



Leipzig Autumn `89

Preliminary Programme of Events
around

9th Oktober 2009

Initiative Group
"Day of the Peaceful Revolution – Leipzig 9th October 2009"

Leipziger Freiheit

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20 Years of Autumn `89

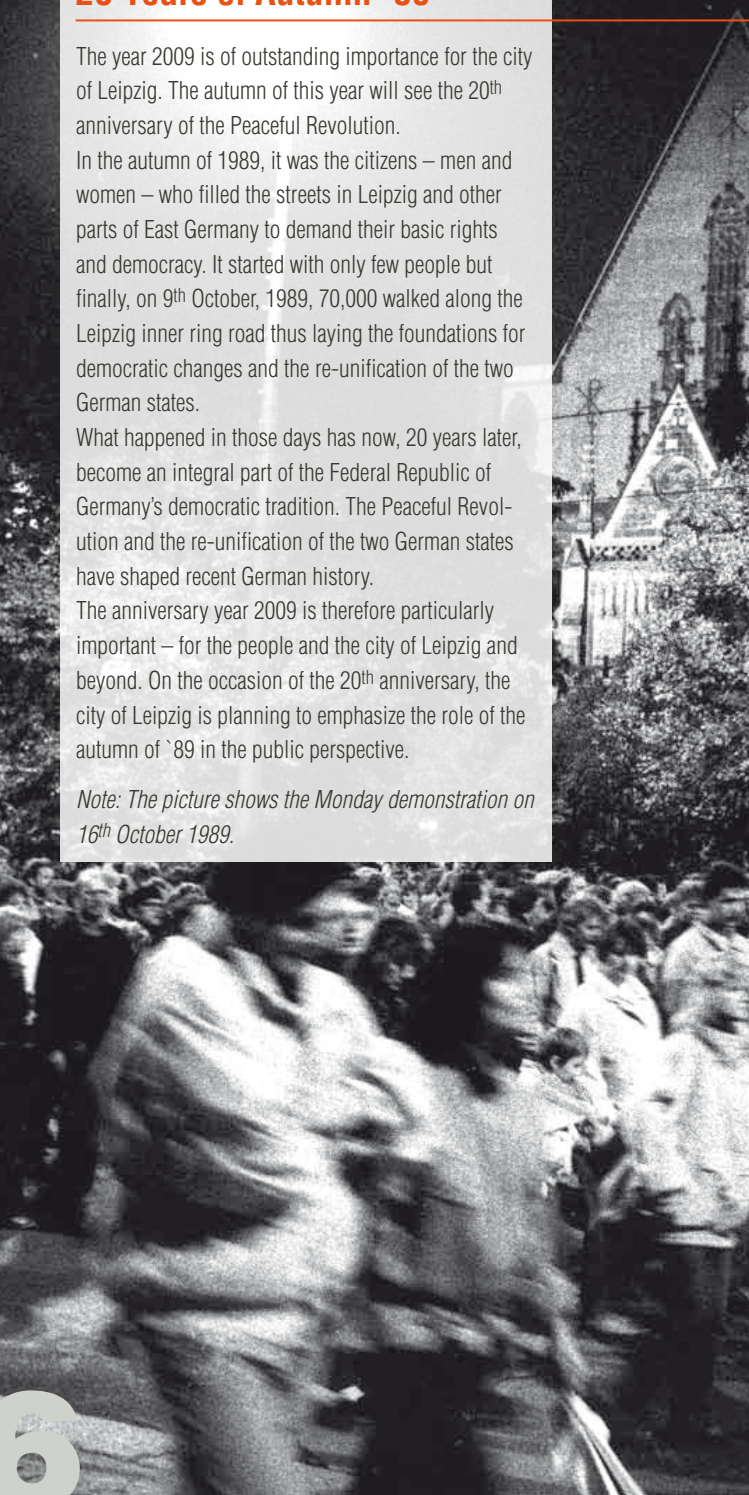
The year 2009 is of outstanding importance for the city of Leipzig. The autumn of this year will see the 20th anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution.

In the autumn of 1989, it was the citizens – men and women – who filled the streets in Leipzig and other parts of East Germany to demand their basic rights and democracy. It started with only few people but finally, on 9th October, 1989, 70,000 walked along the Leipzig inner ring road thus laying the foundations for democratic changes and the re-unification of the two German states.

What happened in those days has now, 20 years later, become an integral part of the Federal Republic of Germany's democratic tradition. The Peaceful Revolution and the re-unification of the two German states have shaped recent German history.

The anniversary year 2009 is therefore particularly important – for the people and the city of Leipzig and beyond. On the occasion of the 20th anniversary, the city of Leipzig is planning to emphasize the role of the autumn of `89 in the public perspective.

Note: The picture shows the Monday demonstration on 16th October 1989.





Leipzig 9th October 1989

“We are the people”

The crucial moment, the breakthrough of the Peaceful Revolution, was the big Monday demonstration of 9th October 1989. 70,000 people overcame their fear and confronted the armed security forces with their chant “We are the people”. The Peaceful Revolution could no longer be stopped. With this the Leipzig protesters had decisively contributed to the end of the East German regime.

Many bigger and smaller places had “their own” peaceful revolution. But there is hardly any other city that epitomises the Peaceful Revolution like Leipzig does - not only in the national memory. Here 9th October 1989 became the D-Day for East Germany's further fate.

This does not only make 9th October an important historic date for Leipzig. The city also feels obligated to guarantee that the voice of democracy, non-violence and criticism continues to be heard.

Possible perspectives for “Democracy in the 21st Century” will be presented with a multitude of events

Note: The picture shows the Monday demonstration on 16th October 1989.



Leipzig 9th October 2009

Many players have come together to prepare and organise the events on 9th October. In the first place it is the initiative group “Day of the Peaceful Revolution – Leipzig 9th October” that deserves mentioning in this context. But also the Leipzig Forum of Contemporary History and Leipzig Tourismus und Marketing GmbH have assumed important duties within the overall organisation. On the part of the City, responsibilities rest with the Department of Culture, supported by the Lord Mayor’s Office.

