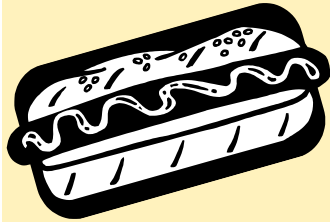




*The Voice of the German-American Community*



## GAST Picnic



On June 6, from 1 pm to 4 pm

At Haikey Creek Park, 11327 South Garnett road, shelter # 2

### Menu:

Pulled pork, smoked bologna

Hot links, hot dogs

Baked beans, Cole slaw

Potato Salad, bread

Cookies

Water, soda & beer

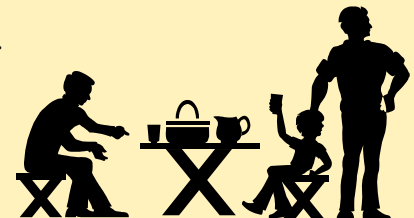
### Family activities

Admission: \$ 10.00 per person, Germanfest volunteers \$ 5.00 per person

\$ 5.00 children 5 yrs to 11 yrs.

For reservations, please call 744-6997 by Wednesday June 2

Please bring your own lawn-chair, available seating is very limited.



## GAST Happenings

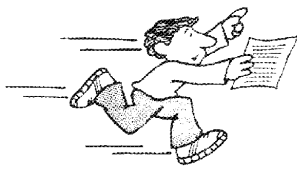
Handarbeitsgruppe Tue. at 10 AM	Jun 4	Stammtisch
Apr 30 Germanfest begins	Jun 6	GAST Picnic
May 7 Stammtisch	Jul 2	Stammtisch
May 16 Barthelmes concert	Aug 6	Stammtisch
Mat 28 Weinkellerabend	Sep 3	Stammtisch

This page is sponsored by GAST Member Hildegard Schaffrin

## ...FROM THE GAST PRESIDENT



Wow! I survived my first General Membership Meeting as President. I was surprised at our attendance and thank all of you for coming to support your organization. It shows me that many of you still have an interest in seeing GAST survive and thrive. I want to thank the officers and directors that will be leaving the GAST Board at the end of their term in May. I greatly appreciate your time, energy and efforts in leading this organization with me for this past year. I also thank those who were re-elected to another term at our General meeting yesterday. I especially thank the new officers and Directors coming on board. It will be exciting to have some new fresh ideas in our leadership team. **I highly encourage all new board members to attend the May meeting – Wednesday, May 12 as a transition time.** I will send all a notice of this meeting. It will be very helpful for all new members to meet with the present board to get an idea for what to expect. Also many thanks to **Erica Hartman and Ruth Bly** for the delicious refreshments at the meeting yesterday. Our Lumpen Ball last Saturday was a great success. We had almost 20 pots of soups and too many desserts to count plus salads and bread. Most attending were in the spirit of being poor after paying our taxes. The Mike Bennett Band provided some fantastic music for the evening and they even got in spirit of the evening by dressing casual. They told me they had a lot of fun playing for this type event with us. Germanfest is rapidly approaching. I will be there throughout the event organizing the cooking in the kitchen. I hope I see all of you there supporting this fun festival. Many thanks to chair, **Hannelore Giles** and her committee for all their hard work to make this a great success. We are already beginning to look at Oktoberfest. This is a huge undertaking that requires a lot of time, work and YOU as a volunteer! If you are interested in co-chairing this, please contact me now. We will be making our decision on the number of tents we rent and try to staff very soon. We must all remember that these festivals are some of our major revenue sources.



**Newsletter  
Deadline**

**Wednesday, May 19  
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**

### Das Deutsche Echo

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### Message Center - 744-6997

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From the info we received from the Audit Committee at our meeting yesterday, we will be looking at more of our policies and procedures very soon. We have seen some areas where we may need to look at By-Law changes. We will also look at ways to make our 3 organizations work better together. I encourage you to share any thoughts and ideas you may have in these areas with me. As we move forward with them, I will be asking folks outside the Board to help.

It has been exciting to have two TCC students, Mike Owen and Danielle Jones, attending our last two Board meetings as ex-officio members. They have been great to share their ideas and thoughts with our Board which will bring the Youth into a more active membership role in all of our GAST activities.

Again, many thanks to all of you for your support over this past year. Remember this is YOUR ORGANIZATION! Be Active. Share your thoughts and ideas with the Board. We will listen. You're invited and encouraged to attend any and all Board meetings – held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM!

—Leon

*...from the Arts President*

Was our Cinderella's newly betrothed husband really eliminated by a sniper as the happy couple rode through the streets on their wedding day in a beautiful horse drawn carriage, or was that just a ruse to enable him to leave the ever glaring spotlight of publicity? If he really is dead, will our Cinderella marry her dead husband's brother and did he have a hand in the killing? **Erwin Jerchau** promises that we won't know until the very end of the movie what's what, so be sure to join us as the suspense is lifted and all is revealed at our May 3 movie night! Please read Erwin's separate column for details.

We have a really fabulous treat in store for May 16 at 3 P.M.: the **Barthelmes Conservatory of Music's Tulsa Young Chamber Musicians'** ensemble will finally get to astound us with their talent. These exceptional young artists range in age from 8 to 17 and come from many communities in and around Tulsa. It is important we support music in our community. I hope you will take the time to help encourage these young people with your applause and appreciation. There will be a reception after the concert, once again hosted by **Susan Bey**. Ms Susan will be vacating her position of 'Hostess with the Mostest', so this will be your last chance for a while to marvel and enjoy the feasts she prepares.

