



What has the IWA_BS been up to?

Well everyone, despite the six week summer holidays, we have been busy before the hols and afterwards so I will get down to it straight away:

Before everyone took off, Christiane and Knud Maywald invited us to their stunning home for another Potluck Party on the 14th of June. And yet again, the weather gods were on their side and it was a beautiful summery evening to be spent at the lake with gorgeous international food (the IWA should really be opening a restaurant!!!), cold drinks and great company. It is a lot to organise and a huge thanks to the Maywalds for hosting this!

In July a group of us attended a ballet performance at the Autostadt's Movimentos festival – please read Stephanie's article about this further on in the newsletter.

The ATP Challenger Tennis tournament was the next event. Again, thanks to Christiane for planning this and to the Oeffentliche Versicherung for our sponsored 20 tickets for the Ladies Night. Andrea Reinhart very kindly took over running the evening as Christiane was otherwise engaged. The weather was beautiful and the group had a meal at a pre-booked table at the Tandure restaurant and listened to the band afterwards. All in all, it was a lively and fun summer evening. It's just a bit of a shame if there are "no-shows" at an event for which there is quite a long waiting list. If you find that you cannot make an event you signed up for, please let us know as soon as possible so that somebody else may take your place.

On the 14th of August we had the first Happy Hour after the summer holidays. This was well attended and as always great fun! Diana and Sunshine have been organising this and from now on Diana, Andrea and Stephanie will be running this welcoming event at the LaVigna every second Wednesday of the month from 5 – 7 p.m. This replaced our coffee mornings as a monthly meeting for newcomers and members and has been very well received. These evenings are entertaining, international and normally very noisy!!!! If you have the time, please do come along for a drink and a chat.

On the 20th of August a group of us visited the Braunschweiger Zeitung and on the 28th of August Christiane organised tickets for a performance of four pianists at the cultural festival 'Kultur im Zelt'. Please read articles about these further along in the newsletter. We were also going to visit and walk the 'Loewenpfad' with Martina Sawalsky on the 24th of August but unfortunately she had an accident and had to cancel the event. Speedy recovery to her from all of us!

Before I go today I wanted to mention one more important thing: as you all know the steering committee of the IWA-BS is the main force behind our organisation. They meet approx. every 2 months and discuss everything that needs to be done and decided upon. Unfortunately, a few of our committee members had to leave and are going to leave us shortly and hence we are looking for new people to join us. It is rewarding, interesting and fun to see how the IWA-BS is run. So if you have time and think that this might be something for you, please contact us. We'd be delighted to hear from you!!!!

I tried to keep it relatively short this time as the newsletter is bursting with articles already (well I tried anyway....). The next time you will be hearing from us, we will be approaching Christmas – what a shocking thought! Where does the time go????

Until then, enjoy life, have fun, look after yourselves and have a great time with the IWA-BS and everything it has to offer.

Susanne Kendell

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Report from Chicago - Part 1



Dear members of the IWA Braunschweig,

We've arrived in the USA, where my husband and I will be spending a total of six months. We'll be based in Chicago from the beginning of May until mid September. I'd like to share this experience as a "stranger in Chicago" with you and I'm sure that a lot of you will be able to relate regarding the first weeks in a new city!

Before we flew to Chicago, we visited the National Parks of the Southwest (Utah, Arizona and Nevada). Many of you have probably been at or around the Grand Canyon or Zion National Park. This was our fifth tour through the parks and our very first in an RV – "Recreational Vehicle", the local word for a mobile home. The scale of these vehicles is very American and for my husband and me, the smallest RV with a length of 25 feet (7.62 metres) was very comfortable indeed. Driving, cooking, sleeping, showering and even a "restroom" – our home for almost three weeks. We very much enjoyed camping with the RV, and the temperatures would have been much too cold for sleeping in a tent. We loved being in the middle of the National Parks on the campgrounds – in the midst of fantastic nature and limited to the basics. An early morning hike and then winding down the day with a drink next to our RV – absolutely wonderful. If one is lucky, the neighbours will extend an invitation for a joint camp fire! Without the stray light of the cities and in unpopulated areas like Utah, for example, the Milky Way seems pretty close and bright and Americans and Germans peacefully admired the star-spattered sky together.

