



Memories - Sweet Memories

GAST 29th Anniversary Party

Saturday, January 17th, 2009



Doors open at 6:00 PM
Dinner starts at 6:30 PM

Music by DJ Connections.

Dinner and dancing - \$17.50
Children - \$5.00
Dancing only - \$7.50



Menu details will be e-mailed when available

Please make your reservation by Wednesday, January 14th.
Telephone 744-6997 or e-mail gast@tulsacoxmail.com
A message will give you menu details.

An opportunity to show off your Pearls and Ties for this Gala Event!

GAST Happenings

Handarbeitsgruppe Tue. at 10 AM
Dec 31 New Years party

2009

Jan 2 Stammtisch
Jan 11 Konversationsrunde
Jan 17 Anniversary party
Jan 23 Weinkellerabend
Feb 6 Stammtisch
Feb 8 Konversationsrunde

Feb 24 Fasching party
Mar 6 Stammtisch
Mar 8 Konversationsrunde
Apr 3 Stammtisch
Apr 11 Kids' Easter Party
Apr 12 Konversationsrunde
Apr 19 Membership meeting
May 8 Stammtisch
Jun 5 Stammtisch
Jul 3 Stammtisch

Aug 7 Stammtisch
Sep 4 Stammtisch

...FROM THE GAST PRESIDENT

Our 10th Christkindlmarkt was a wonderful cultural and inspirational festival. Thanks to **Joy Walker** and **Judy Anderson**, co-chairs for the second year in a row, and all the Committee members and volunteers we had another successful event. New members on the Committee this year were **Bob and Dora Schein**, in charge of Accounting, **Chuck Tegeler**, assisting **John Millar** with cash register programming, **Uschi Mueller**, children's room, **Hannelore Giles**, Bäckerei, and **Tom Bordner**, set-up and tear-down. Tom also did a great job playing Christmas carols on the accordion. But what would Christkindlmarkt be without the sounds of the **GAST Blaskapelle** and the harp, played so beautifully by **Linda Paul**. Great weather and excellent publicity by the local media certainly helped to bring in the crowds. I do believe we had more children visiting this time, judging by the number of "goody bags" given out.



Speaking of children, our annual St. Nikolaus Party on December 13th brought out 29 of them with parents and grandparents in tow. They made Christmas tree decorations and cards for the soldiers, watched a puppet show and had their pictures taken with St. Nikolaus. **Maikönigin Delaine Bartsch** was in charge of the event. She was assisted by **Hildegard Schaffrin**, **Janet Jamison** and **Angelique Giddings**.

Just under 90 people came to our Christmas party on the evening of December 13th. The Great Hall was beautifully decorated by members of the **GAST SÄNGER**, **Ludger's Cake & Catering** served a great meal and Music, Music, Music played for everybody's dancing pleasure. A special performance by the **GAST Sänger Choir** under the direction of **Susan Burch** was enjoyed by all.



**Newsletter
Deadline**

**Wednesday, Jan 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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Message Center - 744-6998

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The last event of the year will be the New Year's Party on December 31st. It promises to be an evening of fun and camaraderie for members and friends, if the weather cooperates. Our annual Anniversary Party will be on January 17th, (details on page 1). We still need a Party Chairperson to organize the parties in 2009 and someone to take over Weinkellerabend and Sonntag-skaffee.

2008 was a year of transition for the GAST organization. New officers were elected. New or revised procedures were put in place to make it easier for committees to continue the traditions that have made GAST successful in its 29 year existence. Unfortunately, we lost several of our active members to untimely death in the past year. We dearly miss **Charles Tegeler**, **Siegfried Presslauer**, **Bill Crittendon**, **Ralph Gambrell**, **Virginia Ratke** and Founding Member, **Ted Castle**.

I hope 2009 will be a year of health and prosperity for you and your families.

—Arnold Bieber

...from the Arts President

A tribute to **Carol Wright and Hildegard Schaffrin:**

January 31, 2009.

Carol started the Kinderdeutsch dance class years ago and has taught it ever since. Dozens of our children learned "The Shoemaker", "Lilly Marlene", and other folk dances from her. Carol thank you for all you have done.

The spring semester of adult language classes will begin Tuesday, February 10, 2009.

Hildegard started the song class shortly after Kinderdeutsch began and has taught it all these years. Because of her many of our children can sing "Muss I denn", "Stille Nacht" and other German songs. Hildegard thank you for all you have done.

