

Thanks

Danke
Merci
Grazie
Gracias

谢谢
Dziękuję
Спасибо

Dear Colleagues, Companions, Friends!

After 38 years at Weinig I make use of the regulation of partial retirement for older employees and go into early retirement. A turning-point making me look back. It was a wonderful time. A time with great successes – in business as in private life.

Many people contributed to it. Thank you! It was also a time with numerous interesting meetings from the sector of the media, politics, art and the economy. Friendships developed.

My special thanks are aimed at the journalists and editorial staff of the worldwide technical, daily and financial press, the news agencies and the radio with whom I was allowed to work as responsible chief advertising and press officer during these long years. Unforgotten are the Weinig press conferences. Always outstandingly well attended. I was able to welcome up to 82 participants! Even the chief press officers of noted groups of companies were astonished.

My thanks are aimed at the public authorities, the town council – with the builders' yard and the caretaker's team –, the police and the clubs. Especially the "Kröten", the TSV, the fire brigade, the fencing club and the neighbour VS.

Special thanks are also aimed at the Weinig training workshop, the works council, the men of the fleet of vehicles, the kitchen team and the foremen and the helpers in the halls. The support during the events of the most different types was always great.

My thanks, however, are also aimed at the employees and colleagues; a lot of things would not have been possible without them.

We shall not quite lose sight of each other. In future I shall also continue to maintain contacts with the wood industry, the publishing houses, the technical press, the wood associations, the IPH and the clubs and stand by them with moral and practical support.

I am looking forward to it.

Kind regards and all the very best for the future.

Yours



Rudi Walz



Nature of success

means to laugh often and a lot. To gain the respect of intelligent people.

To be able to bear the cheating by false friends.

To see and find the best in others.

To leave the world slightly better, be it by a blossoming bed of flowers, a social deed or well-done work.

To know that a different person felt more easily and freely because one was there, this means:

Having had success..

Loosely based on Emerson

+ + **good, better, best** + + + **good, better, best** + + + **good, better, best** + + + **good, better, best** + + + **good**

Team RUDI WALZ

Marketing • Media • PR and more...

Talstraße 37 • 97941 Tauberbischofsheim-Dittwar, Germany
Telephone/Fax 09341/4445 • Mobile-Telephone 0171/4345682
E-Mail post@rudi-walz.de • Internet www.rudi-walz.de

The thanks are aimed at my team...



The favourite toy



1973/1974



1982

Farewell gifts ? Farewell party? No, thank you!

Instead a request to all who want to make me happy when I say "goodbye": Do something good.

Make a donation under the code-word Rudi Walz for the

*Deutschordens-Hilfswerk Baden Württemberg e.V. Stuttgart,
Schwäbische Bank AG, Account 6575 (Bank Code no. 600 201 00)
or the*

Lions Club Bad Mergentheim

Volksbank Bad Mergentheim 12900 001 (Bank code 623 910 10)

Thank you!



Flying visit by Claude Dely – UK

Just pay me a visit

www.rudi-walz.de



2004

The Management



1980



With Ibat Conferences on tour



Achim Kopfmann. The great fighter "ProHolz"



Who was who after all...?



Strategy meeting on Hornberg Castle



Working out the advertising strategy Brazil
Bruno Krick – Curitiba

A great time...



Chinese firepot



Great hospitality in Japan



Visit in Singapore



On the move with the television team of HR



The star photographer did a good job



Colleagues from Canada

Again and again there was a reason to be cheerful and celebrate



Great international award



Order of Merit of the Federal Republic for the successful instructor of apprentices



Another large.....



Last day of the demonstration center



Annual firm's party, those were the days.....!



Two successful captains of industry hand over...



Firm's party





The "window pope" Jürgen Estrich (right)



The birthday of the director's secretary



Elmar Dürr ... Unforgotten!



The new sound absorbing cabin



Reliable helpers at great events today –
Farroch Radjeh and Markus Grünbaum



Successful Ligna 1987



Successes were celebrated together



Ligna



The heads of the branches at the fair



The hard-working ladies at the stand



The successful attempt: Factory outlet in Avignon



Thanks for successful co-operation with the employees of the MC East and the branch in Moscow



Our fencing team offers thanks to management and staff



Colleagues from Brazil, Sweden, Australia and the UK



Roland Bayer, master Schmitt and service engineers



Wife's visit



The first market listing of the Weinig stock at the Stuttgart stock exchange



Première Q 23 P trade fair Milan



Kick-off party 2001



Good friends from the UK



At the beginning of the year things were really heating up here



Wonderful friends from Brazil



Back-office Ligna 2003



The festival of all festivals at Ligna 2001: Weinig once again offered more



The events all the participants will remember



The guests go wild and rush for the stage

One of the main tasks: The good, helpful and considerate, trusting contact with representatives of the press from all over the world



The first major press conference with Wolfgang Wilmsen



Accounts press conference Frankfurt-on-Main 1989



Georg Demuth welcomes the press



The typical Weinig press corner at the major trade fairs worldwide

Guests from the press...



