



The Voice of the German-American Society of Tulsa



Great Western Party



We hope you'll join us for a Western Dance Party on Saturday, September 13th commencing at 6:00 PM

We have invited Art Fabrizius, a local line dance instructor to teach us to line-dance. He will begin the free lessons at 5:00 p.m.

Knotty Pine Bar-B-Q will be served at 6:15 PM and the Rowdy Creek Band will play for your dancing pleasure from 7:00 PM until 10:00 PM

Door prizes and raffles will be available throughout the evening

Dinner & Dance - \$15.00. Dance Only - \$7.50. Children 12 and under - \$5.00.

Casual or Western Dress recommended. Leave your tie at home or risk getting it cut off!

Our Handarbeit Ladies may want to use your tie to make their next quilt 

Please make your reservation by calling the GAST Center, 744-6997, or by e-mailing gast@tulsacoxmail.com by Noon, Wednesday, September 10

GAST Happenings

Handarbeitsgruppe Tue. at 10 AM	Oct 15 Tulsa Oktoberfest	Jan 2 Stammtisch
Sep 1 Movie night	Oct 12 Konversationsrunde	Jan 11 Konversationsrunde
Sep 5 Stammtisch	Oct 25 GAST Oktoberfest party	Feb 6 Stammtisch
Sep 7 Sonntagskaffee	Nov 7 Stammtisch	Feb 8 Konversationsrunde
Sep 13 Western Party	Nov 9 Konversationsrunde	Mar 6 Stammtisch
Sep 13 Kinderdeutsch starts	Nov 28 Weinkellerabend	Mar 8 Konversationsrunde
Sep 14 Konversationsrunde	Dec 5 Christkindlmarkt	Apr 3 Stammtisch
Sep 16 Adult German Language	Dec 12 Stammtisch	Apr 12 Konversationsrunde
Sep 19 American Organ Society	Dec 13 Christmas party	May 8 Stammtisch
Sep 26 Weinkellerabend	Dec 14 Adventsfeier	Jun 5 Stammtisch
Oct 3 Stammtisch	Dec 31 New Years party	Jul 3 Stammtisch
Oct 5 German-American Day	2009	Aug 7 Stammtisch

...FROM THE GAST PRESIDENT

The Ice Cream Social on August 3 was a great success. About 85 members and guests enjoyed a variety of ice cream cones, banana splits, sundaes, cookies and ice coffee on a hot Sunday afternoon. For the kids, there was entertainment and balloon creations by three wonderful Clowns from Mission Possible and face painting for those brave enough.. Helping with set-up and serving were **Gwen Bieber, Ruth Bly, Bev Bordner, Denise LaChelle Castillo, Ginny Greek, Erica Hartman, Rita Lenfestey** and **Ed Westenhiser**. A great crew! Thank you, everyone for volunteering your time.



It seems that our informal get-togethers are becoming more and more popular. The July Weinkellerabend was well attended. What started off as an evening of snacks, drinks and conversation has morphed into a full meal of meat, vegetables, bread, salads and deserts, lovingly prepared by the ladies in charge and several volunteers. But you have to get there early to get in line for the best selection! Thank you, **Irmgard Toschik** and **Ruth Bly** for another evening of Gemütlichkeit.

Helga and Claus Greiner, Terry Sponsler and **Rick Pizzo** offered to host Weinkellerabend on August 22. I hope you came and signed up to volunteer for an Oktoberfest position on the GAST team. We need many more volunteers for set-up and tear-down, for preparing, cooking and serving the food, inventory control, etc. It's our biggest fundraiser and a very important cultural contribution to the community.

We are trying to revive Sonntagskaffee as a regular event on the first Sunday of each month. **Silke and Wolfgang Becker**, with the help of several volunteers, did a wonderful job last year serving coffee, tea and homemade pastries. Only 2 Sundays are available for the remainder of this year, September 7 and November 2. Please let me know, if you are willing to help bake or serve.