For the anniversary a great number of events have been scheduled ranging from scientific analysis or the optically impressive Festival of Lights to festive ceremonies.

We look forward to welcoming you there.



Consecration of the Freedom Bell

10:00 a.m. | Grimmaische Straße

In the summer of 2008, Walter Christian Steinbach, president of Kulturstiftung Leipzig, accepted the offer of the East German foundry associations to make a bell of high artistic value as a gift for the city on the occasion of 9th October. Kulturstiftung Leipzig invited participants for a competition around the overall artistic concept. The competition concentrated on finding ideas for a sculpture-like art installation focussing on a Freedom Bell to be put up at the entrance of Grimmaische Straße. The bell is meant to commemorate the decisive Monday demonstration of 9th October 1989, which had “rang in” the end of the East German state.

Winner of the competition was Via Lewandowsky from Berlin. In August 2009 the bell will be cast in Lauchhammer. As part of the commemorative events around the 20th anniversary celebrations of the Peaceful Revolution, the Freedom Bell will be consecrated in the morning of 9th October 2009.

Festive Ceremony

11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. | Gewandhaus

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution, a joint festive ceremony of the Saxon State Government, the Saxon Parliament and the City of Leipzig is going to be held. It will honour the Peaceful Revolution as a result of free and democratic actions of the citizens all over Saxony and it will be the core event of all activities around the 20th anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution in Saxony.

Scheduled speakers are among others President of the Federal Republic of Germany Horst Köhler, Saxony State Prime Minister Stanislaw Tillich, Chairman of the Saxon State Parliament Erich Iltgen and the Lord Mayor of the City of Leipzig, Burkhard Jung.

Besides high-ranking figures of public life, witnesses to history, civil rights activists and representatives of democratic political basis groups will attend. In addition, the ceremony will be broadcasted by public-law radio.



Peace Prayers

10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. | St. Nicholas's Church

10:00 a.m.: Children Peace Prayer

"We want to build bridges – bridges that connect"

5 p.m.: Peace Prayer

"Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called sons of God."

Sermon: Bishop emeritus Dr. Christoph Kähler

The beatitudes – in memoriam Leipzig 1989. Cantata for mixed choir, string trio, bassoon and organ by Enjott Schneider (world premiere);

St. Nicholas's Bach Choir; conductor: Jürgen Wolf

Since 1982 environmental, peace and human rights groups had already organised regular peace prayers in St. Nicholas's Church. In September 1989 this became the starting point of the Monday demonstrations.

After the Monday prayer meeting on 9th October, more than 70,000 people assembled for protests. The traditional Peace Prayer will this year be held again to commemorate 9th October.

Gala Concert

8:30 p.m. | St. Nicholas's Church

with music by Ludwig van Beethoven, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Johann Sebastian Bach and Johannes Brahms.

The concert is presenting a top-class line-up: Maestro Kurt Masur will conduct the Gewandhaus Orchestra, the St. Thomas's Boys Choir will sing under the direction of Thomaskantor Georg-Christoph Biller. The event will be solemnly opened with Beethoven's Egmont overture, rising up to the stars of international choir music with Johann Sebastian Bach's motet for two four-part choirs "Fürchte dich nicht" (Be not afraid) and Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy's eight-part choir "Denn er hat seinen Engeln befohlen über dir" (For He will give His angels charge concerning you) to finally culminate in Johannes Brahms's magnificent 2nd Symphony in D Major.



Festival of Lights

from 6:00 p.m. | Nikolaikirchhof-Augustusplatz-Innenstadtring

The Festival of Lights “Leipzig, Dawning of a New Era – 20 Years of Peaceful Revolution and Unity in Europe” along the historical demonstration route of 1989 involves architects, lighting designers and artists from various European countries. About 20 creative professionals are participating under one overall artistic direction with interpretations around the theme “Peaceful Revolution” using light, audio and video media. The 2009 Festival of Lights’ focus is on remembering but also goes beyond this. It stands as a symbol for unity, freedom and the overcoming of boundaries. It is the broad public that the organisers want to address, the citizens who lived through 1989, young people, national and international guests of the city.



The festival venue will be the route along the ring road that the protesters took in 1989. The route starts on Nikolaikirchhof and continues via Augustusplatz, Georgiring, Central Station, Tröndlinring and Goerdelerring. Major landmarks on the way will be especially accentuated by large projections and artistic activities.

The route is leading up to the "Round Corner" – in the course of the evening a musical programme will be performed by choir and orchestra under the direction of Nikolaikantor Jürgen Wolf.



Further Events

Friday, 2nd October

11:00 a.m. | Leipzig city territory

Columns on “20 Years of Peaceful Revolution“

Opening of the city territory exhibition

Organiser: Memorial and Museum in the “Round Corner“

7:30 p.m. | St. Lucas Church, Volkmarsdorf

“Wendedankfest” celebration (thanksgiving and remembering the time of changes)

Concert and reading

with Stephan Krawczyk (singer, author, political cabaret artist)

Organiser: City of Leipzig, Board of Culture, Mühlstraße e. V., Evangelical Lutheran Parish of Sellerhausen-Volkmarsdorf

Monday, 5th October

9:00 a.m. | School Museum, small cinema hall

“A Leaflet for Today”

Workshop for young people

Until 1989, Rainer Müller and Christoph Wonneberger had together produced and distributed several political leaflets. In January 1989 they were therefore arrested. In the workshop young people will have the opportunity to produce their own leaflets, with the means that they are given, in their language (or in their design). What are their urgent issues today?

Organiser: School Museum together with Rainer Müller and his typewriter from 1989

5:00 p.m. | Auditorium of Volkshochschule Leipzig education centre

“Are we still the people? How to overcome the alienation between citizens and politics”

Workshop

In 1989 tens of thousands of people protested in the streets and confidently chanted: “We are the people!” in the face of the East German police. And today? People feel governed again and without the right of co-determination. Those in politics on the other hand feel misjudged and their efforts ignored. What is needed to make citizens confident again that they can achieve something and that together with politicians they can work for the public welfare?

