



The German-American Society of Tulsa

Presents a

Spring Concert

On March 22, 2009, Commencing at 3 pm

*In the Great Hall of the GAST Center
Located at 2301 East 15th Street
(one block west of Lewis)*

*Members of GAST choir,
the GAST Brass Band,
and the GAST Folkdancers
will perform a program of music and dance,
showcasing German culture and heritage.*

Coffee & Cake will be available after the concert

Cost: \$10.00 at the door

Proceeds from this event will benefit music activities

GAST Happenings

Handarbeitsgruppe Tue. at 10 AM
2009

Feb 10 Language classes start

Feb 24 Fasching party

Feb 27 Weinkellerabend

Mar 6 Stammtisch

Mar 8 Konversationsrunde

Mar 22 Spring concert

Mar 27 Weinkellerabend

Apr 3 Stammtisch

Apr 5 Celle Choir concert

Apr 11 Kids' Easter Party

Apr 12 Konversationsrunde

Apr 19 Membership meeting

May 1 Germanfest begins

May 8 Stammtisch

May 24 Berlin Airlift program

Jun 5 Stammtisch

Jul 3 Stammtisch

Aug 7 Stammtisch

Sep 4 Stammtisch

...FROM THE GAST PRESIDENT

Due to deadlines, this column is written a week before our annual GAST Fasching Party on February 24. This is always one of our best attended parties. This year we have invited not only the local German language high school students but also the GAST Conversational German language students, and we hope that many will come in costumes to win one of the prizes offered. The **GAST Blaskapelle** is going to play and the **Elferrat** has some surprises in store. Prinz **Leon I (Leon Boggs)** and Prinzessin **Donna I (Donna Boggs)** are presiding over the foolishness.



Fasching (Karneval, Fastnacht or Mardi Gras) has a long tradition in many regions of Germany. Beginning on November 11 at 11:11 AM, when the Prinz and Prinzessin are crowned, Karneval Clubs prepare for a season of costume balls, parades and comedy skits that end on Fat (Shrove) Tuesday. (For more information Google "Karneval" or go to <http://www.mckinnonsc.vic.edu.au/la/lotte/german/links/topics/karneval.htm>).

On Sunday, March 22, 3 PM, the **GAST Sanger**, **GAST Volkstanzgruppe** and the **GAST Blaskapelle** will perform for a fundraiser in the Great Hall of the GAST Center. It is important that we have a good turnout. So, please invite members of your family, your friends and neighbors. Tickets to the event are available in advance at the GAST Office or can be purchased for \$10/person at the door. The GAST musical groups have been practicing hard for several weeks, and they promise an enjoyable afternoon for all. Cake, coffee and other non-alcoholic drinks are included in the price of admission.

I am please to report that **Hannelore Giles** has agreed to be our Germanfest Chair. She has formed a committee to handle the various assignments. Volunteers are still needed in the kitchen and for set-up and tear-down. Publicity will be handled by **Tony Heineman**, our new GAST Media Chair. Germanfest starts Friday, May 1 through Sunday, May 3.

We have scheduled our annual membership meeting and election of officers and Board members for Sunday, April 19, 3 PM. Our Nominating Committee, **Christy Fell**, **Becky Adrian**, **Donna Boggs** and **Gwen Bieber** may be calling you to fill one of the open positions. This is a great way to learn about the organization and to contribute your time to assure its continued success. Members who have joined GAST or renewed their membership by March 1 are eligible to vote and/or run for office.

I would like to thank **Doris Gallagher** for the many years she served as the Media Chair for GAST and the GAS Arts Association. Doris has very effectively used her connections in the media to promote our events. Because of her efforts and the efforts of our webmaster, **John Toschik** and the ECHO editor, **Fred Rother**, we are the best known ethnic organization in Northeast Oklahoma. Our website and ads in national publications have reached out to Germans, German-Americans and Americans who are interested in German culture in a very effective way. Doris had indicated that she would like to be replaced by another volunteer who could continue the great job she has been doing for many years. Thank you, Doris.

