



Das Deutsche Echo

December 2003

Jahrgang 24/12



Christkindlmarkt

German-American Society Center
2301 East 15th Street (one block west of Lewis)

December 5, 6, 7

The GAST Center will once again be transformed into a Christmas Wonderland for our 4th annual Christkindlmarkt with authentic European and American crafts, foods and entertainment. We will have a puppet show and Spielstube (playroom) for the little ones.

Our own GAST food both will have a variety of Wurst (German sausages), Kartoffelpuffer (Potato pancakes), Hot Cider, Stollen (Christmas bread), Hot Chocolate and Coffee for sale. Harpist, Linda Paul, of the Rose Stone Trio and our own Blaskapelle will provide musical interludes. The Christkindl and St. Nikolaus will be present during the entire three days of the Festival to add to the atmosphere.

Come and join your friends and neighbors at the GAST Christkindlmarkt with its wonderful sights and sounds of Christmas, for an experience found at no other time of the year. Doors open from 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Friday, 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 Saturday and from Noon to 5:00 P.M. on Sunday.

GAST Christmas Party

With the GAST Center dressed in festive holiday style, we invite you to join us at our annual Weihnachtsfeier (Christmas celebration) Sat. Dec. 13, 2003. Social time will be at 6 p.m., dinner 6:30 p.m. The dinner menu is as follows:

Apricot stuffed porkloin
Mashed potatoes
Red cabbage
Bread & butter
Chocolate-covered cheese domes for dessert

Following dinner, Gene Hembree's band, "Music, Music, Music will play for your listening and dancing pleasure. The GAST Saenger will also sing favorite Christmas melodies. The cost for the evening will be \$15.00 per person for dinner and dance; \$7.50 dance only. Please make your reservations by calling the Message Center, 744-6998, no later than Wednesday Dec. 10, 2003. After you have made reservations and find you are unable to attend, please be courteous and cancel before Dec. 13. Thank you.

—Teresa Gallagher

What's happening at GAST?

Handarbeitsgruppe—Tuesdays, 10AM	Jan 23	Weinkellerabend	May 2	Konversationsrunde
Heinzelmännchen—Wednesdays, 10 AM	Feb 1	Sonntagskaffee	May 2	Sonntagskaffee
	Feb 8	Konversationsrunde	May 28	Weinkellerabend
Dec 5-7 Christkindlmarkt	Feb 21	Fasching party	Jun 6	Sonntagskaffee
Dec 13 Christmas Party	Feb 27	Weinkellerabend	Jun 25	Weinkellerabend
Dec 14 Adventsfeier	Mar 7	Sonntagskaffee	Jul 23	Weinkellerabend
Dec 21 Konversationsrunde	Mar 14	Konversationsrunde	Aug 1	Sonntagskaffee
Dec 31 New Years Eve Party	Mar 26	Weinkellerabend	Aug 27	Weinkellerabend
2004	Mar 27	Garage sale	Sep 24	Weinkellerabend
Jan 4 Sonntagskaffee	Apr 4	Sonntagskaffee	Nov 7	Sonntagskaffee
Jan 17 GAST Anniversary party	Apr 11	Konversationsrunde	Nov 26	Weinkellerabend
Jan 11 Konversationsrunde	Apr 23	Weinkellerabend		

This page is sponsored by GAST Members Paul and Hildegard Schaffrin

The President's Report to the Membership

Dear Members

I send you heartfelt Season's Greetings and wish you and your family the blessed peace and joy of Christmas time.

Oktoberfest preliminary reports are in. By comparison of our previous 4 years (leaving out the rain deluged 2002 festival) our income was less than expected but nonetheless it was successful.

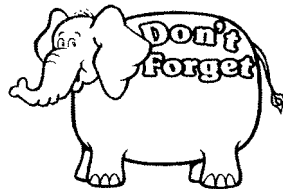
I would like to thank Mr Peter Komens of Lufthansa Technik, North American for his generous donation of 2 round trip tickets to Frankfurt, Germany. A thank you also goes to Lord Mayor of Celle Germany, Martin Biermann for his donation of 3 nights lodging in a Celle Hotel. These will be given away together during the GAST Anniversary Ball on January 17, 2004. Please look for details on page 7.

