



Das Deutsche Echo

Mai 2002

Jahrgang 23/5



"Der Mai ist gekommen".

May has arrived, come celebrate Spring with us!

Join us for GAST's annual Maiball, May 11, 2002. Social time is 6-6:30 PM, with dinner will be served at 6:30. Cost for the evening: \$15.00 for dinner & dance; \$7.50 for dance only.

Our menu

Brathähnchen (roasted 1/2 chicken)
Reis (rice)
Grüner Salat (green salad)
Brot und Butter (bread & butter)
Rumbällchen (Rum balls-dessert)

Music will be provided by Karl Waldbauer and the Polka Kings.

The highlight of the evening will be the crowning of our new Maikönigin (May Queen).

The GAST Sänger and GAST Dancers will also perform during the evening.

Please make your reservations to the Message Center 744-6998 by Wednesday, May 8, 2002.

Teresa & Christy

What's happening at GAST?

Tuesdays	Handarbeitsgruppe—10 AM to 2 PM	Sep 1	Sonntagskaffee
May 3	Stammtisch	Sep 6	Stammtisch
May 5	Sonntagskaffee—see page 7	Sep 21	Open
May 5	Konversationsrunde—see page 3	Sep 24	Language classes begin
Mai 11	Maiball	Oct 4	Stammtisch
May 30	Work Party— see page 7	Oct 6	German-American Day
June 2	Sonntagskaffee	Oct 26	Oktoberfest party
Jun 7	Stammtisch	Nov 1	Stammtisch
Jun 30	GAST Picnic	Nov 9	open
July 5	Stammtisch	Dec 6 – 8	Christkindlmarkt
August 2	Stammtisch	Dec 14	Christmas party
Aug 4	Sonntagskaffee	Dec 15	German-language Advent Service

This page is sponsored by GAST Members Paul and Hildegard Schaffrin

The President's Report to the Membership

Dear Members,

April has been a month of exhibits, excursions, and new activities. GAST was a part of the Native-American Art Exhibition at TCC as a preview of that which will be exhibited in Celle, Germany in August. As an alternative to our monthly dinner dances GAST members were offered discounted tickets for an evening at the Brady Theater with the Philharmonic Orchestra. The featured group, Sonnenschein Express, played German folk songs accompanied by the Orchestra. More than 50 members attended enjoying a fun evening with lots of "toe—tapping" music. GAST participated with the Philharmonic by providing the coasters with our name on them for the light meal that was offered prior to the concert.

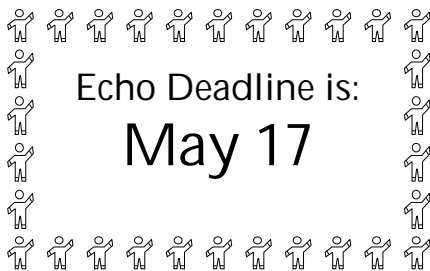
A big Thank You goes to **Jill Hammer** and her helpers, Brandon, Jennifer and the Easter Bunny, for providing the children of GAST with a fun afternoon of games and prizes as the Easter Bunny "hopped" into the Weinkeller. Brandon and Jennifer are the Memorial High School Germany students who also helped with Kinderdeutsch.

The Board approved a donation to KWGS in consideration for the many times the radio station provides announcements and advertisements helping promote GAST's events.

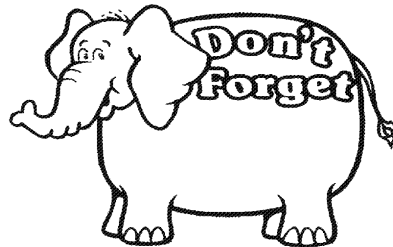
The presence of GAST in the community was again brought to light when the Tulsa World reported about GAST providing an interpreter for a local family. **Doris Gallagher** acted as interpreter between the local family and a bone marrow donor in Germany. The family wanted to express their gratitude for the donation to save their child's life but neither spoke the others language. We plan to invite this family to attend the GAST picnic.

