



The voice of the German-American Society of Tulsa

The German-American Society of Tulsa invites our members to our 30th Anniversary Party.

to be held at the GAST Center on January 9, commencing at 630 pm

Menu

Prime rib au jus

Vegetable medley

Potatoes

Salad

Bread and butter

Dessert

Coffee / water

We will have a live dance Band for this occasion.

Dinner and Dancing \$20.00--Dance only: \$7.50.
(These prices do not include free drinks from the bar)

Please make your reservation no later than Wednesday, January 6.
by calling the GAST office at 744-6997

This event is GAST's most formal occasion, an opportunity to show off your best outfits!

GAST Happenings

Handarbeitsgruppe Tue. at 10 AM	Feb 16 Fasching Party (Fat Tuesday)	May 7 Stammtisch
Dec 31 New Years Eve Party	Feb 26 Weinkellerabend	Jun 4 Stammtisch
Jan 8 Stammtisch	Mar 5 Stammtisch	Jul 2 Stammtisch
Jan 22 Weinkellerabend	Mar 26 Weinkellerabend	Aug 6 Stammtisch
Jan 31 Barthelmes Performance	Apr 2 Stammtisch	Sep 3 Stammtisch
Feb 5 Stammtisch		

...FROM THE GAST PRESIDENT



BRRRR! Es ist kalt!! Olde man winter is here! I want to first wish each and every one of you a very blessed and merry Christmas and a great New Year. We have all seen some sort of challenge in 2009. My prayer is that we see better things in 2010.

Christkindlmarkt seemed to be a great success. Many thanks to **Hannelore Giles** and all of her helpers for a great holiday market. When I stopped in there, she had a good crowd and many items were sold out. That is good. Total figures were not available yet since there are still some outstanding bills. Hannelore indicated to me that she will be bringing some ideas to the Board of Directors on how to handle getting more merchandise from Germany so that we do not sell out of the popular items on the first or second day. She gets to take a short breather and then we start looking at Germanfest 2010. I can say that we have contracted with a band from Germany again this year. That seemed to be a good 'drawing' card last year. When we can advertise a band from Germany it helps bring out the folks. Thanks to **Carol Wright** for handling this for us again this year.

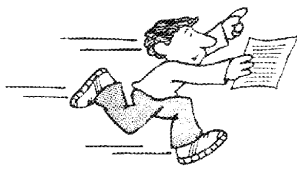
Our 'brainstorm' session was a tremendous success. We had 36 members show up to share ideas, thoughts and concerns about GAST. We had several different topics, each listed on a huge tablet. These were passed to each table so that all could 'brainstorm' around the different areas of concern. I was so excited to see folks up and out of their chairs around their table talking and writing ideas down. There was a mild roar of discussion in the Great Hall that night and a full 50 cup pot of coffee was consumed! We have many great ideas for moving GAST forward. I will be getting a group together after the holiday to go over all the sheets, prioritize the different ideas. We will then look at what is attainable. I will then bring those ideas forward to you as members as we will need your help to bring these things to life.

I truly believe we can keep GAST alive with its rich heritage and culture and bring it to the younger people of the Tulsa area today. We will keep our traditions and try to incorporate some new ideas to attract new, young

members. It will create some work for all of us if we want to keep our organization alive. But if we all take a part, it will not be overwhelming for any of us. We have to decide if we want to do a little work for GAST to succeed and stay alive or sit back, do nothing and watch it literally die and go away. It will be our – each member's- choice. Watch for some of these ideas to come out after the first of the year.

It is also time for nominations to start for the upcoming election for officers and board members in April. The nominating committee, chaired by **Rick Pizzo**, is already starting the process. If you get a call to serve, please consider it. This is another part of keep our organization functioning. We must have officers and board members to carry on the business of GAST. If you are interested in serving, please let Rick or myself know. As I count down the days to a 2 week break for the holidays, again I wish each of you a blessed and merry Christmas.

—Leon



**Newsletter
Deadline**

Wednesday, Jan 20
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



Twenty-ten - it has a special ring to it, or is it just my ears ringing from the boisterous shouts of HAPPY NEW YEAR / PROSIT NEU JAHR! We'll have been our usual, cozy little group, with another party going on above our heads (wow – that's different and fun) and an invitation to join upstairs as well. What a way to start out the New Year! Will that mean I won't feel like chewing gum, being pulled in too many directions, and the Time Eater won't be swallowing up time like he did in 2009? Let's hope so. (And yes, St. Nikolaus – there is a Time Eater. Didn't Christmas seem to arrive right after that old, twenty-o-nine appeared? Your helpers and I say it's so!).