Organiser: Volkshochschule Leipzig with Forum Bürgerstadt Leipzig

7:00 p.m. | Memorial and Museum in the “Round Corner”
“We are the people”

Monday Talks in the “Round Corner”

Protagonists of 1989 are talking about their development and involvement before, during and after the Peaceful Revolution. This time with the former civil rights activist Werner Schulz, today Member of the European Parliament, former mediator in the New Forum oppositional group and participant of the decisive Monday demonstration on 9th October 1989.

Organiser: Memorial and Museum in the “Round Corner”

7:00 p.m. | BStU - Leipzig branch office

“Digging for Peace? – The Construction Soldiers of East Germany”

Podium talk and exhibition opening,

among others with Sebastian Fleischhack, witness to history, Bernd Eisenfeld, witness to history and publicist and Sabrina Pampel, witness to history

Organiser: The Federal Commissioner's Office in Charge of Preserving the Stasi Records (BstU), exhibition of the Archiv Bürgerbewegung e. V.

Tuesday, 6th October

9:00 a.m. | School Museum, small cinema hall

“A Leaflet for Today”

Workshop for young people – see 5th Oct

7:00 p.m. | BStU - Leipzig branch office

“20 Years 09“- Autumn `89 – Pictures from Leipzig

Exhibition opening and talk

The exhibition is showing historical photos of the “Autumn of 1989” by Josef Liedke with texts by Marting Jankowski (t.b.c.)

Organiser: The Federal Commissioner's Office in Charge of Preserving the Stasi Records (BstU)

7:30 p.m. | Erlöserkirche Thonberg (Church of the Redeemer)

“Talking to...” – Personal memories of the autumn of 1989

Field reports and diary readings

by members of the Thonberg parish

Organiser: Evangelical Lutheran Parish of Erlöserkirche Thonberg

Veranstalter: Evangelisch-Lutherische Erlöserkirchengemeinde Leipzig-Thonberg

Further Events

Wednesday, 7th October

9:00 a.m. | School Museum, small cinema hall

“A Leaflet for Today”

Workshop for young people – see 5th Oct

7:00 p.m. | BStU - Leipzig branch office

“We are the people – Love knows no bounds”

Film screening and talk

with Siegbert Schefke and the leading actress Anja Kling (t.b.c.),

Presenter: Daniel Heinze

Organiser: The Federal Commissioner's Office in Charge of Preserving the Stasi Records (BstU)

Demonstration on 16th October 1989



Thursday, 8th October

9:00 a.m. | School Museum, small cinema hall

"A Leaflet for Today"

Workshop for young people, see 5th Oct

11:00 a.m. | Forum of Contemporary History, Leipzig

Presentation of the special issue stamp

"20 Years of Peaceful Revolution"

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution the Federal Ministry of Finance is issuing a special stamp. Lord Mayor Burkhard Jung will give the opening speech at the ceremonious presentation, before Nicolette Kressl, parliamentary undersecretary in the Federal Ministry of Finance, will present the special issue stamp.

Organiser: Forum of Contemporary History, Leipzig



Further Events

7:00 p.m. | Media Campus Villa Ida

“Prize for the Freedom and the Future of the Media”

Prize-awarding

This prize, donated by Medienstiftung der Sparkasse Leipzig, has above all been designed for journalists and publishers, but also for media institutions, who show great personal commitment and democratic convictions defending the freedom of the press. By invitation only.

Organiser: Medienstiftung der Sparkasse Leipzig

7:30 p.m. | Gottscheina Church

„Remembering the Radical Changes 20 Years ago – for Today and Tomorrow“

Evening of talks

in the northernmost village church of Leipzig

Organiser: Evangelical Lutheran Parish of Plaußig-Hohenheida

7:30 p.m. | Leipzig Opera

Luigi Nono’s “In the Bright Sun Charged With Love”

Al gran sole carico d’amore

First night of the opera and exhibition

Staged music drama in two parts

With Luigi Nono’s opera “In the Bright Sun Charged with Love”, Leipzig Opera is presenting an especially touching statement directly referring to the 20th anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution. With his staged music drama Nono creates a memento to the hopes and disappointments of failed revolutions from the perspective of the women. A series of programmes with many partners from the city is completing the production.

Organiser: Leipzig Opera

Friday, 9th October

8:00 - 11:00 p.m. | BStU - Leipzig branch office

“Open Night”

On the occasion of the Day of the Peaceful Revolution an “Open Night” with readings, talks, film screenings and guided tours is being organised. More information on the exhibitions and events will be available from August 2009 on our homepage.

Organiser: The Federal Commissioner’s Office in Charge of Preserving the Stasi Records (BstU)

8:00 - 11:00 p.m. | Memorial and Museum in “Round Corner“

Long exhibition night in the “Round Corner”

All the time guided tours through the permanent exhibition “Stasi – Power and Banality” as well as through the special exhibition “Leipzig on the Way to the Peaceful Revolution” with authentic film sequences of 9th October 1989.

Organiser: Memorial and Museum in the “Round Corner”

8:00 - 11:00 p.m. | School Museum

“Open Night”

with exhibitions, talks and films

Organiser: School Museum

8:30 p.m. | BStU - Leipzig branch office

The „Romeo“ File

Staged reading

On the occasion of the “Open Night”, Silvia Voigt and Alexander Unger are performing a staged reading of Timothy Garton Ash’s book “The File: A Personal History”.

Organiser: The Federal Commissioner’s Office in Charge of Preserving the Stasi Records (BstU)

Co-organiser: Saxon State Agency for Civic Education

Saturday, 10th October

8:00 p.m. | St. Thomas’s Church, Leipzig

“High Mass in B Minor” by J. S. Bach

Festive concert

Amici musicae, choir and orchestra.

Leipzig wants to commemorate this historic day with a festive concert in St. Thomas’s Church, one of the central places of the peace rallies.

Organiser: Amici musicae e. V.

All day | Memorial and Museum in the “Round Corner”

“Programme to commemorate 9th October 19989”

Organiser: Memorial and Museum in the “Round Corner”

Further Events

All day | Forum of Contemporary History, Leipzig

Museum festival

The Leipzig Forum of Contemporary History is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its opening with a festival. The museum is welcoming visitors with a colourful programme.

