



# Das Deutsche Echo

June 2003

Jahrgang 24/6

## GAST Picnic

**Don and Carol Wright's** "Bayerischerhof" will once again serve as the location for our Annual Family Picnic on Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2003, from 1 to 5 PM

Please RSVP by **Wednesday, June 11**, via GAST Message Center Hotline: **744-6998**.

Please bring a lawn chair or picnic blanket.

**FOOD:** Bar-BQ Beef Brisket, Hot Links, Chicken, Bologna, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Texas Toast, Cookies, Watermelon, Iced Tea.

**GAMES:** Horseshoes, trampoline, tree swings, croquet, badminton and more for all ages

**COST:** All Mayfest workers and children under two are admitted FREE (you still need to RSVP so we will know how much food to order!). Non-workers: Adults - \$10, Children under 12 - \$5

**LOCATION:** 6240 East 116<sup>th</sup> St. Go South on Sheridan Road to 116<sup>th</sup> St. Turn right onto 116<sup>th</sup> from Sheridan and look for the cars on the left side of the road!

**If you get lost, call Don and Carol Wright** at 299-2839

If you have never been to the GAST annual picnic, let this be the year you come to enjoy the lazy, hazy days of summer among friends. Dress casual, bring the children and grandchildren. Come to play or just relax in the shade. There's lots of space, lots of shade, and lots of good folk to visit with.

Hope to see you there!

— **Uschi Mueller**, Chair, GAST Socials  
(743-4353 / ursulagabriele@cox.net)

### *What's happening at GAST?*

Handarbeitsgruppe Tuesdays, 10-2 PM	Jun 27 Weinkeller	Dec 13 Weihnachtsfeier
Heinzelmännchen—Wednesdays, 10 AM	July 25 Weinkeller	Dec 14 Adventsfeier
	Aug 3 Sonntagskaffee	Dec 31 New Years Eve Party
Apr 27 Gen. Membership meeting	Aug 29 Weinkeller	<b>2004</b>
May 2 Stammtisch	Sep 7 Sonntagskaffee	Jan 17 GAST Anniversary Party
May 2 Spring concert	Sep 16 German language classes start	
May 4 Konversationsrunde	Sep 26 Weinkeller	
May 4 Sonntagskaffee	Oct 24 Weinkeller	
May 10 Maiball	Oct 25 GAST Oktoberfest	
May 11 Musical Celebration	Nov 2 Sonntagskaffee	
May 23 Weinkeller	Nov 15 ?	
Jun 1 Sonntagskaffee	Nov 28 Weinkeller	
Jun 15 Family Picnic	Dec 5-7 Christkindlmarkt	

This page is sponsored by GAST Members Paul and Hildegard Schaffrin

## The President's Report to the Membership

Dear Members,

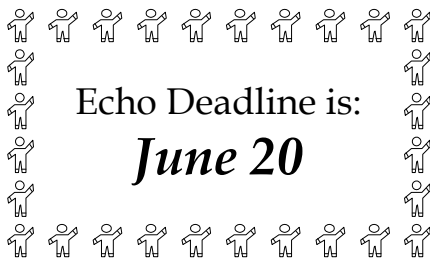
Through an unintentional oversight I was remiss in expressing my condolences to **Dotti and Jim Dittus** in the death of their son Mitch in March. The hearts of many members go out to Dotti and Jim and Mitch's family.

At the Lumpenball in April, GAST members contributed 75 pounds of canned goods for donation to the Tulsa Community Food Bank. We received a note of appreciation from the Food Bank.

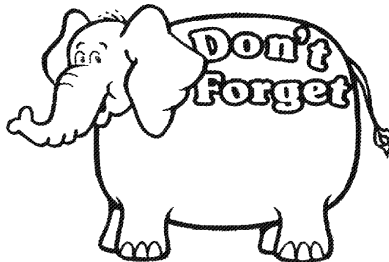
Congratulations to the new GAST Maikönigin, **Uschi Mueller**. Following her coronation at the Maiball, Uschi greeted everyone in German and in English and then the Kinderdeutsch Folkdancers delighted everyone with a few songs and dances. We owe **Jill Hammer and Hildegard Schaffrin** a big thank you for working so diligently with these children. The GAST Choir gave us a sample of the harmony they will produce when they travel to the Cole Camp, Missouri Sängers Festival in June. The folkdancers wove a white and blue diamond pattern as they danced the Bändertanz around the Maypole.

With the new Board taking office in June, I would like to take one more opportunity to thank those retiring board members for their many hours of dedicated service to GAST. Those retiring are **Charles Tegeler, Jack Wynn, Lori Hall, Max Byars-Horton and Bob Varner**. **Teresa and John Gallagher** are retiring as chairperson of Entertainment and Parties. Next time you see any of these members give them a big Thank You.

