



*Freunde*  
DER WIESBADEN STIFTUNG E.V.

# WIESBADENER BRIEF



## DEAR FRIENDS OF WIESBADEN,

If you like the Hessian capital you probably have a few special places in mind. But did you know that Wiesbaden has a very popular hell? And that this hell changed location taking all of its old and new fans with it at the beginning of 2014? From the Zweiten Ring to a very central location: to the Platz der Deutschen Einheit which was in appalling condition for decades. At last, **a large sports hall** with offices and shops has been built there, fit for the successful top league Wiesbaden ladies volleyball club, but also well used as a school sports hall. When the ladies volleyball team is battling for points in the middle of the city, which has often been the case since the successful inauguration, their fans make a huge racket cheering for them in this hell. The hall has space for 2100 spectators, 2014 saw the first league game. The square surrounding the building, which cost almost 50 million euros, should be landscaped by summer 2015.

But Wiesbaden has a lot to offer if you are more interested in the fine arts. For example, a gripping season at the **Hessian State Theater** with the new Artistic Director, Uwe Eric Laufenberg. Viewed critically up front, he succeeded in making both himself and the theater the subject of discussion within a very short period of time with almost 20 premiers.

Those who were irritated by the eye-catching frizzy dog's head on programs and posters might, like me, have been placated on the great opening evening. When the professed dog-lover Laufenberg brought his well-behaved Oscar onto the stage and wished that the Wiesbaden audience remain as loyal to his theater as his dog Oscar is to his owner. Why not, after all it doesn't have to be uncritical loyalty. The Artistic Director is certainly happy about the enormous success of the Richard Strauss opera 'Die Frau ohne Schatten' (The Woman without a Shadow), which he directed himself. And it pleases him that the stage premiers were so topical and drew so much attention.

Do you know who else has a soft spot for Wiesbaden? Our President Joachim Gauck. Having honored the city on the occasion of the visit of the Dutch royal couple in 2013, he returned to pay homage to a great artist in 2014: Alexej Jawlensky. The extremely successful 'Horizont Jawlensky' exhibition with 60 000 visitors drew Gauck to the increasingly attractive **Museum Wiesbaden** where he met the artist's granddaughter Angelica Jawlensky-Bianconi and with her admired 'Helene in Spanish Costume". Frank Brabant, patron of the arts, presented this key work of the artist who died in Wiesbaden to the museum.

The active friends of the Museum presented a very special gift. Not only with a substantial donation by the Foundation,



but also with the great „We will manage the turn around“ campaign. The citizens were asked to participate in acquiring the „Die Labung“ (The Refreshment) painting by Hans von Marées. The painting was originally owned by Jews, which was established during provenance research at the Museum. As an expression of gratitude for donations amounting to 93,000 euros, the painting was turned around.

By the way, the Museum can look forward to a new forecourt and colonnade design next year. And it will be focusing on its collections in 2015, for the move to the building designed by Theodor Fischer began 100 years ago.

Dear Friends of Wiesbaden, unfortunately we have to report about a serious natural disaster here: During the fierce storm at the end of July, it was not the first time that the Rambach stream turned into a torrential river destroying not only the Kurpark but also the **Kurhaus** and the technical equipment in the basement in particular. Neither the salons nor the casino and restaurant went unscathed. The damage is close to eight million euros. But there was also considerable damage in other parts of Wiesbaden and surrounding forests. Many living in the suburbs had to fight off mud and water.

In spite of the situation, the invitation to public viewing of the World Cup Final (soccer) on the Bowling Green went ahead on time. 15000 people accepted and were able to enjoy a wonderful soccer festival.

Let us return to the Kurhaus. Someone who was part of the scenery and knew the run of things there has been missing since spring. The long-standing Kurhaus Director, Henning Wossidlo (64), said good-bye. A gripping farewell party was put up for him by the city and his team and rightfully so. Wossidlo is and remains a 'power man'. Those responsible in the City Hall know exactly why they appointed him Building Manager of the new Rhein-Main-Hallen instead of letting him go into retirement. Markus Ebel-Waldmann is now responsible for the Kurhaus and for marketing the **Rhein-Main-Hallen**, which has to be advertised even now.

Completion of the 194 million euro trade fair project built according to the plans of the Frankfurt architect Ferdinand Heide is planned for the end of 2017. The people of Wiesbaden bade the old halls goodbye at a huge party with a fireworks display to music (see photo on the front page). Many TV productions were held there including the typically Hessian 'Blaue Bock'. Some sad news: The legendary host of the show, Heinz Schenk, died this year in Wiesbaden.

Built on the existing location, the new halls are designed to impress thanks to being flooded with light and with features such as a location in a green belt but in the center of the city at the same time. Hall 1 alone can accommodate 5000 visitors. The 'Ball des Sports' (Sports Ball), the biggest fundraising event of its kind in Europe, will remain true to Wiesbaden during the building phase. The ball will be held provisionally in the Kurhaus and in a great marquee on the Bowling Green.

I even heard people raving about a new feel good location on the bus recently: the city library with music library and media center. We are lucky that the Mauritius-Galerie, which was vacant for so long, has become an attractive location for this **media library**. The nice thing is that it attracts both the young and the old even to the computers.