Organiser: Forum of Contemporary History, Leipzig

Sunday, 11th October

9:30 a.m. | St. Nicholas's Church, Leipzig

Festive service

on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution, together with partners from the Minneapolis Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Sermon: Bishop Craig E. Johnson

Organiser: Evangelical Lutheran Parish of St. Nicholas

9:30 a.m. | St. Thomas's Church, Leipzig

"Inauguration of the new Peace Window"

Festive service

with the world premiere of a peace cantata by Amici musicae e. V.

Organiser: Evangelical Lutheran Parish of St. Thomas, supported by the Leipzig Houston Sister City Association

10:30 a.m. | Martin Luther Church, Markkleeberg-West

Ecumenical thanksgiving service in honour of the Peaceful Revolution and the overcoming of dictatorship

Organiser: parish of Martin Luther Church

6:00 p.m. | Old City Hall, Festive Hall

"Unless the Lord builds the house...."

Oratorio written by Günter Neubert

Organiser: Leipzig City History Museum

Monday, 26th October until Sunday, 1st November

All day | alternating places

Thinking about Change

Special programme and symposium

The Peaceful Revolution of 1989 in Germany and Eastern Central Europe as seen in documentary films

Organiser: 52nd International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film



Protester on 16th October 1989

Exhibitions

26th May until 11th Oct | Forum of Contemporary History, Leipzig

Flying your Flag? The Germans and their National Symbols

The temporary exhibition “Flying your Flag? The Germans and their National Symbols” looks into the origin of flag, anthem and coat of arms and reflects on their role in different historical epochs. Especially the installation of national memorial days and national holidays and the approach towards monuments and memorials in democratic societies and dictatorships allow views on different motifs and intentions. In 1989/90 the Peaceful Revolution, the fall of the Berlin Wall and Germany’s re-unification also came along under the black, red and gold German colours.

About 600 exhibits can be seen in the exhibition, among them one flag of the Reichsbanner Schwarz-Rot-Gold (Black, Red, Gold Banner of the Realm), the painting “Café Deutschland” by Jörg Immenhoff and sketches from the “Mother, Earth, Father, Land” collection of the renowned designer Eva Gronbach.

Free entrance

25th June until 31st Oct | BStU, Leipzig branch office

“Spraying and Spreading Democracy”

Exhibition presenting the winners of a Saxon youth project in connection with the 20th anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution. Information is available on www.demokratie-verspruehen.de

Free entrance

Summer 2009 until April 2010 | Memorial and Museum in the “Round Corner“

Leipzig on the Way to the Peaceful Revolution

The special exhibition will tell about the year 1989 when Leipzig became the “City of the Peaceful Revolution” and gave momentum to the democratic movement all over East Germany. The focus is on the historic 9th October, which had been the day that decided about a violent or peaceful character of the revolution. By documenting exemplary events in Leipzig, the show also allows a view of the development of all Germany and invites visitors from all parts of the Federal Republic to make thrilling discoveries.

17th Aug until 26th Nov | Paulus Church, Leipzig-Grünau
“Time of Radical Changes 1989/90” – Photographs by Harald Kirschner

Organiser: Evangelical Lutheran Parish of Paulus Church, Leipzig-Grünau

Free entrance

26th Aug until 15th Nov | Leipzig City History Museum, new extension bldg.

The Divided Time

Photographs from four decades by Gerhard Gäbler

The exhibition is dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution of the autumn of 1989. The explicit aim of the photographer was to document a society that called itself real socialism. By expressing his attitude to life with the help of pictures, he was able to escape from the paralysis that came from feeling helplessly subjected to the existing system for an indefinite period of time.

Opening on 25th August, 6 p.m.

Entrance 3EUR, reduced 2 EUR, children and adolescents until the age of 16 free

8th Sept until 1st Nov | S. Peter's Church, Leipzig
“Time of Changes in St. Peter's Church – The Months of Changes 1989/90”

Foyer exhibition

Organiser: Evangelical Lutheran Parish of St. Peter's, Leipzig

Free entrance

23rd Sept until 15th Nov | Forum of Contemporary History, Leipzig

“Pictures of the Peaceful Revolution”

In the foyer exhibition the Forum of Contemporary History looks on the Peaceful Revolution from an artistic point of view. The meaningful pieces of art created by different artists show how the situation in East Germany grew more and more acute and finally resulted in the Peaceful Revolution. The exhibition honours the Autumn of `89 with pieces from their own collection.

Exhibitions

5th until 31st Oct | BStU - Leipzig branch office

“Digging for Peace? – The Construction Soldiers of East Germany”

In East Germany there was no constitutional right to refuse military service on grounds of religious or conscientious objections. For men who did object the SED party leaders authorised the “National Defence Council’s Order about the Installation of Construction Units under the Ministry of National Defence” in September 1964. Construction soldiers contributed decisively to developing an opposition in East Germany and to keeping the revolution peaceful and largely non-violent. The temporary exhibition “Digging for Peace? – The Construction Soldiers of East Germany” takes a closer look on the history of a group of people that were marginalised by the state and barely paid attention to by society.

Organiser: The Federal Commissioner’s Office in Charge of Preserving the Stasi Records (BstU), exhibition of the Archiv Bürgerbewegung Leipzig e. V.

Free entrance

6th Oct until 31 Dec | BStU, Leipzig branch office

“20 Years 09” – Autumn `89 – Pictures from Leipzig

Photos by Josef Liedke

Organiser: The Federal Commissioner’s Office in Charge of Preserving the Stasi Records (BstU)

Free entrance

Permanent Exhibitions

The Federal Commissioner's Office in Charge of Preserving the Stasi Records (BstU)

Freedom for my File

The Stasi kept millions of people under surveillance. The law on Stasi files regulates the opening of Stasi document to the public. In the exhibition visitors can learn among other things how Stasi files are being dealt with.