Weinkellerabend will continue to be on the **fourth** Friday of each month, unless changed or cancelled.

I hope to see you at all GAST functions.

—Arnold Bieber



**Newsletter
Deadline**

**Wednesday, Mar 18
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

Das Deutsche Echo is published monthly by
The German-American Society of Tulsa
1429 Terrace Dr., Tulsa, OK 74104

Office hours: Mon. Wed. Fri. 9am - 3 PM
Office Phone 744-6997—Fax 743- 4106

Library hours: the third Wednesday, 1—3 PM

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GAST Web page <http://www.gastulsa.org>

Message Center - 744-6998

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...from the Arts President

By the 3rd meeting of Kinderdeutsch a total of 15 children had enrolled. The last being a little girl from Germany. The two language classes and the singing and dancing classes are in full swing.

The spring semester of adult language classes had 38 enrollees with 8 more committed to join the next week. They were given an invitation to attend Fasching on February 24, since their class had to be cancelled for that day.

The garage sale has been postponed.

Sunday May 24 at 3 PM in the great hall a program on the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift will be presented. Charles Meyers is chair of this event so if you have input please let him know. More details will be given as they become available.

The Arts spring entertainment program will be 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 Karlsruher Konzert-Duo mentioned for a

possible fall concert will not be available at the time we could fit them in.

We could possibly have Bavarian group performing for us May 31. More on this later.

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

Speakers Bureau – A presentation is scheduled on March 5 at the TCC Metro Global Fest.

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

Jim Randall

—Jim Randall

Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde

A big thank you to **Barbara and Gerald Taron** for a very informative and interesting presentation- in word and pictures-, of their trip to Turkey. Delicious treats and libations concluded an enjoyable afternoon at their lovely home.

The next meeting will be on Sunday March 8th, 2009, 3:00pm, at the Thomas Gilcrease Museum: 1400 North Gilcrease Museum Road. We will tour the following galleries: 'The Art of the American West'; 'Enduring Spirit' (the art of the Native Americans) and 'Ancient America'. We will also sample the special exhibitions: 'American Impressionism'; 'Between the Lines' (Cheyenne and Arapaho Ledger art of Fort Reno) and Willard Stone's (Cherokee) art in Wood. Admission is free for museum members. The Arts Association of the German American Society of Tulsa will defray the cost for non-members. Gilcrease is considered one of the most outstanding Museums for Western and Native American Art. If you are interested and if you would like to car-pool contact **Barbara Conrad or Gertrud Schmidt**.

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).

Heritage Revisited

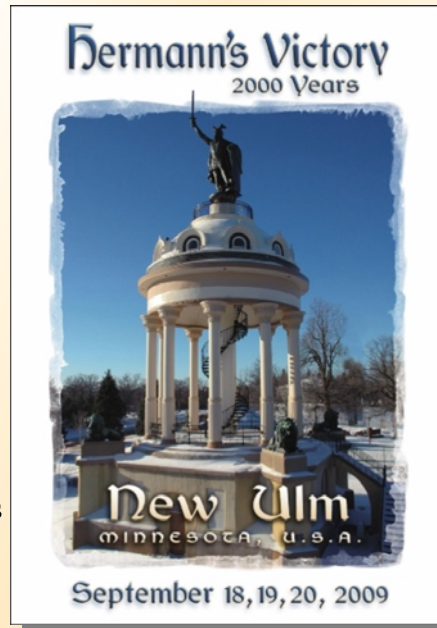
Two thousand years ago this September an event took place which still affects us today. At the height of the Roman Empire in the year 9 A.D. the advance of the Roman armies was stopped dead in its tracks. Under Julius Caesar and the Emperor Augustus, the Romans had conquered all of Mediterranean Europe and were extending their influence north through France. In the conquered areas, Romans suppressed the native culture and even the languages. Even today the languages in this area are known as the Romance languages indicating their Roman heritage.

