



## Twenty-five Years of GAST in Tulsa



50,000 well-earned calories



President Claus Greiner with our GAST Founders



President Claus Greiner with Director's Award winners Hannelore and Jim Giles



President Claus Greiner introduces Miss Tulsa, Rachael Poling

### GAST Happenings

Handarbeitsgruppe Tuesdays at 10 AM	Feb 13	Konversationsrunde	Mar 13	Konversationsrunde	Apr 29	Germanfest begins
Jan 28 Weinkeller	Feb 15	German classes begin	Apr 1	Stammtisch	May 15	Konversationsrunde
Jan 29 Kinderdeutsch	Feb 20	Concert	Apr 1-2	Garage Sale	May 27	Weinkeller
Feb 4 Stammtisch	Feb 25	Weinkeller	Apr 3	Sonntagskaffee	Jun 3	Stammtisch
Feb 5 Fasching Party	Mar 4	Stammtisch	Apr 9	Soup/Western Party	Jun 5	Sonntagskaffee
Feb 6 Sonntagskaffee	March 5	Wine Tasting	Apr 10	Konversationsrunde	Jun 24	Weinkeller
Feb 8 Trans-Euro party	March 6	Sonntagskaffee	Apr 17	Alpine Concert	Jul 1	Stammtisch
			Apr 22	Weinkeller		

## ...FROM THE GAST PRESIDENT

GAST just celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a great party in the GAST Center. The turnout for this party was unusually high compared with previous Anniversary Parties. Maybe the 25 years of existence did it.

Some native-born Germans, inspired by the first Oktoberfest held in Tulsa, founded the German-American Society. The first President of this new ethnic organization, **Josef Hardt**, held this job for three years. Eight different Presidents served during this "Quarter of a Century". Some of them served in office for only one term (1 year), but the majority of Presidents served more than one year. Some of us served more than once.

The Board of Directors presented their annual Directors' award to **Hannelore and Jim Giles** for their ongoing support of GAST and their ongoing promotion of the German Heritage. Thank you again, Hannelore and Jim.

The President's award this year went to the Founding Members of our Organization. These are:

**Dorothea Heit; Ursula & Ted Castle**

**Barbara & Stan Conrad; Ludwig Obermaier;**

**Josef Hardt; Irmgard & John Toschik.**

Also, as every year, we awarded prizes for the essays submitted to us from students of area High Schools, that

offer German Language Classes. We received a record 90 entries this year.

Part of the program for this Anniversary Ball was a well-received performance of the reigning Miss Tulsa, Rachael Poling, a very talented Performing Arts Student at ORU.

I also would like to thank the Party Committee for all their work to make this one of our more elegant parties. Thank you very much.

This was just the most recent activity of GAST. Many other things are going on in the organization.

Did you see our new sign just above the Main Entrance? It does look good.

Also painting around the building on the outside has been done and will continue at the inside very soon. Quite a few maintenance projects are planned for this year to keep the Building in shape.

The next big event will be the Fasching Party on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005, arranged and coordinated by the Elferrat of GAST.

Our next annual Membership Meeting will be held on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005. This is the meeting in which the officers and half of the directors will be up for election. We will also update you on ongoing projects. Please put this date on your calendar.

If you don't receive your Echo by electronic mail yet you need to try that. It's in color and it looks great. Just let the webmaster know you would like to receive an electronic copy of the ECHO.

—Claus Greiner

**Echo Deadline is:  
Saturday, February 12**

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GAST Web page <http://www.gastulsa.org>

### Message Center - 744-6998

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## Garage Sale

We now have firm dates for the annual Arts Association garage sale. It will be held on Friday and Saturday 1-2 April 1-2 with details to follow. Don & Carol Wright have graciously donated some warehouse space, which should expedite preparations for this vital fund-raiser. Please keep us in mind as you rearrange your closets after the holidays to accommodate some gifts that you really don't know what to do with them.

—Barbara Conrad

## *...from the Arts President*

I very much appreciate the generous response from the membership to my recent letter asking for donations to keep the ARTS programs going in 2005. You may not know that only \$1 of your annual membership fee goes to support the Arts Association and none of the money earned at GAST fundraisers is currently used for activities of the Arts Association. However, without those fundraisers (Oktoberfest, Germanfest, Christkindlmarkt) we would not have such a beautiful facility in which to hold our events. The cost of maintaining the GAST Center (repairs, utilities, insurance, security, etc.) is mostly underwritten by the German-American Society of Tulsa. But we all benefit from it, and we are grateful for the volunteers that make it all possible.

Our next musical event is a piano concert by Carson Wagner on Sunday, February 20 (see separate article in this issue of the ECHO). Hopefully, it will not be necessary to postpone the event due to bad weather, but just in case, we are reserving the building for the following Sunday. When in doubt, call the Message Center at 744-6998 on the morning of February 20.