Free entrance

Memorial and Museum in the "Round Corner"

Stasi – Power and Banality

In the authentic rooms, the permanent exhibition shows unique objects and documents from the legacy of the Leipzig District Administration for State Security and informs about their methods of operation. On a walk through the exhibition visitors learn how the leading SED party built their surveillance apparatus and systematically deprived East German citizens of their basic rights. The exhibition aims at emphasising the fundamental importance of the Peaceful Revolution until today. In particular, the Bürgerkomitee Leipzig e. V. wants to make the young generation, who do not know the life in East Germany from own experience, aware of the dangers of dictatorship and encourage them to act democratically.

Free entrance

Public guided tour daily 3 p.m. (3 EUR, reduced 2 EUR)

Forum of Contemporary History, Leipzig

On an area of around 2,000 sq.metres and presenting numerous objects and audiovisual media, the Forum of Contemporary History in Leipzig informs about the history of division and unity, dictatorship and resistance in East Germany. Major parts of the exhibition deal with the history of resistance and opposition, the history of the repressive system of the SED party and the Peaceful Revolution of 1989. The focus is on honouring moral courage under the conditions of the second German dictatorship.

Conferences and Projects

8th until 10th October

Mayors Conference “Urban Development and Democracy: Visions for the Coming Decade”

International mayors conferences have successfully established themselves as ideal opportunities for a comprehensive exchange of ideas between representatives of European and non-European big cities. They have proven to be platforms for dialogues across borders.

In 1999, when Leipzig celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution, the city had already invited participants for an exchange of ideas in the course of a mayors conference. The cooperation that started ten years ago shall now continue and become even closer. In the context of the partner cities network, Leipzig wants to distinguish itself as a place of intensive reflecting on democratic processes on a municipal level. The connection between “built and inhabited city” and the processes of urban development in Leipzig will be emphasised above all. They are already seen as trend setting for other cities in Europe.

Mayors from many parts of the world in Leipzig

Thirty mayors from all parts of Europe, from Africa, America and Asia, among them most of the mayors of Leipzig’s twin cities, will come to Leipzig. On the conference agenda will be an opening lecture given by Professor Saskia Sassen and three work sessions on the conference theme “Urban Development and Democracy: Visions for the Coming Decade”. The mayors will also attend the official celebrations to commemorate the Peaceful Revolution of 1989.

Together with the other events in the city around 9th October, especially in connection with the conference “Democracy in the 21st Century” scheduled to be held 22nd to 24th October, the Mayors Conference will anchor and strengthen the importance of Leipzig as the starting point of the Peaceful Revolution in the autumn of 1989 in the over-all European awareness.



15th until 17th October

1989 in the Perspective of Global History

The meeting and publication project “1989 in the Perspective of Global History” of Leipzig University sees the year 1989 as a significant break for Central and Eastern Europe with an importance that goes far beyond this. 1989 is regarded as the beginning of a new globalisation epoch: The hopes for new forms of “global governance” and a peace yield return after the Cold War speak in favour of this. Placing 1989 in a global history context also means to reflect about the revolution that emanated from Leipzig from a new point of view.

Research on the Peaceful Revolution in a global context

The project is now at the intersection point of two important traditions: With the Peaceful Revolution of 1989 Leipzig has found its place in the world history of the late 20th century. For two decades the radical changes that in September /October 1989 had been spurred on by the Leipzig protesters and had lead to a non-violent end of the European division and of the society of “real socialism” have inspired a culture of self-confident citizens’ involvement. In addition, at the end of the 19th century, Leipzig University had already established itself as a pioneer of internationally orientated research on global correlations and it continues this tradition today in the time of progressing globalisation. Both traditions taken together form an invitation to ponder on the global importance of breaks and changes like the ones that started in the autumn of 1989. The meeting project of Leipzig University will focus on four topics:

- the European integration of the Peaceful Revolution and the global contexts of the overcoming of Europe’s division
- strategic re-orientation of China and the development of East and South Asia contrasted against the weakened global politics role of the Soviet Union /Russia
- the new chances to overcome inflexible political regimes, stagnant economic developments in exploited economies as well as Apartheid in Africa by more or less successful democratisation
- the new global politics role of the USA as the remaining superpower and the serious changes in Central and South America

These four topics will be dealt with in preparatory workshops with international partners, thus creating the basis for a big final conference in Leipzig in October 2009.

The conference will be held in the Forum of Contemporary History in

Conferences and Projects

Leipzig and it will present the latest findings of a worldwide research alliance.

During the meeting a volume of studies is going to be presented that documents the radical changes of 1989 for the first time in a global perspective and in four thematic areas:

- establishing of a new world order
- global linking of events and their perception
- contingent linking of events or structural coherence
- policy of remembrance

22nd until 24th October | Gewandhaus

International Conference: “Democracy in the 21st Century“

9th October 1989 constitutes a special political obligation for the city of Leipzig. For this reason an international conference will be staged from 22nd to 24th October 2009, dealing with the topic of “Democracy in the 21st century”. It will be expected to critically take stock and show a matter-of-fact but also constructive future perspective.

Make the voice of democracy, non-violence and criticism heard

During podium talks, lectures and workshops, high-ranking guests from politics, economy and civil society will discuss urgent questions of democracy and society. A great number of questions are coming up: What hopes and wishes fuelled the changes in Eastern Europe? Which expectations have become realities? Which dreams failed? Which claims continue to be valid? To what extent has democracy arrived in the everyday life of people? But it is also time to think about the state of democracy on a global level. In the process of globalisation new political, economic and ideological power complexes are establishing themselves. They can barely be reached with the conventional forms of political participation and they seem to be even harder to control. However, this is exactly what the original approach of democracy constitutes.

Comprehensive Cooperation

The city of Leipzig is preparing the conference in close cooperation with numerous partners, among them the Federal Ministry of the Interior, the Free State of Saxony (Saxon State Chancellery, State Ministry of Science and Art), the Federal Agency for Civic Education, the Research Institute of the German Council on Foreign Relations, the Bundesstiftung zur Aufarbeitung der SED-Diktatur (federal institution for the examination and reappraisal of the communist dictatorship in

East Germany), the universities in Leipzig and Halle, the Theodor-Heuss-Kolleg of the Robert-Bosch-Stiftung, the Bürgerstiftung Leipzig, the Saxon State Commissioner for the Stasi Records. Media partners of the city of Leipzig are “Die Welt” and “Welt am Sonntag” as well as MDR, the Central German television and radio station. Following the event, a volume reporting on the meeting will be published.

