



## GAST Choir News

We had a very successful trip to Cole Camp, Missouri. Our performance was well received and the variety of music we performed, showed the hard work put in by each choir member and our director **Susan Burch**. Our repertoire of folk, semi-classical and old time favorites performed either A Cappella with piano or accordion accompaniment was our most diverse performance of the event.

The trip to Cole Camp began with song and much laughter on the vans, which continued throughout the trip. Three birthdays were celebrated on Saturday night. More fun and more song was had with a surprise visit from the St. Louis Men's Choir. (We made new friends both as a choir, but also for our organization. We very much appreciate the support we received from GAST—**Thank you GAST.**



The GAST Choir in Cole Camp, Missouri

After our trip to Cole Camp we gave a surprise serenade for **Joe Hardt**, one of our founding members, who did much to bring GAST to this point of success. Joe has not been feeling well lately and therefore has not been able to attend many functions.

A picnic at **Ingrid & Siggie Grimm's** home was our last meeting for the summer. (Thanks, Ingrid & Siggie) We will return to practice again on August 18th in preparation for Oktoberfest and Christmas. As always, anyone interested in joining the GAST Choir will be most welcome—just show up at rehearsals, every Thursday at the GAST Center Weinkeller starting on August 18th. 7:00 PM.

—Irmgard Runyon

## GAST Happenings

Handarbeitsgruppe Tuesdays at 10 AM	Oct 2	Sonntagskaffee	2006	April 2	Piano Festival
Aug 5 Stammtisch	Oct 9	Germ-American Day	Jan 14	Anniversary Party	May 7 Sonntagskaffee
Aug 7 Sonntagskaffee	Oct 29	Oktoberfest Party	Jan 20	Theater Organ	May 26 Weinkeller
Aug 26 Weinkeller	Nov 6	Sonntagskaffee	Jan 27	Weinkeller	Jun 4 GAST picnic
Sep 2 Stammtisch	Nov 13	Volkstrauertag	Feb 5	Sonntagskaffee	Jun 23 Weinkeller
Sep 4 Ice Cream Social	Nov 25	Weinkeller	Feb 24	Weinkeller	Jul 28 Weinkeller
Sep 17 Kinderdeutsch begins	Dec 2-4	Christkindlmarkt	Feb 25	Fasching Party	Aug 6 Sonntagskaffee
Sep 20 German lang. class	Dec 10	Christmas Party	Feb 26	Piano Festival	Aug 25 Weinkeller
Sep 23 Weinkeller	Dec 11	Adventsfeier	Mar 5	Sonntagskaffee	Sep 3 Ice Cream Social
Sep 25 Piano Festival	Dec 31	Weinkeller	Mar 24	Weinkeller	Sep 22 Weinkeller

## ...FROM THE GAST PRESIDENT



Currently, there isn't much going on in the Organization. Many of our members are on vacation trips, some of them in Europe.

However, all the regular meetings are still going on, such as the Board meetings and Committee meetings.

The By-Laws committee has

completed their job of reviewing the current By-Laws. They did submit the first draft to the Board for review and approval, before it will go to the membership for the final approval. This might happen sometimes in the fall. The Board will have a special meeting to review the By-Laws.

I would like to thank the By-Laws Committee for the work they put into this project (**Rick Pizzo**, Chair, **Dietrich Lannert & Fred Rother**). It takes a lot of time to go through the By-Laws of all three corporations and make the necessary adjustments.

Going back to last month's report. I was trying to lay

out an idea of changing the "Compensation" for GAST volunteers working at our fundraisers, such as Oktoberfest, Germanfest, Christkindlmarkt, etc. I was kind of disappointed that I did not receive a single response or comment to the recommendation. I would really like to get some feedback to this idea. Just as a refresher: we were thinking of doing away with discounts to Parties for people who worked at those fundraisers. We would instead compensate the volunteers with a free Dinner in the GAST Center at no charge at all. Most of the time, those dinners are worth more than what you save on the entry fee to the parties (Average \$5). Please check with the President's report in the July edition of the ECHO. So, please feel free to contact me by phone (918-455-3096) or e-mail (cgreiner@cox.net) and let me know what you think about it. I would like to bring this to the Board for discussion.

As you have probably heard already, there was an offer made to us to purchase the house next door to our building, the O'Brien house. Many years ago we had asked the owners to offer the property to us first, in case they ever wanted to sell it. And that's exactly what they did.

Now GAST will look into it to find a justification to determine whether we would want this property—and also to find out whether GAST can afford a project like this. A committee has been formed to look into these questions; we will keep everybody informed.

Except for the Ice Cream Social on September 4<sup>th</sup> there is no other party planned for early Fall. Only the Weinkeller, Stammtisch and Sonntagskaffee are scheduled as usual.

