



Das Deutsche Echo

December 09

Volume 30

Issue 12

The voice of the German-American Society of Tulsa

GAST Christmas Party

December 19, commencing at 6:30 PM

With the GAST Center arrayed in its holiday finery, we invite you to an evening of good food, good music and good fellowship. Our GAST Sanger will sing beloved Christmas carols. Rather than a band, we will be playing Christmas music intermingled with dance music over our sound system. This will help us keep the cost of the occasion at a reasonable level at \$12.50 for adults and \$4.00 for children 12 and under.



Menu

Goulash
Red cabbage
Potatoes
Salad



Bread and butter

Dessert: Strudel or Stollen with whipped cream

Coffee (milk or fruit juice for children)

Please make your reservations by calling the Message Center at 744-6997 by Wednesday, December 16 to ensure we have enough food for all who attend.

Christy Collins and committee

New Year's Eve Party

Let's get together and ring in the New Year on
December 31, starting at 9 PM, in the Weinkeller.

Bring your favorite snack or dessert to share
and enjoy the company of friends.

No reservation needed!

Cost per person is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children 16 and under.

Complimentary Champagne at midnight!



GAST Happenings

Handarbeitsgruppe Tue. at 10 AM	Dec 20 Konversationsrunde	Mar 5 Stammtisch
Nov 6 Stammtisch	Dec 31 New Years Eve Party	Mar 26 Weinkellerabend
Nov 18 Brainstorming	Jan 8 Stammtisch	Apr 2 Stammtisch
Dec 4-6 Christkindlmarkt	Jan 22 Weinkellerabend	May 7 Stammtisch
Dec 11 Stammtisch	Jan 31 Barthelmes Performance	Jun 4 Stammtisch
Dec 12 St. Nikolaus party	Feb 5 Stammtisch	Jul 2 Stammtisch
Dec 13 Adventsfeier	Feb 16 Fasching Party (Fat Tuesday)	Aug 6 Stammtisch
Dec 19 Christmas Party	Feb 26 Weinkellerabend	Sep 3 Stammtisch

This page is sponsored by GAST Member Hildegard Schaffrin

...FROM THE GAST PRESIDENT



Guten Tag! It feels and looks like fall is really here today. Oktoberfest is over and we survived it. Seriously, we had a successful festival under the capable leadership of **Arnold Bieber** and several other ‘tent supervisors’. Our income is down from previous years, but I think that is a sign of the economic situation we all find ourselves in. On a couple of the nights the crowds were large. You could hardly walk from one tent to the other, but they were not lined up buying anything from any of the vendors. Regardless, we made some money. We don’t know exactly how much yet since all

the bills are not in. I personally want to **thank all of our member volunteers and all the students from the various schools in the area.** I worked with several of them as a supervisor and had a ball. They are great to work with and will do anything you ask. Several had so much fun on their first time out that they came back the next day for more fun! We had a great Oktoberfest party in the Great Hall the weekend following the festival. Our own ‘catering’ crew – the Oktoberfest committee cooked up a great schnitzel dinner. The Dancers did a tremendous job of decorating and hosting the party and put on a fine dance show for us. The repeated it on the next Monday for the student volunteers. You should have seen the great time those kids were having dancing. **Carol Wright and crew** got all those kids up and involved. I heard several say no way and shook their heads. Before long they were having a blast learning to do the German dances. Thanks to all the dancers for a job well done with this party.

Now we move on to **Christkindlmarkt** under the leadership of **Hannelore Giles.** She tells me all is falling in place and yes, volunteers will be needed to work this event. Again, this is one of our fund raisers, so all help is greatly appreciated. When called upon, step up to plate and do your part. I have heard help is needed to get the hall decorated. If you are willing to help with this, please contact Hannelore or **Greta McNac.**

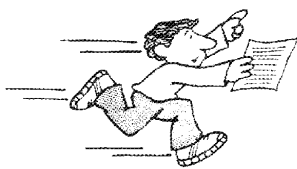
At this time I am anticipating our **“brainstorm session”** this coming Wednesday. I hope that many of you will have come out to help us look to future of GAST . We need ideas – old and new – and a direction for our organi-

zation. I have heard some thoughts and ideas from some of you privately and I know the potential is out there for us to preserve the German heritage and culture that some of you brought over and put in place when you founded GAST. The potential is also there for us to move into the future with various activities to attract new people who are interested in the historical German stuff but want something to do that is current also. It is that mix that we must find in order to survive as an organization. I hope that next month I have lots of ideas to report from this meeting.