The standing Board made a couple of policy statements at the last meeting. One concerning the policy for the Calling Committee to operate under and the other regarding children at GAST functions. The Calling Committee is charged with providing information that can not wait for the next issue of the



Echo Deadline is:  
**June 20**



ECHO to members who do not have e-mail to receive this information. The board set the guidelines regarding death notices. The second matter concerning children attending GAST functions states that the attendance of children at functions in the GAST Center are encouraged and welcomed providing they have adequate adult supervision. This must be a family organization if we expect future generations to carry on with the preservation of the German language and culture.

Mayfest is behind us and I know there were many long and hard hours put in by many members to make it happen. It is just too bad that the weather did not co-operate. Thank you **Jim Walker** and the Mayfest Committee for giving it your all.

Many of you have just returned or are just leaving for summer vacations just as Don and I are. We will be traveling in Spain, Portugal and England and returning in time to welcome you all to the GAST Family

*(Continued on page 5)*

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**Arnold Bieber, President**  
Fred Rother, Editor 299-4814  
Editor E-mail address: ffrother@yahoo.com  
GAST e-mail: gastulsa@att.net  
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**Message Center - 744-6998**

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## Party Talk

This past year, **Teresa Gallagher**, had the daunting task of seeing to it that our GAST parties came off without a hitch. We owe Teresa a tremendous thank-you for a job well done!

For new members who may not be aware, our GAST year runs from the beginning of June to the end of May. As of June, I will be your new Socials chairperson in charge of monthly parties, such as Maiball, Fasching, Lumpenball and the like. To this end I will need lots of volunteer help and also your input regarding the events you have enjoyed and why you enjoyed them.

My intention is to assemble a core group, augmented by a larger base group, sub-divided into the various tasks required to execute an event. The number of individuals needed on each group may vary. It should always be no less than 3 and no more than 20. This should allow us to rotate and spread duties over a larger segment of our membership. The only segment that I foresee coming up to bat for each event is the Core Group. If you are interested in helping, please contact me at 743-4353 or via e-mail at [ursulagabriele@cox.net](mailto:ursulagabriele@cox.net). Here are the categories for you to consider – you may sign up for more than one group – a main qualification for all categories is the desire to have fun and to help create fun for the membership at large:

**Core Group** – this is the group that plans the parties – picks the theme and determines how that theme will be carried out. This group will also be responsible for polling the membership to learn what parties members have attended in the past and which events they liked best and why. Additional qualifications: creativity; a good sense of humor.

**Base Group – Greeting and Attendance** – this group will be the most visible group to the membership and involves checking in members and guests as they arrive at an event, collecting any fees that may apply, extending name tags, and acting as ambassadors of introduction to those who may be attending their first GAST event. The theme of this group will be: ‘Hi, how are you, have you been here

before!’ They will be responsible for seeing to it that no member or guest ends up at a table by themselves. They will field both complaints and compliments. Additional qualifications: the ability to smile; a genuine love of people and diplomacy.

**Base Group – Set Up and Tear down** – this group will be responsible for putting the Core groups’ vision into practice, where the physical element of a party is concerned. They will assist in setting up tables and chairs and decorating. Additional qualifications: an enjoyment of decorating; the ability to smile while doing grunt work; the desire for instant gratification when you see a project come together.

**Base Group – Food** – this group will be responsible for selecting the food to be served at an event, in line with the theme chosen by the core group. It will be their job to comparison shop caterers for quality as well as price and to come up with fresh ideas for our 2003/2004 parties. Additional qualifications: good taste buds; an innovative spirit; an understanding of price in relation to quality; the ability to negotiate.

**Base Group – Music** – this group will be responsible for selecting the musical entertainment to augment an event. It will be their job to chose groups that not only can play and sing well, but also know how to turn the volume down, when asked. Additional qualifications: an enjoyment of music; the ability to negotiate price; understanding talent.

**Base Group – Rental Items** – this group will be responsible for securing any rental items needed at an event. Additional qualifications: the ability to comparison shop; to cost justify; to enjoy quality bargain hunting.

That about covers all aspects of planning an event. If I omitted a category, please bring it to my attention. I hope you will let me know which categories you can help me with. **You’ll get more out of GAST by taking an active part!**

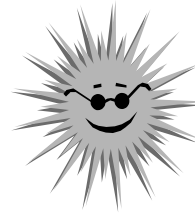
—Uschi Mueller



# The GAST Sanger



In  
Hibernationn  
Until  
Fall



# The Sunshine Lady

Please call or E-mail me if you know of a GAST member who is ill. Also, please let me know if it is appropriate to send a sympathy card.