Those who have travelled by RV know the constant light swaying motion and the loud motor. Even without a speed limit, anything faster than 60 miles per hour would be exhausting and use too much gas (30 litres for 100 km). Our tour started in Las Vegas and went via Zion National Park and Bryce Canyon through the Escalante staircase to Capital Reef. Then we drove to Arches National Park, passing Canyonland, through Monument Valley to the Antelope Canyons and finally to Grand Canyon. We hiked through rivers, in ravines, to stone bridges, in canyons and over mountains. It was absolutely overwhelming and I hope the photos will give a small impression.

Before we flew from Las Vegas to Chicago, we spent a few hours along the Strip – the main road through Las Vegas. For us, it was unbelievable how this city in the middle of the desert stands for alcohol, gambling and prostitution and about 100 miles to each side, alcohol can only be bought in state shops.

We arrived in Chicago a week ago. Over the summer, my husband and his colleagues from the Northwestern and Loyola Universities will work on research projects regarding traffic logistics. We are staying at the guest house of the University, which is in the middle of the city, only five walking minutes from Lake Shore (at the old water tower, Michigan Ave.).

My first designations were the offices of the Chicago IWA and the Goethe Institute – I'll let you know how that went in my second report!

Kind regards to you all from downtown Chicago!



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Report from Chicago - Part 2

After our vacation in the National Parks of the Southwest, we arrived in Chicago at the beginning of May. We live in the guesthouse of the Loyola University in the middle of the city. Around us are skyscrapers like Hancock Tower, 344 meters high, and also Lake Michigan, five minutes by foot.

One of my first pahn led me to IWA Chicago. I had already studied the homepage: IWA Chicago has 450 members from 60 countries. Membership fees are tiered, the basic fee is 275 dollars per year and up to 1000 dollars for the Founder Circle. The IWA's office is in the middle of town and so I just went there. My concern was: can I participate in the IWA program, can I become a temporary member, where and how can I get in touch? The communication was friendly, but also non-binding. Pilaar Pantoja (office manager): "Nice to meet you, but sorry we have no open groups." Uh... I had actually imagined something like Happy Hour: As a newcomer, just go there and see how it pleases you. But there's nothing like that in Chicago. I didn't feel completely unwelcome (this is the USA, after all), but somehow not really invited.

How would we deal with such circumstances in Braunschweig? There's a foreign woman in town for half a year looking for a connection of some sort. I am sure that we would have invited her to our Happy Hour and we would have offered our event program. I think we are doing a good job in Braunschweig and I hope and look forward to future discussions and suggestions on this point. Welcome to IWA Braunschweig!

My next visit was to the Goethe Institute of Chicago. I had received this tip from an American friend of ours and so I just went into the office. My request: Do you need volunteer help or support? The joy was on both sides, because the Goethe Institute was on the verge of the project climax of "Sustainability Summit" and needed supporting hands. At the invitation of the Goethe Institute, 450 high school students from 22 states of the USA took part in this summit. One German teacher and one „Mint“ teacher with a total of 8 pupils could apply for the 3-day project.

I had a lot of fun welcoming the students and teachers, helping with the construction and dismantling and getting to know interesting people. With two young interns from Germany I was on the subway for almost 1 hour every day and so I learned that you have to be fluent in English and German at "Goethe". Both young women are doing a three-month internship as part of their studies.

