



Das Deutsche Echo

December 2007

Jahrgang 28/12

GAST Christmas Party

Please join us for our Annual Christmas Party Saturday, December 8, 2007
Cocktail Hour begins at 6:00 p.m. Dinner is served at 7:00 p.m.

Menu

Prime Rib
Garlic/parsley mashed potatoes
Steamed Carrots
Salad
Rye Bread/Butter
Neopolitan for desert
Catered by: Ludger's

Dinner and Dancing \$20:00, Dance Only \$10:00

Drinks from the Bar by donation

Music is provided by MUSIC MUSIC MUSIC Dance Band

Please make your reservations no later than noon on Thursday, December 6th
By calling the office at 744-6997, or e-mail me at ylorock5@cox.net

– Helen Cohea for the Party Committee

GAST Happenings

Handarbeitsgruppe Tue. at 10 AM	2008	Apr 26	Spring party	Sep 5	Stammtisch
Nov 30	Christkindlmarkt	Jan 4	Stammtisch	May 2	Germanfest begins
Dec 8	Christmas Party	Jan 12	Anniversary party	May 9	Stammtisch?
Dec 9	Adventsfeier	Feb 1	Stammtisch	Jun 1	GAST Picnic
Dec 16	Konversationsrunde	Feb 5	Fasching Ball	Jun 6	Stammtisch
Dec 31	New Years Party	Mar 7	Stammtisch	Jul 11	Stammtisch
		Mar 8	Soup party	Aug 1	Stammtisch
		Apr 4	Stammtisch	Aug 3	Ice Cream Social
				Sep 13	Western Party
				Oct 15	Tulsa Oktoberfest
				Dec 5	Christkindlmarkt
				Dec 13	Christmas party
				Dec 31	New Years party

...FROM THE GAST PRESIDENT



After a stormy beginning of Oktoberfest, the remainder of the festival was a success. We recovered from the loss of sales on Wednesday by having good sales on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. It appears that the bottom line will be better than last year although all the numbers are not in at this time. Again, I would like to thank all the volunteers who worked and specifically those on the committee, **Elam Blank, Erica Hartman, and Leon Boggs**. They also prepared the meal for our own Oktoberfest party, which was also a success. About 60 young people came to our Youth Oktoberfest Party on October 29, including 13 visiting students from Tulsa's sister city Celle, Germany. They enjoyed the schnitzel and hot dogs prepared by the kitchen committee and the games and dances organized by **Don and Carol Wright** with the help of Youth Chair **Katie Sloan** and other GAST members.

Christkindlmarkt is upon us, if not already past when you receive this. We are anticipating wonderful weather this year as opposed to the 10 inches of snow and ice we had last year. I hope that you have agreed to volunteer when called upon. This is one of our major ethnic events as well as a fundraiser. Thanks to **Joy Walker and Judy Anderson** for heading the committee. A commemorative Christkindlmarkt mug can be purchased this year. In addition to outside vendors, GAST will have authentic German items, baked goods, and food available. A puppet show and children's room, as well as **Barbara Conrad's** collection, add to the authentic German atmosphere.

In anticipation of the holiday season, please mark your calendar for the children's St. Nikolas Party on Saturday morning, December 8 and the annual GAST Christmas party that evening, Adventsfeier on December 9, and our New Years Party, December 31.

In 2008, GAST will celebrate Fasching on Fat Tuesday, February 5. You can begin planning your costume. Wonderful prizes will be awarded in categories of most beautiful and funniest. Thanks for all the planning by **Harold Wicks** and the Elferrat.

**Echo Deadline is:
Wednesday, December 19 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

Marianne Segner has been elected to a vacated board position. Welcome, **Marianne**, to the Board of Directors.

A Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all.

—Charles Tegeler

Das Deutsche Echo

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Message Center - 744-6998

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Advent Calendars

The chocolate-filled calendars have arrived and are available to purchase before Christkindlmarkt. You may buy them in the GAST office on Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 9:00 am and 3 pm.

The price is \$2.44 each including tax. Cash or Checks accepted. Please bring correct change if you are paying by cash.

