



Hula Hula Hands



Wagons Ho

## Picnic Pix



A New Paint Job



Can I come a little closer?



Tom, the Music Man

Pictures, courtesy of Arnold Bieber

## GAST Happenings

Handarbeitsgruppe Tuesdays at 10 AM	Sep 23 Weinkeller	Dec 31 Weinkeller	May 7 Sonntagskaffee
Jun 24 Weinkeller	Sep 25 Piano Festival	<b>2006</b>	May 26 Weinkeller
Jul 1 Stammtisch	Oct 2 Sonntagskaffee	Jan 14 Anniversary Party	Jun 4 GAST picnic
Jul 22 Weinkeller	Oct 9 Germ-American Day	Jan 27 Weinkeller	Jun 23 Weinkeller
Aug 5 Stammtisch	Oct 27 Piano Festival	Feb 5 Sonntagskaffee	Jul 28 Weinkeller
Aug 7 Sonntagskaffee	Oct 29 Oktoberfest Party	Feb 24 Weinkeller	Aug 6 Sonntagskaffee
Aug 26 Weinkeller	Nov 6 Sonntagskaffee	Feb 26 Piano Festival	Aug 25 Weinkeller
Sep 2 Stammtisch	Nov 25 Weinkeller	Mar 5 Sonntagskaffee	Sep 3 Ice Cream Social
Sep 4 Ice Cream Social	Dec 2-4 Christkindlmarkt	Mar 24 Weinkeller	Sep 22 Weinkeller
	Dec 10 Christmas Party	April 2 Piano Festival	Oct 1 Sonntagskaffee

## ...FROM THE GAST PRESIDENT



We just had our Picnic 2005. It was the biggest Picnic in the history of GAST. What a turn out with 139 adults and 19 children attending!

Our thanks go to the **Giles Family** for hosting this event at their Ranch. The new May Queen, **Angelique McLaurin**, did a great job entertaining the kids. The weather cooperated also -

what more would you want for a Picnic.

**Today** I would like to address a special issue regarding parties and social functions. As you will all agree the GAST membership dues are very reasonable compared to any other organization. However, that is the reason why our members have to be prepared to be asked for help with our fund raising projects. In return, GAST has always offered all workers a discount on a specific party. I feel, that we have reached a point where we should make a few changes.

It has been suggested that GAST awards all event workers with a special dinner at NO CHARGE. That is how the many building hosts are being "compensated" by

**Now always on the Wednesday after  
the Board meeting**

**Echo Deadline is:  
Wednesday, July 20**

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the Leasing Committee. There should then be no further discounts at the regular parties.

**I would** like to bring up another issue, related to this subject. GAST members have the opportunity to sing in the GAST Choir, play with our Blaskapelle or join our Dancers. GAST provides a place to meet and practice as well as professional instructors. In return those groups are expected to perform at certain GAST functions.

**Unfortunately**, it has happened in the past, that members of these groups requested special favors for their performance/participation. I don't think most of our members are aware that there are quite a few people in this organization who keep GAST going and put in a lot of time, miles and even overseas phone calls. Our members just get to enjoy the results of those selfless people who have never considered asking for any discounts or reimbursements. If you are a GAST member – please be proud to contribute your share!

**In** discussions with other "German-type" organizations, I hear that we are looked at from the outside as one of the most active German-American Societies in the US. Think about it: there are many organizations like us in America, most of them were founded long before we even thought about starting GAST. A lot of those ethnic German clubs are in areas where a lot more people of German decent live. Some of them are struggling to maintain their membership. We have only been in existence for 25 years and we have been able to even grow our membership.

Reasons I see for this achievement: our biggest asset are our members, our many activities and events offered to satisfy the membership, and then our building. Not every organization can look back to this kind of achievement in a relatively short time.

**We** can be proud of what we have achieved. It wouldn't have happened without the time and effort put in by many of our members.

**Even** though summer break is here, our casual parties - such as Weinkeller Abend, Stammtisch and Sonntags Kaffee - will continue through the summer. Please check your calendar for the dates.

Auf Wiedersehen

—Claus Greiner

## *...from the Arts President*

The May 22 recital by Rüdiger Steinfatt was a delight for all. Mr. Steinfatt gave us an excellent selection from the German piano repertoire. This was his third appearance at GAST. The works by composer Wilhelm Kempff were most appreciated. Many thanks to our volunteers, especially **Ruth Bly and Lou Bonham** for the reception and **George Starch** for the refreshments.

Regular library hours are closed for the summer but you are always welcome to check out books for your reading pleasure. This month's recommendation is "New Bremen" by Mark Bernstein. This is an interesting account (in English) of German immigrants who settled in Ohio. One of our long-time members is from New Bremen. Read the book to find out who that is.

You may have noticed that the cover for our baby grand piano is showing signs of wear. Member **Bea Shults** volunteered to sew a replacement and has already test fitted the liner. Thank you Bea.

Warm weather focuses one's attention on outdoor activities but the Arts Association remains busy arranging events. We are working with the Amadeus Piano Festival to host their 2005-2006 Piano Power series. There is also the possibility of a photographic exhibit in January in conjunction with the Museum for Local History Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf. This is under negotiation. Plans for our fall calendar are well in hand.

