



Freunde
DER WIESBADEN STIFTUNG E.V.

WIESBADENER BRIEF



DEAR FRIENDS OF WIESBADEN

Imagine you are visiting the state capital of Hesse and taking a walk through the city. Wherever you go you will find a wide range of options. If you take a turn into **Wilhelmstraße** you will see this: An audience applauding the current autumn and winter fashions being presented on a catwalk. The athletes of Wiesbaden are acting as models. A few meters further along Warmer Damm, Thanksgiving is being celebrated, which should give city children a feeling of life in the countryside. The Stadtfest (City festival) increasingly establishes a fruitful alliance between the business world, the farmers and the city of Wiesbaden, which like every year puts on a free open air concert by well-known bands as a special treat. The festival season is not over by far. Afterwards is the Rheingauer Weinwoche (wine festival), which draws big crowds. And after the Stadtfest we look forward to the Sternschnuppenmarkt (Twinkling Star Christmas market), as do an increasing number of tourists.

Do you need a break from all this hustle and bustle? Then join us on a trip to **Tennelbachtal** and take a walk through the countryside to an architectural treasure: **the chapel in the field**. It's a spiritual place which is meant to be immediately recognizable as a Christian structure. By orders of the benefactor, Dr. Helge Riegel, the architect, Hans-Peter Gresser, was to create a very special serene room, a place to

ponder, where one's eyes can also go on a fascinating expedition.

The chapel is meant to represent how many interesting things can be created in seclusion, whereas, unfortunately, there is not always any real progress made at more prominent places. Walking back to the **Kureck**, it is quite obvious that the renovation has still not begun. However, there is one new piece of information: The Frankfurt investors have now decided they do not want – as proposed for several years – to refurbish the former R+V Tower building, but will rather dismantle the building completely. Then a new slightly lower tower is to be built, none the less offering exclusive housing space. This requires new plans and new permits.

The clients will be happy that one important citizen of Wiesbaden has expressed empathy for these requests of modification: the new directly elected **Lord Mayor of Wiesbaden, Sven Gerich**. Anyone interested in town policy is surely aware, the former Chairman of the Social Democratic Party in the city's parliament has achieved a surprise coup. Gerich was able to win over the incumbent Lord Mayor, Helmut Müller by a close vote. A completely unexpected defeat for the latter and his party, the CDU (Christian Democratic Union). The motto of the new Lord Mayor is: "From Me to Us". All citizens of Wiesbaden are to play a part in forming the local community.



Helmut Müller, 61, has taken up his job as General Manager of the 'Kulturfonds Rhein-Main' (Rhine-Main Cultural Fund). "The city's structures and finances are such that I can pass them on with a good conscience", he said after the first shock of losing the election had faded. Just a note on the sidelines: He is the editor of the book "Wunderland – Die Amerikaner in Wiesbaden" (Wonderland – The Americans in Wiesbaden), in which the authors Hans Dieter Schreeb and Walter Mühlhausen describe the period between the end of the War and President Kennedy's visit in 1963. This may also be interesting for many US citizens living in Wiesbaden. Their numbers have grown significantly as the relocation of the US headquarters from Heidelberg to Wiesbaden has been completed.

Turning to major building projects again: fortunately, there are projects on schedule, contrary to the one at the Kureck, like the **Sports Hall on Platz der deutschen Einheit**, which is due to open in spring 2014, finally providing adequate premises for the Women's Volleyball Team playing in the National 1st League. It shall also be available to other sports clubs and the Elly-Heuss High School nearby. However, the construction costs will be significantly higher than estimated.

Some progress has been made in the **Mauritius-Gallery** as well. The city acquired it after it had been closed for several years. The town library, music library and a media center will move in there in March. The gallery will cease to be a passage. However, a major tenant still has to be found. For the nearby City passage, the Irish owner is said to be planning to invest a lot of money. The project developers are expected to submit an application for a building permit in about five months.

The new construction of the **Rhein-Main-Hallen** at Friedrich-Ebert-Allee and Rheinstraße is now drawing closer. The project was assigned to the Frankfurt architect Ferdinand Heide. There has been a lot of discussion about the sense and senselessness of asking the public about the project. In 2014 the "Ball des Sports" (Sports' Ball) and the "Internistenkongress" (Internists' Congress) will both take place again in the old buildings. I am sure you can recall that the event hall and the congress building will be built on the same location after a lot of back and forth debate. It is planned to reopen in 2017.