I ask that we all keep our fellow members, **Joy and Jim Walker** in our thoughts and prayers as Joy struggles with cancer. I know many of you are keeping in touch with them and it sounds like things are improving and that is great news.

As we approach the busy holiday season, let us all take a moment to think of all that we have to be thankful for – even those simple everyday things. Take that quiet moment to just think of the many blessings we all have – even each other as friends and say “Thanks!” May each of you have a blessed Thanksgiving.

—Leon



**Newsletter
Deadline**

Wednesday, Dec 16
by 6 PM
scheduled for the Wednesday
after the Board meeting.
The Board meets every
second Wednesday
of the month
at the GAST Center at 7 PM

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...from the Arts President



Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht (Silent night, Holy Night); our hearts turn to glad tidings, comfort and joy as we welcome Christmas and then ring in the New Year. However, before we do that, let's reflect on one of the unique experiences of 2009, the Volkstrauertag at Fort Reno Post Chapel and Cemetery on November 15th. Carpooling is wonderful! I had the good fortune to ride with **Rosita Martin** and **George Starch**. It was a pleasure to enjoy social conversation, without the stress of dealing with traffic or weather.

The Fort Reno ceremony began with **Susane Burch** (accompanied by **Peggy Cooper**) singing one of three beautiful and moving songs. This was followed by a brief speech given by **Charles Wiggin**, Oklahoma's Honorary German Consul. Consul Wiggin spoke on behalf of the German soldiers whom we honored this day, and recounted how they came to be laid to rest at Fort Reno. Retired **Colonel Robert Powell** also spoke, reflecting on his experiences as a young eager soldier who saw foe become friend. Colonel Powell's flying career began with the goal of dealing destruction during war and morphed into saving countless lives from starvation as a member of the Berlin Airlift.

Although rain threatened, our visit to the gravesites went without umbrellas. All in attendance were pleased to see that three Italians joined the festivities to lay flowers on the graves of their countrymen. The Governor's Honor Guard then presented colors and laid three memorial wreaths prepared for the occasion. After a prayer given by the **Reverend Donald R. Hefta**, the air was filled with the haunting sounds of bag pipes played by our own **David Marshall** and **Max Tankersley**. This annual celebration is as much a celebration that prays for peace, as it is a remembrance of those who died in war. If you have never been, mark your calendars for next year to join us for the 11th annual Volkstrauertag in 2010.

On November 17th our adult language classes ended with a super party (including a unique beer brewed by Biermeister **David Marshall** – who would have thought, it's amazing the knowledge you gain in unexpected places). Adult language classes are set to resume on Tuesday, February 2, 2010. While on the topic of language classes; if we are fortunate and have a good response at our St. Nikolaus Party on December 12th for an ensuing Kinderdeutsch class, those classes are scheduled to begin Saturday, February 6th, 2010. Our children are our future; we encourage you to bring them to the events sponsored on their behalf.

Surprised that I didn't begin my column with my usual Movie Night praises? Has my heart gone elsewhere; could I possibly forget? Not so! December 7th is the day, the Weinkeller is the place, and **Erwin Jerchau** is the host with the most enjoyable movies in Tulsa. Our invitation stands; come join us and see why I wouldn't miss this special event for anything.

You will have read about the Christkindlmarkt in Leon's column. To further enhance the season, our annual Arts Adventsfeier will take place on December 13th, with our Konversationsrunde ending out Arts 2009 activities on December 20th. All these upcoming events have their own mini-columns, so be sure to read these for the details.

