



The voice of the German-American Society of Tulsa

Germanfest 2009

Come enjoy
a celebration of
German food & music!



German-American Society of Tulsa
Join us on the lawn & in the Great Hall of the GAST Center

15th and Terrace Drive (One block west of Lewis) Tulsa, Oklahoma
Friday & Saturday May 1 & 2 10am-9pm - Sunday, May 3 12pm-5pm

German Menu

- German Sausages & Hot Dogs with Sauerkraut on a bun
- Schnitzel Sandwich
- Dinners . . . Schnitzel & Jägerschnitzel w/Hunter Sauce
- Sides . . . Kartoffelpuffer, Kraut, Salad and Potato Salad
- Desserts . . . Apfelstrudel and Cheesecake
- Beverages . . . Beer, Soda, Coffee Ice Tea & Water

German Entertainment

- The Reuter Duo from Germany
- Tom Bordner
- GAST Singers, Kinder Folk Dancers, Blaskapelle & Folk Dancers and Much More!!

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(May Queen)



Proceeds benefit the cultural, musical, youth programs and activities of the German-American Society of Tulsa

...FROM THE GAST PRESIDENT

Another year, another general membership meeting, another election of officers and directors! As I hand the gavel to a new president, I am looking back at 10 years of active involvement in the GAST organization since my retirement from a "paying job". I have enjoyed donating my time and I hope I can do so for many more years as a volunteer in other areas of our organization and community.



Let's talk about volunteering! Nothing happens at GAST unless someone, a member, catches the ball and runs with it. All of our activities depend on volunteers to plan, set up, manage and clean up. We are fortunate to have a group of dedicated volunteers and helpers from outside the organization that we can count on. But the number is shrinking! We all lead busy lives with church, job and family obligations. Sometimes there are not enough hours in a day, but if you enjoy a new challenge and like to meet and work with people, GAST needs you! Call the Office or respond to a phone call for volunteers. I promise, you will not regret it.

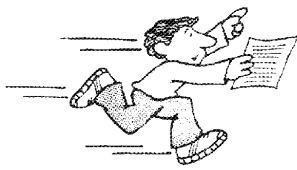
May will be another busy month at GAST, starting with **Germanfest** on May 1, 2 and 3 at the GAST Center.. This festival is growing in popularity, and we are hoping for good weather and a big turnout. Please come and spread the word! This year, we will have a German band, the Reuter Duo from Bavaria, playing for your enjoyment and dancing pleasure. Admission to the festival is free, and the food is delicious. You will love the new hall decorations designed and installed by **Carol Wright** and her helpers. Carol and her husband **Don Wright** made several trips to Germany to find a suitable and willing band and to buy many new items for the GAST Store. The **GAST Blaskapelle, Folkdancers, Saenger, Tom Bordner** and others will complement a full entertainment schedule.

We managed to squeeze in another soup party, **Lumpenball**, on Saturday, April 25, thanks to **Uschi Mueller** and **Christy Collins**. Our children and grandchildren had a great time at the **Kid's Easter Party** on April 11. We had great weather for the outside Easter egg hunt. Lots of inside activities, food and pictures with the Easter Bunny made for a wonderful afternoon. I would like to thank the Easter Party crew, especially **Becky Adrian, Eileen Bader, Angelique Giddings, Janet Jamison, Hildegard Schaffrin** and several parents and grandparents who brought food and helped with the kid's activities and cleanup.

Only about 30 people came to our last Weinkellerabend on March 27, but all had good time, enjoying KFC chicken and salads and deserts brought by **Gwen Bieber, Ruth Bly, Barbara Conrad, Rita Lenfestey, Doris Wicks** and **Jinny Wynn**. I am sorry if I missed anyone's contribution. February's Weinkellerabend was not only hosted by the **Greiners, Kerpons** and **Terry Sponsler**, they also provided all of the food. April's Weinkellerabend was cancelled in favor of a soup party on April 25.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Nominating Committee, **Christy Fell, Becky Adrian, Donna**

(Continued on page 3)



Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, May 20
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

Kinderdeutsch classes will end April 25. Adult language classes will end April 21.

