



Annual Volkstrauertag (German Memorial Day) Ceremony at Fort Reno, OK.

November 18, 2007

This event commemorates German and also Italian soldiers
who died while interned in Oklahoma during WWII.



Cemetery



Chapel

We hope that many GAST members will have an opportunity to attend in this very moving event. For more details, please read John Millar's article on page three. Please call Arnold Bieber at 357-9156 if you wish to sign up to join or to provide for car pooling.

GAST Happenings

Handarbeitsgruppe Tue. at 10 AM	Dec 9	Adventsfeier	May 2	Stammtisch?	
	Dec 31	New Years Party	May 9	Stammtisch?	
	2008		Jun 6	Stammtisch	
Oct 5	Stammtisch	Jan 4	Stammtisch	Jul 11	Stammtisch
Oct 7	German-American day	Feb 1	Stammtisch	Aug 1	Stammtisch
Oct 27	GAST O'fest Party	Feb 2	Fasching party	Sep 5	Stammtisch
Nov 2	Stammtisch	Mar 7	Stammtisch		
Nov 18	Volkstrauertag	Apr 4	Stammtisch		
Dec 8	Christmas Party				

...FROM THE GAST PRESIDENT



As a Founding Sponsor and major food vendor GAST is an important part of Tulsa Oktoberfest. Many of our members are active volunteers or serve on Oktoberfest Committees. We participate in the Gemütlichkeit evening on Wednesday and the Opening Ceremonies on Thursday. We are the largest food vendor with authentic German dishes. Our sponsorship and a portion of our food sales support the financial contribution made to Tulsa River Parks by Tulsa Oktoberfest Inc. But we do not run the show. Tulsa Oktoberfest Inc. is a separate organization with thousand of volunteers and dozens of sponsors. I only mention this to clear up some misunderstandings within the community.

Speaking of volunteers, I am very pleased with the response from our membership and especially the young people from local high schools that have signed for multiple shifts. Judging by their enthusiasm, our future is in good hands.

The Christkindlmarkt Committee has started to meet to prepare for Christkindlmarkt, scheduled for November 30 through December 2. There will be some new vendors and new food menu items. We are hoping for better weather than last year.

I hope all of you have signed up for our Oktoberfest Party on Saturday, October 27. The students will have their party on Monday, October 29. We appreciate **Elam Blank** and **Erica Hartman's** culinary skills to prepare the food for both events.

The GAST Choir and Folkdancers performed at several community events this fall. **Carol Wright** was able to sign up another corporate sponsor for Germanfest 2008. Both groups are looking for new members. Please help us to maintain our German traditions and to serve the community by signing up for the choir or folk dancers. Just call the GAST Office (744-6998) and leave a message, and you will be contacted

**Echo Deadline is:
Wednesday, November 21 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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We are especially proud of our Kinderdeutsch Singers and Dancers who were scheduled to perform at Tulsa Oktoberfest on Friday, October 19. Credit goes to **Carol Wright** and **Hildegard Schaffrin** who worked hard to teach them the German dances and songs. Our Blaskapelle also played at Oktoberfest. Great job!

There will be no Weinkellerabend for the rest of the year due to the many other activities that are planned. **Silke Becker** and her committee are preparing for the last Sonntagskaffee of 2007 on Sunday, November 4, at 3 PM. We have invited some visiting Celle students and their host families to join us.

These informal get-togethers are so much fun and opportunities to get to meet new members and to socialize with everybody. Please call the GAST Office if you would like to chair either Sonntagskaffee or Weinkellerabend in 2008.

Auf Wiedersehn,

—Charles Tegeler

...from the Arts President

The American Theater Organ Society provided us a delightful evening of show tunes, ragtime and light music by composers including George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, George M. Cohen and Scott Joplin. Over 110 persons attended the event on September 21. The reception was organized by **Ruth Bly, Lou Bonham and Ed Westenhiser**. Thanks also to Buddy Butcher, Arnold and Gwen Bieber, Leon and Donna Boggs and one unnamed guest for helping to setup for and cleanup after the program. This popular program will return next Fall.

Our annual celebration of German-American Day and the Day of German Unity was held on October 7. Mr. Reinhard Foerster delivered an interesting commentary on the establishment and growth of the sister city relationship between Celle and Tulsa as seen from the German perspective. Tulsa's own Covenant Brass Quintet played a wide range of popular American and German tunes which were very well received by the audience. We heard many favorable compliments on their musicianship and choice of music. **Lois Voeller and Susan Bey** organized the reception with assistance from **Ruth Bly, Jutta Tankersley and Ed Westenhiser**. **May Tankersley** stacked chairs and readied the hall for the next event. Attendance was good with approximately 110 in the audience. Crowd size was approximately the same for the September and October events although the persons attending were

not the same.

As mentioned last month, 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

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)

TAPS

It all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moan of a soldier who lay mortally wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him towards his encampment. When the Captain reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern. Suddenly, he caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son.

The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, he enlisted in the Confederate Army. The following morning, heart-broken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was partially granted. The Captain asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for the son at the funeral. That request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. Out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of his dead son's uniform. This wish was granted. This music was the haunting melody we now know as "TAPS", which is used at all military funerals. In case you are interested, these are the words to "TAPS":

Day is done
Gone the sun
From the lakes
From the hills
From the sky
All is well
Safely rest
God is nigh



Author unknown

Now Playing at the GAST Theater

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Monday November 4



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Heimatmelodien



Starting at 7:30 PM

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rauschen**

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Josefin Kipper,
Carl Moehner and Armin Dahlen



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.

