



Freunde
DER WIESBADEN STIFTUNG E.V.

WIESBADENER BRIEF



DEAR FRIENDS OF WIESBADEN,

Does our photo on this page make you feel like going to the theatre? Do you automatically think of Christmas fairy tales that we loved to watch as children? Then you are spot on: The State Theatre has brought the "Wizard of Oz" to the stage. And the Große Haus is full of children again, all of them laughing, shouting and getting worked up. I would like to reveal something at this point: There will be jubilant schoolchildren there again next summer when the Wiesbaden Stiftung Leonardo Award will be presented to twelve winners in the theatre under a new concept for the first time.

But let us first review Wiesbaden 2016. Well, there were local council elections in the spring – which did not produce a clear winner for the City Hall. A coalition has not materialised to date; alternating majorities govern – which is not necessarily a good thing, particularly now that the AfD (Alternative für Deutschland) are also involved. Let us move a few streets away, to the State Chancellery. The Hessen lion, colourfully designed by the Weilburg artist, Dieter Boger, heralds a joyous occasion in front of the entrance: "70 Years of Hessen" were celebrated in many ways in 2016. The highlights included a gala with many residents in the Kurhaus as well as a commemoration event and a concert in the State Theatre, where a referendum in December 1946 set the course for building up

a democracy. The Kurier, which had been granted a license by the Americans, reported the sensation in its first edition in October 1945: Wiesbaden to become state capital.

How are you dear readers in the United States after the presidential election? I do not want to comment on the Trump victory and the unspeakable election campaign. I would prefer to tell you about a lady from Wiesbaden who lives near Washington. Yvonne Christ, who was born in Naurod, has risen to fame in a far more pleasant way – through a blog called "The Oma Way" and a corresponding Facebook account. There you can find typical German recipes, for example. Tens of thousands of people find the German Oma delightful!

Let us dwell on the people of our city: One of them who reached newspaper readers for decades as "Christian" with his vernacular column "For nix und widder nix" died at the age of 91: Friedel Grüning, one of the first journalists at the Wiesbadener Kurier, where he last worked as deputy Chief Editor. His final "Christian", which could be read posthumously, was moving.

The former, long-standing WK Chief Editor, Hilmar Börsing, is enjoying the best of health. The co-founder of the Presseclub and honorary Chairman celebrated his 80th without any fuss. He is still as committed as ever, currently as honorary Chairman, in particular for the Bärenherz children's hospice, in which case his enduring popularity helps in raising donations.



Swing around to the younger people: The new 66th Rheingau wine queen is from Wiesbaden again for the first time since 1989. The beverage technologist from Kostheim, Stephanie Kopietz, now wants to show the whole world that her part of town is also a beautiful Rheingau wine-growing location. Her successor, as (60.) Wiesbaden wine queen, is called Sarah Emmel and is from an apple wine dynasty in Bierstadt. And here's another tip: If you watch the ARD Tagesthemen news program, you will often see a likeable and competent authentic Wiesbadener: Ingo Zamperoni who was a reporter in Washington until recently. And we were fortunate enough to experience an approachable world champion in front of the Hotel Nassauer Hof: Formula 1 world champion, Nico Rosberg, actually paid a flying visit to his native town!

A man who rendered outstanding services to the city has now gone into retirement: Since 1989 Hartmut Boger was a highly successful Director of the Volkshochschule (adult education center), which, under his patronage, managed to finance itself more than 70% in what were often difficult times. The VHS also undertakes considerable effort in providing language courses for refugees. It is nice that in Wiesbaden many citizens support refugees on a voluntary basis. A very special story should be mentioned here - that of Aeham Ahmad from Syria. ISIS fighters burned the musician's piano in his home country where he wanted to give the survivors in the camp outside Damascus a little hope with his music. He was travelling with the piano, and a BBC video about him went out around the world. He fled as he feared for his life. In Wiesbaden, Aeham wants "to give something back with music". He received new instruments thanks to generous citizens. And a trolley for his piano.

The Gesellschaft für Deutsche Sprache (Society for the German Language) Media Award presented in Wiesbaden also draws attention from all around the country. This year, RTL Chief Anchorman, Peter Kloeppel, was awarded for his clear speech, and the pop singer, Andreas Bourani, was attested language culture, and not least, the actor, Didi Hallervorden, who may sometimes appear funny, but also boasts other talents. By the way, the newly designed State Theatre Biennale operating under the title of "This is not Europe", which stimulated reactions with performances in the city, also received much attention and was the cause of controversial discussions.

