



# Das Deutsche Echo

Oktober 2007

Jahrgang 28/10

## German-American Day 2007

Sunday, October 7, 2007, 3 PM

An annual celebration of friendship between Germany and the United States, which recognizes the contributions German immigrants have made to the life and culture of this great nation.

This year's speaker will be Reinhard Förster, President of the Deutsch-Amerikanische Gesellschaft in Celle, Tulsa's Sister City in Germany.

Mr. Förster had a long career as a manager for the City of Celle and in that capacity he was instrumental in establishing the sister city relationship between our cities. He organized multiple cultural and educational exchanges for our benefit. Remember the musical groups that came from Celle to perform for us during previous German-American Day celebrations?

Most recently Mr. Förster arranged home-stays for several GAST members during the Sister City Conference in September 2007. And it was his initiative that resulted in an student exchange between Bishop Kelley High School and Ernestinum Gymnasium as well as a planned exchange between Bixby and Jenks German language high school students and Hölty Gymnasium in Celle. We are very honored to have him speak to us at this event.

The musical entertainment will be provided by the Covenant Brass Quintet with a rendition of classical, jazz and popular favorites.

Refreshments will be served after the program. Please invite your friends and neighbors to this free event.

**Donations to defray costs are appreciated.**

**Oktoberfest is fast approaching  
Have you volunteered yet?  
Call Erica Hartman at 272-7903**

## GAST Happenings

Handarbeitsgruppe Tue. at 10 AM	Oct 7	German-American day	Dec 31	New Years Party	May 9	Stammtisch?
Aug 24 Weinkellerabend	Oct 27	GAST O'fest Party	<b>2008</b>		Jun 6	Stammtisch
Sep 2 Sonntagskaffee	Nov 2	Stammtisch	Jan 4	Stammtisch	Jul 11	Stammtisch
Sep 7 Stammtisch	Nov 4	Sonntagskaffee	Feb 1	Stammtisch	Aug 1	Stammtisch
Sep 14 Weinkellerabend	Nov 18	Volkstrauertag	Feb 2	Fasching party	Sep 5	Stammtisch
Sep 21 Musical Variety Pgm.	Nov 23	Weinkellerabend	Mar 7	Stammtisch		
Sep 22 Western Party	Dec 8	Christmas Party	Apr 4	Stammtisch		
Oct 5 Stammtisch	Dec 9	Adventsfeier	May 2	Stammtisch?		

**...FROM THE GAST PRESIDENT**

By all accounts, the GAST Sign-up Party/Weinkellerabend on Friday, September 14, was a success. However, there are still time slots available for most days (Wednesday, October 17 through Sunday, October 21). If you could not make it to the sign-up party, please call **Elam Blank** (625-7629), **Erica Hartman** (272-7903) or the GAST Office (744-6998, leave a message). We need everyone's help at Tulsa's largest ethnic event and major GAST fundraiser. You get to listen to live bands from Germany and Austria while working. How can you beat that?

The GAST Saenger, Folkdancers and Blaskapelle participated in the third DeutschesFest, organized by the Friends of Irving Foundation and the Bixby High School German Club on September 22, at Washington Irving Park in Bixby. We also had a booth there, selling authentic German merchandise. Thank you, **Carol Wright, Harold Wicks** and your crew of volunteers for your hard work. Carol and Don Wright have again made a special trip to Germany to line up new suppliers for Christkindlmarkt, Germanfest 2008 and for DeutschesFest Bixby.

**Helen Cohea** and her Party Committee prepared for a Western and Centennial Party at the GAST Center on September 22. I do not yet have a report on that, but I am sure it was enjoyed by all who came. Our next party will be the Oktoberfest Party on October 27. This is usually our biggest party of the year. The GAST Folk-dancers will again do the decorating, turning our Great Hall into a replica of a Munich Oktoberfest tent. Read the details on the last page of the ECHO.