Adventsfeier was observed on Sunday, December 13. Attendance was almost 100. Vicar Chris Tiews of Grace Lutheran Church conducted the service. Thanks to **Barbara Conrad** for all her work in setting up this event. Donations received amounted to \$112. This was sent to Meals on Wheels to support their efforts for the holiday season. **Fred Rother** was recently in Germany and spoke to a pastor who has agreed to conduct the service next year.

The annual garage sale is coming up this spring. We will need salable items and a place to store them until then.

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** is chair of this event so if you have input please let him know.

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

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

The spring entertainment program will include a performance by Junge Chor from Celle, it will be on Sunday April 5, at 3 PM. Global Alliance will need assistance from GAST in hosting the performers. Also, let us know if you can think of other venues for their performances.

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.

We welcome ideas for programs; please let us hear from you if you have any. All Arts events are free and open to the public, so come and enjoy them.

The spring semester of Kinderdeutsch will begin Saturday,

—**Jim Randall**

Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde

Since as of the writing of this message, we have not yet met for our annual Christmas meeting/sing along, we must thank Ortwin and Gertrud Schmidt in advance for their hosting of this gala event. Considering their most gracious hospitality in the past, we think this is a very safe bet. The next meeting will be at the home of Bill and Ruth Obermark who live at 4325 Whispering Creek Drive in Sand Springs (245-1095). The time will be at 3 pm on the 11th of January, 2009. Their home address is two blocks east of the intersection of Hwy. 97 and 41st Street on the south side of 41st Street. Travel time is about 20 minutes from most places in Central Tulsa. Specific directions are as follows. Take Interstate 44 West to Exit 223B (51st Street). Go straight at the traffic light at the end of the exit. The road tees at 41st Street. Turn left and go approximately 3 miles to the bottommost point in a valley. The subdivision sign on the left says Shenandoah. This is Whispering Creek Drive. Turn left and go 0.3 of a mile, passing under a high power line. The house is immediately on the left, sitting high on a hill, the second house from the end of the street. You may park on the

grassy area at the top of the hill.

Our speaker will be Vicar Christian Tiews who officiated at the well-received advent service at GAST on 14 December. The Vicar is currently in the process of preparing tourist books regarding the cities involved in the ministry of Martin Luther. Regardless of your religious orientation, these historical events have had monumental effects on Western culture and have helped shape the world as we know it today. Please plan on attending what promises to be a most interesting presentation of behind the scenes look at these actions and the cities in which they occurred.

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).

Life's Lessons

1. You will receive one body, should you wear it out, you have nowhere to live. You are expected to make alterations, improvements and maintenance on a regular basis. How you feed and care for your body is paramount in how long it will operate at maximum efficiency.
2. You will be enrolled in school from the first day of birth. Everyday lessons will be taught. You will be given the opportunity to learn from these lessons. Some lessons will be thought of as stupid and irrelevant; some you will like and enjoy.
3. There are no mistakes, only "learning experiences." Growth is a process of trial and error along with experimentation. The failure experiment is just as important to our lives as the so-called successful one.
4. A lesson is repeated over and over for weeks, months or years until it is learned. This lesson will be presented to you in various forms by a variety of people in a variety of situations, until you always score an A+, only then, can you go on to another lesson.
5. Learning never ends; there is no part of life that does not contain significant lessons. Every day, every waking hour we are confronted with thoughts, situations and experiences from which we can learn.
6. "Over there" is never better than "right here. Whenever "over there" becomes "right here" we will always find another "over there" which appears better than the current "right here". (Read this three times. There is a great lesson "right here.")
7. Other people's mannerisms, quirks or personalities, which we love or dislike, are merely mirror images of what we love or dislike within ourselves.
8. What you make of your life is up to you. You have been given all the tools and resources you need; what you do with them is up to you. The choice is yours.
9. A question, challenge or situation is never presented to unless we are prepared and ready to answer the question, accept the challenge or right the situation.

Wish I'd said that!

- ⇒ Never mistake knowledge for wisdom. One helps you make a living, the other helps you make a life!
- ⇒ America did not invent human rights. In a very real sense, it is the other way around. Human rights invented America.
- ⇒ Life is like riding a bicycle; you don't fall off unless you stop pedaling.
- ⇒ Worry is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do, but it doesn't get you anywhere.
- ⇒ The world is full of willing people; some willing to work, the rest willing to let them.