The start of **Kinderdeutsch** and **Conversational German Language Classes** are also announced in this issue of the ECHO. Please take advantage of the opportunity to pre-enroll to secure a spot in the adult language classes. We don't like to turn anyone away, but space is limited, and the classes have grown in popularity.

Are your closets, garages and attics full of items you haven't used in years? We can help you and you can help us raise some additional funds. Our annual garage sale is April 1-2. See details below.

Sunday, April 17, is the date reserved for another Alpine Concert at the GAST Center. A group of 19 Swiss Yodelers, called "Echo vom Bodensee" will entertain us. **Barbara Conrad** is forming a sub-committee and may be calling you to host one or two of our visitors. Watch for details in the next ECHO and on the GAST website ([www.gastulsa.org](http://www.gastulsa.org)).

—Arnold Bieber

## Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde

The last meeting at the Conrad's was well attended and Kathrin, a Duisburg Gesellschaft young professional exchange student gave us an interesting perspective on the differences between the German and American workplaces. A lively and informative discussion followed with many questions and answers. The next meeting will be at 3 PM on Sunday, February 12 at the home of **Ortwin and Gertrud Schmidt** 5133 East 86th Place (telephone # 495-3727). Gertrud will be our speaker and will describe the history of life on the plains. Gertrud has been a docent at Gilcrease Museum for a number of years and will share with us some history that has been one of her lifelong interests. Please note that children have a number of activities within GAST in which they can participate and the fact that most participating homes have a limited amount of space. **We must therefore request that attendance at the Konversationsrunde be limited to adults only. We thank you in advance for your understanding.**

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 Society of Tulsa (GAST)**

President	Claus Greiner	455-3096
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**Memorial Donation**

A gift to the Memorial Fund has been made  
by **John Millar**  
In loving memory of:

**Gunther Roepel, Franz Harms  
and Jim Dittus.**

**Weinkellerabend**

Our next event will be held on Friday, February  
26th starting at 5:30 PM  
We hope you will be able to join us.

—**Helga and Claus Greiner**

PS: If you have never attended before - please do  
come and see what many other members have come  
to enjoy. A light dinner and drinks - German beer,  
wine, soft drinks - are offered on a donation basis.

**Sonntagskaffee**



**Please come and enjoy our first Sonntagskaffee in 2005 on February 6,  
from 3 - 5 PM in the GAST Weinkeller.**

With Christkindlmarkt and New Year's behind us, the Weinkeller is finally available again and we look forward to seeing many of you again. If you have never attended a Sonntagskaffee before, please do come and share a very German tradition with us. Get to know some GAST members over a good cup of coffee or tea and enjoy a piece or two or three of home-baked cake from our cake buffet while you listen to some soft background music of Vienna Waltzes. You will also appreciate the real tablecloths, the fresh flowers and the "real" china.

**The Coffee Team: Helga Greiner, Fred Rother, Barbara Hunsberger, Helen Cohea**

### KUDOS

Do you know how many dedicated Party Committee Members it takes to enable all of us to come and enjoy a great evening like our recent Anniversary Party?

I wish to take this opportunity to thank my Committee Members for their help. You are all just wonderful to work with. All your efforts and inputs are very much appreciated. Thank you.

—Helga Greiner  
Party Committee Chair

### Eassay Contest Winners

**This year we had 90 entries in the High School Essay Contest!**

Congratulations to the winners.

First Place - Kathrin Bartsch, Memorial H.S.

Second Place - Shelbie Bartlett, Broken Arrow H.S.

Third Place - Blake McMahon, Memorial H.S.

Forth Place - Sammie McCrary, Bixby H.S.

A special thank you to our judges, **Barbara Conrad, Jutta Tankersley, and Doris Wicks.**

—Rusty Seelye, Chair

### Love is:



Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving Cologne and they go out and smell each other.

Kari- age 5



### 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



### Now Playing at the GAST Theater

*An Erwin Jerchau Presentation*



Monday February 7  
Starting at 6:30 PM

**Jubiläumsfest der Volksmusik**



Starting at 7:30 PM  
**Drei Gauner, ein Baby und die Liebe**  
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## KINDERDEUTSCH

**starts Saturday, January 29, 10 to 11:45 AM.**

Please bring your children or grandchildren to enroll in this wonderful program for children 4 to 12 years old. They will learn German words and conversational phrases, songs and dances and are rewarded with cookies and juice afterwards.

The cost is still only \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members for eight Saturdays, weather permitting. Additional children in a family will get a \$5 discount.

## GAST Choir News

After a short rest from practice, the choir will take up regularly scheduled rehearsals starting February 10th. at 7:00 PM. in the Weinkeller.