The City Museum, however, seems to be being postponed again for the time being since the site on Wilhelmstraße has been sold. So far no one knows exactly what the investor plans to build there. Nevertheless, there is positive news from the **Landesmuseum (State Museum)** on Friedrich-Ebert-Allee, where two new side wings were dedicated in May. Since then we can marvel at the Natural Historic Collection, which had been closed since 2006, just like the gallery of the Old Masters in the south wing. The museum hosted a wonderful exhibition about the "Romantic Rhine" including paintings by the famous British painter William

Turner. By the way, on 14 February the anniversary exhibition "Horizont Jawlensky" will be opened.

Let's walk just a little further down Wilhelmstraße to the **State Theater**. Its director Manfred Beilharz has begun his last season at the theater and concluded his work with Shakespeare's "A Summernight's Dream" in the "Kleine Haus" (small stage). He wants this staging to be seen as a declaration of love to the theater. His successor, Uwe Eric Laufenberg, was formerly Director of the Opera in Cologne.

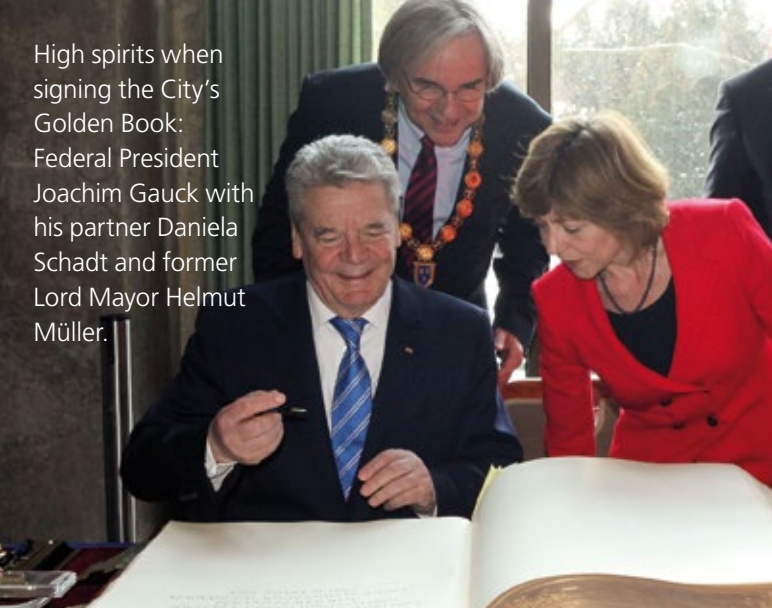
Let's stay with the arts. Another sign that things worth seeing are sometimes hidden is the "**Kunstarche**" (**Art Ark**). One of the founders is the Wiesbaden sculptor, Professor Wolf Speemann. This new society has dedicated itself to the administration of local artists' estates. Its premises are located a little outside the city "Im Rad", where the town's official archive is situated. The town's archive lately supported an exhibition of "Wiesbadener Köpfe" (Wiesbaden Heads), sculptures and paintings well worth seeing. Art lovers can look forward to the new exhibition, again produced in cooperation with the town's archive, presenting pictures of the "gruppe real" featuring the topic "socio-critical realism" in the "Kunstarche".

Let's go from the ark to the **Roman gate**, which actually is not a real Roman gate but was erected 110 years ago over the Coulinstraße. It was an awesome sight when it suddenly floated through the air and was put down on a nearby parking lot on a scaffold for some extensive restoration of both the roof and the bridge's arch. After that is done, it can return to its rightful place near the very historic heathen wall, the oldest structure in Wiesbaden, which was breached in 1886 when building the Coulinstraße. The Roman gate was constructed to conceal the gap. Here you'll also find a small outdoor museum created by the Kur- und Verkehrsverein.

Mentioning the Kur-und Verkehrsverein, it celebrated its 150th anniversary and now lives on as the "Freunde der Wiesbaden Stiftung" Association (Friends of Wiesbaden Foundation). The celebration ceremonies in the city hall were combined with the 10th anniversary of the Wiesbaden Foundation. The foundation was able to welcome a number of new sponsors and they will number 100 by the end of 2013. The foundation under the Chairmanship of Thomas Michel demonstrated its solidarity towards young people when it chose the successful cultural center "Schlachthof" behind the central train station as the venue for the latest meeting.

And then there was the **5th Leonardo-School-Award** given by the foundation with its Oscar-like award ceremony, though not in the "Schlachthof", but in the magnificent Kurhaus. This team competition for pupils, hosted every two years with a prize money of € 45,000, was again a highlight of the city's events. This time, in addition, a special prize for Inclusion was awarded.