—Carol Wright
Christkindlmarkt committee

...from the Arts President

The seventh annual Volkstrauertag (German Memorial Day) ceremony was held at historic Fort Reno on November 18. A delegation of sixteen Society members attended the event. The total number of attendees was at 59 when I stopped counting. We were addressed by Honorary Consul General Charles Wiggin and Mr. Richard Warner. Mr. Warner gave a detailed history of the 35 internment camps in Oklahoma during WWII. Music for the ceremony was arranged and sponsored by the German-American Heritage Association of Oklahoma City. Following the program everyone went to the post cemetery where wreaths were laid by Lieutenant Colonel Karl Heigl of the German Army Liaison team at Fort Sill, GAST representative **Stan Conrad** and Jörg Kühne, representing the German-American Heritage Association, OKC. The colors were posted by the Governor's Honor Guard of the Oklahoma Army National Guard. Bagpipes were played by **Max Tankersley and David Marshall**. The ceremony concluded with Taps played by a bugler from the 145th Army Band. Many thanks are due to **Barbara Conrad** for organizing this meaningful event.



Adventsfeier will be celebrated on Sunday, December 9 at 3 PM. The pastor is Dr. Wolfgang Guenther who was Director of Seminars at Hermannsburg in the Celle District before his retirement.

The last Konversationsrunde of 2007 will take place on December 16 at the residence of **Ortwin and Gertrud Schmidt**.

We have received on very short notice the offer of a

program of "Christmas Oratorio arias, German Christmas Lieder and Weihnachtslieder" performed by graduate students from the music departments of Southern Nazarene University and Oklahoma University. The only date the performers are available is December 16. Since this program will benefit the public in addition to our

membership we have accepted even though it is the same day as Konversationsrunde. We are working with the faculty to see if the performance can be held later in the afternoon to allow persons to attend both functions. The exact time will be posted on the Society's web site.

The Cultural and Educational Committee is at work planning the calendar for next year. Your suggestions for programs are welcomed. Let us know what you enjoyed in the past and what new events you would like to attend in the coming year.

I'll end the column with a thank you to board member **Dave Schoneweis** for arranging the sale of the Lowery electric organ that has been sitting in the lower level for so many years. This item was no longer needed, especially after purchase of the Yamaha keyboard. Dave donated his time, the sale commission he had to pay and even helped carry the organ up the stairs. Proceeds from the sale have been given to the Endowment Trust.

All Arts Association events are free and open to the public. Come enjoy them and remember to bring a friend. Best wishes to all for the holiday season,

—John Millar

Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde

We wish to correct and apologize for an oversight and thank **Helga and Claus Greiner** for hosting the October Konversationsrunde in their home in which they gave a very interesting and lively presentation of their recent cruise though the Panama Canal. The next meeting will be at 3 PM on the 16th of December in the home of **Ortwin and Gertrud Schmidt** who live at 5133 East 86th Place (495-3727). This will be the traditional Holiday meeting in which we celebrate with song, music and poetry related to the Christmas season. Music will be provided by **Jutta Tankersley and Ingeborg Wagdalt**. Please bring your favorite music, Christmas poem or story to this meeting. It would also be very nice if you could bring some snack, cookies or food to share with others to celebrate the Christmas holidays. If you cannot find time in your busy schedule to attend, we wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and good health for the next year.

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).



St. Nikolaus is coming to town!

Saturday, December 8, 2007

10:00 – 12 noon In the Gast Weinkeller

Please call in your reservation for children and grandchildren, 12 years and under, by Tuesday, December 4, to the GAST message center.

We will be making Christmas cards for the military, playing games, and taking pictures with St. Nikolaus. Join us for a wonderful time! Please bring a plate of your favorite cookies to share.

- Eileen Bader
May Queen

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From the Building Corporation President....

Becky Adrian has resigned to start her own business. Our new office manager is Nancy Sendejas Hacker. She will be working the same hours: MWF 9:00 to 3:00.