**Echo Deadline is:  
Wednesday, October 17 by 6 PM**  
scheduled for the Wednesday after  
the Board meeting.  
The Board meets every second Wednesday  
of the month at GAST Center at 7 PM

**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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**Katie Sloan** is making plans for a Youth Oktoberfest Party on Monday, October 29. GAST continues to support our youth activities. That is our future!

In April 2007, the GAST Board voted to donate \$1,000 to Tulsa University as a stipend for a promising young musician to attend the Freie Universität in Berlin, Germany, for a 6-week summer course. Since then Noam Faingold was named a Jack Kent Cook Foundation graduate scholar with a full scholarship to study music composition at New York University. He is also interested in improving his German language skills.

**John Gallagher**, our membership chairman, reported that the GAST membership has grown to 479 members. I hope that all of you will become active members and enjoy the camaraderie of the GAST family. Let me know your ideas and suggestions and tell me what activities you would like to be involved in.

Auf Wiedersehn

—Charles Tegeler

## ...from the Arts President

Kinderdeutsch began on September 8. We have 15 students, which is a good turnout. We may get a few more as the sessions continue. Adult language classes are also under way. We had approximately 48 persons register at the opening night in addition to those who pre-registered. Enrollment was down slightly from last semester. We were able to fit all of the beginning students into a single class.

The musical variety program by the American Theater Organ Society will have occurred by the time this is published. We are expecting a large audience. Details will be reported next month.

Our annual German-American Day celebration will take place in the Great Hall at 3 PM on Sunday, October 7. Mr. Reinhard Foerster, recently retired city official of Tulsa's German Sister City, Celle, and current President of Celle's German-American Society will be guest speaker. His topic will be "Celle's Partnership Relation with Tulsa". Tulsa's own "Covenant Brass Quintet" will furnish the musical entertainment. A reception follows the event.

The Arts Association is coordinating the annual Volkstrauertag (German Memorial Day) ceremony at Fort Reno, OK. This event commemorates German and also Italian soldiers who died while interned in

Oklahoma during WWII. The event begins at 2 PM on Sunday, November 18 at the Ft. Reno Chapel, which was constructed by German prisoners of war. Mr. Dick Warner will speak of Oklahoma's wartime internment camps. Participants will include the Honorary Consul General, the Governor's Honor Guard and a delegation from the German troop contingent at Fort Sill.

Ceremonies conclude with laying of the wreaths at the post cemetery. Fort Reno is located two miles north of Exit 119 off Interstate 40 approximately 30 miles west of Oklahoma City. We will organize a carpool of interested members to attend the event. This will also serve as the November Konversationsrunde.

Adventsfeier will be celebrated at 3 PM Sunday, December 9. We will again welcome a pastor from Celle. More to follow next month.

All Arts Association events are free and open to the public. Come enjoy them— and remember to bring a friend.

Best wishes,

—John Millar

## Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde

Our first Konversationsrunde of the fall season was supposed to give our German speakers a chance to talk about their vacation and summer experiences. Apparently most of them were still on vacation because the turnout was disappointing, to say the least. We thank **Jutta and Max Tankersley** for opening their home and for preparing a wonderful table of cakes, fruit, coffee and wine. It was enjoyed by all who came.

The next Konversationsrunde will be on Sunday, October 14, 3 PM, at the home of **Helga and Claus Greiner**, 509 E. Winston Circle, Broken Arrow (455-3096) who will present a video and talk about the Panama Canal. Helga and Claus like to share their travel experiences, and it is always very interesting and enjoyable. Please, don't miss it!

The Konversationsrunde is a program under the auspices of the German-American Society Arts Association. It serves to promote the German language and other cultural interests of its members. For information, suggestions or offers to host one of our meetings, please call Barbara Conrad at 492-3273 (Chair) or Gertrud Schmidt at 495-3727 (Co-chair). In Barbara's and Gertrud's absence you may call Arnold Bieber at 357-9156 (email: aobieber@aol.com)

## Folk Dancers welcome new Dancers

The GAST Folk Dancers have entered our busiest season. We have had in infusion of new dancers and are able to meet most of the demands thanks to our Website and Media coverage. As a result of the efforts of GAST's Web and Media PR chairpersons, **John Toschik and Doris Gallagher** KWGS radio and the Tulsa World publicized that GAST was looking for people interested in learning German Folk Dances. We had inquiries for more information from 26 persons. We are still short on male dancers but we have 16 new dancers in various stages of accomplishment who are continuing to enjoy this activity.

