



It's Party Time at the GAST Center!

You are cordially invited to help us celebrate our own

Oktoberfest

Saturday, October 30, 2004 at the GAST Center.

Social hour begins at 6:00 PM 'till 6:30 - Dinner will be served at 6:30

The Karl Waldbauer Polka Band will play for us from 7:30 - 10:30,
and the GAST Dancers will perform for us.

The Menu:

Schnitzel, Bratkartoffeln (home fries),
red cabbage, bread and butter,
carrot cake.

Admission:

Dinner and Dance for all Oktoberfest Volunteers:	\$10
Dinner and Dance for Non-Volunteers:	\$15
Dance only:	\$10

For Reservations please call the GAST Message Center at 744-6998 no later than Wednesday, October 27.
If you later find that you will be unable to attend, please be sure to cancel your reservation. Thanks.

—**Helga Greiner**, Chair

GAST Happenings

Sep 24	Weinkellerabend	Dec 19	Konversationsrunde	Apr 29	Germanfest begins
Oct 3	German-American Day	2005		May 15	Konversationsrunde
Oct 10	Konversationsrunde	Jan 9	Konversationsrunde		
Oct 30	Oktoberfest Party	Jan 15	25th Anniversary Party		
Nov 7	Sonntagskaffee	Feb 5	Fasching Party		
Nov 13	Elferrat party	Feb 13	Konversationsrunde		
Nov 14	Konversationsrunde	March 5	Wine Tasting		
Nov 20	Heimatabend	Mar 13	Konversationsrunde		
Nov 26	Weinkellerabend	Apr 9	Soup/Western Party		
Dec 11	Christmas Party	Apr 10	Konversationsrunde		

...from the GAST President



Do you remember this couple? **Pete and Kate Weiss**, they had the Band we used to call the GAST band. **Kate Weiss**, 75 years old, passed away a couple of weeks ago. She was in a Nursing Home in Tulsa and she was buried next to her husband at the Floral Haven Cemetery in Broken Arrow. Another member passed away recently: **Charles “Chuck” McCarty, MD**. He was only 58 years old. He was one of our more passive members in the organization. We will keep the deceased and their families in our prayer.

Our last Weinkeller on August 27th had a record attendance. 74 people joined us. This is getting close to the attendance of the parties in our big hall. Unfortunately, some of our “Weinkeller friends” did not get any food anymore. We just did not expect this turn out. It isn’t easy to estimate the attendance but we will do our best that this does not happen anymore.

We did hold our annual Ice Cream Social on Labor Day Sunday. Since it was a Holiday weekend we weren’t sure how many people we could expect. But to our surprise we had 84 visitors who joined us in our very nicely decorated Weinkeller to celebrate Labor Day with us. This event was planned and put on by our new Party committee.

The next “big” Party will be our own GAST Oktoberfest Party. Remember: last year we decided to charge the same price for the party no matter if you worked at the Oktoberfest or not. Well, we revised this decision this year. People who volunteered at the Oktoberfest will pay only \$10; non-Volunteers will pay \$15. Dance only will not change.

I am getting a lot of questions why we do not have shirts with the GAST Logo anymore. Well, let us know if you are interested. If there is enough interest we will make them available again... shouldn’t be a big deal.

We may see a new group starting to form in GAST. We are trying to fill a gap in our GAST events. This group would like to meet with young families in our organization, families who normally feel out of place at our normal events such as the big Parties, Weinkellerabend, Sonntagskaffee, etc. Look for the special notice in this issue.

Das Deutsche Echo

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Did you already receive your call to sign up for one (or more) shifts as a volunteer at the upcoming Oktoberfest? **Bea Shults** is currently recruiting workers for Oktoberfest. Please be generous with your time and keep in mind that this is still our biggest fundraiser for the organization.

I still haven’t received enough recommendations to my question to you what we can do to ensure that this organization will be around for a long time. In a brainstorming session there are no “bad” ideas! “Please “keep ‘em coming!”

—Claus Greiner

Echo Deadline is: October 15

...from the Arts President

On Sunday, October 3 at 3:00 PM, the German-American Society of Tulsa will celebrate German American Day. In 1987 the United States Congress established October 6 as German American Day by Joint Resolution 273 in recognition of the many contributions made by German immigrants to the development and growth of this country. It was signed by then President Ronald Reagan. We at GAST always celebrate on the first Sunday in October. This year it happens to fall on German Unity Day, which was established in the Federal Republic of Germany after reunification in 1990.

Our speaker this year will be retired Professor of German and Humanities Christiane Faris from the Oklahoma City University on the subject of "Historical German Immigration to Oklahoma". This program is funded in part by the Oklahoma Humanities Council (OHC) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). However, any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of OHC or NEH. See elsewhere in this issue for details.

Our **GAST Blaskapelle** will play an active part in this year's program. They have been practicing hard and are ready to entertain us with the anthems and a selection of German musical favorites.

The program is free (donations are gratefully accepted) and open to the public. As always, we will have refreshments and a chance to meet new people. Please invite your family, friends and neighbors.

Kids' World, a Children's International Festival will be held November 4 – 7 in the Upper Level of the IPE Building at Expo Square. GAST will participate again in cooperation with the Tulsa-Celle Partnership of Tulsa Global Alliance. Volunteers are needed for all shifts. Please contact **Jutta Tankersley** or the GAST Office for information and sign-up.

On November 14 , **Barbara Conrad** will lead a delegation of members and friends to Fort Reno, OK for a Volkstrauertag ceremony to honor German POWs buried there. Please contact Barbara if you would like to participate.

—Arnold Bieber

Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde

At our first Konversationsrunde for this season, we had a great turnout and shared some interesting travel stories from everyone at the home of **Fred & Irene Rother**. Thank you, Fred & Irene for your hospitality.