A donation has been made by GAST to the Philbrook Festival of Trees. They were given a Santa Nutcracker by Christian Ulbrecht that will be sold at auction during their annual Festival. With this we give back to the community some German tradition and culture and support Philbrook Museum of Arts.

Congratulations to the **GAST Sanger** for organizing and conducting a new event for GAST. Their Fundraiser Dinner was very successful. Who knows this could become a regular event and a new revenue stream for GAST. The public response was excellent. The entertainment by **Tom , Mike Stoops , GAST Sanger, GAST Folkdancers and GAST Blaskapelle** was great. There is a lot of additional talent within GAST that could be shared with the Society and the general public in the future. A Heimat-abend like this is so typical of Germany and provides a lot of fun and Gemutlichkeit. An event like this is best described as a casual evening reminiscent of being back in your homeland.

Members of GAST had an opportunity to enjoy an evening with Germany's new Counsul General from Houston. Herr Heiner Model attended an informal meeting with interested members and discussed German American relations, dual citizenship, Euro passports and answered member's questions on many topics. It was a pleasure to introduce him to GAST and give him an opportunity to become acquainted with GAST and our activities.

Echo Deadline is:
December 19



Christkindlmarkt is the first weekend in December. It is chaired by **Darlene and Charles Tegeler** and is the second largest fund raiser that GAST conducts. This will be our 4th year and hopefully will continue to grow through the efforts of extended committee and all you volunteers. Anyone wishing to be involved is welcome to contact the Chair.

The Youth outreach of GAST is thriving under the Chairmanship of **Rusty Seelye**. Congratulations, Rusty, on the involvement you are creating between GAST and the German language students in Tulsa area high schools. See page 4 for his report. There are now over 1400 students enrolled in these German language classes. Attendance at Rusty's activities has grown so much that our existing video Display equipment is inadequate. GAST is looking for means to fund the purchase of some new Video Projection equipment for about \$3000. If you are aware of any benefactor who might like to make such a donation and receive a tax deduction this year please let me know.

The General Membership meeting normally held during November has not been scheduled due to so many other activities during this period. We expect to schedule a General Membership meeting about the middle of January. At that time we will have a full

(Continued on page 4)

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Point

“During recent membership meetings and articles in the ECHO, the Reorganization Committee presented a proposal to reorganize the management structure of the German American Society of Tulsa. I have given the proposal much thought and have come to the conclusion that I cannot support the changes advocated by the Reorganization Committee. I have been an active member of the German-American Society of Tulsa since its early years and was elected as President of the German-American Society Arts Association (GASAA) again in the year 2000 after an extended absence due to a job transfer. I am familiar with and have participated in most activities of GAST and know what it takes to run the organization.

The Arts Association was founded in 1981 to serve the educational and cultural needs of the membership and the community. It is financed entirely by contributions, which are tax deductible to the donor under the IRS provisions of a 501 (C) (3) corporation. GASAA programs include the German language classes, Kinderdeutsch, Konversationsrunde, Lesegruppe, the Speaker’s Bureau, Adventsfeier and many musical programs. The officers of GASAA have regular contact with other area cultural organizations and have organized joined ventures with many of them.

Although none of that is supposed to change under the reorganization proposal, I cannot believe that it will be as effective with fewer elected officers dedicated to Arts. If anything, there is need for more people to be actively involved in the day-to-day activities of the organization. Elected officers and board members are committed to the goals of the Society and are accountable to the membership. The lively discussions during our board meetings are largely responsible for our success. I ask: Is efficiency of operation more important than diversity of opinion and settlement of differences in a democratic fashion?”

— Arnold Bieber

President, GAST Arts Asso.

Counterpoint

“This is to give the membership of GAST a short update about the status of the proposed changes to the organization of GAST.

We, the team, have almost completed the project. The president of GAST will call a membership meeting for Mid-or End of January to approve the by-laws changes of the organization. The Resolution for the by-laws will be sent to you before the meeting. The changes will only impact the GAST **organizations**, it will not impact the three 501-C **corporations**.