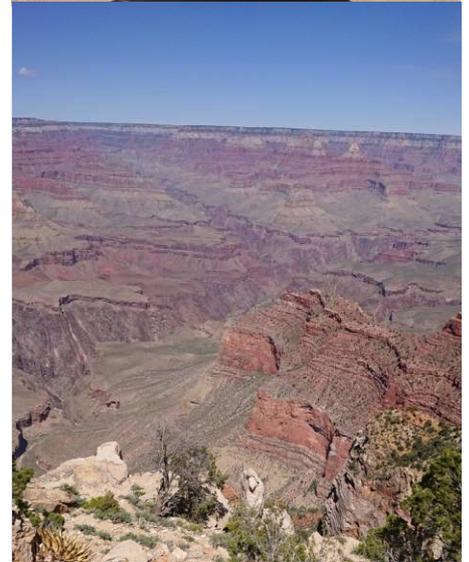
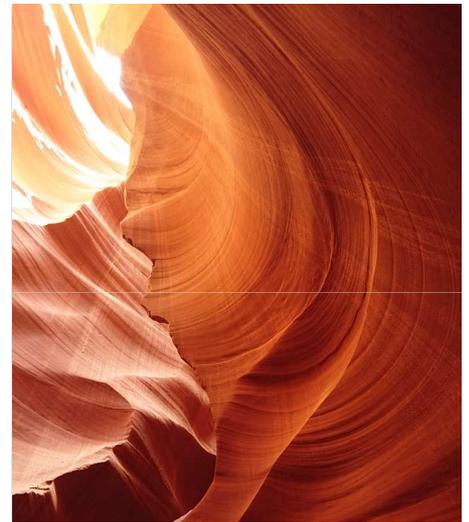
What does my everyday life look like? First of all I organize the household (no matter how small it is) and cycle around to buy groceries. Cycling in Chicago is quite interesting:

1. If there are no traffic lights, everyone stops at an intersection. The vehicle that was there first gets to drive first!

2. As a rule, you can turn right at any red traffic light. Usually the right driving side of the road is there for the right turners. As a German cyclist, I drove as far to the right as possible in the first days until I noticed that I was hindering the right turners. So be courageous, stick your hand out, take a quick look to the back and then drive in the middle of the road. (I still find this difficult).

3. Most drivers are friendly and considerate. But they also have little experience with cyclists in city traffic and so sometimes the speed of a bicycle is underestimated or sometimes the lane is changed briefly.

Summary: Each journey is a small adventure and I always wear my helmet!





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Second Report from Chicago - Part 2, ctd...

At the weekend my husband and I go on bicycle tours to the different quarters of the 10 million city or we go out if possible. Transport by subway is uncomplicated and bicycles are free of charge. Our favorite route is north to the Botanical Garden and then back along Lake Michigan.

In the summer, the city seems to explode with its offers. Almost daily, events take place at the Millennium Park, such as concerts of the Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra, festivals such as Blues, Jazz or House, summer cinema and countless street festivals in the many districts of Chicago.

In addition to the many cultural options, I simply enjoy sitting on a bench, looking at people or having conversations. Meanwhile I understand almost everything and can even interpret the "potato in the mouth" halfway. But my active language still has room for improvement and when I have nothing more to do, I learn vocabulary and read magazines or books.

Greetings to all of you, enjoy the summer and I'm off for a swim now!
Ute Mattfeld

Opera "Nabucco"

On September 4th, more than 20 members, partners and friends enjoyed the last performance of "Nabucco" at the Burgplatz. The beautiful setting and costumes paired with the amazing voices of soloists and choir and the enthusiastic youthful conductor made this a very special evening. Rain set in to accompany the last half hour, but by then most of us were clad in plastic covers and had enjoyed the wonderful catering, which Sylke and Thomas Siebenmorgen had supplied during the break. A big Thank You for the perfect organisation - this is always such a highlight and thoroughly enjoyed by all!

Stephanie Cattell

BIG Thank you!

Since our last newsletter, The Steering Committee seems to be "under construction". Two of our long-standing members have left the table: Ellen Wenzel, who took over the treasury from Andrea Reinhart before handing over to Ute Mattfeld, whom she is standing in for until Ute returns from her American adventures and Dr. Michaela Noth. Michaela joined IWA more than 10 years ago and has been active in the Steering Committee for many of them - running first the Breakfast Group and now Walk & Talk, coordinating all of IWA's regular groups together with Diana Groschopp and Blanca Zenteno and being responsible for the Jubilee Service. In the course of the years, she's delighted many of us with beautiful bouquets on milestone birthdays!

