



The Voice of the German-American Society of Tulsa

GAST Christmas Party

Please join us for our annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 13, 2008.
Doors open at 6:00 PM. Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM

Menu
Entrée:
 Prime Rib
 Salad
 Garlic mashed potatoes
 Seasoned green beans
 Bread & butter
Dessert:
 Cheesecake with raspberry sauce

Catered by Ludger's

Dinner and Dancing - \$20, Dancing only - \$10
Children 12 & under - \$5

Entertainment by MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC
Special performance by the GAST Sänger

Please make your reservation by Wednesday, December 10, by calling the
GAST Message Center (744-6998) or by e-mail to gast@tulsacoxmail.com

GAST Happenings

Handarbeitsgruppe Tue. at 10 AM	2009	Apr 12 Konversationsrunde
Dec 5,6,7 Christkindlmarkt	Jan 2 Stammtisch	May 8 Stammtisch
Dec 12 Stammtisch	Jan 11 Konversationsrunde	Jun 5 Stammtisch
Dec 13 St. Nikolaus party	Jan 17 Anniversary party	Jul 3 Stammtisch
Dec 13 GAST Christmas party	Feb 6 Stammtisch	Aug 7 Stammtisch
Dec 14 Adventsfeier	Feb 8 Konversationsrunde	Sep 4 Stammtisch
Dec 21 Konversationsrunde	Feb 24 Fasching party	
Dec 31 New Years party	Mar 6 Stammtisch	
	Mar 8 Konversationsrunde	
	Apr 3 Stammtisch	

This page is sponsored by GAST Member Hildegard Schaffrin

...FROM THE GAST PRESIDENT

Thanks to all you volunteers, Tulsa Oktoberfest 2008 was a successful fundraiser for GAST, the best in several years. The weather was great, the food and entertainment were outstanding and everybody who came had a good time. Thank you again, Committee members and volunteers!

We are now preparing for our 10th Christkindlmarkt. **Joy Walker** and **Judy Anderson** are co-chairing the event and have organized a Committee where each member is responsible for a given task. They are drawing from a group of veteran volunteers, but there are still several jobs that need to be filled. If you would like to help, please call Joy, Judy, **Erica Hartman** or the GAST Office and sign up for a shift. Set-up will start the day after Thanksgiving. No experience is required, we will train you!

December is a busy month at the GAST Center. Right after Christkindlmarkt we will have a Children's St. Nikolaus Party and the Christmas Party, both on December 13. ARTS will hold the annual Adventsfeier on Sunday, December 14. There will be no Weinkellerabend, but everyone is invited to the New Year's Party on December 31.

The **Blaskapelle** and **Gast Sänger** are working on their Christmas programs. Try not to miss their upcoming performances.

Christl Parson and **Barbara Taron** did a great job with Sonntagskaffee on November 2. 32 people came to enjoy the home-baked cakes, and of course, the always pleasant conversation. Thank you, Christl and Barbara and all the ladies who brought their special culinary creations.



Barbara Conrad arranged for a visit by German Consul Thorsten Gottfried on November 17. Several of our members were able to ask legal questions and get advice in person.

We still need a Social Chair(wo)man to organize our get-togethers in 2009, starting with the Anniversary Party, tentatively scheduled for January 17, as well as Sonntagskaffee and Weinkellerabend for the next few months. You are guaranteed to have fun and earn the appreciation of your fellow members. There are many who will help, but somebody needs to be in charge.

Congratulations to our Fasching Prinz and Prinzessin **Leon and Donna Boggs**. Check out the Fasching/Karneval tradition on our website www.gastulsa.org. The Elferrat is busy preparing for our Fasching Party on Tuesday, February 24.

It's not too early to think about Germanfest. We need a chairperson to start the preparation right after the New Year. Any volunteers?

To all members and friends of the German American Society of Tulsa: Fröhliche Weihnachten, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a happy and healthy New Year.

—Arnold Bieber



Wednesday, Dec 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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...from the Arts President

Movie Night will continue on the first Monday of each month through June.

The fall semester of Kinderdeutsch concluded November 9. The spring semester will begin in January.

Thanks for the effort by **Lois Voeller** and many others in running our booth at Kid's World. Many passports were stamped and a few membership applications were taken. The Kinderdeutsch children gave a fine performance on Saturday.