Thank you.

Phone 496-2304

E-mail -- GASTwo@aol.com

– Reba Schaffner



Caution!  
Heintzelmannen  
at work.

Call John Toschik for info.

This space is sponsored  
by Dr. June Holmes  
Thank you

June 03

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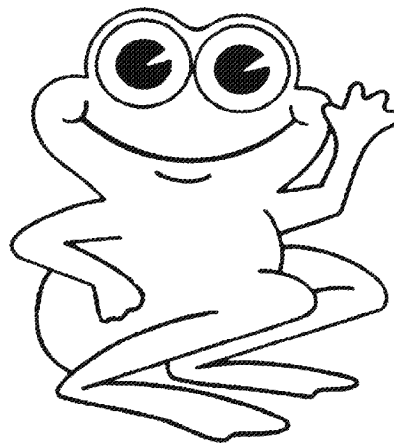
6520 E. Skelly Dr. Tulsa, OK 74145  
(39th St. & Sheridan)

**Phone 663-7997**

### We welcome these new members to the GAST Family

Marie Budde (USA)  
7138 S. Erie Ave. #2407  
Tulsa, OK 74136  
Tel. 492-2529

Barbara Hunsberger (OK)  
10868 E. 33rd Pl.  
Tulsa, OK 74146  
Tel. 664-9796



It's  
not  
easy  
being  
green!

Kermit the frog



## German-language Movies

An Erwin Jerchau Presentation

NOW PLAYING AT THE GAST THEATER:



**Movies**  
**Will continue**  
**In September**

*(Continued from page 2)*

Picnic in our garden on June 15. Here is wishing you all a pleasant trip and a safe return. I hope you all can make it to the picnic.

— Carol Wright.

## Folkdancer's update

The GAST Folk dancers 2003 dance performances have been galloping right along since our last article on Penguins and the TCC international event. In case you are not aware, one of our dancers, **Bob Mills**, is currently recuperating after being hit by a car on March 16th. We are happy to report Bob's leg injury is on the mend under the watchful eye of wife, **Jodi**. Just prior to our Maiball, Bob, who is currently on crutches, and Jodi came to watch the group practice the Maibaumtanz.

In late March and throughout April, the dancers wowed several groups with their performances, including the Tulsa University International Students' Association at their annual appreciation dinner. At the next three performances, which included Bacone College's Multicultural Festival in Muskogee, **Melanie Brinton's** Junior High Schools' International Evening in Broken Arrow and Neighbor For Neighbor's International Night at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Tulsa, **Jack and Evelyn Boucher** stole the show with their performance of the Hofbrauhaus. This couple dance includes a Schuhplattler, which Jack executes to perfection.

The group's latest performance was for the GAST membership at our annual Maiball on May 10. For three years the group has been practicing the Maibaumtanz which is danced around the May pole. Unfortunately, we were never in a position to actually perform the dance. This year with the help of **Jack and Evelyn Boucher, Christy Collins, Jill Hammer, Janet & Lonnie Jamison, Uschi Mueller, Trevor Murie, Ginny and Joe Rohr, Dana Rosler and Carol Wright**, the impossible became possible as white and blue ribbons were spun and woven into intricate patterns to everyone's delight. **Don Wright** served as our dance group Maiball MC, in addition to taking part in the performance of the Böhmischer Ländler and Knödeldreher.

A special treat earlier in the evening was seeing our GAST folk dancers of tomorrow (our children's group under the direction of **Jill Hammer and Hildegard Schaffrin**) sing and dance. Parents, this can be a family affair! Join your children in the fun and consider becoming a part of our adult dance group. We are always on the search for additional men and women willing to join us in our pursuit of keeping our heritage alive and vibrant. If you are one of those, please contact me.

— Uschi Mueller

## Sonntagskaffee

(Sunday Afternoon Coffee)

*Join us for Coffee and cake  
on June 1st, starting at 3 PM*



Hosted by Helga Greiner  
Barbara Hunsberger and Fred Rother,

## GAST History

The German-American Society of Tulsa (GAST) was officially established on January 24, 1980, when the State of Oklahoma signed the Society's Certificate of Incorporation as a nonprofit corporation.

We began informal organization activities during the latter part of 1979 as a result of the great popularity of Tulsa's first Oktoberfest. A group of interested native-born Germans met to organize the German-American Society of Tulsa and elected Josef Hardt as the Society's first president. The founding members were: Hans A. Boettcher, Ted and Ursula Castle, Stan and Barbara Conrad, Josef and Anneliese Hardt, Siegfried and Dorothea Heit, Christine Manning, Ludwig and Rosie Obermaier, and John and Irmgard Toschik.