We would like to thank Ellen and Michaela for all the effort, hours and hearts blood they have poured into the IWA over the course of the years and wish them all the best for the challenges ahead.

Stephanie Cattell



Pictures: IWA's Members





Kultur im Zelt - Four Pianists - One Concert

This year's IWA expedition to the culture tent treated us – and here we all agreed – to one of the best, if not THE best evening we've had at the Kulturzelt with the IWA in the course of the years. Brilliant entertainment by the four pianists Joja Wendt, Axel Zwingenberger, Sebastian Knauer and Martin Tingvall.

We also all agreed that, unfortunately, the organisation of the event left a lot to be desired to the point where we felt very sorry for the artists and ashamed of the light this shines on our city.

This is Kultur im Zelt's 21st year, so there's really no excuse for the horrific organisation regarding the selling of drinks. The lines were unbelievably long, the bars were understaffed, the staff itself inexperienced. The show had to start quite a bit too late because people were desperately queuing for drinks and then queuing once again to get into the tent.

Once the show started, and the first piece was Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata, played beautifully by Sebastian Knauer, the intent bar staff was still clonking around with bottles and crates until finally silenced by the audience. Even more annoying was the counter-event in the second tent – uninterrupted, very loud, very disturbing humming of basses. We were absolutely shocked, and we were not the only ones. When the IWA guest book was passed around for signing during the break, people came up and asked whether that was the complaints book and whether they too, could voice their frustration.

The last 45 minutes of the show were enjoyed without any enraging background noise, except for the pitter-patter of rain on the tent roof. A big Thank You goes to Christiane for her – once again – impeccable organisation of this event. Despite the dreadful adversities, the musical experience was thoroughly savoured by all.



Movimentos - Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal

Time for Movimentos once again! After saying goodbye to the "Kraftwerk", the Volkswagen power plant, which had housed the modern dance festival up until 2018, we were all curious about the new venue, which had been realised in record time and holds up to 1400 visitors. The Movimentos Festival is the first event held at "Hafen 1" at the Autostadt. The new building features lots of steel and glass, is situated right on the harbour basin and has a large terrace overlooking the water.

Sylke had managed to obtain 16 brilliant seats – so far at the front of the theatre that we were able to hear the squeaking of the dancers' socks (must have been a bit like the non-slip socks with the rubber bits that little kids wear...).

The event was dedicated to Leonard Cohen and needed no explanations whatsoever (we skipped the introduction to the work and did not regret it). BJM – Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal - presented an evening of amazing choreographies (from three internationally-acclaimed choreographers), taking us through different phases of the Montreal-born Leonard Cohen's creative work.

We enjoyed an absolutely wonderful, magical and soulful evening. The choreographies were so intricate and so detailed – there was so much going on with just arms and legs and each dancer being where he/she needed to be at exactly the right moment that we wished we could've pressed a pause/rewind/slow button. The music and the amazing lighting and special effects accentuated the dancing perfectly and the overall result blew us away. Afterwards, we met for a drink on the terrace and all agreed that the show couldn't have been more inspiring and that it was definitely one of our very favourite Movimentos experiences ever.

A big thank you to Sylke Siebenmorgen and her husband Thomas for the perfect organization! Movimentos has found a new home and we'll be more than happy to return next year.

Stephanie Cattell



Our Visit to Braunschweiger Zeitung

On August 20, 2019, 20 members and friends followed the invitation to the Braunschweiger Zeitung at the Medienhaus editorial office at Hintern Brüdern 23. We all asked ourselves "What will this visit include?" "What will we be able to see?" After all, the printing house is at a completely different location...

