



The voice of the German-American Society of Tulsa



"Beat the Heat" and come to our

Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social

*at the GAST Center
on Sunday, August 2, from 3-5 PM*



*We are planning to serve something refreshing for every taste
(even for those on a diet).*

This should be a family affair. So, bring the kids and "the old folks".

Guests are always welcome.

We'll have games and surprises for all ages.

*Please make your reservations by Wednesday, July 29,
by calling 744-6997 or e-mailing gast@tulsacoxmail.com*

Donations to defray expenses are appreciated.

—Christy Collins, Party Chair

GAST Happenings

Handarbeitsgruppe Tue. at 10 AM	Sep 18 Organ Concert
Jun 26 Weinkellerabend	Oct 4 German-American day
Jul 3 Stammtisch	Oct 31 Oktoberfest Party
Jul 24 Weinkellerabend	Nov 15 Volkstrauertag
Aug 2 Ice Cream Social	Dec 4-6 Christkindlmarkt
Aug 7 Stammtisch	Dec 13 Adventsfeier
Aug 29 Hawaiian Party	Dec 19 Christmas Party
Sep 4 Stammtisch	Dec 31 New Years Eve Party

...FROM THE GAST PRESIDENT

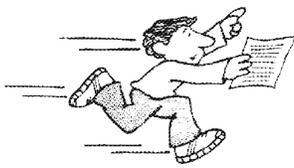


Well, I survived my first Board meeting. I want to thank **Arnold Bieber** for the great job he did as President for the last year and all the help he is giving me in this transition time. All members need to thank him for his dedication and the countless hours he has given to this organization. Thanks Arnold !

We are all saddened at the passing of **Joe Hardt** - a faithful and long time member and leader of GAST. He will be greatly missed. We offer our thoughts and condolences to his family and friends.

It was exciting to hear the thoughts and ideas shared concerning GAST. There is a new energy and excitement on the Board with some new blood on it. We are looking to find a way to get our membership back up. We are currently down about 100 members. We need to encourage former members to come back and talk to our friends about joining us. Tell them about the great events we have that perpetuate the German culture and heritage. And don't forget to mention the fun and great food we share. Remind them that they do not have to be German to join! They just have to like to have fun and learn a different culture and heritage. Word of mouth and personal invitations will get new members!

I have some exciting news from our Board meeting. **Arnold Bieber** has agreed to chair Oktoberfest 2009. He is already forming his steering committee. We will need many volunteers to staff our 2 tents out there. Plan now to help and do your part. It will take all of us! **Hannelore Giles** has volunteered to chair Christkindlemarkt 2009 and Germanfest 2010. Way to go Hannelore! Other chairs that were appointed for this year are: **Marianne Segner** as Youth Activities chair and **Christy Collins** as Party chair. Continuing as Bar committee chair is **Ed Westenhiser** and **Dann Bjorklund** as Stammtischrunde chair. Thanks to all of you for stepping up to help us keep all of activities and functions alive and well. I am still working on a chair for Weinkellerabend and Sonntagskaffee. Hope to have those filled soon.



**Newsletter
Deadline**

Wednesday, July 15
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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The Board took a couple of actions that I find real exciting. One is to invite any new or renewing member approved at a Board meeting to the next social/party event as our guests as a 'welcome to GAST'. I will contact those people and invite them to whatever the next event may be. We also established 'GAST Cares'. Under this, we will be checking on members who may need some extra help due to illness, death or other extenuating circumstances. **Grete McNack** will be coordinating this effort. It will only be done if the member desires the help. If you know of someone in this situation please talk with Grete. We know that GAST members are concerned and care about their fellow members. We hope that we can openly show this with this new effort. Watch for more happen as we all help do our part to keep us going

—Leon Boggs

...from the Arts President



It was the Sunday paper that first alerted me to the great loss that our club and **Josef Hardt's** family endured on June 11 and later when I finally braved the computer once more for e-mails, e-mails as well spoke of our sorrow. All of us, who were fortunate enough to have met and become acquainted with Mr. Hardt, know that the term 'Mister' was well deserved, which by its Webster dictionary definition means "eminently representative of a group". Here was a man of whom we could all be proud and to whom we could look up to as a role model. He will be well-remembered, not only as our first GAST president, but also as a gentleman of the old school, educated, kind, polished, debonair.

The commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Berlin airlift, which took place on May 24, was a great success. I would like to thank **Jim Randall**, our previous Arts President and all those who helped organize the event. Our hostesses, **Susan Bey** and **Ruth Bly**, outdid themselves with fantastic desserts that included a dietetic dish that even those of us not watching our sugar intake fell in love with. **Ed Westenhiser**, **Gina Therion** and **Hildegard Schaffrin** all lent a hand where they saw a need; who could ask for better volunteers!

The **Blaskapelle** began the Airlift program with a salute to America's finest, beginning with the U.S. and German national anthems and highlighting the anthems of each of our U.S. armed services. As the various military anthems played, audience members who had served stood to attention. The musical entrée was followed by a general overview of the Berlin Airlift Operation by **Charles Meyers**. Mr. Meyers' presentation then blended into a panel discussion with panelists Col. Robert W. Powell, director of the Tulsa Museum of Military History, Mort Mirtsma – WWII pilot now living in the OKC area, W.C. Southers from Dallas, Texas and current secretary of the Berlin Airlift Veterans Association, and **Doris Gallagher**, GAST member, who was a child of 12 living in Berlin at the time of the airlift.

The group related how planes landed and departed from Tempelhof Airport every 3 minutes – a total of approximately 278,228 flights over a ten-month period. In so doing, more than 2.3 million tons of supplies were delivered, an almost superhuman feat which saved West Berliners from certain starvation. Planes flew regardless of the weather conditions and not all were fortunate enough to land safely. The displays scattered about the GAST hall included newspaper reports, models of airplanes used to ferry supplies, books and other memorabilia, which augmented the eyewitness reports that had been given.

Erwin Jerchau once again presented a wonderful Movie evening on June 1, our last until September. Our dedicated group of movie fans is truly grateful for this fabulous 'night out' with its musical fare and 'sit back and enjoy' movie offerings.

Kinderdeutsch and **Adult German language classes** will resume in September, along with **Movie night** (the 1st Monday of each month) and the **Konversationsrunde**. (the 1st Sunday of each month) Note that the **American Theater Organ Society** concert, which generally takes place in August, will be September 18th this year.

German American Day on October 4th, the **Volkstrauertag** (German Memorial Day) in El Reno on November 18, the children's **St. Nikolaus party** on December 12 and the **Adventsfeier** on December 13.

Come join us - Volunteer – Speak your Mind – Have your Say!

Anyone interested in assisting with Arts events, the Speaker's bureau, or with recommendations for future cultural offerings, please feel free to contact me at 743-4353. I look forward to a great year of culture and cooperation.

—Uschi Mueller

Coming to Amerika

One day, my parents announced that we would be emigrating from our native Germany to the United States; the year was 1949, and I had just turned 16. World War II had ended a scant four years earlier and Germany was still struggling to recover from the economic and physical devastation.

I was born in one of the eastern provinces of Germany, which had been deeded back to Poland when the war ended. Consequently, millions of people were “relocated” to the western part of Germany. We, as well as nine million others, were among those pawns of war. Several dilapidated suitcases contained the remnants of my parents' possessions as we trotted the several miles to the railroad station.

By the time our jerky boxcar journey ended at an abandoned and shattered airbase in northwest Germany two days later, we were hungry, exhausted and filthy. The bombed-out buildings of the base provided some shelter for several weeks until local authorities could find accommodations for the unwanted “displaced persons” who so unceremoniously had been dumped into their midst. A single eight-by-twelve room, adjacent to the residence of a family of cows and horses, served as our home for the next three years, until my aunt and uncle in Buffalo, New York were finally able to sponsor our immigration into “the land of opportunity”.

On December 7, 1949, the Statue of Liberty majestically glided past our ship. Several hundred immigrants crowded the railings to marvel at the sight.

In retrospect, I can now appreciate the courage my parents had to muster and the sacrifice they had to make when they decided to leave their homeland and meager possessions to provide their children with an opportunity to grow up in a stable and peaceful environment.

My introduction to America was a memorable one: raucous New York traffic, giant buildings, my first airplane ride on the way to Buffalo, my uncle's “big” car, wide open spaces, undamaged buildings—and all the apple juice I wanted to drink.

Our adopted country has been good to us. My parents were able to quickly establish a comfortable home for our family, my sister and I received a good education and I was afforded an opportunity to travel to the Far East, thanks to one of Uncle Sam's illogical military assignments.