Planning continues for the Berlin Airlift 60th anniversary observance on Sunday May 24. Air Force personnel and Berliners who were involved will discuss remembrances. The Blaskapelle will play and coffee and cake will be served afterward. Charles Meyers is Chair for this event

The Junge Chor performance drew a large enthusiastic audience. This a cappella group sang in a variety of musical styles in close harmony drawing cheers and applause. **Susan Bey** was in charge of the intermission reception, assisted by **Gwen and Arnold Bieber, Lois Voeller, Darlene Tegeler, Ed Westenhiser and Ruth Bly**. An after performance pizza party for performers and hosts was held in the Weinkeller. Thanks to **Doris Gallagher, Max Tankersley** and others who helped make that event a big success.

The Out-of-Bavaria band is scheduled to perform for us at 3 PM Sunday, May 31. It is a 5-member band that plays a variety of music. **Barbara Conrad** is Chair for this event.

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

(Continued from page 2)

Boggs and Gwen Bieber for their hard work in putting together a slate of officers and directors for 2009/2010. I would also like to thank the members who served as officers, directors and committee chairs for the past year(s). I very much appreciate your support and dedication. I see it as a good sign for the future of GAST that so many of you agreed to continue to serve the organization. The best of luck to you and the new members of the Board.

—Arnold Bieber

Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde

Konversationsrunde. Due to the large number of other activities and unforeseen circumstances, there will be no **Konversationsrunde** in May. We hope to start the fall with a new round of programs and energy. In the meantime we wish to remind the membership of some significant upcoming events/dates such as the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift (24 May) and the upcoming visit of the **Out of Bavaria** band (31 May). In the meantime we wish everyone of safe and fun-filled summer and look forward to a productive and interesting season beginning this fall.

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).

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(Photo of necklace available upon request)

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Journey into the Past...

by Fred Rother

It was June 1946 when the man came to the door of our apartment building and told everyone to assemble in front of the building for a walk to the nearest railroad station about three miles away. You may recall that one year after the end of WWII, the eastern provinces of Germany were detached from Germany and deeded to Poland. Most Germans living in those regions were summarily "relocated" and distributed throughout the remaining part of war-torn Germany. My family and I ware among those six million hapless victims of war.

By the time you read this article, my wife, Irene, and I will be visiting my place of birth in Poland. In preparation for the trip, I have collected all the pictures that show me in these places I so well remember. The then German province was called Schlesien. My birth certificate states that I was born in our apartment on Titusstrasse 11, in the town of Weisstein in the township of Waldenburg, now Walbrzych. The regional capital, only 40 miles away, was called Breslau, now Wroclaw.

We will be flying to Frankfurt, Germany, rent a car and drive six hours to the German city of Görlitz, located directly on the Polish border. There, we plan to stay two nights to relax, and visit the city and the remaining fragment of the formerly province of Schlesien. The following day we will cross the bridge over the river Neisse into Poland for a one-hour drive to my former hometown. Halfway to our destination, we plan to stop in the former town ob Bunzlau famous for its production of pottery. I remember that my mother had some of their distinctive plates and pots. We intend to stop there and purchase a few items for our own use.

Our place of focus will be the town of Bad Salzbrunn. We'll be staying in a B&B. The owners speak some German. Their place is located a scant 5-minute walk from my former apartment building. Much of our exploration will take place in the surrounding area, visiting all the place I used to know as a child. A major must-do place is a drive up our local 2000-foot mountain formerly called: Hochwald. Moreover we will spend some time walking in the Spa Park (Kurpark) A place of much pleasure in my childhood. This place

(Continued on page 5)

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

It is one of the goals of the GAST organization to preserve and to uphold German culture and tradition.