Presto, Voila, Look-see, Sehe da – Movie night, as if by sheer magic, only four short days into the New Year on January 4! Wow! Things are looking up! Snuggled in **my** comfy Captain's Chair, a cup of good German coffee with popcorn, cookies, and other goodies heaped on the plate next to me and **Erwin Jerchau's** movie pick of the month to delight in – what more could I wish for. If you haven't been, you've missed out. JOIN US, DO! Then, following on the heels of movie night, the very next Sunday, January 10, our Konversationsrunde meets (see **Barbara Conrad's** column).

This is spooky – all those good things right off the bat! Oops, I spoke too soon – dry spell for Arts, but worth the wait, please mark your calendars for January 31 at 3 p.m. for a fabulous concert given by the **BARTHELMES CONSERVATORY ENSEMBLE**. There are few people in our organization who do not know the name '**Barthelmes**'. The portrait of this wonderful, culturally-minded couple hangs in our foyer and our German library is named after them. You will remember **Lois Voeller's** article dedicated to the **Barthelmes**, which outlined their significance to GAST. (New members, past **ECHO** issues are on-line) This genteel couple not only helped our organization, but countless others across the country.

Foremost within the **Barthelmes'** legacy is the conservatory, whose motto is "A place to awaken the musician within". At the music school, all students receive full merit-based scholarships, rewarding talent and hard work, toward the creation of musicians of the highest quality. It is these highly qualified student musicians who will delight you January 31st. To hear their talent within the walls made possible by the **Barthelmes'** is more than fitting. We will be the beneficiaries of the one language that knows no borders and no boundaries, music. These exceptional musicians, whose hearts and minds are tuned to taking our souls to a higher plane, most fittingly end our first month in twenty-ten. Our thanks go out to them for this honor. Allow yourself the pleasure; join us January 31 for this unique experience.

"And more is yet to come..." Who said that? I think it has to do with movies (**Erwin's** film selections are ever lurking in my mind). Students of German, it's that time again on Tuesday, February 2 when you meet with your beloved teachers in the Weinkeller and either begin or continue your German lessons in good fellowship. I happened to sneak in on the advanced group and can tell you these gals and guys are good! Not only are they good; they are dedicated as well, continuing lessons after regular classes ended. Bravo! Hats off to you.

Will we have Kinderdeutsch? I certainly hope so. Lessons begin on Saturday, February 6th and continue Saturdays until the children's Easter Egg Hunt and party on April 3. Please also keep in mind our upcoming garage sale March 19 - 20 for those white elephants you are trying shoo out of your house. Your elephant may be just the thing to make someone else happy. So, Happy New Year / ein gesundes und gesegnetes Neues Jahr; enjoy your twenty-ten with Arts.

—Uschi Mueller

Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde

We thank **Ortwin and Gertrud Schmidt** for hosting the annual Christmas meeting. Unfortunately, this meeting will occur before the deadline for the current issue of the ECHO and we must express our thanks in advance before the actual meeting. However, I am absolutely certain that they will be their usual normal gracious hosts and a good time was had by all. I hope that you attended our annual German Advent service officiated by Hans Vielhauer, a retired Lutheran minister from Düren and will agree that it was a beautiful and touching event. A special thanks to Pastor Vielhauer and the GAST Choir for a job well done.

The next meeting will be in the home of **Stan and Barbara Conrad** who live at 7837 South 70th East Avenue (492-3273) on 10 January 2010 at 3 pm. Our guest speaker will be **Rosita Karin Martin** who will share with us the inspirational community outreach message of "Upper Room From Dream To Reality". 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).

What is Fasching?

I'm sure you've heard of the Mardi Gras in New Orleans. It's been celebrated for centuries and is known worldwide. However, many people still do not understand what Fasching is in Germany.

Fasching is Germany's carnival season. It starts on the 11th day of November at exactly 11 minutes after 11 am and ends at the stroke of midnight on Shroud Tuesday - often referred to as Fat Tuesday (the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday). Fasching is more or less a Roman Catholic and Christian Orthodox celebration and most Protestant and non-Christian areas do not celebrate it.

Fasching (also known as Karneval) is a time of festivity and merry making - a time to break the rules, poke fun at those who make them and then to make your own new rules.

In Germany, particularly in the Rhineland area, the tradition can be traced to medieval times where many countries existed under harsh rules. Kings, princes and even smaller potentates maintained their own courts. In doing so, they flaunted before each other their own pomp and splendor at the expense of their population. During karneval time, the common people took a chance at "living it up" and "talking back to their rulers". They would make a mock government of eleven people, as well as other officials. A prince and princess were selected to rule the country during the Fasching season. Political authorities, high placed persons and sovereigns were the target of ridicule, and featured in humorous and satirical speeches. To avoid persecution and punishment, these antics were played out from behind masks and costumes. Parades, dancing in the streets, masquerade balls and comical skits filled the days and nights.