A great idea was realized in the **art summer 2014**. Nine sculptors from the nine sister cities each exhibited one of their works in Schwalbacher Strasse. Maybe the sculptures were a bit lost in all the traffic on the heavily frequented 'Schwalbacher'. And yet those who looked a little closer were able to marvel at interesting works. Three of them from Klagenfurt, Fatih and San Sebastián will stay in Wiesbaden. By the way, the Lord Mayor, Sven Gerich, wants to make 2016 the year of the sister-city arrangements.

**Anniversaries** were also celebrated in 2014: 50 years of friendship with Berlin-Kreuzberg (a reaction to building The Wall at the time), 25 years with the English town of Tunbridge Wells.

And here are two more interesting dates. It is 200 years since Goethe came to Wiesbaden on spa for the first time. The first modern constitution was also enacted in the duchy of Nassau 200 years ago.

A brief excerpt of small but mighty reasons to celebrate: the Presseclub looks back on 25 years with high-powered events, the Raule Foundation 'Kleine Füchse' (Little Foxes) has been gently and eloquently promoting highly talented preschool children for ten years. And a lady who has been closely related to the Wiesbaden Foundation since the very beginning has also been taking care of cakes and candy made in Wiesbaden for 50 years: Charlotte Brand from the confectioner Kunder – the address on Wilhelmstrasse which rose to world fame thanks to their little pineapple cakes.

Here is a good place to mention what pleases and motivates the head of city marketing, Martin Michel: Wiesbaden is 'overnight stay millionaire'. The first million was exceeded in 2013, with a rising trend. The same applies for internationality.

Last but not least, I would like to give you a short summary of the activities of the **Wiesbaden Foundation** and the **Friends of the Wiesbaden Foundation society**, commitment that was recently presented in the 'Stiftungs-Streiflichter' brochure. The general assembly of the foundation was held – with sporting performances – in the new hall at Platz der Deutschen Einheit. The 100th donator was congratulated. He is the CDU Parliamentary Group Leader, Bernhard Lorenz. There is a total of 112 donators to date.

There was a change in the Treasury Office: No wonder. The hitherto Treasurer, Dr. Christian Gastl, relieved Gerd Eckelmann as IHK President this year and thus has a new highly time-consuming 'job'. Eckhard von Rosenberg succeeds him as Treasurer.



Encounter in the Museum Wiesbaden: President Joachim Gauck and Angelica Jawlensky-Bianconi in front of the major work of her grandfather, Alexej Jawlensky: 'Helene in Spanish Costume'.



In a new sports hall at last. The players of the Wiesbaden ladies volleyball club are now cheered on by their fans at the Platz der Deutschen Einheit.



Brutally good on the stage: The new Artistic Director, Uwe Eric Laufenberg, with his dog at the opening of the season of the Hessian State Theater.



Every side an 1a side: That's how the architect Ferdinand Heide describes his design for the Rhein-Main-Hallen. Completion of the 194 million euro construction is planned for the end of 2017.



Building Manager in the name of the city: Henning Wossidlo manages the major Rhein-Main-Hallen project.



Calendar with winning photos: The 'Zoom! us your world' competition was well received.



Long way down: The flood made a 1.5-meter deep hole at the Nizza-Plätzchen in the Kurpark. Hydrologists are studying the causes here. The flooding destroyed all of the technical equipment in the basement of the Kurhaus.



Wiesbaden illuminated: The Twinkling Star Christmas Market as here in front of the City Hall has long since become a great tourist attraction in the city.



## 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](http://www.die-wiesbaden-stiftung.de)

The first Wiesbaden **Foundation Days** held in the headquarters of the Nassauische Sparkasse were very successful. An exhibition and workshops were received extremely well. Networking is making leaps and bounds.

The Friends of the Foundation want to continue improving the open-air museum at the Römertor tourist sight, the renovation of which has been almost completed by the city. The **photo competition 'Zoom'...** us your world' in which children and young people took a creative look at their environment awakened great interest. The **'Bürgerkolleg'** (citizens' college) provided further education for more than 2000 volunteers. And the new version of the **Leonardo School Award** is planned for 2015. Again in eight categories including 'Ideas for Wiesbaden'. But the important social inclusion thought is also considered with a special prize once again. The **Leonardo Club** of schoolchildren for schoolchildren has started very well. It is supposed to serve as a platform on which young people

get involved, supported by the Foundation. The remarkable 'Jam On' German-American music partnership was thus born. Generally speaking, cooperation with the Highschool is becoming closer.

If you should happen to be in Wiesbaden and are interested in the history of the city, the culture initiative offers exciting events. If you want to take a rest at the Warmer Damm when rambling around the city, you might sit on one of the lovely benches built thanks to a Friends of the Wiesbaden Foundation campaign.

A wish recently expressed by Thomas Michel, Chairman of the Foundation and Chairman of the Friends of Wiesbaden society in an interview, is not only a recommendable strategy for Wiesbaden: "Some can donate time, others can donate money, all of this is important for coexistence in our city. We also want to promote the willingness to do something for society in our youth..."

The Foundation has achieved a lot already in this connection. Warm wishes and the very best for 2015



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

## IMPRESSUM

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- Anzeige -

## Bleiben Sie in Kontakt mit der Heimat!

Liebe Leserinnen, liebe Leser,

Sie möchten das ganze Jahr darüber informiert sein, was alles in und rund um Wiesbaden geschieht? Dann darf der Wiesbadener Kurier nicht fehlen!

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