Contacts, programme and tickets:

Jana Milev, Stadt Leipzig, jana.milev@leipzig.de

Dr. Jürgen Schroeckh, Stadt Leipzig, juergen.schroeckh@leipzig.de

*Democracy Forum in the Gewandhaus on 9th October 2008
Participants (from left to right): Lord Mayor Burkhard Jung,
Friedrich-Wilhelm Schorlemmer, Ulrike Poppe , Heinz Eggert,
Bärbel Bohley, Federal Minister Wolfgang Tiefensee,
Prof. Dr. jur. Arnulf Baring, Dr. Ehrhart Neubert*



Remembering

Commemorating the Peaceful Revolution in Public Spaces

Commemorating the Peaceful Revolution in public spaces means creating and designing places to remember. Since 1999 the city of Leipzig has explicitly encouraged remembrance by combining a living culture of commemorating with a visible expression of it in public spaces.

Above all in the immediate surroundings of the authentic sites of the Peaceful Revolution and directly referring to these places, newly created monuments bear witness to the events of 1989.

Column at St. Nicholas's

Emerging from the Peace Prayers in St. Nicholas's Church, in 1989 the protests spread into the public. On Nikolaikirchhof, the square next to the church, a column was put up, which is a replica of the columns in the church nave and shows palm leaves at its top. The project of the Leipzig artist Andreas Stötzner symbolises the idea of the protest that started inside the church and was then brought out into the streets. Two thirds of the funding came from private donations from citizens, companies and institutions.

*On the right: Light installation
on Nikolaikirchhof*

*Below: St. Nicholas's Church and
column on Nikolaikirchhof*



Memorial plaque “State Security”

A reproduction cast of the original house sign of the former Leipzig State Security District Administration (Dittrichring 24) bears the following inscription: “From 1950 until 1989 the Leipzig district administration of Stasi was accommodated here. Citizens occupied the house during the Monday demonstration of 4th December 1989”. It points to the place from which Stasi had ruled over the fortune of the city and the citizens for almost 40 years. It also pays tribute to the peaceful occupation of the building as crucial part of the political takeover of Leipzig’s citizens on their way to a democratic renewal of the country. The Leipzig artist Matthias Klemm created the plaque.

Light installation and fountain

Peace prayers and Monday demonstrations have made Leipzig’s St. Nicholas’s Church a symbol for the Peaceful Revolution of 1989 worldwide. In 2003, with the support of the Stiftung “Lebendige Stadt”, Nikolaikirchhof was turned into a place of remembrance. The ideas for the new design of the square came from a competition that had been initiated by Kulturstiftung Leipzig together with the city of Leipzig and Stiftung “Lebendige Stadt”.

Core pieces of the new design are – in addition to the column put up there in 1999 – the light installation of the Leipzig artist Tilo Schulz with 144 coloured glass cubes set into the pavement and a granite fountain drafted by David Chipperfield (London).

The light installation “Public Light” on Nikolaikirchhof symbolises the gradual growing of peaceful assemblies by switching on light cube after

light cube at random. Thus it reminds of the importance of public space as a podium for the free expression of opinions of politically mature citizens. The fountain has an elegant and simple layout and contributes to making the square next to the church a place for communication and calmness.



Remembering

9th October as a Civic Remembrance Day

9th October is a key date of the Peaceful Revolution. It was the day of decision. The state authorities posed an enormous threat yet they did not intimidate the protesters in Leipzig. The peaceful protest march of 70,000 people from Leipzig and all over Central Germany along the ring road represented the turning point in the events of the autumn of 1989. It was the day that changed Germany.

For this reason, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution in 2009, the city of Leipzig is turning the 9th October into an annual Civic Remembrance Day. This is not done to historicise remembrance but to incorporate 9th October as a “Day of Freedom” into the permanent memory of the city and to use it as an encouragement for forward-looking activities.



Appeal from Leipzig

In 2007 the initiative group “Day of the Peaceful Revolution – Leipzig 9th October” initiated the appeal from Leipzig “40 + 20 = 60 Years Federal Republic of Germany”, which was signed by personalities from politics, economy and culture. With this memorable slogan, the initiative group pointed to the fact that the past 60 years of national German history consisted of 40 years of division into two states and 20 years of German unity. The Peaceful Revolution provided the basis not only for re-unification but also for Germany’s eventual return into the European community of peoples and values as a partner with equal rights. The city of Leipzig wants to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the day that made national history and opened up the way for German unity as a milestone in German history. It is the chance to appropriately tie the positive traditions of the Peaceful Revolution to all-German history and to raise the awareness for values such as freedom and democracy. The appeal from Leipzig constitutes an important step into this direction.



Remembering

9th October in Leipzig since 1990

Already in the first years after the Peaceful Revolution of 1989, Leipzig's citizens commemorated the events of 9th October in many ways: with the traditional peace prayer in St. Nicholas's Church, with rallies on Augustusplatz square, music in the streets, public discussion meetings, concerts and an "open city hall".

Over the past ten years, the ways to commemorate the Peaceful Revolution of 1989 have clearly changed.

List of Events

From 1997 to 2008 the list of 9th October events that are directly connected with this day of remembrance has considerably grown - quantitatively and qualitatively. Whereas the invitation brochure of 1997 had featured eight events in total, the number of events doubled until the year 2008.

Over the past ten years, important events of commemorating 9th October have become an inherent part of the event calendar and inextricably linked with this date for the people in Leipzig:

- the Speech on Democracy (since 2001, in St. Nicholas's Church)
- the Democracy Forum (since 2001, in the Gewandhaus)
- a symposium on urgent questions of the time (since 2000, in the Forum of Contemporary History)
- the awarding of the "Prize for the Freedom and the Future of the Media" (since 2007, awarded by Medienstiftung der Sparkasse Leipzig)
- the light installation "Night of the Candles" (since 2007, on Nikolaikirchhof square)
- the Film Night (since 2002, in the Museum in the "Round Corner")

Part of the broad spectre of commemorative events are also many events that do not take part annually: concerts, discussion forums and exhibitions in different places, the inauguration of memorials (1999 – memorial plaque at the Round Corner and column on Nikolaikirchhof square, 2003 – light installation on Nikolaikirchhof), the awarding of the Medal of Honour of the City of Leipzig, the conference of Leipzig's twin cities and last but not least also the opening of the Leipzig Forum of Contemporary History (1999).