**Wednesday, Sept 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**

Although we still don't have a Social and Activities Chair, we will have our planned Western Party on September 13 (see announcement in this issue of the ECHO). There has been much discussion about whether a Western style party has a place on the GAST activities calendar. How do you feel about that? How would you vote in a survey of the membership? Please e-mail me your opinion (aobieber@aol.com), call me (357-9156) or drop me a note.

The GAST Folk Dancers are back from a successful workshop in the Black Forest and have started practicing for Bixby DeutschesFest and Oktoberfest. The Blaskapelle, always dedicated, continued practice every other Monday during the Summer. The choir will meet again on Thursday nights in September. All of these groups would welcome new members. Please call or e-mail the Office (744-6997, gast@tulsacoxmail.com), if you are interested.

We mourn the passing of **Charles Tegeler** who served this organization tirelessly in many capacities, most recently as President of GAST. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

—Arnold Bieber

Das Deutsche Echo

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Message Center - 744-6998

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...from the Arts President

The summer season is coming to an end and Arts events will soon resume. The first is Movie Night beginning Monday, September 1 at 6:30 PM and continuing on the first Monday of each month through June.

Next will be the fall Kinderdeutsch semester beginning Saturday, September 13, 10 AM to 11:30 AM in the Weinkeller. This is for children 4 to 12 years old and offers instruction in the German language, folk dance and folk songs. It is for children of non-members as well as members and will run for eight sessions. The cost is \$15 for children of members, \$20 for non-members. A \$5 discount is allowed for each additional child after the first. Signs for this and for the adult language classes have been placed in our yard.

Konversationsrunde will resume on Sunday, September 14 and continue on the second Sunday of each month through May.

The fall Adult Language classes will begin on Tuesday, September 16, 7 PM to 9 PM. The tuition is \$65 for members and \$75 for non-members. The course will run for ten sessions and will have classes for both beginner and advanced levels.

The Library will resume operation Wednesday, September 17, 1 PM to 3 PM and continue on the third Wednesday of each month through May.

The American Theater Organ Society musical variety show is scheduled for Friday, September 19 at 7 PM.

This will be an evening of light music and free refreshments.

Speakers Bureau activity should be picking up in September, any interest in this should be referred to **Arnold Bieber** or the GAST office.

The German-American Day celebration will be on Sunday, October 5 at 3 PM. More details on this will be provided next month.

The biannual Kid's World event will be at the Quick Trip Center on 21st Street at the Fairgrounds. It will run from Thursday, November 13 to Sunday, November 16.

The Volkstrauertag trip to Fort Reno is scheduled for Sunday, November 16.

Adventsfeier will be on Sunday, December 13 at 3 PM, Vicar Chris Tiews of Grace Lutheran Church has been selected to conduct the service.

Early next year a program on the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift will be presented. Details about this will be covered in future columns. If anyone has some input they wish to give please let us know.

New possibilities keep coming up for a spring program. Celle may offer even more opportunities than previously mentioned. Also, the idea of having a combined lieder-folk music program is being investigated.

—Jim Randall

Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde

We hope that by the time that you read this you, family and friends are back from a wonderful summer break. The first meeting after the summer pause is traditionally devoted to sharing our summer adventures with others. Please feel free to bring anything with you that would add to your discussion as to how your summer was spent. For this initial meeting we will meet at the home of **Harold and Doris Wicks** who live at 5606 South Trenton (743-0359) on 14 September at 3 pm. We had a large and lively group at our last meeting and hope that you will help us start the new season with a good turnout.

The tentative dates for Konversationsrunde for the next season are September 14, October 12, November 9, December-TBA, January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12, and May-TBA. Please put these dates on your calendar and check the ECHO for any changes.

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).

GAST Folkdancers wow Germany

On July 31st, **Carol and Don Wright, Bob Mills, Uschi and Inge Mueller, Christy Collins and Gary Bradley** met up in the beautiful Black Forest city of Offenburg, Germany, to take part in and represent GAST at the 2008 Bundesvolkstanztreffen. This was the 15th time groups from America joined this very colorful and interesting dance conference. Dressed in denim with white shirts and red scarves sporting an Oklahoma 'Sheriff's' star, our group was a stand-out in the crowd. Joining with other folkdance groups from across the United States, we performed a medley of American dances, which included Cotton-eyed Joe, a Virginia Waltz, the Charleston and other dances. In addition, we participated in dance work-shops and are bringing home new dances to present at Oktoberfest and the various dance venues at which we perform throughout the year.