We love to visit Germany periodically. It's a beautiful and prosperous place now. All vestiges of the devastation we had known have disappeared. The visitor is confronted with raucous traffic, giant buildings, big cars and store-shelves full of apple juice. And yet, at journey's end as our airplane touches down at Tulsa airport, we always breathe a contented sigh and invariably say: It's good to be home again.

—Fred Rother

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(Photo of necklace available upon request)

Telephone Charles Byrd at (405) 948-8140



Sweet Potato says:

*Horse sense
is stable thinking,
coupled with the ability
to say nay.*

—Mildred Barthel



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

To "DU" or not

When speaking German, knowing when to use "Du" or "Sie" is critical. Here are some general rules:

If you've had an intimate or heavy drinking relationship with someone, the relationship automatically switches to the familiar "Du".

Children, up the age of 17 or 18 are generally addressed with Du; if the age is potentially greater than 17 or 18, use "Sie".

If you've just made a new friend, next time you meet you'll switch from Herr Rother, to Fred, but you might still be using the formal "Fred/Sie". Shortly thereafter, say you meet in a pub, one or the other will invariably say: "Ich schlage for wir dutzen uns." (I suggest we drop the formalities.) The other one of course agrees. They then click their glasses and the deed is done.

Young couples at parties, if they feel comfortable with one another, will usually make the switch after the first drink. Young people usually will make the transition easily and quickly within their station in life. Older folks may never do it.

Moreover, if two people belong to different income or status categories, like manager and employee, the formal relationship is usually cast in concrete.

(Continued on page 7)

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Now Playing at the GAST Theater

An Erwin Jerchau Presentation



This popular program
will return
in September

We welcome these new members
to the GAST Family

Renewed Member

Robert W. Powell

51345 Yale #21-H
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135
808-4011

New Members

Jeffrey D. Day

714 S. Cedar St.
Sapulpa, Oklahoma 74066
918-810-1537

William and Joyce-Armstrong Leutz

2812 W. 114th St.
Sapulpa, Oklahoma 74066
299-5116

KUDOS!

Our brand new member, senior medical student Cassie Duncan-Azadi has not even been a member long enough to attend any fun social events, and worked an entire 6-hour shift at Germanfest, not even taking one break!

—Dan Dennehy

Come join us at the next

Stammtischrunde

Friday evening, July 3, 6:30 PM
In the GAST Weinkeller

Hope to see you there.
Zum Wohl,

—Dann Björklund, Chair

(Continued from page 5)

Younger people would never think of addressing obviously older people in the familiar form.

In the States, however, if you've ever called a native German by his/her first name while speaking English, then, when switching to German, "Fred/Du" or "Fred/Sie" is appropriate depending on the age difference.

If a native German is being introduced to you by first and last name while speaking English, it would be wise to address him or her with Mr., Miss, Mrs. If a colleague—in your age-group—were to come to the States to work with you, an immediate "Du" usually works, unless the age difference is great. In that case "Fred/Sie" would be appropriate.

When communicating on the internet, these dainty formalities fall by the wayside and "Du" rules.

And then again—none of my explanations can be applied in every situation! Good luck!

—Fred Rother

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg

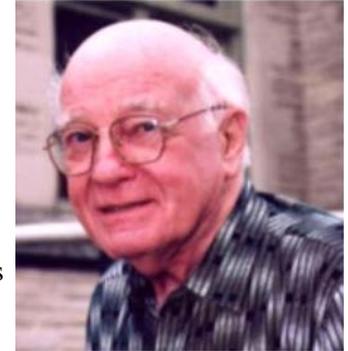


The voice of the German-American Society of Tulsa

In Memoriam

Josef Peter Hardt

1027—2009



The German-American Society of Tulsa (GAST) mourns the loss of our friend **Josef Peter Hardt**, who died on Thursday, June 11, after a long illness. Josef and his wife Anneliese, who preceded him in death in 1994, were among the visionaries who founded GAST 30 years ago. He served as our first President and remained actively involved in management and fund raising for more than 20 years. He was known as “Mr. Oktoberfest” to thousands of Tulsans who attended the festival to hear his booming voice call out “Tulsa Oktoberfest ist wunderbar”.

We miss you, Josef, and we express our sincere condolences to his daughter Karena Hardt, granddaughter Jessica Ruecker and his many close friends.



Berlin Airlift Celebration 2009