Warmest regards

—John Millar

## *Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde*

This popular program  
will resume in September

## Otto von Bismarck, "Founder" of the German Empire

Otto von Bismarck, born on April 1, 1815 at Schönhausen, is considered the founder of the German Empire. For nearly three decades he shaped the fortunes of Germany, from 1862 to 1873 as prime minister of Prussia and from 1871 to 1890 as Germany's first Chancellor. On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his death on July 30, 1898, German News remembers the great German statesman.

After reading law at the Universities of Göttingen and Berlin, Otto von Bismarck entered Prussian service and became a judicial administrator at Aachen. Bismarck gained prominence in 1851 when he was chosen to represent Prussia in the Federal diet. In 1859 he was sent as ambassador to Russia, from where he was recalled in March 1862 to become ambassador to France. However, already after 6 months in September 1862, Bismarck returned to Berlin as prime minister of Prussia when he devoted himself to the task of uniting Germany. In the war of 1866 he succeeded in defeating Austria and excluding it altogether from Germany. Also the Franco-German War (1870-71) ended with Prussian success.

This victory instigated the kingdoms of Bavaria, Württemberg, Baden and Hesse to join the North German Alliance, an alliance of Prussia and 17 northern German states created by Bismarck in 1866, which led to the declaration of the German Empire (Deutsches Reich) in 1870 and the proclamation of King William I of Prussia as German Emperor in Versailles in 1871. The imperial constitution was declared in April 1871. Bismarck was appointed imperial chancellor. The chancellor of the Reich was not responsible to parliament but to the Emperor.

The Reichstag, the imperial parliament, was convened by universal, equal, direct and secret elections. Next to the Emperor, it was the second most important institution. However, its political influence was limited to the area of legislation. It exerted only a very small influence over the formation of governments and government policy. Characteristic of the Reich was the "government over the parties" and the restriction of the peoples' representation to a position in which it was only able to express a non-binding opinion on important political questions. The system was described at the time as a "chancellor dictatorship". It was Bismarck as Imperial Chancellor who decided upon policy outlines and who proposed the appointment and dismissal of state secretaries who were in turn responsible for the administration of the ministries of the Reich.

Bismarck's greatest achievements, however, were the administrative reforms, developing a common currency, a central bank, and a single code of commercial and civil

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law for Germany. Bismarck also became the first statesman in Europe to devise a comprehensive scheme of social security to counter the Social Democrats, offering workers insurance against accident, sickness and old age. In foreign affairs, he, as a master of alliances and counter-alliances, presided over the Congress of Berlin (1872) and this seemed to symbolize his paramount position as mediator between the then great powers such as Russia, Austria, France, Great Britain. An alliance with Austria-Hungary (1879) marked a new period of conservatism in Bismarck's foreign policy.

But by 1890 his policies began to come under attack. On March 18, 1890 two years after Emperor William II accession, Bismarck was forced to resign. His last years were devoted to composing his memoirs.



## 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](mailto:gastwo@aol.com)  
—Reba Schaffner

## Love is:

Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.



Danny- age 7



**Come join us at the next  
Stammtisch  
Friday evening, July 1, at 6:30**

**Zum Wohl,  
Dann Björklund, Chair**



## GAST Sanger News.

We're off to Cole Camp. Actually we will be back by the time you read this. Expectations are high and the trip, as all of our experiences with the Bus Co., should prove to be interesting. The Promise Keepers are having a convention so all busses are taken. We are traveling in two big Vans.

The Folks in Cole Camp have offered all manner of assistance so both Tulsa and Cole Camp are ready. We are well practiced and in good voice, they prepared to host us and all the other Choirs who will be attending.

Look for our report in the next Echo.

—Irmgard Runyon



## Movie Night

This program will resume  
in September

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# Sonntagskaffee

*We welcome these new members  
to the GAST Family*

Juli 2005

The Coffee team:

Helga Greiner, Fred Rother,  
Barbara Hunsberger and Helen Cohea  
hopes to see you at the  
next Sonntagskaffee  
on August 7th starting at 3 PM.

## Weinkeller

**on Friday, July 22nd, 2005  
commencing at 5:30 PM**

We hope to see you there for a light dinner and a nice visit with your GAST friends—or maybe you will make some new ones! This is a great opportunity for our new members to get acquainted.

—Helga and Claus Greiner

Thomas Arnold  
(Auburn, NY)  
Joan Arnold  
(Tecumseh, MI)  
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Tel. 357-2356

## Memorial Fund

In loving memory of **Bill Leach** the following donations have been made to the Memorial fund:

GAST  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Runyon  
Dr. June Holmes  
Col. Shirley Schelper

Remember memorial gifts as well as gifts honoring or in appreciation of a special loved one or deserving member of GAST can be made at any time. Simply write in the name of recipient and make donation out to **GAST Memorial Fund**. A card will go out to the donor, the family and/or recipient being honored.

—Irmgard Runyon

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# Das Deutsche Echo

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