The festival culminated in a parade of nations through Offenburg, some 2 km to their convention center. Each

group stopped at the Rathaus (city hall) and was introduced to the crowd by the mayor. Our American groups, now changed from denim into German folk dress, were the last item in the parade. As we stood to be announced, the mayor stated, "Ladies and Gentlemen, you will never guess where this group is from and I won't leave you in suspense. They are from the United States!" A collective gasp went up from the crowd, followed by wild cheering and applause. Our new GAST folkdance costumes, which led the group, wowed the audience. We are very appreciative for all of the support GAST has given the folk dancers, making it possible for us to attend this event and to represent our organization in style.

New dancers are always welcome to join us. Come and give it a try on most Friday evenings beginning at 7 pm. For more information contact **Carol Wright** at 299-2839 or d.c.w@cox.net.

—Uschi Mueller.

...from the Building President

Please join your friends at the GAST Center on Saturday, September 6 at 9 AM for a work party. Twice a year we oil the woodwork and do additional light cleaning to keep our building looking good for you. There are always small tasks and minor repairs to be accomplished. There will be something for everyone to do. Supplies will be furnished. Bring hand tools and work gloves if you wish. Come help to maintain our beautiful facility and enjoy a pizza lunch. We are planning to cut down the weeds at the east end of the parking lot. Please bring a couple of weedwackers.***

We hope to complete several projects this year that will enhance the appearance of our building.

For a better building,
—Harold Wicks, President

Bixby DeutschesFest



The Bixby High School German Club along with TCC German Department will host the 4th annual Bixby DeutschesFest at Washington Irving Park from 9 am to 10 pm on Saturday, September 20th, 2008.

Authentic German food, pastries and beverages from area merchants will be featured. Entertainment from the German-American Society of Tulsa's band, choir, and dance group will appear. There will be an inflatable play area for the kids in the Kinderplatz, assorted games and hourly challenges, puppet show, face painting, silent auction, Volksmarsch, dog agility show and wiener dog races, and German automobiles on display old and new.

DeutschesFest is the main fundraiser for the Bixby High School German Club and benefits the further development of Washington Irving Park and Arboretum. These funds help send students to Germany and provide classroom materials to further enhance their studies. See the website: www.bixbydeutschesfest.org for more details!



IN MEMORIAM

Charles Tegeler
1029—2008

The German-American Society of Tulsa (GAST) mourns the loss of a good friend and dedicated supporter, **Charles Tegeler**, who died on August 12 after a courageous fight with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease).

Charles was the immediate past president of the Society. For more than 20 years he served in many other capacities, as Chairman of Oktoberfest, President of the Building Corporation, Chairman of the Leasing Committee, as a member of the Elferrat and the Blaskapelle (Brass Band) and as First Vice-President of GAST. He was proud of his German heritage, and he supported the cultural activities of the Tulsa Community.

We express our sincere condolences to the family of Charles Tegeler.

KINDERDEUTSCH

This wonderful program for children, ages 4 to 12, starts again Saturday, September 13, 10 AM

Your children or grandchildren will learn German folk dances, songs, words and phrases in an informal but educational format. Refreshments will be provided at the end of each class.

The cost for the 8-week program is still only \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. A \$5 discount will be given to additional children in a family.



Sweet Potato says:

FAULTS
are like headlights.
Those of others seem
more glaring than our own.

Bits & Pieces Magazine



Ludwig van Beethoven

16 December 1770 - 26 March 1827

was a German composer and pianist. He was a crucial figure in the transitional period between the Classical and Romantic eras in Western classical music, and remains one of the most respected and influential composers of all time.