Plans are underway for our annual trip to Cole Camp. If you have ever thought about singing with us, now is the time. We will start a new program of some old and some new songs. We are not the Mormon Tabernacle—yet , together we can have fun, great fellowship and make a pretty good sound.

See you February 10th at 7:00 PM in the Weinkeller.  
—Irmgard Runyon



## Trans Euro Mix Party

February 8, 2005 from 9 PM to midnight.. Members and their guests (18 and over) are invited to enjoy snacks and drinks while we rotate German language videos and CDs.

Feel free to bring along snacks, CDs, games or entertainment you'd like to share. Anyone needing further info, please contact me at seafury@gmail.com or 292-5177.

—Greg Bernhagen

## We welcome these new members to the GAST Family

Februar 2005

Larry & Miriam Benzel (USA)  
8260 S. 73rd E. Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74133  
Tel. 307-1178

Christa Cherny (Eschwege/ Germany)

6712 S. Lewis #102  
Tulsa, OK 74136-4035  
Tel. 481-3664

Carole & David Harber (CA)  
1350 E. 26th Place  
Tulsa, OK 74104  
Tel. 748-8205

Ed Westenhiser (USA)  
12135 E. 37th St.  
Tulsa, OK 74146  
Tel. 664-4959

Helmut Kurt Engelke  
Sandra Engelke (IA)  
10804 E. 115th Street So.  
Bixby, OK 74008  
Tel. 369-3402

### Membership

By now everyone should have received their yearly membership statement. Please proofread and return with proper payment as soon as possible. Note that we are taking a survey on how you would like to receive your Echo in the future.  
Thank you and Tschuess,

—Irmgard Toschik  
Membership Chair

## Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

Our spring classes for beginning and returning students will start on February 15. We will meet every Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. for 10 weeks.

Enrollment on February 15 will begin at 6:15 PM course fee is \$55 for members and \$65 for non-members, plus books or learning aids as needed.

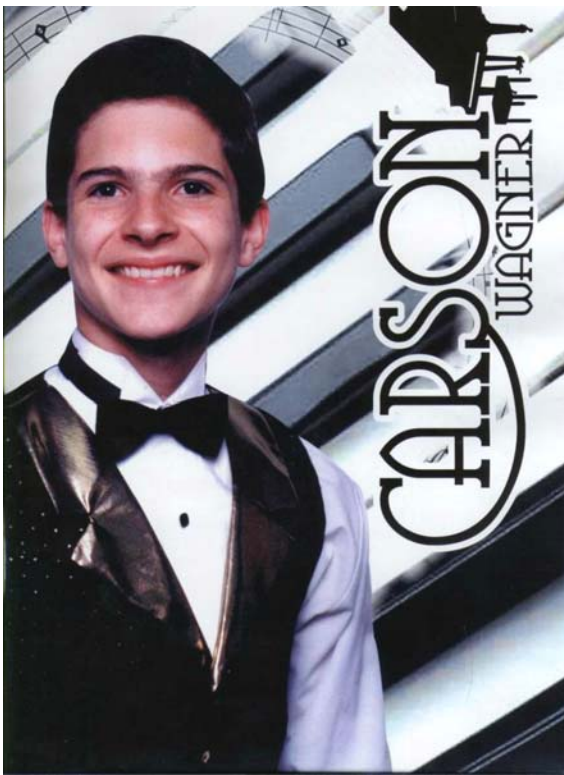
Because we have to limit class size, we are offering our members a pre-enrollment option by mail this year. Send a note to the office indicating which class level (I, II, III or conversation) you wish to enroll in and enclose a check.

My fellow teachers and I are looking forward to seeing you.

—Marianne Strong

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



## Carson Wagner returns to the GAST Center on Sunday, February 20, 3:00 PM

Sixteen-year old Carson will perform a variety piano concert, to include classical music, jazz, patriotic songs and show-time melodies. This young talented musician is well-known in the community. He has been featured on Channel 6 "Six in the Morning" and on KRMG radio. He has played at the OK Mozart International Music Festival, the Spartanburg (South Carolina) Choral Festival, Tulsa Mayfest and for civic groups and churches.

Please invite your friends and neighbors to this free concert. Refreshments will be served after the concert and you will have a chance to meet this young performer. A video and several of his CDs will be available for sale.

Donations to defray expenses are appreciated.



Youth Activity Chair, Rusty Seelye, presents Essay Contest Winners' awards at the GAST Anniversary Party.





PARTY

FASCHING

German-American Society of Tulsa

5th of February 2005  
7:00 PM

SNACKS

REFRESHMENTS



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GAST Center

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RSVP at 744-6998  
by 2 February 2005



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Prinzessin Gwen I say ...

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