Oktoberfest volunteer crew:

Thanks to everyone for helping with our two food booths during this year's Oktoberfest. We hope everyone enjoyed working and meeting new people. We had approximately 290 volunteers. About 120 of them were high school youth involved with German classes. They were a big asset to our operation.

We often forget about the **set-up crew** who work long hours before and after the event. We need to give them a special thank you for their time and talents.

Thanks to all your love hours, we had a very successful fund-raising event.

For more information or questions about the GAST Center, contact Elam at 625-7629.

Now Playing at the GAST Theater

An Erwin Jerchau Presentation

Monday December 3



Starting at 6:30 PM

**Weihnachten bei
Carmen Nebel**

Starting at 7:30 PM
**Daniel, Phillip und das
Wunder der Liebe**

*A heart-warming story, that will
put you into the Christmas spirit*



The Sunshine Lady

Please call or E-mail me if you know of a GAST member who is ill.

Sympathy cards were sent to:
Harold Wicks (loss of his mother) and
get-well to Annemie Waldroop, Floyd

Webster, Neil Hartman, Stan Conrad, Harold Wicks and
Teresa Gallagher.

Please let me know if it is appropriate to send a sympathy
card. Thank you.

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

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

Angela and Sean No-
vak
6213 E. 78th St.
Tulsa, Ok 74176
607-4708

Deena and Heath
VanDeLinder
1413 E. Reno
Broken Arrow, Ok
74012
355-9192

June Orcutt
8818 N. Crestwood Dr.
Sperry, Ok 74073
918-288-8887

Correction
Gary H. Stanley
4109 E. 22nd Pl.
Tulsa, Ok 74114
918-742-2127

John Saluke
9310 Freedom Rd.
Apt. 523
Sapulpa, Ok 74066
580-284-5227

Sweet Potato says:



*Any fool can criticize, condemn
and complain--
and most do.*

Dale Carnegie

FASCHING SEASON BEGINS

Prinz Bernhardt I and Prinzessin Barbara II
Our Prinz for Fasching 2008 became a member
of our German-American Society because he
has a very strong interest in German culture.
He earned a degree in German at Bethel Uni-
versity in 1975. He later spent a summer work-
ing in Germany and joined GAST in 1998. He
has participated in many activities at GAST. He
was a member of the GAST Sanger and has
volunteered for Oktoberfest, Christkindlmarkt, and Ger-
manfest. He is currently a member of the Board of Direc-
tors and helps in the bar at our parties. He has supported
Fasching over the years by coming in costume and was a



winner in our costume contest in 2005 as a pirate. He
says, "The best part of being a member of
GAST is that's how I met my beautiful wife
Barbara".

Our Prinzessin for Fasching 2008 was born in
Wiesbaden, Germany. Her mother was a Ger-
man citizen and her father was a member of the
U.S. Army. She came to the U.S. at the age of
six months. She started attending GAST func-
tions with her mother in 1997. While volunteer-
ing at Oktoberfest in 1998, she met Bernie. She
and Bernie met again at the May Ball and later that year
became husband and wife. She has greatly enjoyed our
Fasching parties and the many other activities of GAST.



NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Please join us on December 31, 2007 starting at 9:00 p.m. 'till we ring in the New Year 2008.

There is no admission, just bring a dish, or snack to share.

We will have Music, Dancing, Talking, Games and just a plain good time.

There will be a complimentary glass of CHAMPAGNE at midnight,
compliments of GAST!





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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“O Du Fröhliche”

Next to the all-time favorite Christmas carol, “Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht,” many Germans probably rank the carol:

O du Fröhliche,
O du Selige
Gnadenbringende Weihnachtszeit....

as their second choice.

It is well-known that the melody is not of German origin but rather a Sicilian tune. Sailors often sang the pious words as protection from the elements, calling on Mary with the words, “O sanctissima, o purissima, dulcis virego Maria ... “

Less-known is the person who wrote the moving words. Johann Daniel Falk. He resided in Weimar where he held the position of “Legationsrat,” or state counselor, and belonged to Goethe's circle of friends.