You will notice a change in the appearance of our male dancers. When performing they will be sporting matching black trimmed, crimson vests in our effort to give our dance group better stage presence.

In September we danced at several out of town venues including the Choctaw, Ok. Oktoberfest, Independence, KS German Fest, Bixby, Ok. Deutchesfest and a 25th Anniversary celebration of Hetronics International at the Ok. Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Our October commitments are in the Tulsa area. We will entertain at Franciscan Villa, Broken Arrow, Frances Streitel Retirement Center, Collinsville, First United Methodist Church, Tulsa and on Sunday, Oct, 21 at Tulsa Oktoberfest in the Esszelt at 12:30 pm.

The Kinderdeutsch Dancers of GAST will be dancing at Tulsa Oktoberfest in the Esszelt on Friday, October 19 at 11:30 pm.

We will close our season with our usual appearance at the GAST Oktoberfest volunteer Thank You party on October 27. The Kinderdeutsch Dancers will also present a program near the beginning of the evening.

If you have any questions about our dancing, venues or practices please contact me.

Carol Wright, 299-2839 or d.c.w@cox.net

## Now Playing at the GAST Theater

An Erwin Jerchau Presentation  
Monday October 1



Starting at 6:30 PM

**Lieder die  
von Herzen kommen**



Starting at 7:30 PM

**Wilde Wasser**

Starring: Marianne Hold,  
Corny Collins  
Hans von Betsody  
and Ruth Stephan



## The Sunshine Lady

Sympathy cards have been sent to the Bartsch family, the Segner Family, the Bader family and the Schultz Family

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.

E-mail [book\\_worm34@hotmail.com](mailto:book_worm34@hotmail.com)  
**Phone 357-9156**  
 —Gwen Bieber

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

Dan Dennehy  
 POB 702187  
 Tulsa, Ok. 74170  
 493-3553

Yvonne Macchia  
 6115 E. 4th Street  
 Tulsa, Ok 74112  
 836-6810

Bruce Feddersen and Betty  
 Donohue  
 509 N. E. 10th  
 Wagoner, Ok 74467  
 918-485-2321

R. (Bill) Reichard  
 1005 South Desert Palm  
 Avenue  
 Broken Arrow, Ok 74012  
 918-250-9655

Kleinhans and Christina  
 Oswin  
 Ebbsbachweg 8  
 Ebbs, Austria 6341  
 0043-5373-8356

**Renewed Member**  
 Linda Forness  
 1908 S. Aster Avenue  
 Broken Arrow, Ok 74012  
 252-0262



## Weinkeller Alert

We have not planned any Weinkeller evenings for the months of October, November and December because of Oktoberfest, the GAST Oktoberfest Party, Thanksgiving weekend, the beginning of Christkindlmarkt and in December because of the proximity of Christmas and New Year's. This popular event will resume in January.

—Lois Voeller

## ...from the Building Corporation President

Routine maintenance on the main building and preparing our grounds for fall has kept **Ed Westenhiser** and **Harold Wicks** busy. Anyone who would like to help Harold and his grounds committee this season, please call him at **743-0359**.

Oktoberfest signup party / Weinkeller dinner was a wonderful success. We filled up many spots on the signup sheets. Free food and drinks were served to all who signed up for at least one full shift. We still have lots of jobs for you to fill, especially on Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Call **Erica Hartman at 272-7903** or **Susan Everett Tronnier at 749-1869** to volunteer. Come join the fun and help our organization.

**Becky Adrian**, our office manager, has announced her resignation effective Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. We are currently interviewing for her replacement.

For more information or questions about the Building, contact me at 625-7629.