Karneval festivities have become annual events around the world. Also known as Fasching, Carnival and Mardi Gras, the most famous are located in the following places: Köln, Germany; Nice, France; Trinidad; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; New Orleans, Louisiana

Although Carnival in Rio is probably the craziest of all, Germany is undoubtedly the most enthusiastic Karneval center in Europe..



Come join us at the next
Stammtischrunde

Friday evening, January 8, 6:30 PM
 In the GAST Weinkeller
 Hope to see you there.
 Zum Wohl,
 – Dann Björklund, **Chair**

**Now
 Playing
 at the GAST
 Theater**



Monday January 4,
 starting at 6:30 PM
 Lieder Land und Leute

Starting at 7:30 PM
 Die Liebe eines Priesters
 Starring: Eroll Sander, Sonsee Neu,
 Maximilian Schell, Andrea Eckert
 and Phillip Moog

ANCIENT NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS

The celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago. In the years around 2000 BC, the Babylonian New Year began with the first New Moon (actually the first visible crescent) after the Vernal Equinox (first day of spring). The beginning of spring is a logical time to start a new year. After all, it is the season of rebirth, of planting new crops, and of blossoming. January 1, on the other hand, has no astronomical nor agricultural significance. It is purely arbitrary.

The Babylonian new year celebration lasted for eleven days. Each day had its own particular mode of celebration, but it is safe to say that modern New Year's Eve festivities pale in comparison.

The Romans continued to observe the new year in late March, but their calendar was continually tampered with by various emperors so that the calendar soon became out of synchronization with the sun.

In order to set the calendar right, the Roman senate, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the beginning of the new year. But tampering continued until Julius Caesar, in 46 BC, established what has come to be known as the Julian Calendar. It again established January 1 as the new year. But in order to synchronize the calendar with the sun, Caesar had to let the previous year drag on for 445 days.

THE CHURCH'S VIEW OF NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Although in the first centuries AD the Romans continued celebrating the new year, the early Catholic Church condemned the festivities as paganism. But as Christianity became more widespread, the early church began having its own religious observances concurrently with many of the pagan celebrations, and New Year's Day was no different. New Years is still observed as the Feast of Christ's Circumcision by some denominations.



**I personally prefer the champagne ceremony!
 Happy New Year's everyone**

—Fred Rother

This spot is sponsored by

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Thank you

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Fasching report



The Elferrat has chosen **Lonnie and Janet Jamison** as Prinz and Prinzessin for Fasching 2010.

The traditional Fasching season begins on the eleventh day of November. A Coronation Dinner was held to honor Prinz Lonnie I and Prinzessin Janet I. They will preside at our Fasching event to be held on Fat Tuesday, February 16, 2010.

Lonnie and Janet have been residents of Tulsa for many years. They have been married for eighteen years and have a daughter, Laura Strauser, who teaches at Adams Elementary School. Lonnie and Janet both work for Tulsa Public Schools. They have been active members of GAST since 2002.

They were members of our Folk Dancing Group. Janet has been our May Queen and is serving her second term as treasurer for our three organizations. Earlier this year, Lonnie was crowned King Gambrinus.

We wish them a happy and successful reign as Fasching Prinz and Prinzessin.

The Elferrat
Harold Wicks, Chair



Sweet Potato says:

It's error alone
that needs the support of government.
Truth can stand buy itself!

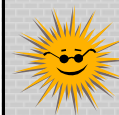
Thomas Jefferson

The Memorial Fund

The Fund has received gifts
from **John Millar** in memory of
Harry Runyon,
Joseph Hardt
and Max McPherson.

Thank you

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

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

HANELORE

- 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

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The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



The voice of the German-American Society of Tulsa



Introducing Tulsa Young Chamber Musicians *-In Tune with Music, in Tune with Community-*

Tulsa Young Chamber Musicians include five piano quartets, one piano quintet, one piano trio, one string quartet and even a four-hand and six-hand piano. Upcoming performances will feature music by Mozart, Bach, Handel, Sibelius, Gluck, Juon and Willis, among others. The performing ensembles are coached by Barthelmes Conservatory faculty members Kent Dennis, Allyson Eskitch, Bo Willis and Ashley Hinden.

**GAST will feature these young musicians at the GAST Center on January 31.
Look for details in the next issue.**



Quilt Winner at the
Christkindlmarkt with
Christy Fell

St. Nikolaus Party on
December 12, 2009



Happy New Year!