Best wishes go out to **Reba Schaffner** who is recovering from a fall, **Irmgard and Harry Runyon**, recovering from their auto accident, **Margie Mesloh** who has been in the hospital. I am sure there are more of you who might need a little "cheering up" in your lives. Until Reba is able to resume her "Sunshine Lady" duties of sending greetings to those who need a little cheer or statement of sympathy, **Rita Lenfestey** will take over for her. Please inform Rita to make a request for such a greeting.

May and spring is here. It is a time for a new beginning. That is just what GAST is getting ready for. May 11 we will be crowning a new May Queen. Thank you **Jill Hammer** for being 2001 Maikönigin and providing your support and participation when called on to represent GAST. Make your plans to attend the Maiball when Jill



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will turn her crown over to the new Maikönigin. **Brigitte Phelps** and her selection committee have been making all the preparations for her presentation to the members. Who will it be? Please come, you will see. Although I will not be able to attend the Maiball—I will be thinking of you and offer my congratulations to the new May Queen.

Get ready! Tulsa Mayfest is coming May 16 thru May 19. GAST will again have a booth to sell our famous Wurst, Kraut and Kartoffelpuffer. Those of you who are able, please plan on doing your part in this our third largest fundraiser. Call and volunteer early to be assured the shift and job that you would like to volunteer for. If everyone helps out a little the job will be easier for all. It is a fun way to meet and get to know your fellow members. It provides additional income for GAST to maintain the GAST Center and provide the membership and the community the programs and activities you enjoy.

Keep your ECHO handy so you won't miss something exciting going on at GAST.
Till next month,

—Carol Wright

News from the Arts President

Our involvement with Tulsa area community events continues to grow. Speaker's Bureau projects at PricewaterhouseCoopers and Skelly Elementary School were quite successful thanks to **Barbara Taron, Fred Rother** and **Doris Gallagher**. On April 5, GAST members participated in the opening of the "Kindred Spirits" exhibit of Native American art at Tulsa Community College, Southeast Campus. This unique and exciting showing of Native American paintings and sculptures will travel to Tulsa's Sister City Celle/Germany in August 2002 where it will be displayed at the Celle Castle for public viewing.

GAST and the Arts Association also supported the Tulsa Philharmonic production of OOMPAH POPS! on April 20 which turned out to be a delightful combination of classical Johann Strauss and Rodgers and Hammerstein compositions, well known German folk songs, yodeling and Bavarian beer drinking songs. **Maikönigin Jill Hammer**, her daughter **Madeline, Carol** and **Don Wright** and **Barbara** and **Bernie Sciescinski** handed out programs at the Brady Theater event in their best dirndl dresses and lederhosen.

On Sunday, April 21 we were honored with a special presentation by the The Albert and Hete Barthelmes Foundation. Co-directors Theresa M. Collins and Joseph L. Hull III were introduced by former GAST and GASAA president **Josef Hardt**. Ms. Collins and Mr.

Hull talked about the Foundation's plans for a Conservatory of Music to be built at 14th Street and Cheyenne. A pilot program will start in September 2002 at the University United Methodist Church, TU Campus. (details may be found on www.barthelmesconservatory.org). 12-year old Elizabeth Ogonek from New York (piano) and 15-year old Jennifer Sherman from Broken Arrow (violin) delighted the audience with their talented performances. Dr. Katharine Ogonek, Executive Director of Opus 118, Harlem, NY, told how much can be accomplished with disadvantaged youngsters in the Inner City, when given the opportunity. The story of Opus 118 has also been told in the movie "Music of the Heart". The musical presentation continued with an excellent performance by the Barthelmes Conservatory String Quartet of the Tulsa Youth Symphony. The reception that followed was organized by co-chairs **Lois Voeller** and **Gabi Richardson** with the help of **Darlene Tegeler**. **John Millar** was in charge of set up. Thank you all for a job well done.

There will be no regular library hours in the months of June, July and August. If you would like to check out or return books, please call the Message Center at 744-6998, and we will make arrangements for you to use the library.