—Elam Blank



We cordially invite you to join the

**Tulsa - Celle**

Sister City Partnership

and participate in cultural, economic, educational, professional and sport exchanges, plus frequent local events.

For additional information, please contact Tulsa Global Alliance at (918) 591-4750, or log on to [www.tulsaglobalalliance.org](http://www.tulsaglobalalliance.org)

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**The GAST Saenger** are back to regularly scheduled rehearsals every Thursday evening from 7 pm to 8 pm in the Weinkeller. In preparation for the Deutsch Fest in Bixby and performances in October, old songs are being fine-tuned and new songs are receiving a lot of attention. Now is the perfect time for anyone wishing to join or return to the choir. Everyone is welcome at any time, all you need is a love of music and song. Try it, you'll like it.

### Helau, Helau, Helau

The Elferrat was hosted by **Arnold and Gwen Bieber** on August the 26 for an other planning session and to share the good food brought in by everyone. After a little socializing, the business of Fasching got underway. The first official function for the upcoming Fasching Season will be the coronation of our 2008 Prinz and Prinzessin when their identity will be revealed. Everyone is cordially invited to attend on **Sunday November the 11th. at the Green Onion on 41st. St. Tulsa.** The cost for the dinner, coffee/tea is \$26.95 including gratuity. Anyone wishing to attend may send **Harold Wicks** (5606So. Trenton 74105) a check in that amount no later than November 1st.

For many years now the Elferrat has entertained us with such memorable skits as The Bremer Stadt Musikanten (The Bremer City Musicians) the ever-popular Maenner Ballett (the Men's Ballett) Elvis Presley's: Are you Lonesome tonight, New York New York, The Bells of St. Marys, the Boggy Bottom Boys, etc....It is getting more difficult to live up to stellar performances like that, but a skit is already in the planning that will show off their lack of—pardon me— I meant to say. their unfailing balance co-ordination and rhythm. Fasching is very early in 2008, so they have to get an early start. Be sure to reserve February 2nd. for this event.

### FYI

Traditionally, the Elferrat takes over City Hall and ousts the Mayor on his Council (Rat) on the 11th day of the 11th month at 11:11 am. Only once did we have the opportunity to go to the Tulsa City Council, not to oust them but to read a proclamation on that day. There are eleven (elf) men in the Elferrat and two/three alternates. It is deemed an earned honor to be asked to serve in this group. Our royal pair and the Elferrat members are chosen for their dedication and hard work for GAST. Even during the party proceedings they act as Hosts and also work throughout the year to make Fasching a fun and a successful party.

## The Blaskapelle



The Blaskapelle has a new conductor Mr. Don Linde, who is a retired High school band director and has years of experience with brass bands. Rumor has it that he is a tough taskmaster, but the musicians really enjoy playing under his direction. Several more members have been added including a drummer.



Playing their instruments all summer is paying off. The Blaskapelle is easily as good as any professional band. They are ready for any engagement that may be offered them. The first official performance will be for the DeutschesFest in Bixby and an engagement at Tulsa's Oktoberfest on Friday and on Saturday. They will be in the Bier tent between the hours of 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm on both days. Who would have ever thought that from a group of four we would end up with a full-fledged brass band.

**Well done, band members!**

**—Irmgard Runyon**

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The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



# Das Deutsche Echo

Oktober 2007

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## GAST Oktoberfest Party

Saturday, October 27

Happy Hour commences at 5:30 PM

Dinner will be served starting at 6 PM



The Polkatimers will play for our dancing pleasure from 7 to 11 PM

### Menu:

Schnitzel, Jaegersauce (Hunter sauce),

Gnocchi, Fried Potatoes,

Tossed Salad, Bread and Butter,

Cheesecake.

Beverages of your choice.

Admission for Volunteers is FREE as a small token of appreciation for helping to make the Oktoberfest successful.

Admission for NON-volunteers is \$ 15.00

Please make reservations NO LATER THEN: Wednesday Oct. 24, call the Message Center at 744-6998.

—Erica Hartman  
Oktoberfest committee

## **Bier her, Bier her, oder ich fall um**