Konversationrunde will continue on the second Sunday of each month through May.

Adult Language classes concluded November 18. The spring semester will begin in February.

The Library will continue operation at 1 to 3 PM on the third Wednesday of each month through May.

Interest in the Speakers Bureau should be referred to **Arnold Bieber** or the GAST office.

The Volkstrauertag trip to Fort Reno was made November 16. There were nearly fifty in attendance, eight from Tulsa. Thanks to **Barbara Conrad** for her efforts in organizing this event.

The chapel service included music and some short speeches appropriate to the occasion. This was followed by a ceremony at the cemetery, which began with the

laying of the wreaths. This was followed by presentation of the colors, then the playing of the pipes by GAST members **David Marshall and Max Tankersley**. Taps was played by an Oklahoma Army National Guard trumpet player, after which the colors were retired. German and Italian World War II POWs were buried in the cemetery.

Adventsfeier will be held on Sunday, December 13 at 3 PM, Vicar Chris Tiews of Grace Lutheran Church has been selected to conduct the service. **Susan Burch** will sing a solo. Donations made at this event will go to Meals on Wheels to support their efforts for the holiday season. **Fred Rother** discussing details with a pastor friend from Düren, Germany who may officiate at next year's Adventsfeier.

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. **Charles Meyers** has agreed to chair this event so if you have input please let him know.

The spring entertainment program will include a performance by Junge Chor from Celle, it is scheduled for Sunday April 5 at 3 PM. Global Alliance will need assistance from GAST in hosting the performers.

—Jim Randall

Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde

We would like to thank **Klaus and Helga Greiner** for opening their beautiful home to us and enlightening us about a part of the world about which most of us are unfamiliar.

The next meeting will be at 3 pm, 21 December at the home of **Ortwin and Gertrud Schmidt** who live at 5133 E. 86th Pl. Tulsa (495-3727). In keeping with the holiday season and past meetings, the theme will be traditional German music and Christmas songs accompanied by a combination of piano and flute music provided by the **Schmidt and Wagdalt** families. In addition to music, feel free to bring any books, poems or other reading mate-

rial which we can share with each other during this festive season. Please plan to attend this most meaningful meeting which serves to connect and remind us of our basic traditions and heritage.

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)**.

FASCHING SEASON BEGINS

HELAU

HELAU

HELAU

The ELFERRAT held their Coronation Dinner on November 11th to crown the royal couple for Fasching 2009: **Leon and Donna Boggs**.

Prinz Leon I and Prinzessin Donna I have been GAST members for over 15 years. Leon works for Tulsa Public Schools as District Registrar. He has a Master of Divinity Degree. Leon is very active in his church music programs. He directs a hand bell choir and has directed the Tulsa All Lutheran Messiah for 18 years.

Since joining GAST, Leon has been involved in many of our activities. He has chaired Oktoberfest three years, chaired Germanfest, played our organ for Adventsfeier Service, and directed our choir. He has been Secretary for GAST and is currently First Vice President of GAST. Leon has given very generously of his time and talent to our organization.



Prinzessin Donna I retired from Southwestern Bell after 32 years and quickly became a volunteer with Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. She now works there part-time. Donna is involved in many church activities and has volunteered many hours to GAST activities.

Prinz Leon I and Prinzessin Donna I invite you
to attend the Fasching Party
to be held on FAT TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2009.

...from the Building President

Our office manager, Nancy Hacker, has resigned. Nancy has kept everything on schedule and has performed her duties very successfully. We have hired Becky Adrain to replace her. Becky has some ideas that could increase rentals and generate some additional income for the building. More income will reduce the amount of money needed from GAST for operating expenses



We have rented the building 29 times this year and we have 14 rentals for 2009. HELP WANTED: We need at least two men to help us set up for each rental. Our set up crew is small and would appreciate your help.

You can also be a Host for the rentals. Just let the office have your name to put on our list. I sincerely appreciate all of the set-up crew and building-hosts who volunteer to support our rental program.

—Harold Wicks

We've got Mail!