High spirits when signing the City's Golden Book: Federal President Joachim Gauck with his partner Daniela Schadt and former Lord Mayor Helmut Müller.



That's how winners look like: the new Lord Mayor Sven Gerich.



Finally completely restored: the small temple in Neroberg.

Queen of hearts: Maxima of The Netherlands inspires Wiesbaden



Double jubilee: Thomas Michel und Christina Sommerfeld receive the Golden Town Plaque for 150 years Kur- und Verkehrsverein, now Friends of the Wiesbaden Stiftung from Lord Mayor Sven Gerich.



A spiritual location with a special architectural style: the chapel in the Tennelbachtal



A great success for the fifth time: the Leonardo-Schul-Award of the Wiesbaden Foundation.



Floating over the town before restoration: The Roman Gate



In historic costumes: the "Friends of the Nerobergbahn" celebrate the anniversary



Now let's take a look at some other anniversaries: many people celebrated the 125 years of the Nerobergbahn. Follow me up to the top of the city's landmark and take a look at the finally-completed restoration of the small **Neroberg temple**, the Monopteros. When we take a walk to the **Russian church** with its golden turrets – always worth a visit – we remember that there has been a new edition de luxe published on the Greek chapel – another name for the church – which was edited by the Herus Association.

Other jubilees in Wiesbaden: the Kaiser-Friedrich-Therme celebrated its 100th anniversary, the Landesbibliothek its 200th. The library's building on Rheinstraße became 100 years old. Since 2011, the average age of the users has become significantly younger because the Hochschule Rhein-Main, with a steadily increasing number of students, was integrated.

Then we will all certainly remember a regal visit in early summer, which tops the visit of the Federal President, Joachim Gauck. The young Dutch royal couple Willem-Alexander and Maxima paid a visit to Wiesbaden. Especially Maxima enchanted the hearts of everyone when they stood in front of the monument of Wilhelm der Schweiger and started the new melody of the Marktkirche carillon with a symbolic stroke of a clock.

Dear Friends of Wiesbaden, where is the right place to write about sad things? Maybe the carillon of the Marktkirche is the fitting context. In October, one day before the annual meeting of the Wiesbaden Foundation, the chairman of the sponsor-assembly, Friedrich-Christoph von Bismarck, died at the age of 79. He, who had spoken so eloquently each year, was one of the founders of this community foundation. And he was also outstanding in his confident work based on profound knowledge as a CDU member of the City's Parliament

as well as enriching the work of the foundation. In addition, the lawyer was also actively involved in the church council of the Lutherkirche (Lutheran church) for more than 30 years.

We also want to recognize two more deceased in this context: One, who belonged to this city and had many fans based on his popular ways, was the former Minister for the Interior and Justice Minister of Hesse, Herbert Günther. This member of the Social Democrats died at the age of 84 during the Weinwoche, where he had often served wine for a good cause at the stand of the Wiesbadener Kurier in previous years. Already in February a large number of mourners said goodbye to the honorary culture councilor, Wolfgang Herber, who died at the early age of 63. He had dedicated himself to improving the city with many ideas, strived to save historic values and promoted exciting new approaches.

He would surely have enjoyed seeing Wiesbaden be awarded the status of **world cultural heritage** by Unesco. This is a long road containing many efforts to achieve this goal, which should continue to be pursued even after the changeover in the city hall. Besides Wiesbaden, there are 15 other cities competing with us on an application list. Maybe we can report some progress next year. No one is hindering those who are responsible in the Hesse state capital city from preserving traditional and historic sites and from being open-minded towards high quality modern architecture.

In this spirit
Good wishes for the New Year

Ingeborg Salm-Boost
(former Head of the City Desk of the Wiesbadener Kurier)



WIESBADEN NEEDS FRIENDS!

With your membership and your commitment for the friends of the Wiesbaden Foundation you are showing your solidarity with the city and supporting the implementation of our ideas.

Goal of the Foundation

- Promoting the citizens' commitment
- Art and culture
- Protection and preservation of historic buildings

- Environmental and nature protection
- City history, local history preservation

Our connection to the Wiesbaden Foundation?

The idea is clear: What is effective there on a large scale we can also achieve for our projects. We create synergies: from citizens for citizens – two institutions for everyone.

150 years Kur- und Verkehrsverein

The book by Dr. Bernd Blisch can be purchased from the Tourist Office.

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