exchange programs. Special attention will be given to involving parents and school administrations in the program. Teachers interested in registering for the seminar should call Jörg Frey (617-262-6050) or email him (jfrey@giboston.org) for details.

October 25: 5:30 - 7:30 PM Jewish German Dialogue Meeting in Rapaporte Treasure Hall, Goldfarb Library: "Learning for a Peaceful Future at the German School *Talitha Kumi* in Beit Jala" with Direktor Wilhelm Goller, and Dr. Sami Adwan, Associate Professor of Education, University of Bethlehem. More info on *Talitha Kumi* at <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Styx/9588/english/indexeng.html>

October 6 & 7: Two-Day Gala: "Vienna and the String Quartet" (Please visit <http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/cges/events.htm#October6> for a detailed schedule of Lectures and Concerts). Contact, Sabine von Mering at vonmering@brandeis.edu or (781) 736-3227 for more information on any of these events. For directions to the campus please call (781) 736-4660:

NOVEMBER 2001

November TBA: Open house German School Boston



November 11: "International Conference on Green Politics" organized by the Center for German and European Studies [CGES] at Brandeis University in Cooperation with the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Washington , D.C. Among the panelists confirmed are Pierre Jonckheer (Belgium, Member of the European Parliament) Pekka Haavisto (Finland, Former Environmental Minister and expert on Green Politics in Russia), Annie Goeke (Co-Chair, National Committee, US Green Party), Grace Akumu (Climate Network Africa), Teresa Amato (Nader 2000), and Mikiko Hirata (Kiko-Forum in Kyoto). Former Environmental Minister of France, Dominique Voynet, has been invited to give the keynote address.

Contact, Sabine von Mering at vonmering@brandeis.edu or (781) 736-3227 for more information on any of these events. For directions to the campus please call (781) 736-4660:

November 16-18: ACTFL 2001, 35th Annual Meeting and Exposition. Convention Center, Washington, D.C. Info: www.actfl.org

DECEMBER 2001

December 7: 10 AM – 12 PM "Geographie einmal anders", class visit at the Goethe Institut, Boston. Please apply by Nov. 30. Contact: Jörg Frey, (617) 262-6050 oder jfrey@giboston.org

APRIL 2002

April 5-7: German Immersion Weekend. "Film im Unterricht" at the School for International Training, Brattleboro, Vermont. This workshop is intended as a follow-up to the two total immersion weekends on film sponsored by the Connecticut and Northern New England/Maine chapters of the AATG this fall, but be assured that you are welcome to attend even if you have not signed up for the other weekend workshops. During the spring 1999 the Massachusetts Chapter sponsored a very successful immersion weekend in Brattleboro with almost 40 in attendance. We are hoping to repeat this special professional development opportunity. More information will be posted as it becomes available on our chapter homepage and in a separate mailing to our members.

MAY 2002

May 2: Deutsches Theaterfest at Mount Holyoke College. Dramatic presentations in German of 15-20 minutes in length will be judged by a jury



consisting of pre-collegiate and postsecondary teachers of German and theater arts as well as representatives from the Goethe Institute and the Consulate of the Federal Republic of Germany in Boston. Prizes will be awarded on the elementary, secondary and college/university levels. “Certificates of Participation” Will be available for participating teachers. Note that the secondary school in first place will be invited to perform its play (or excerpt) at the AATG Massachusetts Chapter’s annual Awards Banquet in May!

May 7: Annual Student Awards Banquet at Boylston Schulverein

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Herzlichen Dank

For the past two years Sandra Alferts has served as Newsletter Editor for our chapter’s newsletter. Sandra now teaches at Dartmouth College and belongs to the AATG Northern New England Chapter. For her help in getting the news out to our members we are most grateful.

2001 Duden Award

This year’s Duden Award for outstanding contributions of the teaching of German was presented to Lee Wells, German teacher at St. Mark’s School, Southborough, MA, at the Annual Student Awards Banquet in May. Lee has taught German at St. Mark’s for 21 years. This small boarding school has made a strong commitment to offer German to its students. Her students have consistently done well on the National German Examination. Two students have won the AATG Study Trip and three have received the Congress-Bundestag Scholarship. Five years ago Lee began a small exchange program for her students with the Wittelsbacher Gymnasium in München. Lee has participated in numerous AATG and Goethe Institut sponsored professional development opportunities over the years. She is currently on sabbatical for the school year 2001-2002.



**VISIT THE AATG WEBPAGE FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION
ON CHAPTER EVENTS**

WWW.AATG.ORG

You can then connect to the local Massachusetts site

OR GO DIRECTLY TO:

www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/germ/aatg

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2000/2001 MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER DUES

The Massachusetts Chapter needs your participation. The chapter offers regional activities, workshops, the AATG testing program, the awards banquet for regional winners and this newsletter for your benefit. However the cost of these benefits is only partially paid for by your national membership dues. Therefore we ask that you contribute \$10.00 to the Massachusetts Chapter, so that we may continue to fund these activities and also contribute to the national AATG Endowed Scholarship Fund for Study Abroad.

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Send your check payable to **AATG – Massachusetts Chapter** to: Monika Whipple, Treasurer, 96 S. Harbor Road, Townsend, MA 01469

Name_____ E-mail_____

School/College_____ Position_____

Address_____ Phone_____

Along with your check feel free to express any professional interests or concerns you think should be addressed by the Massachusetts Chapter members.