..... from Gemany



..... in Valencia



..... from Spain



..... trade fair Pordenone



Visit of our friend Alistair Bryson from Scotland

Guests from the press.....



Welcome guests from Stuttgart



Spain Olé



Pietro Stroppa "Datalignum" in TBB (right)



Successful trade fair Imma 1997



Guests from the press – trade fair Pordenone



As guests in the palace

Danke
Thanks
Merci
Grazie

Gracias
谢谢
Dziękuję
Спасибо



Weinig offered more – also during press conferences



Press information day in the UK
Presentation of the new Quattrotratt 23 P



2002 The press is received with a red-carpet treatment



Weinig actively supports the trade associations around the wood



Work session of the IPH



The executive council of the Initiative ProHolzfenster in the early years



The organization team of the annual stockholders' meeting. A super team!

The time at Weinig – Years with many interesting meetings



Mayer-Vorfelder – Emil Beck



The fencing club TBB – popular meeting place of the political prominence



The Young Conservatives inform themselves



Prime Minister Lothar Späth



Walter Döring – FDP



The Minister for the Environment Töpfer visits us at Ligna



Helmut Kohl is pleased with the wine from Dittwar



Hans-Dietrich Genscher: Regards for the mother



Franz Beckenbauer



Prime Minister Erwin Teufel



Joy Fleming: knowing each other for many years



The great wine-tasting with the press in Geisel's Victoria, Bad Mergentheim



SOS Children's Villages. They deserve our support worldwide!

Open eye for religions and cultures

Today Rudi Walz celebrates his 60th birthday / Has interests of Christian-Jewish relationship at heart

Tauberbischofsheim. His hands gesticulate whilst he is talking, his eyes speak, his mouth changes at times from a thoughtful seriousness to an enjoying laughter. The man, that is for sure, lives with what he says. He can be brief and concise. "Three houses from the right of the barrel" he described the way to his house in Dittwar. Then again he speaks almost incessantly: of experiences, impressions and again and again of his hobby, the world religions. Rudi Walz is the name of this man who celebrates his 60th birthday today.

He doesn't consider his own chronology particularly important. Born in Schoenebeck near Magdeburg, sheltered childhood in Dittwar, the hometown of his father, commercial apprenticeship after school. Walz mechanically recites and means "I am really a self-made man, because I had to catch up on everything I missed learning earlier on". His life's motto fits the relaxed look upon the further-removed past, true to Mother Theresa: "Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We only have today. Let us start".

Rudi Walz lives off meeting people, likes to be among people and takes care of friendships all over the world. At the same time he is not a jack of all trades, but rather a person knowing to look beyond his own nose and with it



Apart from his family, his work and the world religions the relationship between Jews and Germans takes its place as the central theme in the life of Rudi Walz. On today's Thursday the widely known Dittwarer celebrates his 60th birthday. Repro: FN

for him to establish contacts with about 400 journalists all over the world. During the preparation and realisation of more than 100 trade fairs and conferences his pronounced talent for organisation was again and again put to the test.

Apart from his family, his work and the world religions the relationship between Jews and Germans takes its place as the central theme in the life of Rudi Walz. How could the destruction of six million people happen who had been good neighbours, honourable merchants, friendly owners of businesses, qualified doctors, decorated veterans of the First World War or renowned artists? – he already asked himself as a young man. Rudi Walz, member of the successor generation, did not want to be fobbed off with simple answers, but wanted to know more. He occupied himself with Judaism, with the constantly returning anti-Semitism in the Jewish history, with Israel.

Fates and political attendant circumstances are just as important to him as the present relationship between Israelis and Palestinians. Walz was in Jenin that had been flattened by members of the Israeli army. He will never forget the smell of decomposition. And he looked at the hospital that according to official statements had not been damaged. "I walked around in it and as a hospital it could not be used any more at all", he is angry about the propaganda reporting also taken over by German media. About the destroyed mosque he can only think of one term "vandalism pure".