Since we realized that we still have members who might not see the improvements to GAST, I would just like to point out once more the impact to the Organization:

Currently we are working with three independent corporations. These corporations will not be impacted at all; they just will be under the one president. This will actually free up two active members for other projects. Another advantage: the president of GAST shouldn’t be too much involved in the GAST organizations’ daily business. This position should take care of the corporate activities including using finally our Endowment fund to generate a new Revenue flow.

We still will have three VP’s for the organization: for administration, for cultural and educational and for facilities. The functions like Language classes, Konversationsrunde, etc will still be handled by the same people. The Treasurer, the secretary and the board of directors have already been the same for years.

One very important point: operation of the GAST organization should be in the hands of the VP’s and even more important in the hands of the committee chairpersons with their teams.

These are people who really know the operation. They should have the responsibility for GAST.

(Continued on page 7)

Speaking German

Die
Deutsche
Konversations-
Runde

We thank **Gabi Richardson** for opening her beautiful home to us and providing great refreshments and to Doris Wicks for her most interesting presentation about Quebec city, Canada The next meeting will be on 21 December at 3 p.m. in the home of **Elfriede and Harry Rogers**, 4305 East 83rd St. (phone 481-1736). This is our annual Christmas meeting where we celebrate Christmas with traditional German songs and merriment.

Please feel free to bring any Christmas material that you have and wish to share with the group. As a special treat —if we have all been good— we might enjoy some Lebkuchen from Bamberg, Germany, Elfriede’s beloved hometown. I hope you will attend.

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 at 492-3273(Chair) or **Gertrud Schmidt** at 495-3727 (Co-chair).

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



The GAST Sanger

December Notes



While twinkling lights
Brighten the nights,
We know Christmas is near.

While the GAST Saenger are singing
Songs we hold dear
Towards the Heavens our voices will be winging.

Our December appearances will be four.
Here's what's in store.

Dec. 13 GAST Weihnachtsfeier
Dec. 14 GAST Adventsfeier
Dec. 18 Faith Lutheran Church, Owasso
Dec. 21 First United Methodist Church, Bristow

Get-well wishes to **Margaret Schmidt**.

Questions/Information
— **Teresa Gallagher**

Youth News

Our next youth event is Monday, December 8th at 6:30 PM and will be a movie night and Holiday Party. We will show "The Grinch" starring Jim Carey in German with English subtitles. We will serve holiday cookies, cakes, and refreshments.

Any member who would like to bake something for our youth holiday party, please call me at 742-8033 or the office. The students would really appreciate your efforts!

Our Youth Movie Nights and events continue to be a success. At our November movie we had 70 students. The room gets pretty full with an average attendance of 60-70 students and there is a need for a larger TV.

—**Rusty Seelye**
Youth Committee Chairman

(Continued from page 2)

report on Oktoberfest and other activities of GAST, present a resolution for re-organization and report on other proposed ideas.

Congratulations to the new **Elferrat Prinz and Prinzessin, Harry and Irmgard Runyon**. There were selected by the Elferrat to serve as the Prinz and Prinzessin of fun and foolishness thru the Fasching season that culminates with the Fasching party on February 21, 2004

We are still in need of a Party and Entertainment Chairperson to plan and organize 4 or 5 parties a year and co-ordinate with other groups on 4 or 5 other events. Be a part of "making things happen" instead of just talking about it.

Till next month,

— **Carol Wright**,

Jackie Cooper

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From the Arts President

On Friday, November 14, General Consul Heiner Model from the Houston German Consulate visited us and gave a very interesting speech on German-American Relations and recent changes to the German Social System. He also covered changes to passport and visa requirements and answered many questions from the members present at the informal meeting.

The next Arts event is our annual Adventsfeier on Sunday, December 14, 3:00 PM at the GAST Center. The non-denominational service will be held entirely in German with a pastor from Celle, Germany, officiating. The GAST Choir will sing many of your favorite German Christmas Carols. The public is invited. Your donations are appreciated and will be donated to Meals on Wheels.