Thus, as we ring out the old and ring in the new. I wish you a very Frohe Weihnachten (joyful Christmas) and a gesundes Neues Jahr (a healthy New Year). 2010 will bring you more delightful cultural events, so please stay tuned.

Uschi Mueller

Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde

We thank **Doris Wicks** for her excellent presentation on the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. I'm sure that you were glued to the TV as we were when we watched these unprecedented events occur. The meeting was well-attended with at least 24 persons present. We also wish to thank **Arnold Bieber** for refreshments and especially for the nice touch of a cake with the Berlin Wall. The next meeting will be in the home of **Ortwin and Gertrud Schmidt** who live at 5133 East 86th Place (495-3727) at 3:00 pm on 20 December. This is our traditional Christmas meeting with lots of good cheer and music of favorite songs. Accompanying music will be provided by **Jutta Tankersley** and whoever else wishes to participate in the festivities. Please feel free to bring anything that would contribute to our sharing of the Christmas spirit. We will have a garage sale next March and even though it's early, be thinking about what you can donate.

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).

—**Barbara Conrad**, chair

Oktoberfest Report

Thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers, this year's Oktoberfest was a success. The economy and the weather were responsible for lower gross sales than last year (down 9.3% from last year, but better by 3.8% than 2007). After expenses we should net about \$15,000 which is desperately needed for the maintenance of our building.

I appreciate the enthusiasm shown by all volunteers. **June Holmes and Darlene Tegeler** did a great job calling everybody and following up on messages and e-mails. **Marianne Segner** and the German language teachers made sure that we had plenty of student volunteers and most of them worked hard and even stayed for additional shifts when it got busy. We had some great work crews for equipment maintenance, food preparation, set-up and teardown. Special thanks go to the shift supervisors who kept the 2 tents working efficiently. Our Oktoberfest Committee, **Erica Hartman, Carol Wright, Leon Boggs, Ed Westenhiser, Al Voeller, Dan Dennehy and Jim Walker**, all spent many hours getting ready for the festival, the Oktoberfest Party on October 31st and the Youth Party on November 2nd. **Lois Voeller** again made sure that all volunteers could make it to their shifts by scheduling the shuttle to accommodate the varying starting and quitting times. **Rob Mitchell** donated the use of his truck for the week, which helped cut rental expenses. Many others put in extra hours before, during and after Oktoberfest.



We ordered 350 Oktoberfest pins for 2009, If you worked at least a 4-hour shift and did not get a pin, please call me (357-9156) or e-mail me (aobieber@aol.com) by December 6, and I will mail it to you. Thank you again.

—**Arnold Bieber**, GAST Oktoberfest Chair

Come join us at the next
Stammtischrunde

Friday evening, December 11, 6:30 PM
 In the GAST Weinkeller
 Hope to see you there.



Zum Wohl,
 – Dann Björklund, Chair



Sweet Potato says:

Any Fool can criticize,
 condemn and complain –
 and most do.

– Dale Carnegie

...from the Building President



The Set-up Crew and Building Hosts are keeping busy with four rentals in December. **Ginny Greek**, Leasing Committee Chair, organized an Appreciation Lunch for our Building Hosts on November 8th.

We have a new sign in front of our office. It replaces our sign that has been missing for two years. We welcome Volunteers to serve as Building Host.

Please call **Becky Adrian** at 744 – 6997 to learn more about how YOU can help. Thank you,

Please note: the phone number 744-6998 is no longer valid!

—Harold Wicks

We welcome these new members
 to the GAST Family

Edward Anthis
 4330 So. Norfolk Ave.
 Tulsa, OK 74105
 (918)744-8434

Angelika Mitchell
 14900 So. Birch Apt. 402
 Glenpool, OK 74033
 (918)851-3653

Advent Service



Our traditional German language Advent Service will be held in the GAST Center on Sunday, starting at 3 pm on the 13th of December.

Hans Vielhauer, a retired Lutheran minister from Düren, Germany, will officiate. We hope you have an opportunity to attend this inspirational event, which keeps us all connected with our roots.

—Barbara Conrad, chair

Guess who's coming to town?



