

NEWS RELEASE

WORLD WAR II LIVING HISTORY SERIES

Historical Society of New Santa Fe
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WWII Living History Series to Focus on Berlin Airlift

KANSAS CITY, MO. ... Baerbel Elisabeth Simon, executive director of the Cold War Museum chapter in Berlin, Germany, and her husband Horst Simon will present a program on the Berlin Airlift as part of the World War II Living History Series at 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 23, at the Trailside Center, 9901 Holmes Rd., Kansas City, Mo.

Also speaking will be retired Air Force Lt. Col. Ed Robertson of Leawood, describing U.S. efforts to plan and execute the Berlin Airlift, and retired Lt. Col. George Pavlakis of Overland Park, who will recount several missions he flew during the airlift.

The Simons are making their 17th trip to the United States to give talks about the German people's gratitude for the American effort to provide food and supplies to the German people after the Russians blockade of the Berlin sector. The airlift began in 1948 and continued into 1949, delivering more than 2 million tons of food and supplies on 270,000 flights. The Cold War Museum near Washington, D.C., was founded in 1996 by Francis Gary Powers Jr., son of the U-2 spy plane pilot, to preserve history and honor veterans of the Cold War.

Both Baerbel and Horst Simon were born in West Berlin and were young children during the airlift. They experienced the construction of the Berlin Wall and also the end of the "Iron Curtain." Since retirement, they have been committed to the Cold War Museum the past 5 years.

The event is free, and the public is invited. Sponsored by the Historical Society of New Santa Fe to provide firsthand accounts of World War II from those who served, the series will feature monthly presentations through November.

For more information about the series, call Gary Swanson, program chairman, at 913-744-8282.

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