At this time I would like to thank the many contributors and volunteers who helped make the ARTS programs possible. We have a great organization of which I am proud to be a member. I hope we can keep it a vital part of the community.

Happy Holidays to All.

— Arnold Bieber



German-language Movies

An Erwin Jerchau Presentation

NOW PLAYING AT THE GAST THEATER:



Monday December 1, starting at 6:30 PM
Weinachten in den Bergen 3
Die Schönsten Lieder zum Fest.

Starting at 7:30 PM
Die Csardas - Fürstin
Starring: Vera Schönenberg,
Ferdinand von Bothmer,
Kersten Grotrian and Markus Welba.

GAST Folkdancers

The GAST folk dance group finished the Fall season with a finale at the Nov. 8 GAST Sänger Dinner/ Heimatabend. A small but enthusiastic dance group presented two short sets to GAST members and a warm public audience in the beautifully-decorated Grand Hall.

Our performances are complete for this season. We will begin again near the middle of January 2004. Watch next month's ECHO for date and time.

Anyone interested in joining the folk dancers is welcome. Contact the Message Center at 744-6997 if you have any questions.

—Jill Hammer Schaffrin

TCC Teacher Position

I am writing to ask your support and assistance to justify the need for a full-time German/French instructor at TCC. While this position is roughly 80% German and 20% French, it provides the major advocate for the German language at TCC. The full-time position which Barbara Taron left has not been filled. There is some talk of eliminating this TCC position entirely. While the Celle Sister city group still has Barbara's help, there is not a strong representative from TCC. Barbara Taron built up interest while she was at TCC, but that will soon dwindle if her position is not filled.

Letters from your organization to encourage TCC to fill the full-time German/French position may be beneficial. These letters can be sent to Dr. John Kontogianes, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Tulsa Community College, 6111 E. Skelly Dr., Tulsa, OK 74135.

The letters might contain:

- An indication of TCC's responsibility to the community because of the tremendous number of German activities in Tulsa;
- Tulsa's large population with German heritage and the need to provide children with the opportunity to study German in college;
- The Celle Sister City activities which warrants TCC's involvement;
- The opportunity for student exchanges with Celle;
- The fact that German is one of the three top languages studied at the college level;
- Tulsa has companies that have a basis or are associated with German speaking countries;
- The study of German helps English-speaking students with the study of English since both languages are derived from Old German;
- The strong connection with German speaking countries and economic development in Oklahoma;
- The fact that Germany is one of the big world powers;
- Tulsa regional high schools have German programs which feed into TCC.

Thank you again for your support.

Dr. Laura Walker, Dean Global Education & International Language Center
Tulsa Community College
6111 E. Skelly Dr.
Tulsa, OK 74135

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you, from the GAST Kitchen!

As you have heard by now, our GAST Sanger Fund-raising Dinner was a big success! An extra big **"Thank You"** to our member **Ludger Schulz from Ludger's Catering** for donating all the Sauerkraut and cheesecake; Member **Siegi Sumaruk from Siegi's Sausage Factory** for donating all the Nurnberger Bratwurst and lending us his professional electric grill to cook on.

Also, thanks to member **Elam Blank from The Amish Kitchen** for donating the potatoes, onions, plates and his time for the entire afternoon and evening. **Erica Hartman**, my right arm, you are always there. Vielen Dank to all of you for your generosity.

Thanks to you, our dinner was even more profitable than planned and needless to say, we are much closer to getting to our destination, **"Peoria, ILL"** next year.

Special thanks to the GAST Dancers, **Hannelore and Jim Giles** and our own Blaskapelle for contributing to a fun evening. The GAST SANGER are grateful.

– Irmgard Toschik

Elferrat News

The Elferrat met on Nov. 11th for the Coronation of Prinz Harry I (Runyon) and Prinzessin Irmgard II to signify the beginning of Fasching 2004.

On Nov. 13th, the Elferrat appeared before the City Council of Tulsa. Prinz Harry I and Prinzessin Irmgard II presented our proclamation declaring the beginning of Fasching in the City Of Tulsa. The City Council was very receptive to the proclamation.