WHEN YOU THOUGHT I WASN'T LOOKING

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator, and I wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you feed a stray cat, and I thought it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make my favorite cake just for me, and I knew that little things are special things.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I heard you say a prayer, and I believed there is a God I could always talk to.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I felt you kiss me goodnight and I felt loved.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw tears come from your eyes and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw that you cared, and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I looked and wanted to say thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn't looking.



Sweet Potato says:

*Education's purpose is to
replace an empty mind with an
open one.*

Malcom S Forbes

Did You Know?

The German-American Society building was completed in 1929. Made of Carthage Limestone, in a Gothic style, it is located adjacent to the Gillette Historical District in Tulsa and easily accessible on 15th Street, one block West of Lewis Avenue. The building's beautiful design, prestigious setting and comfort make it desirable for any kind of function from business meetings to formal evening occasions.

Fasching History

Karneval is one of the oldest traditions celebrated, not only in Germany, but in many countries throughout the world. The tidal waves of Karneval revelry are particularly strong in the Rhineland, since that is where it had its beginning. Abbot Rudolph von St. Trond wrote about it in the year 1133: "Everything was festive, everyone relaxed, drank and made merry". People wore funny suits and costumes. In those days, it was called "Carrus navales" or Carne vale."



Throughout the centuries the Karneval grew bigger and better, and by February 10, 1823, when Prinz Karneval was crowned in the city square "Neumarkt" in Cologne, it had developed into a massive celebration with great parades and city-wide revelry in many countries throughout the world. The Karneval period begins every year on the 11th day of November at 11 minutes after 11 and is celebrated continuously with parties, festive dinners, dances and masquerade balls until Ash Wednesday.

The old custom has withstood the test of the centuries up to the present day and enjoys an ever greater following year after year. It is our hope that this heritage will continue to thrive, and with a unified spirit we will continue to nurture and enjoy this oldest of German folk festivals in the "New World".



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Now Playing at the GAST Theater

An Erwin Jerchau Presentation



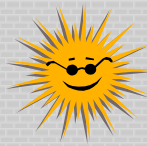
Monday January 5, starting at 6:30 PM

Musik vom wilden Kaiser

Starting at 7:30 PM

Der Bulle von Toelz

Starring: Otfried Fischer, Ruth Drexel, Gerd Anthof,
Erich Panalewski and Sell Schauer



The Sunshine Lady

A Get Well Card was sent to Candy Burkett and a Sympathy to Ursula Castle on the death of her husband Ted.

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

Come join us at the next Stammtishchrunde

Friday evening, Jan 2, 6:30 PM
In the GAST Weinkeller
Hope to see you there.
Zum Wohl,

—Dann Björklund, Chair



Are you receiving the monthly GAST ECHO or notification?

If not, then we do not have our latest information. Please update your Email address, mailing address, or phone number by clicking on the following link:

<http://membership.gastulsa.org>

New Kinderdeutsch Program Coming Soon!

Did you know that the younger a child starts learning another language, the easier it is for them to excel at it? Kinderdeutsch is a great way for your children and grandchildren to begin/enhance their German language skills, as well as have fun learning songs and dances. The program has been revamped and is now designed for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. There will be ten sessions, starting **January 31st** and ending **April 25th** (no classes during Spring Break).

Classes start at 10:00 AM and end at Noon.

Cost: \$15.00 for children/grandchildren of members
\$20.00 for non-members, \$ 5.00 discount for each additional child.

Hope to see you there!

For more information, please contact:

GAST Office at 918-744-6997

Email: gast@tulsacoxmail.com

—Billy Wideman, Chair

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



Das Deutsche Echo

January 09

Volume 30

Issue 1

The Voice of the German-American Society of Tulsa

GAST Founders

Seated left to right

Josef Hardt	President,
Stan Conrad	Treasurer
Jack Kubat	Director

Standing left to right

Siegfried Heit	1st V. Pres.
Ursula Castle	Director
Ted Castle	Director
Irmgard Toschik	Secretary
John Toschik	2nd V. Pres.
Not Pictured	
Hans Boettcher	Director



The old Opera House



Quirky Subway Entrance

Frankfurt am Main



Old Town Frankfurt