Let us take another glance at the cultural scene: The Stadtmuseum (City Museum) has actually opened in a much leaner form in the Marktkeller and has been well received. It is called "sam" (Stadtmuseum am Markt). "From the philosopher's stone to the cola bottle" – is the name of an exhibition on the history of the city with "Wiesbaden's favorites". Excellent exhibits from the Nassauischer Altertümer collection can be admired in the "treasure chest" alternating every quarter. The situation is still quite unclear regarding Wilhelmstraße 1, the site where the Stadtmuseum was originally supposed to be built and where the city has already "buried" a lot of money. The latest was that a hotel was planned for the site, which would be "absolutely right" according to the Chamber

of Industry and Commerce. But then those in City Hall found that it would be good to involve the citizens in the planning of this prime location on the "Rue". Return to go! Ah yes, there is also a patron of the arts who should be taken seriously. Entrepreneur and collector, Reinhard Ernst, would like to present Wiesbaden an art museum on the said site and to take care of operating the same. Art fans can take pleasure in the thought. Another museum would be fitting for the state capital city, says the director of the Landesmuseum (State Museum), Alexander Klar. But City Hall says that the citizens' ideas should be discussed first. A new hotel is currently being planned in Mainzer Straße.

Let us enter the Museum Wiesbaden: The baroque exhibition "Caravaggios Heritage", a high-calibre compilation in cooperation with the Capodimonte in Naples and further loans from great museums is drawing considerable attention. And the free admission on every first Saturday of the month, made possible by the Friends of the Museum since the beginning of 2016, has become a success story. The Stadtmuseum is now following this example...

And the new convention center? Everything is still on schedule. Interior work will commence in 2017. The inauguration has been announced for spring 2018. The specialists for internal medicine will return with their convention from Mannheim in 2019. There appeared to be difficulties with the prestigious Sports Ball, as the municipal funding is too high for parts of the SPD. A compromise was found. The ball is here to stay.

There is further progress at the Kureck: The R+V high-rise building has disappeared. A new residential and office block and urban villas will be built. The Ministry of Social Affairs will move to the renovated former "Mövenpick building". But that is all taking time. There is a temporary interesting view nearby: The Commerzbank building on Wilhelmstraße has been demolished, but the gap is to be filled by a new seven-storey building for offices and apartments with town houses on the rear side. The over 100 year-old Pressehaus on Langgasse has been beautifully renovated and restored. It is home to the local newspapers and now also to Radio FFH. There are also stylish clothes shops on the ground floor and an exclusive apartment complex at the back.

The year of the twin sister city partnership initiated by Sven Gerich brought people from all of our partner communities together. An event at Henkell or exhibitions will all be well remembered as will the euro cycling tour and relay race from Wroclaw to San Sebastián. Needless to say, there was a stop in Wiesbaden.

Here is a small excerpt from the large number of anniversaries that were celebrated: The Casino-Gesellschaft has been active in the city for 200 years, and the new Jewish synagogue was inaugurated in Freidrichstraße 50 years ago. The first Horse Riding Tournament at Whitsun took place in the Biebricher Schlosspark 80 years ago. The municipal cinema, Kino Caligari, loved by many local Wiesbaden people, was opened under the name "Ufa im Park" 90 years ago.



Always fantastic: Open air concerts on the Bowling Green. In August, Sting attracted 14,000 fans in front of the Kurhaus. Shortly before that, David Gilmore held a much acclaimed open air concert.

Center of attraction: The tranquillity pavilion on the Schloßplatz also attracted many young people during the campaign week. "Wiesbaden pauses for a moment" was held for the first time. And was very well received.



International: In the Museum Wiesbaden, the "Caravaggios Heritage. Baroque in Naples" is the centre of attention.



"To give something back with music": That is what the Syrian refugee, Ahmad, wants to do.



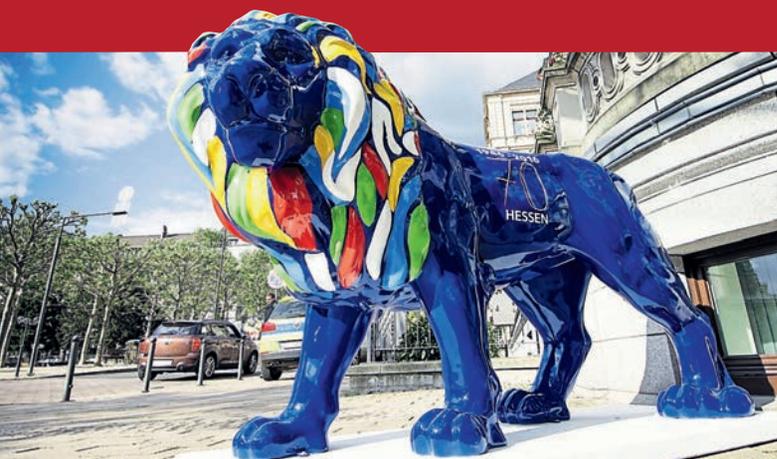
One of 15 locations: The Friends of the Foundation, here at the Markt-kirche, encourage participation in the "ZOOM" tree-planting campaign: "A gift for eternity".



Grand ball: This was one of the themes at the fashion show presented by master craftswomen in the Chamber of Craft Trades. What the young women showed on the catwalk was amazing.