“Dear very special friends, Barbara and Stan. It has been a very long time indeed since I have had a more enjoyable Sunday and I want to thank you both very much for a wonderful and memorable day, one I will never forget! I have told a few of my old Army friends who could relate to such a solemn occasion about the quite amazing Chapel built by the German PoWs and about the special vocal numbers by that talented soprano which I enjoyed so much, and, of course, your well-presented program of distinguished speakers and then the ceremony at the grave-site, which went so very well indeed, until the Army bugler played “TAPS”, which still after all these years brings back memories I cannot control. It was all so very beautiful and I am so appreciative of your honoring me by letting me be a small part of it all, and again, I thank you.



Danke schön und Aufwiedersehen! “

—Karl

Mr. Charles Ward is an 86-year old architect, who still works in his field. As a young Captain he was fighting in Europe during the time of D-Day and served after the war for about three months as “Bürgermeister” in the town of Sinbach an der Inn. He send this note to Stan and Barbara Conrad after his visit and participation in our Volktrauertag ceremony on November 16th at Fort Reno.

—submitted by **Barbara Conrad**



Sweet Potato says:

*You can't act like a
skunk without someone
getting wind of it*

Lorene Workman

Oktoberfest was a Success!

Oktoberfest 2008 was a great success for GAST! Our income from sales at the Festival and the Oktoberfest party was \$59,972.26.

I think most of our bills are in and paid. The total at this time is \$21,337.21. That leaves us with ‘take-home profit’ of \$38,635.05. I feel that is great. I am happy with that number. It was only possible with all your help as volunteers. Many man-hours went into the festival. I especially thank my steering committee: **Arnold Bieber, Erica Hartman, Dietrich Lannert, Ruth Bly, Ed Westenhiser, Lois Voeller.**

Each of you who worked in any way is a very important part of this event being so successful. I can't thank all of you enough for your help and support – and I stayed on my feet after this one – not like two years ago when I ended up in the hospital.

Thanks again,

—**Leon Boggs**, Committee Chair

Did You Know?



Our acronym “GAST”, stands for German-American Society of Tulsa.
It is pronounced “Gust”,
which happens to mean “guest” in German!



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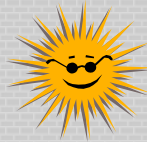
An Erwin Jerchau Presentation



Monday December 1, starting at 6:30 PM
Weihnachtskonzert
Beautiful Christmas songs from
yesterday and today.

Starting at 7:30 PM
Ausgerechnet Weihnachten
Starring: Dagmar Schwarz, Peter Lerchbaumer,
Ursula Staack and Florian Avid Fitz

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. Get Well Cards to Lynn Bowen, Ted Castle, Max McPherson and Rosamond Sievers (Carol Wright's Mother) and Sympathy Cards to Lynn Bowen Family and Kenneth Renberg Family.

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

—Gwen Bieber

Come join us at the next Stammtischrunde

Friday evening, Dec. 12th, 6:30
In the GAST Weinkeller
Hope to see you there.

Zum Wohl,
Dann Björklund, Chair

KIDZ'WORLD

Thanks to all who helped make Kids' World a success by working in the GAST Arts and Celle Partnership booth this past week. There were many of you and rather than list names for fear of missing someone, this is a blanket thank you to all who supported us.

We don't have final figures from Tulsa Global Alliance for the numbers of kids attending and probably will not have for some time but as those of you who worked during the busy bus-unloading times, there were many as well as the scout troops and home schooled families and just others who were not involved with a particular group.

We appreciate all of you.

—Becky Adrian
—Lois Voeller
—Arnold Bieber

St. Nikolaus

is coming to town!

Saturday, December 13, 2008
From 1:00 – 3:00 pm
in the GAST Weinkeller.



Please call in your reservation for children and grandchildren, 12 years and under, by Thursday, 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.

Delaine Bartsch
May Queen

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



New Year's Eve Party

Please join us on December 31, starting at 9 PM to ring in the New Year 2009 in the Weinkeller. No admission charge, no reservation is needed.

Just bring a dish, dessert or snack to share.

Bring your favorite CD or game to play. Casual dress is preferred.

Complimentary CHAMPAGNE at midnight!

We are keeping our fingers crossed for good travel weather.

Rain or snow may not keep us away,
but icy conditions will cancel the party without notice.



GAST Christkindlmarkt