The Romans were not satisfied with this, however, and intended to extend their influence throughout all of the known world. They made a number of excursions into central Europe where the Germanic peoples were living in small agricultural communities. They made a number of military reconnaissance tours, established some trade connections, and recruited some young men to supplement their auxiliary military forces. The people in these areas became more and more discontented as they saw how the Romans were subverting the French culture, influencing changes in their own way of life, and was treating them as subjugated people. It came to a head when Publius Quinctilius Varus was appointed Governor of the area. He ruled as though he were dealing with a conquered people. A young German leader, who had been trained in Roman military tactics as an officer in one of their auxiliary units, began consolidating dissident support. The Romans called him Arminius while among the Germans he was known as Hermann. When a group of Germans rebelled, Varus led a large military contingent to control the situation. On their way back to their base camp, Arminius misdirected them onto a narrow trail between the rugged Teutoburg forest on one side and large swampy bog on the other side. When the troops were in the most vulnerable location, he led his forces in an ambush that over the next two to three days completely annihilated three full legions of Roman soldiers and their support groups—approximately 20,000 troops. The troops and all the officers, including Varus died in that battle. The Romans sent in more armies and there were more

battles, but Arminius was never defeated in battle. The Romans could send armies into Central Europe but they were not able to hold ground there. The Roman Empire was at the peak of its power and was so shocked by this outcome, they changed philosophy and dropped their policy of total conquest. Years later their attitude was best expressed by the Emperor Augustus' lament, "Varus, give me back my Legions!"

Arminius, or Hermann as he became known, was a superior military leader, but he was unable to form a political union of his various

supporters. His wife was captured and held in Rome for the rest of her life, and his son was forced in gladiator training. The German peoples did not keep written records at the time and Romans whitewashed many of their records. Only a scraps of information from major historians of the time survived, although even these were forgotten for hundreds of years. In the 1600's a major effort was made to uncover the story of the event, and it became important in the 1800's as the German nation was being formed, but it is still not well-known



in much of the rest of the world. The site of the battle itself was lost in antiquity until archaeologists rediscovered it in the last of the 1980's near the town of Kalkriese, Germany. Many of our cultural traditions today, including the English language, would not exist if this event had turned out differently. A variety of organizations and communities are planning to acknowledge and celebrate this event. One of the major events will be at New Ulm, Minnesota on Sept. 18, 19, 20, 2009 where a variety of events will take place. New Ulm is the site of a monument dedicated to Hermann which is second in size in America only to the Statue of Liberty. For more information contact:

Bürgermeister Joel Albrecht, P.O. Box 636, New Ulm, MN 56073, U.S.A., Phone: (507) 359-8233, Email: joel.albrecht@ci.new-ulm.mn.us

The German-American Society of Tulsa



Presents a

Spring Concert

with entertainment by the

GAST Sanger

GAST Blaskapelle

GAST Volkstanzgruppe

March 22nd, 3pm, at the GAST Center

2301 E. 15th Street

(one block west of Lewis on 15th Street)

*Members of the GAST Musikgruppen
will present a program of music & dance
showcasing German culture & heritage.*

Cake & Coffee available following the Concert

Cost - \$10.00 at the door

Proceeds from this event benefit the music activities of GAST

Queen For a Year



We are now accepting nominations for the 2009 Maikönigin/May Queen. You must be a member of GAST and at least be 18 years old.

Your main responsibilities are to represent GAST at various functions and chairing the children's St. Nick and Easter parties. More details are available at the GAST office and the Maikönigin committee. The past three May queens will assist you with "Rat und Tat" (advice and help). The deadline for the nominations is set for April 4th, 2009. Please submit a short bio. The crowning will take place on Saturday, May 2nd during Germanfest.

Please submit your nomination to the GAST Office at gast@tulsacoxmail.com or by calling 744-6997.