The success of our Spring Concert proves, that by working together, we can not only achieve our goal, but can also make it fun and entertaining for everyone.

My sincere thanks go to the GAST choir, Folkdancers and our Brass Band for their enthusiastic participation.

Moreover, I also appreciate the support of the following individuals: **Michelle Burkett** of *Pictures Plus*, **Fred Rother**, **Don Wright**, and **John Toschik**. Your help and cooperation made this concert a great event.

—**Siggi Grimm**
Program Chair



Sweet Potato says:

There ain't no surer way to find out whether you like people or hate them than to travel with them.

Mark Twain



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.

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

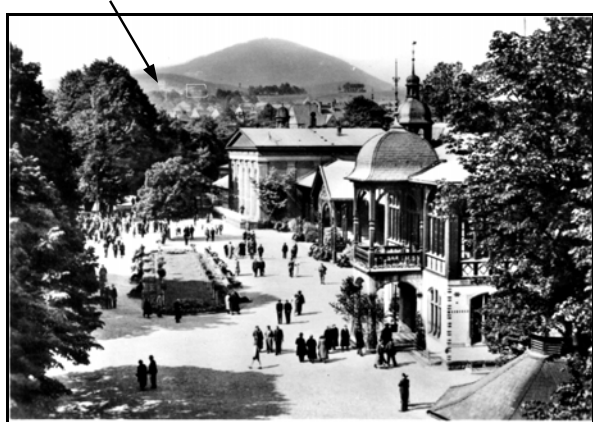
—**Gwen Bieber**

(Continued from page 4)

features mineral springs producing healthful, salty water, which attracted visitors from people around Europe—and still does.

One more major place to visit is the former city of Breslau. We intend to spend the whole day exploring that beautiful place. It experienced much damage during the last weeks of the war by heavy bombings and artillery fire, but was since wonderfully rebuilt by the Polish government.

Here are a few pictures of my old homeland.



The Spa Park with Hochwald
Arrow point to my Apartment bldg.



Me at the front door



Me and a friend
by the Stone Dog

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Thank you

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An Erwin Jerchau Presentation



**Monday May 4,
starting at 6:30 PM
Musik vom Wilden Kaiser**

**Starting at 7:30 PM
Irrwege des Herzens**

**Starring: Ann - Kathrin Kramer, Andreas Herder,
Hans Teuscher and Elisabeth Wiedemann**

We welcome these new members
to the GAST Family

New Member

Elke P. Meyer
9208 S. Evanston Pl. # 806
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74137
918-518-6423



Come join us at the next Stammtischrunde

Friday evening, May 8, 6:30 PM
In the GAST Weinkeller

Hope to see you there.
Zum Wohl,

— Dann Björklund, Chair

Join GAST
It's the
Cool thing
To do!

GAST Happenings

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Handarbeitsgruppe Tue. at 10 AM | Sep 4 Stammtisch |
| Apr 25 Soup Party | Sep 18 Organ Concert |
| May 1 Germanfest begins | Oct 4 German-American day |
| May 8 Stammtisch | Nov 15 Volkstrauertag |
| May 24 Berlin Airlift program | Dec 13 Adventsfeier |
| May 31 Bavarian band | |
| Jun 4-6 Folkdance workshop | |
| Jun 5 Folklore evening | |
| Jun 5 Stammtisch | |
| Jul 3 Stammtisch | |
| Aug 7 Stammtisch | |

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



Das Deutsche Echo

May 09

Volume 30

Issue 5

The voice of the German-American Society of Tulsa



Playing to the kids

The "Junge" Choir from Celle, Germany



Playing to GAST

Wroclaw Poland, formerly Breslau, Germany



Wroclaw historic City Hall built in a typical fourteenth century *Brick Gothic Style*



Town square and St Elisabeth church in Wroclaw



Motto

Miasto spotkań / City of Meetings