E-mail book_worm34@hotmail.com
Phone 357-9156
 —Gwen Bieber

We welcome these new members to the GAST Family

Ralph G. Bendel, Sr.
 2300 Riverside Drive
 Tulsa, Oklahoma 74114
 918-382-0766

Gary H. Stanley
 4109 E. 32nd Pl.
 Tulsa, Oklahoma 74114
 918-742-2127

Mike Fischer
 9302 E. 64th Street Apt. D
 Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133
 918-629-6414

Don and Irene Stern
 12535 South 18th Cir.
 Jenks, Oklahoma 74037
 918-299-4287

Francine L. Mullen
 1112 South Florence Ave.
 Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104
 918-585-8648

Walter C. Tegeler, III
 3810 South Trenton
 Tulsa, Oklahoma 74105
 918-743-0618

Steffen Schmidt
 6410 South 82nd E. Ave.
 #606
 Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133
 918-286-0958

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A grateful mind is a great mind
 which eventually attracts to itself
 great things.

Plato

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A first Grade Teacher collected old, well known proverbs. She gave each child in her class the first half of a proverb, and asked them come up with the rest. These were the results:

- As you shall make your bed so shall you.....Mess it up.
- Better be safe than.....Punch a 5th grader.
- Strike while the.....bug is close.
- It's always darkest before.....daylight savings time.
- You can lead a horse to water but.....how?
- Don't bite the hand that.....looks dirty
- A miss is as good as a.....Mr.
- You can't teach an old dog new.....Math
- If you lie down with the dogs, you'll.....stink in the morning
- The pen is mightier than the.....pigs
- An idle mind is.....the best way to relax
- Where there's smoke, there's.....pollution
- A penny saved is.....not much
- Two's company, three's.....the musketeers
- Children should be seen and not.....spanked or grounded
- When the blind leadeth the blind.....get out of the way.



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

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Folk Dancers Close Season

The GAST Folk Dancers have had quite a successful fall dancing season. We had several new dancers join the group and we were able to entertain and share our German Folk Dance traditions at 10 different venues. In addition to those venues that I reported in the ECHO last month, I accompanied **Arnold Bieber** to Woodlawn School in Sapulpa and Springdale School in Tulsa to teach a few dances to several classes of 1st thru 4th graders.

GAST received cash donations for our appearances at Choctaw, Independence, Kansas, First United Methodist Church, Tulsa and Hetric International, Oklahoma City. In fact we have a new sponsor for Germanfest. Hetric International made a substantial donation as a sponsor. If you would like to know more about our newest sponsor their web site is www.hetric.com.

The last appearance of the season for the GAST folk dancers will be at the GAST Youth Thank You Party on Monday, October 29. We will resume our spring session around the first of February as we prepare for some of our members to attend an International Dance Festival in Offenburg, Germany in August 2008.

Please watch the ECHO for the starting date of our spring session.



—Carol Wright

Bremen is a Hanseatic city in northwestern Germany (official name: *Stadtgemeinde Bremen* / *City Municipality of Bremen*). It is a port city, situated along the river Weser, about 60 km (37 mi) south from its mouth on the North Sea. Bremen is one of two towns belonging to the state of Bremen (official name: *Freie Hansestadt Bremen*¹ (*Free Hanseatic City of Bremen*), referring to its membership in the medieval Hanseatic League), the other being Bremerhaven.

In 2005, the population of the city was estimated to be 545,983, while the metropolitan area of Bremen-Oldenburg has a population of more than 2.37 million.

In the 8th century the troops of Charlemagne advanced to the Weser in order to christianize the tribes settling here. The Swedish Viking Rurik, who had been given lands in Friesland, looted the city in 859, and as a result of this and other offences was expelled by Louis II. Bremen, which may have been an older settlement, became a bishopric; a deed claiming the town's foundation in 788 has now been recognized as a forgery, so the exact date is unknown. In the following centuries the bishops of Bremen were the driving force behind the Christianization of Scandinavia.

In the 12th century, the power of the archbishops was challenged by Heinrich the Lion. The duke was successful and became the ruler of the town. These events led to a civil government and a loss of clerical power.

Bremen became a merchants' town, and its ships dominated the southern portions of the North Sea. This dominance ended when the Hanseatic League, originally a trade alliance of the Baltic Sea only, expanded to the North Sea. In the early 14th century, ships from Bremen acted as pirates to board Hanseatic cogs. In order to avoid open war, aldermen from Bremen went to the Hanseatic Council in Lübeck and agreed to become members of the league (1358).



City Hall, St. Peter's Cathedral and parliament

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



Siegi's Sausage Factory & Deli



Siegi's Sausage Factory is steeped in Austrian culinary tradition. Using only the finest products, natural seasonings and ingredients that date back to the late 1800's in Austria. Siegi's produces twenty different kinds of sausages – all of them handmade to produce the look and taste of real sausage.

GAST member and master butcher, **Siegi Sumaruk**, was born in Austria and came to the States in 1965. Twenty years later, he moved to Tulsa where he opened the family-owned and operated the "Factory".

We invite you to visit Siegi's Sausage Factory and Deli at 8988 S. Sheridan in the Chimney Pointe Center to experience the scents, sights and taste of real sausage.