Walz has Israeli and Palestinian friends and is thus a commuter across the wall he thinks is simply horrible. He sees the fronts hardened and rather low chances for a peace in the Middle East. Walz makes it clear by means of a survey where 37 percent of the Palestinian children did not, for example, mention doctor or pilot as their dream career, but suicide assassin. He was also shocked by the fact how proud mothers of suicide assassins are of the supposedly heroic act of their sons. For Walz this is a really fatalistic trait of people who for 50 years have stood with their backs to the wall without any changes.

Walz sees the only chance for peace on the one hand in negotiating and on the other in the influential role of the USA that should be prepared to cut off the supply of money for Israel. In addition, there should neither be any humiliating checks nor senseless curfews for the Palestinian areas that make any normal life impossible. Rudi Walz, traveller between the worlds, is not a person permitting himself a quick opinion. He listens meticulously, looks for nuances and organises. Silence is what he hates. He cannot and will not understand that mouths are simply kept shut when injustice is clearly visible.

This conviction has made him known to many people in Israel. He gave lectures at the university in Tel Aviv and Bethlehem about the subject "The Generation after Auschwitz" and asked when the past would be history. Walz discussed with high-ranking military officers and Palestinian personalities but also counts shop owners among his friends. "Israel and Palestine," so Walz, "have become my second homeland." In addition, there is naturally his homeland Dittwar whose people he would not like to miss. Although he does "not describe himself as the great real clubman" he promotes the activities of clubs in town.

Walz is a member of the Teutonic Order where he is presently deputy master of the balley, deputy master of the Teutonic Order of Knights and deputy commander. In addition, he is a member of the Society for Christian-Jewish Co-operation, the Society for the Promotion of the Museum for Jewish History in Poland, the Christian-Islamic Society Franconia Country, the Teutonic Order Relief Work, the Teutonic Knights Society, the Lions Club Bad Mergentheim, the Fencing Club Tauberbischofsheim and the Society for the Promotion of the Fencing Club Tauberbischofsheim. His most recent child is the "Hammer Forum", an organisation wanting to relieve for children the need and misery by concrete medical help.

To practically tackle and see direct results enthuses the rather impatient Rudi Walz for whom everything is always moving a bit too slowly. In addition, he is involved in the SOS Children's Villages. "Children and old people are close to my heart", says the man celebrating his birthday. And something else is also waiting for its realisation. In a file with the label "Jews in TBB" Walz has collected the histories of former Jewish fellow citizens. He searched for and found in Israel, USA, Great Britain, Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina former Tauberbischofsheimer who were humiliated and persecuted only on account of their descent and were only able to escape the holocaust by fleeing. And he had their stories told to him which, although they possibly cast a shadow on the family history of some of the younger generation, are important historical documents against forgetting.

So far only a commemorative plaque in the town hall for which Rudi Walz did what he could together with the people willing to join him reminds of the fate of the Tauberbischofsheim Jews. To begin with Rudi Walz celebrates his today's birthday on a minor scale before the great festival will start on Saturday when he expects about 180 guests from twelve countries. Then once again he will have the benefit of his hobby, presenting and making speeches. In addition to his wife Hildegard and his daughter Simone a huge number of people will voice their congratulations and the Fränkische Nachrichten will join them. hvb

One can certainly not say
whether it is going to be better
when it is going to be different;

but one can say so much:

It must become different
if it should become better.

Loosely based on Lichtenberg

connecting a complex cosmopolitan way of thinking. What drives and pushes him is his untiring interest in religions and the culture, way of life and world of thoughts marked by them. Walz wants to discover and understand, marvel and comprehend. He himself is a professing Catholic and fan of the presently incumbent pope John Paul II.

The wealth of the religions on the one side and the gap between the poor and the rich, partly legitimated by religions on the other fascinate and bewilder Walz at the same time. He mentions India, rather well known to him by several journeys, as an example and attributes a terribly feudal character influenced by religion to the country's society. The man celebrating his birthday established many contacts all over the world via the company Weinig where he has worked since 1967. "Already then," Walz remembers, "although being a small company Weinig was a very interesting one." He was advertising assistant and responsible for the house journal "Das Holzauge".

He identified himself more and more strongly with the area of responsibility advertising and public relations work and in the early '80s was promoted to advertising manager and chief press officer of the Weinig Group. He calls his work at the Weinig AG his "professional hobby"; it made it possible