Born in Bonn, then in the Electorate of Cologne (now in modern-day Germany), he moved to Vienna in his early twenties and settled there, studying with Joseph Haydn and quickly gaining a reputation as a virtuoso pianist. Beethoven's hearing gradually deteriorated beginning in his twenties, yet he continued to compose masterpieces, and to conduct and perform, even after he was completely deaf.



Courtesy Wikipedia



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An Erwin Jerchau Presentation



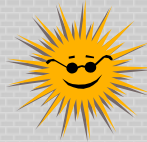
Monday September 1

starting at 6:30 PM
Alpenspektakel

Starting at 7:30 PM
Meine Schwester und ich

Starring Katharina Schubert, Nadeshda Brennicke,
Thomas Sarbacher and Arthur Brauss and Arthur Brauss

The Sunshine Lady



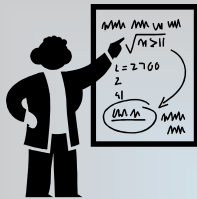
Get-well cards were sent to: Rita Lenfestey, Virginia Radtke, Jay Gibson, Ingeborg Mueller and Josef Hardt. Sympathy cards were sent to: Ralph Gambrell family and Charles Tegeler family.

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.

E-mail me at book_worm34@hotmail.com
or phone me at 357-9156

—Gwen Bieber

Adult Language Classes



Our popular German language classes are scheduled to begin September 16. So, if you always wanted to learn German or improve your skills, this is your

chance! We are planning four levels, from beginners to conversation groups.

Classes meet every Tuesday from 7 – 9 PM for ten weeks. Tuition is \$65 for members and \$75 for non-members, exclusive textbook/CD package. Enrollment takes place September 16, 6:30-7 PM.

To secure your place in class, you may pre-register by sending a note to our office (ww.gastulsa.org), mentioning which class you wish to enroll in and enclosing a check for tuition.

—Marianne Strong

We welcome these new members to the GAST Family

Inge Brown
13200 S. 4235 Rd
Chelsea, Oklahoma 74016
918-638-2898

Lindsay Fry-Geier
and William Geier
20 East Archer #502
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103
918-633-9278

Patrice Brown
12312 N. Harvard Ave.
Skiatook, Oklahoma 74070
918-607-6976

Drivers Safety Program

GAST has made it possible for our members to attend a AARP Drivers Safety Program conducted by Claus Greiner. This is a 7-8 hrs course which qualifies for an insurance discount.



Course size: Min 12 participants, Max 35 participants. Course fee: \$10. Per person (AARP fee)

If there is enough interest this course could be scheduled for late September or early October

If interested please call 455-3096 or e-mail cgreiner@cox.net

—Claus Greiner



Dogs have owners



Cats have staff



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The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



The Voice of the German-American Society of Tulsa



Ice Cream Social



**I scream
for
Ice Cream**



**Kids,
Balloons,
and Clowns**

Pictures by Arnold

Mozart fell ill while in Prague, for the September 6 premiere of his opera *La clemenza di Tito*, written in 1791 on commission for the coronation festivities of the Emperor. He was able to continue his professional functions for some time, for instance conducting the premiere of *The Magic Flute* on September 30. The illness intensified on November 20, at which point Mozart became bedridden, suffering from swelling, pain, and vomiting.

Mozart was tended in his final illness by Constanze, her youngest sister Sophie, and the family doctor, Thomas Franz Closset. There is evidence that he was mentally occupied with the task of finishing his *Requiem*. However, the evidence that he actually dictated passages to Süssmayr is very slim. He died at 1 in the morning on December 5. The *New Grove* describes his funeral thus: "Mozart was buried in a common grave, in accordance with contemporary Viennese custom, at the St Marx cemetery outside the city on December 7."

The cause of Mozart's death cannot be determined with certainty. His death record listed "hitziges Frieselfieber" ("severe miliary fever", referring to a rash that looks like millet seeds). However, the most widely accepted version is that he died of acute rheumatic fever; he had had three or even four known attacks of it since his childhood, and this particular disease has a tendency to recur, leaving increasingly serious consequences each time, such as rampant infection and heart valve damage.



Unfinished portrait of Mozart by his brother-in-law Joseph Lange

Courtesy Wikipedia