—Hildegard Schaffrin



The Sunshine Lady

GAST sent two cards this month. One to Elam and Kathy Blank on the death of Kathy's mother and one Get-well card to Ursula Castle. (She had back surgery)

—Gwen Bieber



Sweet Potato says:

Make no judgments

where you have no compassion

Anne McCaffrey

OFFICE RULES (Anno 1863-1872)

- Godliness, cleanliness and punctuality are prerequisites for the conduct of an orderly business.
- Henceforth, all personnel need only be present on weekdays between the hours of 6 o'clock in the morning and 6 o'clock in the evening. Sunday is considered a church day. A prayer will be said every morning in the main office.
- Everyone is expected to work overtime, if management deems it necessary.
- The senior office staff member is considered responsible for the cleanliness of the offices. All junior members will report to him 40 minutes prior to prayers and furthermore will remain available to him after office hours.
- Simple dress is deemed mandatory. Personnel may not be dressed in bright colors and must wear only decent stockings. Overshoes and overcoats must not be worn in the offices, since a stove is available. Scarves and hats may be worn in inclement weather. In the winter it is recommended, furthermore, that each office staff member bring along four pounds of coal every day.
- Talking is strictly prohibited during office hours. An employee who smokes cigars, consumes alcohol in any form, frequents billiard parlors or political saloons will endanger his reputation, respectability and honor.
- Partaking of nourishment is permitted between the hours of 11:30 AM and 12 noon; however, work must be continued.
- Customers and members of management, as well as members of the Public Relations Department must be treated with respect and humbleness.
- It is everyone's duty to take care in protecting one's own health; in case of illness, payment of wages will cease. It is therefore strongly recommended, that everyone put aside a tidy sum for such a contingency, as well as for his old age, so that one does not become a burden to society as one's work potential diminishes.
- Finally, the generosity of the new office rules should be emphasized.
- To compensate for this generosity, a substantial increase in the work effort can be expected.

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Now Playing at the GAST Theater

An Erwin Jerchau Presentation



Monday March 2, starting at 6:30 PM
Lieder Land und Leute

Starting at 7:30 PM
Liebe gut eingefädelt
Staring: Lilly Schoenauer, Elisabeth Lanz,
Hendrik Duryn
Daniela Ziegler and Thomas Fritsch

We welcome these new members to the GAST Family

Kenneth E. Bortisser-Hamon
530 W. Douglas Rd.
Okmulgee, OK 74447
918-756-5030

Klaus Larrieu
10216 South Evanston Place
Tulsa, Ok 74137

Derrick Brandenburg
39285 Detroit Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74105
918-200-1541

Renew Member
Margarete McNac
3119 E. 25th Pl. Unit 3
Tulsa, Ok 74114
230-5670

Come join us at the next
Stammtischrunde
Friday evening, March 6, 6:30 PM
In the GAST Weinkeller

Hope to see you there.
Zum Wohl,

— Dann Björklund, Chair



Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller

Born 10 November 1759 (1759-11-10)
Marbach, Germany
Occupation poet, dramatist Weimar Classicism.

“Die Glocke”

Der junge Chor — The young Choir



This 18-person choir from Tulsa's Sister City, Celle, Germany, will be performing on Sunday, April 5, at the German-American Society's Great Hall, commencing at 3 PM. Mark your calendars, because this will be a great performance.

They are making a return trip to Tulsa, arriving April 1, and departing April 11. If you are interested in hosting a member, or furnishing transportation during their stay, please contact Mieke Epps at miekeepps@sbcglobal.net, or by phone at 747-7556 H or 706-5507 Cell.

—submitted by Doris Gallagher

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The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



Das Deutsche Echo

March 09

Volume 30

Issue 3

The Voice of the German-American Society



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Folk Dancers to appear in "2009 Red Glove Revue"

We have our first program scheduled for March 20 and 21, 2009 at the Tulsa Cerebral Palsy Association's, 2009 Red Glove Revue. We are very excited to be invited to participate in this annual event.

We will also be participating in the GAST "Spring Concert" on March 22, 2009. We hope to see the GAST Great Hall full of members, friends and guests for this event.

We are looking forward to a season of learning some new dances, renewing some old dances and enjoying ourselves in the process. New members are always welcome.

Come join us for culture, fellowship, fun and exercise. Practice sessions will continue on successive Friday nights through the month of May.

Any questions? Please contact me at 299-2839 or d.c.w@cox.net

— Carol Wright

Join GAST

for Friends, Food, and Frolic