This time she's from Wiesbaden: Stephanie Kopietz is the 66. Rheingau wine queen. The beverage technologist lives in Kostheim.



The Hessen lion is on the prowl: Not only in front of the State Chancellery did the colourful heraldic animal draw attention to "70 years of Hessen" with its multi-faceted events.



Carcass at the Kureck: The old high-rise building is gone. Construction of the new building is underway. A new residential and office tower is being built, but with urban villas too.



The city would like to connect with something great that happened in Wiesbaden 25 years ago. Wiesbaden was then named the first Unicef city in the world. Ambassador Audrey Hepburn appeared overjoyed on the stage in the Kurhaus for the occasion. Two million deutschmarks were collected for the Kindernothilfe charity (children in need). Now many active helpers at the Twinkling Star Christmas Market, which is a feast for the eyes once again this year, and also the organizers of the "Pop meets Classic" concert will be collecting donations for the Kindernothilfe charity.

From music to tranquillity: "Wiesbaden hält inne" (Wiesbaden pauses for a moment), was the motto for the first time in the spring – a cooperation between the protestant church and the city. The multi-faceted deceleration program was a success story, not least because many young people visited the blue tranquillity pavilion on the Schlossplatz. The designer, Andreas Bell, who is very enthusiastic about his city, designed it. I am getting a little carried away here. But that should not surprise you, as I had the pleasure of planning and supporting the pilot project together with the city clergywoman, Annette Majewski. And what is notable: The youth workshop built the pavilion from lightweight concrete! Apropos Schlossplatz: The Marktbrunnen (market fountain) has finally been restored and the lion is glinting in gold again.

Let us take a trip to the Chamber of Craft Trades: What the young master craftsmen presented at a fashion show there was top-notch. More than 200 guests applauded the creations and their makers, some of them from the Lollo Grund school, Manager of the Elise Topell haute couture business.

Let us stay with the youth who are very important to the Wiesbaden Stiftung. I already mentioned the "new" Leonardo Award at the beginning of the letter. A total of 24,000 euros prize money will be awarded. The kick-off to the team competition 2017 took place in the sports hall at Platz der Deutschen Einheit with the VCW (Volleyball Club Wiesbaden).

There were 180 nominations and almost 600 photos were judged in the environment photo competition "ZOOM ... us your tree". 500 guests attended the prize-giving ceremony. A mobile exhibition shows the exciting motifs implemented by schoolchildren. Deeds are now to follow the commitment of the youth. "A gift for eternity: your tree" – is the slogan being used by the Friends of the Foundation to advertise for a tree-planting campaign. In cooperation with the Parks Department, 15 places are marked where "your" labelled tree could be. The ZOOM project has had a supporter from the very beginning in Helga Haub from the Tengelmann group of companies. This is also particularly dear to the Foundation Chairman, Thomas Michel. The new lamps and the new benches at the Warmer Damm are in line with the Foundation concept of doing something good for the city.

District historians, citizens' college, Leseritter (children who read to others), plans for a Foundation building – these Foundation activities alone would be enough to fill a Wiesbaden letter. Check out the web page www.die-wiesbaden-stiftung.de. Perhaps you will find a project that you might like to get involved in. Think, for example, of the "gift for eternity". Wiesbaden is a very green city. You could set another green example!

With this in mind, all the best for the New Year!

Ingeborg Salm-Boost
(former head of local editing of the Wiesbadener Kurier newspaper)



P.S. I have been involved in the Leonardo School Award since the very beginning. Working on a Foundation project is a great source of pleasure!

Wiesbaden needs Friends!

With your membership and your commitment at Friends of the Wiesbaden Foundation, you are documenting your solidarity with the city and helping in the practical implementation of our ideas

Purpose of the society

- Promotion of civic commitment
- Art and culture
- Preservation and conservation of historic sites
- Environmental protection and nature conservation
- City history, preservation of regional traditions

Our connection to the Wiesbaden Foundation?

The idea is clear: What works well large-scale there, we can achieve on our projects too. We create synergies: From citizens for citizens – two institutions for everyone.

www.die-wiesbaden-stiftung.de

IMPRESSUM

Freunde der Wiesbaden Stiftung e.V. (society for the promotion of Wiesbaden) care of IHK Wiesbaden, Wilhelmstr. 24–26, D-65183 Wiesbaden
Tel.: +49 (0)611 30 66 55 · **Fax** +49 (0)611 15 00 71 91 · **E-Mail:** freunde@die-wiesbaden-stiftung.de · **web** www.die-wiesbaden-stiftung.de
Nassauische Sparkasse, Iban DE47 5105 0015 0100 0444 47 · Wiesbadener Volksbank, Iban DE87 5109 0000 0000 5624 08
Text: Ingeborg Salm-Boost · **Photos:** Bettina Müller (Frontpage), Elke Fuchs (3), Heinz Margielsky (1), Joachim Sobek (1), Uwe Stotz (3), ZOOM/Kathrein (1) · **Design:** VRM-Marketing