Calling all children to the annual St. Nicholas party, to be held Saturday, December 12th from 2:00 until 4:00 PM at the GAST building. Parents, please RSVP the GAST office by Thursday, December 10th at 744-6998 or at gast@tulsacoxmail.com. The party is free of charge, but we encourage parents to bring a sweet or salty snack item to share. Children will enjoy crafts and a puppet show and will have their pictures taken with St. Nicholas. Don't let the season pass by without taking time for this special event.

—Katrina Schwartz
 May Queen 2009



This spot is sponsored by

Harold and Doris Wicks

Thank you

If you are in need of an ATTORNEY in the Oklahoma City Metro Area, you may contact **CHARLES J. BYRD** at NECCO & BYRD, P.C. We are a law firm with over 80 years of combined experience.

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GAST Blaskapelle

October was a very busy time for the Blaskapelle, with six performances in little over two weeks. A block party/lamppost dedication at 31st and Lewis was the first performance', followed by an Oktoberfest luncheon for the employees of Hilti. The weather was bitter cold frozen fingers and lips made it pretty uncomfortable, but the appreciative audience and the hospitality which was second to none, made it all worth while. We played at Tulsa Oktoberfest a total of four times, at the opening in the Biergarten on Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoon in the Bierstube and again in the Biergarten on Sunday from 1:pm to 2:pm The audience enjoy our selections, a mix of various styles, German Folkmusic and popular songs ,Jazz, Blues and Waltzes and of course the Chicken Dance.

To think the Blaskapelle, started with four GAST members who had not played since their High School or College years, has grown to a membership of 30 musicians. Having this large number of musicians allows us to accept engagements more readily even if not everyone can be present Under the leadership of Don Lindy we have become very close to a professional band. We are indeed fortunate to have such an able Band Director.

The Blaskapelle along with the Folk Dancers and GAST Saenger are a wonderful way for GAST to live up to our mission statement of sharing German culture and heritage with Tulsa and surrounding communities. We practice every Monday evening at the GAST Center beginning at 7 pm, anyone wishing to join us is most welcome.

ADVENTSKALENDARS

**Are now available
at the GAST Office
prior to our Christkindlmarkt**

Cost \$2.75, inc. tax

Contact Hannelore Giles for details

Phone 756-7494

Now Playing at the GAST Theater

An Erwin Jerchau Presentation



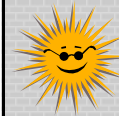
Monday December 7, starting at 6:30 PM
Weihnachtsmelodien

Starting at 7:30 PM

Ein Himmlischer Freund

Starring: Heinz Roenig, Jutta Speidel,
Marian Loesch and Wolf Roth

The Sunshine Lady



GAST sent Get Well cards to the follow-
ingds, Sympathy to Shirley Schelper on the
passing of her sister, Sympathy to June
Holmes on the passing of her Brother-in-law and
congratulations to Lisa White on the birth
of her new son. .

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

FOR SALE:

- 14k yellow/white gold diamond name necklace and
- yellow gold square foxtail chain, approx 17 ½ inches
- long. The 2" name plate is white gold and diamonds
- and says

HANNELORE

- Diamonds are 50-1.7 mm round brilliant cut of
- approx one carat total weight. Clarity is SI. Color is
- "H" to "I". Total weight is 7.69 grams. Written
- appraisal on 1/16/04 was \$1,550.00. **Sale price**
- **through GAST is \$900.00.** Photo of necklace
- available upon request)
- Telephone Charles Byrd at (405) 948-8140

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



Volkstrauertag at Fort Reno

Pictured left to right: Bagpipers and GAST members, Dave Marshall and Max Tankerley; Post Chapel built by German and Italian prisoners; Italian exchange student (right) placing flowers on an Italian prisoner's grave; wreaths from GAST, German Military, and a German organization that provides support for maintenance of soldiers' military graves.

Merry Christmas
and
A Happy New Year

From the Presidents, Boards and Directors of
The German-American Society of Tulsa
The Arts Association
And the Building Corporation.