We were welcomed by Mr. Mache (Deputy Editor in Chief) and Mr. Noske (Director of City Desk), who led us to a large conference room which looked like a Think Tank. There were Post-Its all over the walls and a wild collection of ideas was spread over all the windows through which you would otherwise be able to see the goings-on in the editorial office. Mr. Mache explained quickly and honestly what it is that the Braunschweiger Zeitung deals with and worries about: digitalisation, declining subscriber numbers, how to tie readers to the paper – gladly per digital subscription, but in return for payment, since the employees must somehow be remunerated. That is the only way to guarantee good journalism. Why should people subscribe to the paper when all information is readily available on the internet? Mr. Noske outlined techniques which allow an assessment of who reads what. This led to the discovery that local readers like to take their time reading the local news. Is that the market niche? The BZ is working on an App which will improve the readers' service for subscribers and give the editors even more information about reading habits. Is that a Win-Win situation?

Later on, we were able to sit in on an editorial meeting, where the layout and headlines for the next day's paper were discussed by the responsible editors. We were allowed to influence the choice for caricature of the day and also to criticise headlines which were not immediately understandable. The front page included the heading "Cycling through Braunschweig's beautiful North-East", with a large picture and an invitation by the ADFC (German Cycling Club) to try this tour. Then things changed very quickly. During the discussion, a report came in about a tragic accident on Salzdahlumer Straße. Mr. Noske took action immediately. Unfortunately, the accident was fatal and therefore featured on the first page, as we were able to see on the next day.

A big Thank You goes to Marianne Wandt and Mr. Noske, who organised and planned this tour together. It was an interesting and honest insight into a completely different occupation.

Fake News!

During the G7 summit in Biarritz, a photo emerged in social media of Boris Johnson talking to the French President Macron. There is a little side table between them and Mr. Johnson had put his foot on it. An outcry went through the media world.

How dare he! An Eton student doing something like that! I couldn't help but agree and think "and he's the leader of Great Britain!" On the next day, the German Tagesschau released a video on Instagram, showing Johnson just briefly touching the little table with his foot while making a joke about it. The photographer had captured exactly this one moment and probably earned a lot of money with the picture, which throws a completely false light on a person. Fake News! We shouldn't believe everything we see and good journalism should be paid for.

Andrea Reinhart





One Last Thought...."Modern Navigating"

Thank goodness we've all got satnavs. Where would we be without them, especially during vacation time, when half of Europe is heading towards destinations they've never been to? We get into our cars, enter our target location and off we go. We can watch the kilometres dwindling, the arrival time approaching, we are able to see traffic build-up a long time before we're actually stuck in it and are constantly supplied with the most current information regarding our route. What a relaxing way to travel.

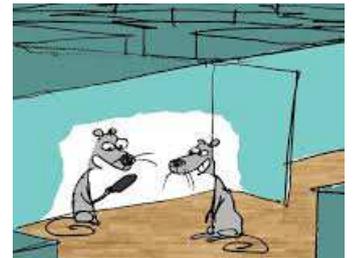
That's the theory. In reality, modern navigating is a minefield. First, not all satnav systems are created equal. There are more reliable models and then there are those which seem to require assistance from other electronic devices. How many times did we end up in traffic jams which, according to the satnav, didn't exist? And how often do we make huge detours over country roads to avoid congestion which only the satnav believes in? At least we're not alone on those country roads. There's always a caravan of GPS-faithful travellers around us, all incredulously looking towards the Autobahn, where traffic is flowing freely.

And then there are those questionable situations which are brought about by simple operating errors. Like choosing the "avoid motorways" option by mistake and wondering why the estimated travelling time seems so long. Or falsely entering an in-between destination without realizing it.

But we're not stupid... after years of dealing with the inadequacies of electronic navigation, we've now resorted to consulting several systems at the same time. If it's just my husband and I, we have the satnav plus Google maps. If our kids are in the back, they have their mobiles on navigation mode as well. The trickier the traffic situation, the more road traffic controllers are at work simultaneously. And I'm usually the driver because I'm slightly useless where electronics are concerned.

As soon as we reach a "tricky bit", advanced navigating sets in, sounding something like:

"Satnav tells me to get off here, what do you think?"
"Hold on, Google maps is still thinking ... no, don't get off, stay on the motorway."
"Could somebody else please check? I have to know in about one kilometre."
"Oh wait, we've just had another 30 minutes added to the arrival time."
"Quick, the exit is coming up! Okay, too late..."
"Google maps says you should've gotten off...,"



In addition, the current traffic report is factored in, making the hustle and bustle in our car sound something like an air traffic control centre. And to think that comparable conversations take place in so many vehicles heading towards their holiday destinations!! No more "Are we there yet?!" because whoever is old enough to worry about the duration of the journey is also old enough to operate electronics and join in the navigating progress!