Focussing and Institutionalising

With regard to contents, the commemorative activities are above all focussing on 9th October as the Day of the Peaceful Revolution in Leipzig. This becomes visible in the presentation of the commemoration events:

The traditional motto “Aufbruch zur Demokratie” (Set off for Democracy) is now always used in connection with the overall headline “Day of the Peaceful Revolution – Leipzig 9th October”.

Since 2003, today’s initiative group “Day of the Peaceful Revolution – Leipzig 9th October 1989” has been responsible for planning, organising and coordinating the commemoration events. The initiative group involves all participating organisers, with the City of Leipzig being represented by the Department of Culture, the Department of Basic Political Issues, the Media and Communications Department as well as the Gewandhaus, the Volkshochschule education centre and the City History Museum. Leipzig Tourismus und Marketing GmbH’s dedicated involvement today significantly contributes to making the message of 9th October also clearly visible in city marketing.

Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Frank-Walter Steinmeier during his Speech on Democracy in St. Nicholas’s Church on 9th October 2008



Looking ahead

The city of Leipzig's explicit aim is to re-focus on the theme "Peaceful Revolution of 1989" and to attach a higher importance to it. At the same time the Day of the Peaceful Revolution shall become a clearly visible message within city marketing.

All current activities revolve around the year 2009 and the 20th anniversary to lend a unique profile to the "Day of the Peaceful Revolution – Leipzig 9th October" on city, national and international level. However, the foundations for a further development as regards the contents of future-oriented remembrance and the prerequisites for an adequate recognition of the revolutionary event in Leipzig must be created now. Precondition for continuously maintaining and presenting the legacy of the Peaceful Revolution in Leipzig, even beyond the immediate anniversary time period, will be a permanent incorporation of remembrance in public space.

Monument to Freedom and Unity

On 4th December 2008, the Deutsche Bundestag (German federal parliament) decided that in addition to erecting a national monument to freedom and unity in Berlin, together with the Free State of Saxony and the City of Leipzig the commitment of Leipzig's citizens for the Peaceful Revolution would be honoured as well. While the Berlin monument will symbolise the German history of freedom since 1848, a representative monument dedicated to the Peaceful Revolution is being planned in Leipzig.

Before the decision was taken, the City of Leipzig and the Leipzig Members of Bundestag Rainer Fornahl and Gunter Weißgerber had reminded the German parliament and government that an adequate recognition of the contribution of Leipzig's citizens was overdue. They had called upon the government "to work towards erecting a monument for the citizens in Leipzig, funded by the union of German federal states, to adequately recognise their contribution to German and European history."

The establishing of a monument to freedom and unity in Leipzig is being regarded one of the central tasks in municipal policy and has high priority for the Lord Mayor and the city administration.

*Right side: Banners in front of the Bach statue
on 16th October 1989*



JOHANN
SEBASTIAN

KPD
WOHL!
SOZIAL-
DEMOKRATEN
mit Tradition und
Zukunft
SDP

BEI UNRECHT
WEHRET
SICH JEDER
SDP

Looking ahead

Naming of a street / square

On 18th April 2007, the city council took the decision to name a prominent place in the city after the events of the autumn of 1989. From 1st June until 31st July 2007, Leipzig's citizens were involved in a public discussion about naming a square or street in commemoration of the Peaceful Revolution in the autumn of 1989. The street or square will be given the new name on 9th October 2009 - the 20th anniversary of the historic event.

The results of the public discussion were summarised by a temporary working group, which consisted of the contact people for "street naming" in the political factions, members of the administration and of the initiative group "Day of the Peaceful Revolution – Leipzig 9th October".

The city council was presented with the proposals during their meeting on 21st May, 2008 and confirmed the recommendation: "The naming of a street / square will be combined with the further proposals to commemorate the events of the year 1989 with the aim to choose the most suitable ones to honour the 20th anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution on 9th October, 2009."



“Leipzig on the Way to the Peaceful Revolution” – Exhibition on the City’s Territory (Column Project)

The idea of a permanent installation of columns or pillars as part of an exhibition on the city’s territory ties in with a project from the year 2004. With eleven temporarily installed columns, placed directly in the points of action of the year 1989, the Bürgerkomitee Leipzig e. V. is reminding of groundbreaking events in the course of the Peaceful Revolution.

In the years 2006 and 2007, two factions of Leipzig City Council had also advocated the identification of historic places in Leipzig and started a first parliamentary initiative.

The installation of thematic columns or pillars will make it possible to experience important places of the East German dictatorship and decisive sites of the autumn of 1989 and it will keep the memory alive. The columns will also serve to promote the ideas of democracy, freedom of opinion and moral courage.

The project of the Bürgerkomitee Leipzig e. V. “Leipzig on the Way to the Peaceful Revolution” – Exhibition on the City’s Territory (Column Project) plans to complement the already existing places of remembrance in the city by putting up 25 columns in different places. This way the project aims at bringing history to life again on the original sites and help people understand it better. The Bürgerkomitee Leipzig e. V. is equally responsible for finding the 25 places for the columns and for the selection of texts and pictures.

The project will be made reality in close cooperation with the city and will be concluded with the inauguration of the columns on 2nd October 2009.



Event Locations and Opening Hours

Altes Rathaus (Old City Hall)

Markt 1 | 04109 Leipzig | Tel.: 0341 965130
stadtmuseum@leipzig.de | www.stadtgeschichtliches-museum-leipzig.de
Opening hours: Tue – Sun, public holidays 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Archiv Bürgerbewegung Leipzig e. V.