Please check the dates in the ECHO. I hope everybody stays as cool as possible.

Bis zum nächsten mal,

—Claus Greiner

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

**Echo Deadline is:  
Wednesday, August 17**

### Das Deutsche Echo

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**Message Center - 744-6998**

The German-American Society, Arts Association  
and Building Corp. do not necessarily endorse  
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## ...from the Arts President

### First Item: Work Day announcement.

The Operating Committee will hold a work party on Saturday, July 30 beginning at 8:30 AM. This is rather short notice but the date became available due to cancellation of a rental agreement. This is the only Saturday available until mid October, at which time we will be busy with other things. Let's take advantage of it! There are many chores large and small to tackle. Your help is welcomed and valued. Please plan to attend if your schedule permits. Enjoy the camaraderie of working with your fellow members. There will, of course, be delicious pizza for lunch.

### Second Item: Arts President's write-up.

August is a slow month but activities resume with enthusiasm in September. The fall season commences with a return of Movie Night, the Konversationsrunde and the first recital of the 2005-2006 Piano Power series. Plans are well in hand for German-American Day and we are exploring alternatives for the musical part of the program.

September also brings adult language classes and Kinderdeutsch. These popular programs fill quickly. Please make your reservations soon. Kinderdeutsch begins on Saturday, September 17 and adult classes on Tuesday, September 20.

Regular library hours resume in September. I'm presently enjoying "The Last Days of the Romanovs" (in English) and "In mir klingt ein Lied" which is stretching my German to the limits. The library has recently received some new German language material from **Claus and Helga Greiner**. Thank you.

The joint meeting with the American Theater Organ Society has been moved to January rather than the usual August date. This permits us to address some maintenance items on our pipe organ.

Looking forward to seeing you at our many events.  
Warmest regards,

—John Millar

## Oktoberfest Volunteer Sign-Up Party!

Oktoberfest 2005 is coming soon - October 19 - 23, 2005. We need **YOU!** It will take all of us volunteering together to make this a successful and profitable event. We are having a 'volunteer sign-up party' on Friday, September 9, 2005 from 6 - 8 pm! Come to the GAST Center, put your name on the work schedule and we will give you a **FREE light supper consisting of: sliced sausages, Sauerkraut, rye bread, tea, punch and dark beer**. If you have signed up previous to this date, come and enjoy the food and fellowship with us. You must sign up to work to get the free meal.  
It's all free!

free admission,  
free food,  
free drink,  
free music!

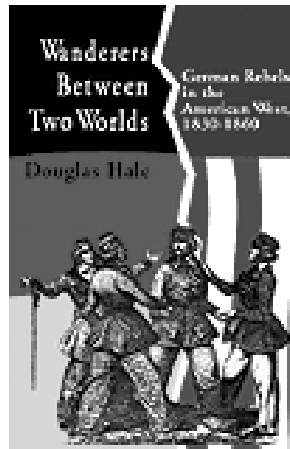
Come early to get your favorite job.

If you have any questions, please call me at: 746-6222, work, or 258-5201, home

—Leon Boggs,  
GAST Oktoberfest Chair

## Book Review

One of our members, **Dr. Douglas Hale**, has recently published a book about German immigrants who distinguished themselves in America during the 1800s. Entitled, Wanderers Between Two Worlds: German Rebels in the American West 1830-1860, Hale tells the true story of seven young rebels who launched an abortive rebellion against the German Confederation in 1833. The revolt ended in a fiasco, but the young Germans were able to flee to America before they were imprisoned. Here, on the edge of our country's wilderness, they adapted themselves to the challenges posed by frontier life in Illinois, Missouri, and Texas. In fact, these rebels distinguished themselves in the fields of politics, science, and culture.



Their contributions to the United States were not insignificant and these men formed the vanguard of massive German immigration to this country. Gustav Koerner became a leading politician in Illinois, where his most momentous role in politics occurred with the nomination and election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency in 1860. In his adopted state of Illinois, Georg Bunsen founded model schools based on the Pestalozzian method of modern education. An outstanding plant scientist of the American West in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Georg Engelmann founded the famous Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, where he was a devoted civic leader.

Ferdinand Lindheimer founded a Texas German newspaper that lasted 105 years and was the voice of Texas Germans during the Civil War. Friedrich Wislizenus made scientific journeys through the American West and northern Mexico and published influential accounts of these explorations. Theodor Engelmann became a public official and edited the first German newspaper in Illinois. Gustav Bunsen, trained as a physician in Germany, met an untimely death while fighting in the Texas Revolution against Mexico.