Sometimes this gets a bit too much for me and my nerves. The stress level increases with each added device, nobody knows which advice to follow and the constant exchange of information and sounding out updates on how the journey is progressing is plain aggravating. But like on all other fronts, I've found I'm more or less powerless in my efforts to "fight progress", as my family calls it. But it's true that holding a halfway sensible conversation in the car is quite the challenge nowadays because every train of thought is sure to be interrupted by "hold on a minute, we've just had another eight minutes added to our journey. Let me just quickly see what my mobile says..."

And let's not forget the gender differences, which definitely play a role here. It's a fact that - in cases of uncertainty - men are more likely than women to side with whatever instruction a satnav may give, no matter how ridiculous it seems, insisting that "the system must know what it's doing!" And my husband also gets quite the kick out of cranking down the designated arrival time using his superior driving skills: "It's going really well - I've just made up five more minutes ... okay, eight minutes now!" Thrilling, really. Car journeys 20 years ago must have been dreadfully boring with just one person reading the map.

My all-time favourite satnav-related occurrence happened years ago when we were living in England. We were on our way home after an afternoon with family and without anybody noticing, our nephew, always eager to try out new things, had set our satnav to the furthest away destination possible - I think it was somewhere in Bulgaria... We were all tired and my husband followed the directions given by the system for quite a while, completely oblivious. When I started doubting the route, we had a bit of the normal "I bet the GPS knows what it's doing"-discussion. And then we realized that we were something like 23 hours from our destination. As funny as this seems now, it sure wasn't back then...

In a few years, when we're all nicely asleep in our completely automated vehicles which are noiselessly taking us to our holiday destinations, freeing us from worrying about routes and traffic build-up, we'll probably look back upon our satnav-related squabbles with a bit of melancholic nostalgia.

No, I don't believe that either...

Stephanie Cattell



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Upcoming events

General Information

September

- 11.09. Happy Hour at LaVigna
15.09. Audio Walk through the ‚Oestliche Ringgebiet‘
27.09. Allerlei Genuss – Cooking class in the Autostadt
To be announced:
Autumnal walk in Clausthal Zellerfeld in the Harz
Mountains with a meal at Pixhaier Mühle afterwards

October

- 2.10. Cooking in the Autostadt from 3 to 5 pm
Autumn Holidays from the 4th to the 18th of October 19

November

- 13.11. Happy Hour at LaVigna
15.11. Our international Cross Cooking Event
23.11. Our traditional ‘Cabbage Walk’ – from Reitlingstal to Tetzstein
27.11. Traditional Christmas ‘Stollen’ Baking at Andrea Jagla’s house
29.11. IWA-BS Christmas Party at the Deutsche Haus

December

- 4.12. Advent Coffee Afternoon at Marianne Wandt’s house
11.12. Happy Hour at LaVigna
16.12. Weihnachtsfloß at 2pm

Please note that the ongoing, regular programme does not continue during the school holidays. Also, the IWA-BS will be officially closed during the holidays. Please note that e-mails and requests will not be answered until after the holidays.

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Please note that dates for the termination of a membership are March 31st and October 31st of each year.

Newsletter Team (Impressum)

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Andrea Reinhart

Please note that we have taken great care to make sure that all information at the time of printing was correct but we can accept no liability for mistakes or printing errors.

As always, we would appreciate any input and ideas for future publications. Anything that you think is important to you. Please inform me (Susanne.Kendell@t-online.de) of any suggestions.

Thank you!

Welcome!!

We'd like to extend a very warm welcome to our new members:

- Dr. Edyta Nagrozka, Poland
- Barbara Beer, Germany
- Kalina Kocowska, Poland

We look forward to seeing you at our groups and events!