Fregehaus | Katharinenstraße 11 | 04109 Leipzig | Tel.: 0341 8611626
info@archiv-buergerbewegung.de | www.archiv-buergerbewegung.de
Opening hours: Tue – Fri 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

BStU

Die Bundesbeauftragte für die Stasi-Unterlagen (The Federal Commissioner's Office in Charge of Preserving the Stasi Records), Leipzig branch office | Dittrichring 24 | 04109 Leipzig
Tel.: 0341 22470 | astleipzig@bstu.bund.de | www.bstu.de
Opening hours: Mon – Fri 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Sat/Sun/public holidays 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Erlöserkirche Thonberg (Church of the Redeemer)

Dauthestraße 1A | 04317 Leipzig | Tel.: 0341 9902398
kg.leipzig_thonberg@evlks.de | www.erloeserkirche-leipzig.de

Gewandhaus zu Leipzig

Augustusplatz 8 | 04109 Leipzig | Tel.: 0341 12700
info@gewandhaus.de | www.gewandhaus.de

Gedenkstätte Museum in der „Runden Ecke“ (Memorial and Museum in the “Round Corner”)

Dittrichring 24 | 04109 Leipzig | Tel.: 0341 9612443
mail@runde-ecke-leipzig.de | www.runde-ecke-leipzig.de
Opening hours: daily 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Kirche Gottscheina (Gotscheina Church)

Am Ring 18 | 04356 Leipzig | Tel.: 034298 68785
kg.plaussig_hohenheida@evlks.de

Lukaskirche Volkmarshausen (St. Lucas Church)

Ernst-Thälmann-Platz | 04178 Leipzig | Tel.: 0341 2322212
kg.leipzig_sellerhausen_volkmarshausen@evlks.de
www.emmauslukas.de

Martin-Luther-Kirche Markkleeberg-West (M. Luther Church)

Pfarrgasse | 04416 Markkleeberg | Tel.: 0341 3586959
kg.markkleeberg_west@evlks.de | www.martin-luther-kirchgemeinde.de

Mediencampus Villa Ida (Media Campus Villa Ida)

Poetenweg 28 | 04155 Leipzig | Tel.: 0341 56296704
www.medien-campus-villa-ida.de

Nikolaikirche Leipzig (St. Nicholas's Church)

Nikolaikirchhof 3 | 04109 Leipzig | Tel.: 0341 9605270
kg.leipzig_stnicolai_stjohannis@evlks.de | www.nikolaikirche-leipzig.de

Oper Leipzig (Leipzig Opera)

Augustusplatz 12 | 04109 Leipzig | Tel.: 0341 1261-0
www.oper-leipzig.de

Pauluskirche Leipzig-Grünau (Paulus Church)

Alte Salzstraße 185 | 04209 Leipzig | Tel.: 0341 4112145
kg.leipzig_gruenau@evlks.de | www.kirche-leipzig.de/gruenau/
Opening hours for the exhibition: Mon 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,
Wed 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Peterskirche Leipzig (St. Peter's Church)

Schletterplatz | 04107 Leipzig | Tel.: 0341 2131612
info@peterskirche-leipzig.de | www.peterskirche-leipzig.de
Opening hours for the exhibition:
Mon 12:00 - 4:00 p.m., Tue - Fri 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Thomaskirche Leipzig (St. Thomas's Church)

Thomaskirchhof | 04109 Leipzig | Tel.: 0341 22224100
info@thomaskirche.org | www.thomaskirche.org

Schulmuseum – Werkstatt für Schulgeschichte (School Museum – Workshop for School History)

Goedelerring 20 | 04109 Leipzig | Tel.: 0341 2130568
urban@schulmuseum-leipzig.de | www.schulmuseum-leipzig.de
Opening hours: Mon – Fri 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Stadtgeschichtliches Museum, Neubau (City History Museum, new extension bldg)

Böttchergässchen 3 | 04109 Leipzig | Tel.: 0341 965130
stadtmuseum@leipzig.de | www.stadtgeschichtliches-museum-leipzig.de
Opening hours: Tue – Sun, public holidays 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Volkshochschule (VHS)

Löhrstraße 3-7 | 04105 Leipzig | Tel.: 0341 123-6069
vhs@leipzig.de | www.vhs-leipzig.de

Zeitgeschichtliches Forum Leipzig (Forum of Contemporary History)

der Stiftung Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
Grimmaische Straße 6 | 04109 Leipzig | Tel.: 0341 22200 | www.hdg.de
Opening hours: Tue – Fri 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. | Sat, Sun 10:00 a.m.
– 6:00 p.m.

Autumn `89 – Recommendations

'89



Stadt Leipzig



The Initiative Group on the Internet

You can obtain information on the backgrounds of the Peaceful Revolution and events in Leipzig on the website of the initiative group “Day of the Peaceful Revolution – Leipzig 9th October 1989”. www.herbst89.de

Autumn `89 from the City's Point of View

On the city of Leipzig's website you will find information on the scheduled municipal activities around 9th October 2009 such as the Festival of Lights, the Gala Concert and the Mayors Conference. www.leipzig.de/herbst89

Peaceful Revolution in Saxony

The Saxon State Chancellery informs about the Peaceful Revolution in Saxony and offers information on events. www.89-90.sachsen.de

20 Years of Peaceful Revolution and German Unity

Theme portal of the Stiftung Aufarbeitung (federal institution for the examination and reappraisal of the communist dictatorship in East Germany) with comprehensive information and an own event calendar. www.stiftung-aufarbeitung.de

Magazine and Media Monitor

Beside an event calendar the website offers regular video interviews, pod casts (Monday radio), book and exhibition reviews, press coverage and important dates. www.FriedlicheRevolution.de

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Initiative group

“Day of the Peaceful Revolution – Leipzig 9th October 1989“

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Contact Initiative group

Prof. Dr. Rainer Eckert | Director of the Forum of Contemporary History (Zeitgeschichtliches Forum) Leipzig | Grimmaische Straße 6 | 04109 Leipzig | Tel.: 0341 2220-100 | Fax: 0341 2220-500 | E-Mail: eckert@hdg.de

Information

City of Leipzig | Office for Media and Public Relations (Referat Medien, Kommunikation und Stadtbüro) | Volker Rasch | Tel.: 0341 123-2030 | E-Mail: volker.rasch@leipzig.de

www.leipzig.de | www.herbst89.de