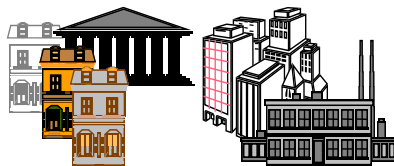


Houston-Leipzig Sister City Association



VOL. 8, No. 5

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OCTOBER 2003

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THE CITY OF LEIPZIG CONGRATULATES

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Wolfgang Tiefensee, who currently is in Brussels in his function as Eurocities President, and who is fighting for the extension of the EU for infrastructure subsidies for Saxony, I would like to wish you all the best for your 10-year celebration of the Houston-Leipzig Sister City Association.

We let our thoughts fly to you—which even might be faster than Lufthansa—to participate in your wonderful evening.

Have a good time, celebrate and be proud of your achievements during the last 10 years. Leipzig and Houston have grown closer during this time. By now many people from Leipzig know Houston. Many people have already come together from various sectors of society: college students, policemen, politicians, high school students, physicians, sportsmen, theologians, artists and on and on...

Just as it is now: best regards to Prof. Keil and the students from Leipzig, as well as to the *Calmus Ensemble*. I am sure you are having a good time in Houston, and we are looking forward to hear your stories and see your photos upon your return.

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Freundeskreis Leipzig-Houston Sends Greetings

Dear Friends in Houston, dear Guests,

Ten years ago, citizens of Houston and Leipzig came together to sign the Sister City Relationship Agreement between Houston and Leipzig. Council Member Christine Hartung and City-President Friedrich Magirius on behalf of the two cities, represented by Mayors Bob Lanier and Dr. Hinrich Lehmann-Grube, signed the document, which stated:

"In order to expand and develop the close and friendly relationship between the citizens of Leipzig, Germany, and the citizens of Houston, Texas, U.S.A., it is proposed that the two cities engage in a program of

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MAYOR BROWN DECLARES

HOUSTON-LEIPZIG SISTER CITY DAY

The Honorable Lee P. Brown, Mayor of the City of Houston, declared October 4, 2003, as Houston-Leipzig Sister City Day. Following is the text of the Proclamation:

"The common concerns of people worldwide transcend dividing lines of language, customs, political philosophy and, geography. The Sister Cities program is committed to the process of providing an active and positive role in international relations by enhancing friendship and understanding among all people through personal contact for the ultimate goal of world peace.

Houston, Texas and Leipzig, Germany have shared a long, rich sister city relationship, which has led to many exchanges between our citizens. In 1998 the Thomanerchor of Leipzig chose Houston as their first U.S. city to perform in during the choir's 700-year history. In 2001 accomplished student musicians from Houston traveled to Leipzig to participate in the city's first annual "Youth Camp." These students performed in the Thomaskirche with the world-famous Thomanerchor.

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President's Message

Dear Members and Friends:

Blue skies, sunshine and a fine Houston October evening—it couldn't have been better for our 10th anniversary celebration at Christ the King Lutheran Church on October 4. The crowd of almost 90 members and guests first gathered for a social hour in the church courtyard, warm and friendly as the weather.

We were honored to have October 4 declared as *Houston-Leipzig Sister City Day* by Mayor Lee P. Brown (see related article this page). Our Honorary Chair Person City Council Member Mark Ellis presented the proclamation at the reception. The esteemed Consul General of Germany Heiner Model added his best wishes to the gathering. Ms. Deanea LeFlore represented the Houston International Protocol Alliance and Sister Cities of Houston and added her regards. We thank these dignitaries for their

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City of Leipzig, *Continued from p. 1*

Congratulations to Angelika, who, as President of Sister Cities of Houston, is heavily involved in the international affairs of the city. We congratulate Houston to such a President and hope for support in the effort to get the Olympic Games to Leipzig, and for scientific and cultural exchanges. Last, but not least, I hope that next year we can organize the citizens' trip for people from Leipzig to Houston. Easter would be an ideal time for such a visit. We also hope that Houstonians will do a similar trip to Leipzig in 2004.

All the best, Your Gabriele Goldfuss

Head of European and International Cooperation of the City of Leipzig

Freundeskreis, *Continued from p. 1*

exchange in the fields of science and technology, sports, culture, public health, tourism, municipal planning and development, trade and other fields with the goals of enhancing the development and prosperity of both cities, economically and otherwise contributing in a positive way to the future development of a close relationship between our cities and countries."

Looking back on the last 10 years, we can surely say that much of this has been achieved and filled with life. Many areas still deserve to be developed and there are plenty of possibilities to participate in our joint efforts. But what counts more, are the numerous personal moments of meeting together in Leipzig or in Houston. It is good to know, that the citizens of Leipzig have good friends in the citizens of Houston. This Sister City Relationship is one of the most successful in Germany and - needless to say - it comes from deep in the heart.

The Lord Mayor of Leipzig, Wolfgang Tiefensee, all the citizens and all the members of Freundeskreis Leipzig-Houston send warm greetings to the anniversary celebration, and wish to see you happily celebrating this great event with your guests from Leipzig.

Frank Rohrwacher

Norbert Kuehn

Freundeskreis Leipzig-Houston e.V.

President's Message, *Continued from p.1*

support of this milestone event. Special guests included the Leipzig choral group, *Calmus*, Prof. Dr. Hartmut Keil from the American Studies Institute at the University of Leipzig, and his students who were studying volunteerism in America.

With some gentle coaxing the festive group found its way into the parish hall for dinner. The Rev. Dr. Robert

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Mayor's Proclamation, *Continued from p. 1*

In 2003, the American Studies program of the University of Leipzig sent a delegation to Houston to study grassroots involvement in the American political process. The students met with City of Houston officials and were recognized by the Houston City Council. These are only a few examples of the ways in which Houston's sister city relationship with Leipzig has enriched the lives of our respective citizens. The Sister City movement was part of the People-to-People program started during President Eisenhower's administration.

Houston and Leipzig share many similarities. Both cities are leaders in world trade, both cities celebrate the arts, and both cities boast world-class medical centers. These commonalities and the commitment of our respective citizens to fostering a strong relationship make Houston and Leipzig ideal sister cities.

In recognition of the 10th Anniversary of the signing of the sister city agreement between Houston and Leipzig, the City of Houston congratulates the Houston-Leipzig Association on this milestone occasion, and extends best wishes for many more years of continued success.

Therefore, I, Lee P. Brown, Mayor of the City of Houston, hereby proclaim October 4, 2003 as

Houston-Leipzig Sister City Day

In Houston, Texas."

[Signed, Lee P. Brown, Mayor of the City of Houston]

President's Message, *Continued from opposite column*

Moore led the invocation. Following a delicious dinner, we heard congratulatory messages in German and English from the City of Leipzig, and from the Freundeskreis Leipzig-Houston. Klaus Aurisch, former German Consul-General to Houston presented his remembrances from the founding of the association.

Afterwards President Stephen Braun called the past presidents of the last 5 years to the front for special recognition. He then turned the program over to Wolfgang Schmidt, our founding President, who presented plaques to several founding and long time members for their generous support and service of many years. This group included Angelika Schmidt-Lange, Otto Goedeke, and George Hammerlein. Thank you again to all of you who serve our association.

The fabulous choral group *Calmus* from Leipzig presented an exciting musical program that traversed a wide variety of entertaining and captivating works, spanning from the Middle Ages to present-day modern song. Two standing ovations brought a moving encore of spirituals, closing out the evening.

Your President-Elect, Roy de Gesero