One reviewer likened Dr. Hale's writing style to that of the late Stephen Ambrose, in that he uses stories about his characters to explain the significance of the period, giving careful consideration to accuracy and historical perspective. Hale admits he has a passion to tell persons about the importance of Germans in America in order to counteract the belief that most Americans' understanding of German history focuses on the Hitler years from 1933 through 1945.



Bill LaFortune, Mayor of Tulsa, recently invited all mayors and delegates of Tulsa's seven sister cities to a major economic and cultural summit in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in October 2005.

The "Connecting Cultures - Sister Cities Summit" will bring together delegations and visitors from our sister cities to foster friendship, develop economic ties, and increase tourism for our cities. In addition, we hope to further our educational exchanges and learn from each another through one-on-one meetings, presentations, and dialogue.

Celle, our Sister City in Germany, responded with great enthusiasm. We expect about 50 visitors to arrive for a one-week stay, October 22-29. Some of them, the official delegates, will be staying at a hotel, but we need host families for many of the visitors. There will be a group of professional chefs, a young choir, teachers, businessmen and women and experts in various fields.

This is a wonderful opportunity to show our visitors good old-fashioned Tulsa hospitality and to make new friends. If you are interested in becoming a host family, please contact **Barbara Conrad** (492-3273), **Wolfgang Becker** (1-918-434-5995) or **Arnold Bieber** (357-9156).

With a PhD in European history from the University of Texas, Hale is a former history professor at Oklahoma State University. He still resides in Stillwater where he and his wife, sculptor Lou Moore Hale, collaborated on a project celebrating centenarians that is currently on display in that city's Sheerar Museum. The author of two other books about German immigrants, Hale has also published several articles and monographs on the subject.

A book signing for Hale's book will be held on Saturday, August 20, from 2-4 p.m. at Borders Bookstore located at 21<sup>st</sup> and Broken Arrow Expressway. Copies are also available from the publisher at:

[www.xlibris.com/wanderersbetweentwoworlds.html](http://www.xlibris.com/wanderersbetweentwoworlds.html)

or by calling 888-795-4274, Ext. 276.

—Phyllis Luebke  
405-372-1324



**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:**



My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night.

—Clare- age 6



**Come join us at the next  
Stammtisch  
Friday evening, August 5, at 6:30**



**Zum Wohl,  
Dann Björklund, Chair**



The GAST office still has some of these shirts for sale: Unisex Sizing Small to X-large = \$ 15.00 XXL = \$ 16.00. Never mind the model - but if you would like to buy one of these shirts, please stop by the GAST Office during Becky's regular office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

—Helga Greiner



**German Conversation Classes**

German Class can be fun as pictured in this photo taken the last day of the 10 week spring classes last April. The advanced class put on their own scripted version of "Bremer Stadtmusikanten" to the amusement of the members of the other three level classes. New German conversational classes start Sept. 20, with registration starting at 6:30 PM.

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## Sonntagskaffee

*We welcome these new members  
to the GAST Family*

Finally, it's **Sonntagskaffee time** again!

August 2005

Please join us on **Sunday, August 7th**, from  
3 - 5 PM in the GAST Weinkeller.

We look forward to welcoming you for a good cup  
of coffee or tea and some always wonderful home-  
baked cakes!

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

### OUR NEXT WEINKELLER WILL BE A POTLUCK AGAIN!

We have not had a potluck in a while, so let's do one  
on **Friday, August 26, 2005 from 5:30 PM - ?**

Just think of something yummy to bring and share!  
Hope to see you there!

—**Helga and Claus Greiner**

### In Appreciation...

I wish to express my appreciation to all GAST  
members who helped me reach my goal of  
over \$750.00 for the American Cancer Soci-  
ety – Relay for Life.

This was very important for me and my team.  
Again, thanks you for your support.

— **Bea Shults**

Ruth Atkinson( Schlesien, Germany)  
Glen Atkinson (OK)  
P.O. Box 12  
Owasso, OK 74055  
Tel. 272-3759

Ron Baucom (OK)  
P.O. Box 340  
Disney, OK 74340  
Tel. 918-435-4130

Karen Hinkle (Anchorage, AK)  
Olga L. Douglas (Hamburg, Germany)  
1007 Faulkner Pl.  
Claremore, OK 74017  
Tel. 341-3089

#### Attention Children of all ages:

Please mark your calendars for Sunday,  
September 4, 2005; 3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
so you will not miss our

#### Magical Ice Cream Social!

That's right - we will not just serve delicious ice  
cream - you will also be entertained by a won-  
derful magician.

For further details please check the September  
ECHO.

Even though this will still be an "on donation  
basis" event - we would very much appreciate a  
reservation call to the GAST Office at 744-6997,  
so we will have an idea how many people to  
expect.

The Party Committee

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



## Jean & Jim Randall

Happy 50th

Wedding Anniversary!