Please reserve February 21, 2004 for our Fasching Party and Costume Contest.

Be sure to attend one of the best parties of the year.

– Harold Wicks, Chairman

Helau

Helau

Helau

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

Bill Fox (Greensburg, PA)
Marcia K. Fox (Russell, KS)
9413 So. Urbana Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74137
Tel. 492-7981

**German-American Society
Arts Association Giveaway.**

**Win 2 round trip economy tickets to Frankfurt,
Germany, via Lufthansa Airlines
Donated by Lufthansa Technik, North America
Plus 3 nights Hotel in Celle, Germany
Donated by Lord Mayor of Celle, Germany,
Martin Biermann**

*(Being offered to Members, Families
and Friends of GAST.)*

- Fly from any U.S. hub of Lufthansa Airlines
- Winner responsible for transportation to hub and taxes, tariffs, etc.
- Must be over 21 years of age.
- Ticketing by July, 17, 2004 – (No changes once issued.)
- Not valid for Christmas or New Years
- Winner announced
at the GAST Anniversary Ball, **January 17, 2004**

• **Donation \$10.00
and receive an iron-on GAST logo**

Members needed to help sell tickets.

*To purchase a ticket or help sell them please call the
GAST office 744-6997*



Lufthansa Technik

Stammtisch Special!

Because of Christkindlmarkt at the GAST Haus,
come join the guys at an unofficial Stammtisch at **Rob
Mitchell's house**, Friday, December 5th at 6:30 pm.
1339 S. Florence Place, phone 747- 5150. Prost!

— Dean Butler



St. Nicholas Is Coming to Town!

On Saturday, December 13, St. Nicholas has indicated he will be visiting the Weinkeller from 1:00 P.M. to 2:30 P.M. to check on GAST children and determine if they have been naughty or nice.

PLEASE BE SURE TO MAKE RESERVATIONS, SO ST. NICHOLAS' HELPERS WILL INCLUDE A GIFT FOR YOUR CHILD. You can make your reservations in the following way by calling the Message Center at 744-6998 by Wednesday,

December 10 or by e-mailing me at ursulagabriele@cox.net, or if you miss the December 10 deadline, by calling me at home at 743-4353.

VERY IMPORTANT: When making your reservation, please include: Child's name / Child's age / information that will help St. Nicholas when he speaks with your child.

In Germany, children are expected to either sing a song or recite a poem to St. Nick. Parents provide information that St. Nick may use to make the children feel he knows them personally. Generally, a good deed they did during the year, sometimes a not so good deed.

We ask you please bring a plate of cookies to share with St. Nicholas and all assembled.

St. Nicholas told me that GAST children are one of his favorite world-tour stops. Hope to see you and your children there.

— Uschi Mueller

(Continued from page 3)

We heard concerns such as we are taking titles away, one president can not run the entire organization, etc. We strongly believe that that we will have more people in decision-making positions than we ever had. All positions on the chart are elected positions. The assignment of committee chairs should be a function of the respective VP. An organization like GAST does need a review of the structure every once in a while. Times are changing and therefore adjustments are necessary. Now, I am not a newcomer in this organization. I have been a member since 1983, on the board for about 10 years and I was also president of GAST for four years. I do know the organization.

Outside of GAST I was in management position half of my life. The last company I worked for 22 years, was a very progressive company, especially progressive in organizational structuring. And they were, and still are, a very successful company."

— Claus Greiner
Chair of GAST Organization Team

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The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



Das Deutsche Echo

December 2003

Jahrgang 24/12



On January 1, 2004, **Lois and Al Voeller** will have been married for 50 years. The Voellers have been active members of the German American Society of Tulsa for many years. Both have given countless hours of volunteer service to the organization; they are current members of the Leasing Committee and the Elferrat. Lois also serves as a Trustee of the Endowment Fund and is a member of the Cultural & Educational Committee.

On November 15, their 6 children, 14 grandchildren and one great-grandchild treated them to an Anniversary Party in the German American Society Great Hall.

Congratulations, Lois and Al, we wish you many more years of health and happiness.

The Elferrat and
The German American Society of Tulsa

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