Although still a very young organization, GAST has established itself in twenty short years as one of the most active ethnic groups in Tulsa and in Oklahoma. We publish a monthly newsletter, "Das Deutsche Echo" and also provide a website that features our public events and various details about our Society.

The propagation and study of the German language and culture is one of our main objectives. In support of this, German-language classes were instituted two months after our founding. These classes are open to our members and to the general public. We are still offering two ten-week courses each year. Moreover, we established an annual high school essay contest, based on German issues or topics; additionally, we contribute to University scholarship funds each year.

(Continued on page 7)

## The GAST Sanger join National German Singing Organization

The GAST Sanger have joined the NORD-AMERIKANISCHER SANGEBUND. This is a national organization to promote German singing. It will provide us with new songs and ideas from other German choirs across the country. We have been placed in the St. Louis District, which includes choirs from St. Louis, Kansas City, Concordia and Cole Camp, Mo. We will be with all of these groups at the songfest at Cole Camp in June. We have been asked to sing six songs, while all the other choirs are allowed only three. The St. Louis choirs are excited about being in this group and want to hear from us for the first time. An honor for us!

The size of our choir entitles us to three voting delegates to the national convention and allows us to sing with the group. Our first opportunity for that will be in the summer of 2004, when we plan to travel to Peoria, Il., and sing in the national choir there.

We are excited and proud to represent GAST in this organization. I am proud to be the director of this choir and have a lot of fun doing it - most of the time! We have a great bunch of singers and they continue to teach me more German. Watch for more news about your choir in this newsletter. Rumor has it that new CDs are forthcoming!

—Leon Boggs, Director

*(Continued from page 6)*

In 1980, the most visible groups of GAST were established: the GAST Folk Dancers, and our choir, "Die GAST Sanger". Regular performances at festivals, in schools, churches, nursing homes and retirement centers have made them renowned in the city and across the state. Since our organization was indirectly created out of Tulsa's first Oktoberfest, GAST is involved as a major sponsor and active participant in this, one of the largest family festivals in the Midwest, which features big bands — Heilbronner Stadtkapelle, Egertaler Blaskapelle — as well as small Austrian and German musical groups. Other groups active within the society are the Speaker's Bureau, Elferrat, a literary discussion group and a needlework group. We also participate in Kid's World and conduct children's Easter and Christmas parties, as well as children's German-language lessons.

In 1981 we formed the German-American Society Arts Association, not for profit, tax-deductible corporation. As a function of the Arts Association, we held an evening of classical German music and poetry entitled "Heimweh," and hosted a 65-member German choral group from Krefeld. Since that time, our Arts Association has conducted at least one major cultural enrichment event each year.

We initiated "Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde" in 1983 as a program under the auspices of the Arts Association to encourage the use of the German language, as well as to foster cultural interests of our members. Anneliese Hardt began this series and served as its program chairman until her death. We also implemented a monthly German-language movie series during 1985 that continues today.

We formed the German-American Society Building Corporation in 1986, for the purpose of acquiring and operating a permanent meeting facility. In 1991, with the help of a generous benefactor, the Building Corporation completed the purchase of a beautiful building on historic 15th Street in Tulsa. This building serves as a home for our membership, and was christened: "The GAST Center". Since that time, renovation of the building has proceeded to improve facilities for our language classes, entertainment, speakers, meetings, and as home of the Dr. Albert and Hete Barthelmes Library. To offset the cost of operating the Center, we also lease it to the general public for meetings, parties and weddings.

GAST is a not for profit 501 (c)(4) social organization. German American Arts Association is a not for profit 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. Our income is primarily generated from our food booth sales during Oktoberfest, Mayfest, and Kids' World, donations and our annual Garage Sale. At this time, we are looking into the feasibility of establishing an endowment fund to ensure the viability of our organization for the long term.

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The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



# Das Deutsche Echo

June 2003

Jahrgang 24/6

## NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The Leasing Office is now accepting applications for the part-time position of Manager for the GAST Center Office. The position reports to the President of the GAST Building Corporation and coordinates closely with the Chairman of the Leasing Committee and other committee members. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Applicants should have office management experience, computer literacy, capability for prioritization and maintenance of office procedures, and the ability to interact with members of GAST as well as the public.

If you, or someone you know, meets these requirements and would be interested in this position, resumes should be mailed to the GAST Office at 1429 Terrace Drive, Tulsa, OK, 74104. Membership in the German-American Society of Tulsa is not required.

— **Lois Voeller**  
Leasing Committee

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