—Arnold Bieber

Speaking German

Die Deutsche Konversations- Runde

I would like to thank **Harold and Doris Wicks** for being such gracious hosts at our last meeting. We had a very interesting and informative presentation with three German exchange students who have had a varied mixture of experiences here in America. Perhaps at a later date we should discuss the possibility of becoming more involved with future exchange students to provide some sort of a support system. Our next meeting will be at 3 p.m. on the 5th of May at **Margaret Schmidt's** home located at 3717 S. 65th West Avenue, where we traditionally gather for our last meeting before the summer break. We will sing our favorite songs, re-

cite our favorite poems and share our experiences to prepare for the vacation season. Jutta will accompany us with her accordion. Margaret has already begun preparing her beautiful garden for us and as you know, she is also a master baker. Please come and share this fun-filled and nostalgic occasion with us. Please note that the May meeting has been moved to the 12th of May to avoid conflicting with the Sonntagskaffee event.

The Konversationsrunde is a program under the auspices of the German-American Society of Tulsa Arts Association. It serves to promote the German language and other cultural interests of its members. For suggestions, information or hosting one of our meetings, please call: **Barbara Conrad** 492-3273 (Chair) or **Helga Greiner** at 455-3096 (Co-chair).

Due to a scheduling conflict at the GAST Center, we must move the Garage Sale to the fall. Details to follow later in the year.

—Barbara Conrad

This page is sponsored by Bea Shults and by Don and Carol Wright



The GAST Sanger



May Notes

Our Choir has been graced
With a new alto and a
returning Bass!

For the Language Classes April 23
We did sing.

And the May party will be
Our final "gig" for Spring.

We're sending out an "SOS"! We hope some-
one can help! The GAST Sanger have lost their
accompanist. If you are, or know some-one who's
a pianist and would be willing to assist us, please
call the Message Center, 744-6998. We'd be most
appreciative! Thank you!

For questions or further information,
please call me at 663-9573.

—Teresa Gallagher

We welcome these new members to the GAST Family

Annie & Earl Johnston (USA)
2620 W. 71
Tulsa, OK 74132-1701
Tel. 446-2179

Pots-n-Pans, need your hands!

On **Saturday May 4th, at 9 AM** the GAST Mayfest
Committee needs your help.

We are washing all utensils and kettles that are being
used in our booth downtown. If you have a couple
hours that Saturday morning, please come to the GAST
Center to help.

A splashing fun time is guaranteed!

—Jim Walker

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Stammtisch



Greetings, fellow Stamm People!

As you meet again 'round the Tulsa
Stammtisch, I intend to be in Bavaria, drink-
ing *Real Bier*. Think of me and weep ☹
I'll have a few Weizen in you-alls honor ☺

John Toschik has agreed to be the Stammtisch-
Meister!

Zum Wohl
Fred...

Work Party

The Operating Committee will hold its next work day
on **Thursday, May 30 starting at 8:30 AM**. This
date was chosen to avoid conflicting with Mayfest
and rental activities. We will be attending to the many
details necessary to preserve and improve our lovely
facility.

There is much to be done and your help is needed, be
it for a day or a few hours. Volunteers are requested
to bring small hand tools and work gloves. Pizza will
be served for lunch. See you there!

—John Millar



German-language Movies

An Erwin Jerchau Presentation

NOW PLAYING AT THE GAST THEATER:

Announcing:

Monday May 6, starting at 6:30 PM
Lustige Musikanten aus dem Goldenen Prag
With Marianne und Michael

Starting at 7:30 PM

Du bist Musik

Starring Caterina Valente, Paul Hubschmid,
Grethe Weiser, and Rudolf Platte.



Sonntagskaffee

(Sunday Afternoon Coffee)

Sunday, May 5,
from 3 - 5 PM

in the GAST Weinkeller

If you have not attended yet – you are in
for a treat.

**Please note: this event is not
for our German-speaking members
only!**

Except for the Konversationsrunde and
German-movie night, all our events are
conducted in English—German is op-
tional.