For our next meeting, will meet at 3 PM on October 10 in the home of **Claus and Helga Greiner** who live at 509 E. Winston Circle, Broken Arrow, phone 455-3096. We will have an opportunity to view a fantastic video presentation, by Claus, with commentary by Helga, about their recent trip to Brazil.

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)

—Barbara Conrad

German-American Day Celebration

Please join us in the GAST Center for our annual German-American Day celebration on Sunday, October 3, 2004, commencing at 3 PM.

Our keynote speaker, *Christiane Faris*, Professor of German and Humanities, retired, will enlighten us with the topic:

Historical German Immigration to Oklahoma

The German-American Society's Blaskapelle (Brass Band)
will provide musical interludes,
Followed by a reception.



This program is funded in part by the Oklahoma Humanities Council (OHC) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of OHC or NEH.

Donations to defray costs gratefully accepted

Memorial Gift in loving memory of Guenter Roepel

have been received from:

Mr. & Mrs. Siggi Grimm,
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Giles
Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Bieber

Our **Student Oktoberfest Party** will be held on Monday, November 1, 2004 at 6:30 PM at the GAST Center. We will be serving an authentic German meal, games, prizes, and German Dancing!

—Rusty Seelye
Student Committee

All German-Soccer Fans!



We will show: "**Highlights from Bundesliga Soccer**" from our satellite German television on Monday, October 11th at 6:30 PM. Come and see the latest action from your favorite German Soccer team!

The German-TV committee



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

Wanna work Oktoberfest?

Busy Bea Shults
is managing the work schedule.

Give her a call to sign up!

Call Bea at 445-7716

And do it now!



Ice Cream on my mind...

Pictures courtesy Claus Greiner

Please visit our fine Sponsors

who help support the publication of
Das Deutsche Echo

Are you interested in forming a Playgroup/Group for young families?

My name is **Rita Zannotti**. Recently, my family and I moved from Boston to Tulsa. I am a stay-at-home mom and have two boys who are 3 years and 17 months old. We used to belong to a Playgroup in Boston. The mothers could talk and relax with a cup of coffee/tea and the kids would have fun playing with each other.

It's Stammtisch Time!

Have a Chat, have a Bier,
come join us at the Stammtisch here.
Friday Oct. 1, Starting at 6:30 PM

Zum Wohl,

—Dann Björklund, Chair

I would love to belong to a Playgroup again, English and/or German speaking. It is a great way to meet a lot of great people. Occasionally, the whole families would meet on a weekend day and socialize and play. We used to keep the German traditions alive which everybody enjoyed, for example: St. Martin (sing songs and walk around with a lantern), Mardi Gras, St. Nikolaus, etc.

Are you interested?

Please give me a call at 488-9173.



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GAST Sanger News



We are very excited and grateful to GAST for their support of our trip to Peoria to participate in the 58th National Sangerfest. Thank you, GAST Board

and members for your support and your faith in our future that made this wonderful, inspiring experience possible. We will work hard to continue to earn your trust in us and make GAST proud of its Folksingers. Our appreciation to **Leon Boggs** for his years of service to the Choir, we learned much from him and do appreciate his effort on our behalf.

The excitement from our trip has not worn off. We found that we are able to sing many more pieces and varied music through our association with the St. Louis District in the past and the Saengerfest this year. Much hard work is being put in to new and old songs under the direction of our new Choir Director **Susan Burch**. Weekly practice has started, every Thursday from 7 to 9 PM. We invite anyone who is interested in vocal music to join us. Just show up on Thursday's at 7 PM and we will pull up a chair, give you music and welcome you with open arms.

Work on our Heimatabend program, which is scheduled for November 20th, is well on it's way. The Choir, Folkdancers, Children Dancers and our own Blaskapelle will entertain GAST members and guests with an evening of **Musical Memories of Germany**. It promises to be an exiting event of good food and entertainment. We hope you will be able to join us.

On a high note,

—**Irmgard Runyon**

We welcome these new members to the GAST Family

Oktober 2004

Donald E. Boyd (OK)
1310 S. Lewis Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74104-4400
Tel. 749-2404

Elisabeth Gammache (IL)
7759 S. Memorial Apt. 7307
Tulsa, OK 74133
Tel. 918-671-8295

Kurt & Ursula Jablonski (Germany)
313 N. Cedar Street
Jenks, OK 74037
Tel. 296-0662

Robert Wandres(MASS)
Pamela Wandres(OK)
2501 S. Boston PL.
Tulsa, OK 74114
Tel. 584-1051

Christel Harms has moved ,
here's her new address:

Christel Harms
7107 Curtis Drive
O'Fallon, MO. 63366
Tel. 636-294-0661

Elferrat Coronation Dinner

The Elferrat invites GAST members to attend the dinner for our Prinz and Prinzessin for Fasching 2005.

A coronation ceremony will formally announce the royal couple. The date is Saturday, November 13.

Please look for details (place, time, cost) in the November issue of the Echo.

—**Harold Wicks,**
Elferrat chair

This page is sponsored by **Arnold & Gwen Bieber**

The back page is sponsored by **Kenneth Renberg**



Ingrid and Siggie Grimm introducing our new choir director:

Susan Burch

to the attendees at the last Weinkellerabend

With an upcoming concert in November and a busy Christmas season ahead, the Choir started early with rehearsals under the leadership of our new Director.

Susan Burch is well-qualified with a BA from OU in music and a Masters from OU in Education. She is certified in vocal, general and instrumental music. She currently teaches at Bell Elementary. Her husband is a musical director and their four sons are also active in the musical field.

—Siggie Grimm



Photo by Claus Greiner

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