

JAMAICAN GERMAN SOCIETY
TRIBUTE TO ILSE KEßLER (KESSLER) †



Dear Members and Friends,

As the curtains close on the old year 2021 and we look forward to a new year 2022, the Jamaican German Society is saddened that we also at this time draw the curtains on the life and times of our longstanding member and friend, Ilse Keßler (Kessler). But, at this moment in time, we also take time out to celebrate the life she led amongst us and hail her for the woman she was.

Ilse Kessler was an outstanding Germaican. In the early 1970's she, among others such as Kurt Polz and Manfred Richter packed their bags, joined the German *Entwicklungshilfe* (development aid) team and headed for this island in the Caribbean which, for over 50 years, they made their chosen homeland, even while their roots remained in Germany.

Ilse herself hailed from the *Pfalz* in southwestern Germany, a fact not to be missed by her use of the trademark accent of that region. Here in Jamaica, she gave decades of outstanding service to the SOS Children's Village and the Wortley Home for Children and, even before some of us met her in person, her reputation for hard work and commitment preceded her. She was among the village, both literally and figuratively, that raised many children.

A citation written in her honour some years ago tells us that, "Miss Ilse Kessler began working with the SOS Children's Village in Barrett Town, St James on November 1, 1976 after coming to Jamaica as a volunteer in 1971."

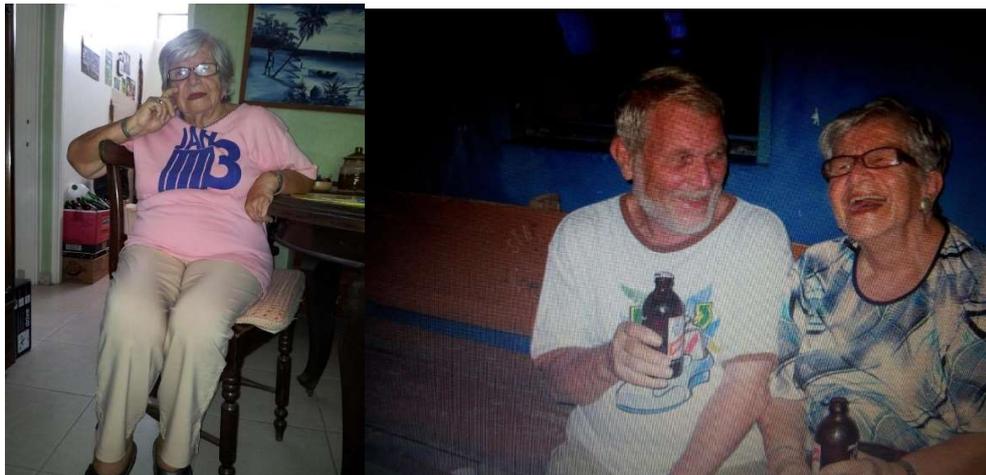
She was Village director there for six years before being assigned to Stony Hill in Kingston as project manager for the second SOS Village in Jamaica.

Today, as we say farewell to Ilse, we thank her family both her in Jamaica and in Germany for having shared her through these years with us. And, we offer our condolences for her loss.

Dear Ilse, today we celebrate you for having been not just a team player but also a cheerleader who seldom missed an out of town trip, an *Oktoberfest*, nor a *Weihnachtslieder* Christmas Concert.

You were our dancing queen and our witty friend, a true Germaican who'll remain in our memory always.

Sleep well, Ilse Kessler; sleep well and take your rest.



December 2021