—The Coffee Team:
Helga, Fred, Lou, Ruth

An Invitation to join us in Fun and Fellowship

We appreciate all our members, and we need all of you to make GAST a successful organization. We learned from our recent telephone survey that we have quite a few members, who have not attended a GAST event in quite a while. If you have always hesitated to come, because you don't really know anyone else in the organization, we invite you to attend one of our **Weinkeller Abend** informal gatherings, or our **Sonntagskaffee** (Sunday Afternoon Coffees).

These are very good opportunities to meet both, English and German-speaking members. Someone from our Welcome Committee will be there to introduce you. No reservations required – nothing to bring. Please wear nametags.

Next Weinabend: The last Friday of the month – 6:30 pm

Next Sonntagskaffee: Sunday, May 5, 2002 – 3 pm

—**Helga Greiner**
Chair, Welcome Committee

Folkdancers Go Back to School

This month was back to school month for the GAST Folkdancers. On April 18 we helped the Broken Arrow North Intermediate High School celebrate an International Day program by performing several Folk Dances and then teaching the dances to about 40 students. They were very eager to participate but decided it was very strenuous work.

Union's Anderson Elementary School was the scene of a similar event on April 19 with both students and parents taking part. Thank you to both of these schools for giving us an opportunity to share our interest in Folkdancing with you.

—**Carol Wright**



Kinderdeutsch

In the last eight weeks of Kinderdeutsch we had more students than expected and they had to be divided by age and classroom size.

Jill Hammer-Schaffrin did a great job with the little ones for the second year. Her ten beginning students did not only learn, but had fun doing it.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the designated teacher could not attend. Being the only person there on that Saturday morning, I was “volunteered” to do the teaching. About ten to fourteen children showed up for my class. Several did not seem to be too

excited about learning German, some would have preferred to play outside or watch cartoons, and a very few wanted to learn.

Most parents and teachers wonder if anything they say ever “soaks” in, and so did I. On the last day, I reviewed what I had taught them and then turned them loose on the blackboard with instructions to write as many German words as they knew with its English translation.

I could not believe the results! The blackboard was full and they still were going strong. It was a joy to watch. I hope the scheduled teachers will have these wonderful children again for our fall sessions.

—**Hildegard Schaffrin**



**They do start 'em early,
don't they?**

Weinkellerabend

May 31st, starting at 5:30 PM.

If you haven't yet attended one of the Friday evening functions in the Weinkeller, you're really missing out. It's low key, plenty of time to sit and visit with friends, listen to music, dance if you like - no reservations, no charge.

Donations, however, are accepted. Drink and snacks are available and we always have something to eat.

This is an especially good venue for newcomers to the German-American Society to meet other members in a casual, informal atmosphere.

Hope to see you there!
—Lois Voeller

A CHILD'S VIEW OF RETIREMENT IN A MOBILE HOME PARK.

When school reconvened after the Christmas break, the teacher asked her young pupils to write a story of how they spent the holidays. Little Johnny report went like this:

“We always used to spend Christmas with Grandpa and Grandma. They used to live here in a brick house, when Grandpa worked, but now they are retarded and moved to Arizona. They live in a place with a lot of other retarded people. The place is called an Arvie Park. They all live in houses made of tin. They ride great big tricycles and they wear name tags, because they don't know who they are. They play all day long in a big building they call a WRECK CENTER, but if it was wrecked it's all fixed now. They do exercises there too, but they don't do too good.

There is a swimming pool and they go to it, but all they do is stand in the water with their hats on. I guess they don't know how to swim any more either.

They get to go on a bus for a field trip to the beach and other places. At the beach they pick up rocks and shells, which some think are dollars.

My grandma used to make cookies and stuff, but she must have forgot how. Nobody cooks, they eat at restaurants on an “Early Bird Menu” and cut out coupons. Some of the people are so retarded that they don't know how to cook at all. So my Grandma and Grandpa and some of the others bring food into the wrecked hall and they call it a “pot luck”.

When you come into the place, there is a doll house where a man sits all the time, watching so nobody gets out without him seeing them. Grandma says my grandpa worked all his life and now they are retarded and having fun, but I wish they'd move back here. But I guess the man at the gate won't let them out.

It sure was great for me to get back home.”



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