Falk dreaded the approaching Christmas Holidays of 1816. Europe had not yet recovered from the devastation wrought by the Napoleonic wars. Disease and starvation stalked the surviving population; homeless people and orphaned children were everywhere, begging for food and shelter. Falk himself continued to mourn the death of four of his children and felt compelled to help those in need wherever he could.

While sitting alone in deep depression feeling sorry for himself and bemoaning his fate, as he tells it, he had this sudden inspiration—the words to the now familiar Sicilian tune came unbidden to his mind and flowed freely from his pen. That same day, he rehearsed his creation with a young children's choir, of whom he was in charge, and next evening they performed it in front of a most appreciative audience.

He stated that this carol instilled in him a peace he had not experienced for a long, long time. May these words, written in such trying times, lift our hearts and spirits as well.



—submitted by **Joeseff Hardt**

Renate Genieser
Die Zeitschrift
A Newsletter of the Auxiliary
of the German Society
of Pennsylvania

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The Blaskapelle

Practice makes perfect, these musicians are not perfect yet, but close, they are working on it every Monday evening. Don Linde the band director, is continuing in the tradition of serious work with lots of fun and enjoyment in the music. These musicians simply love what they do.

The performances at Oktoberfest proved again that the Blaskapelle is ready to entertain and wow an audiences. Oktoberfest resulted in an addition to the number of musicians. Seems like a lot of folks like to be part of this musical group.

GAST Saenger

We are happy to welcome Bruce Feddersen, tenor, John Berg, bass, and BettyDonhue soprano to the Choir. We are so fortunate to have a number of male voices, something most choirs can only wish for. However, we can always use more singers and welcome them with open arms.

With Oktoberfest out of the way work is underway on seasonal music. We will be performing a few of our selections at our own Adventsfeier on Dec. 9th. That same evening we will go to Okmulgee to sing at **Annemie Wal-droop's** Church. Our last performance is scheduled for Dec. 17th. After that there will be no choir practice for the rest of the year.

Regular rehearsals will resume late January or early February the exact date has not been decided at this time. Look in your next Echo for that information, or call the GAST Office. Wishing you all a joyous and peacefull Holiday. Froeliche Weihnachten und ein gutes Neues Jahr,

Helau! Helau! Helau!

Get ready for a change back to tradition and authenticity. The big Faschingball and grand finale of this season is always held on the eve of Ash Wednesday. Due to some unforeseen circumstances, the Elferrat has changed this years party from Saturday the 2nd. to Fat Tuesday on February 5th. Some other changes are in the works, so check your January Echo for more details.

The Elferrat is busy rehearsing this year's performance and is looking good. Well, interesting and funny anyway. Remember to get your costumes ready you could be one of the winners of the costume contest.

Now, please change your calendar to read as follows:

2008 Faschingball on February 5th.

—**Irmgard Runyon**

This page is sponsored by **Arnold & Gwen Bieber**

The back page is sponsored by **Kenneth Renberg**



Christkindlmarkt

November 30 – December 2

Cities and towns throughout Germany, feature Christkindlmarkt, a Christmas Market during December. The most famous one in Nürnberg, has been held since 1692. These outdoor markets are usually set up somewhere in the heart of the city and decked out in seasonal



splendor.

Once again, the German-American Society of Tulsa (GAST) provides the citizens of Tulsa with the annual presentation of this wonderful custom. The GAST Christkindlmarkt committee and its numerous volunteers transform the GAST Center into a Christmas wonderland which includes many crafters displaying their wares. GAST booths feature Nutcrackers, Smoker-männle and a great selection of imported Christmas tree ornaments, as well as Germany's famous Christmas Stollen.

Moreover, Christkindlmarkt offers a variety of Wurst, Kartoffelpuffer, hot apple cider, hot chocolate and coffee. The Christkindl and St. Nikolaus walk among the booths to the delight of the children. Christkindlmarkt has a "Spielstube" for the children, where they can listen to Christmas stories and partake of the various hands-on activities and goodies set out for them.

Make sure you add this most pleasant of holiday events to your December calendar each year. Good food, fine crafts and musical entertainment await you!