**Barbara Taron** was our last Konversationsrunde speaker, giving us a unique insight into her childhood's view of wartime experiences. The nostalgic photos she brought and stories told, made for an interesting Sunday afternoon topped off by **Renate Fleming's** delectable Sonntagskaffee offerings. Thank you to all who attended this event. Please read **Barbara Conrad's** column about our next Konversationsrunde.

Kudos go to all the people who donated both time and items to our garage sale! We raised \$1500 despite the snow! This money will help us continue our various cultural programs. The list of garage sale volunteers is too long to mention, especially with the possibility of accidentally leaving someone out. You know who you are and I hope that either **Barbara Conrad** or I made it a point to express our appreciation to you. If not, then please thump us on the head and rest assured any such oversight was not intentional. You are the ones who keep this organization rolling and without you, we would not exist.

April brought both our Kinderdeutsch and adult language classes to an end. The children's last lesson coincided with a visit from the Easter Bunny (our very own **Becky Adrian**), who brought lots of goodies and was kind enough to pose for photographs taken by **Arnold Bieber**. It was a wonderful collaborative effort between GAST and Arts, hosted by our reigning Maikoenigin, **Katrina Schwartz**, who incidentally also assisted at all of the Kinderdeutsch classes. Our thanks to **Hildegard** and **Madeleine Schaffrin** and **Angelique Giddings** for the excellent job of teaching the children German songs, dances, crafts, and basic vocabulary. On Saturday, May 1, during the GAST **Germanfest**; you can enjoy song and dance performances by our Kinderdeutsch children between noon and 1 P.M. Special thanks to all the parents who made the commitment to bring their children and thus support this program.

**Frieda Odell, Grete McNac, Alexander McLaurin** and **Marianne Strong** once again brought German to life for a dedicated group of adult learners and a teenager as well! Yes, we did have a young man, **Jackson Lee** and his father, **Danny Lee**, spend quality time together learning German! Now there's an idea for other members who have young adults at home and are looking for a family project! Our next language sessions for both adults and children will be in September. Please continue to support these programs and tell others about them.

With May, our events begin to taper off for the summer, but I am hoping for one more film event in June before Erwin takes a much needed break for the summer. At any rate, I will tell you how our Cinderella story ended if you weren't able to attend, but for that you will need to wait until next month's **ECHO**.

—Uschi

## Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde

We thank **Renate Fleming** for hosting a delightful and well-attended meeting and all of the attendants for their participation. Also a big thank you for providing wonderful directions which kept (as far as we know) anyone from getting lost.

**PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE.** The next meeting will be at 3 pm on the **23<sup>th</sup> of May** at the home of **Harold and Doris Wicks** who live at 5606 S. Trenton (743-0359). This is our last meeting before the summer recess until we resume our regular monthly meetings in the Fall. We traditionally use this meeting to sing and recite poetry and prepare for the vacation time. Please feel free to bring and share any sheet music or literature which would add to the festive spirit of the meeting. Musical accompaniment will be provided.

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).

### Editorial

A large majority of our members were not born in Germany. Many of them have never visited Germany. Yet, there is much interest about things German. Whether its beer, Pretzles, Kartoffelpuffer (potato pancakes). Bratwurst, Oktoberfest, Germanfest, or the Chicken Dance, people seem to be interested—and that's great!

In the early days, some thirty years or so ago, the membership mix was mostly German-born, a congregation of immigrants, eager to continue enjoying the foods and practices of their homeland. Thus, GAST was born. We bought a building and made it our home, investing in lots of sweat and equity. We expanded into the Arts Association and the Building Corporation with their unique contributions to the entity that is now collectively known as GAST.

Over time, as the early member-pioneers of GAST faded into a minority, and as the German-born component grew older and fewer, feeling less inclined or able to participate in the rigors of working Oktoberfest, or volunteering to staff leadership positions, our new leadership became slowly composed of American-born members and, membership interest started to shift away from old German values, the type of music to be played, preference for casual dress code over formal, etc. etc. At this point, going back to the good old days becomes no longer possible.

This process is normal and called paradigm shift. Other German-based organizations across the country are experiencing the same phenomenon: a shift toward an Americanized German style of operation, which satisfies the majority of their current membership and encourages and attracts new members. As a result, this shift may alienate the early founding and charter members and hasten their lack of participation. This is unfortunate, but current leadership must cater to the mood and mentality of its primary membership while still maintaining certain German aspects in its various functions.

Failing to accommodate this paradigm shift would eventually result in a rapidly declining membership and the death of GAST. Let's keep it going. What do you say?

—Fred Rother



Come join us at the next  
**Stammtischrunde**

Friday evening, May 7, 6:30 PM

In the GAST Weinkeller

Hope to see you there.

Zum Wohl,

– Dann Björklund, **Chair**

**Now Playing  
 at the GAST  
 Theater**

*An Erwin Jerchau Presentation*



Monday May 3, starting at 6:30 PM

**Musik vom Wilden Kaiser**

Starting at 7:30 PM

**Zwischen Liebe und Macht  
 Part two**

Starring: Alexander Kamp, Kai Wiesinger,  
 Benyamin Sadler and Bernd Steigmann

## That Mean old Mom

We had the meanest mother in the whole world! While other kids ate candy for breakfast, we had to have cereal, eggs, and toast. When others had a Pepsi and a Twinkie for lunch, we had to eat sandwiches. And you can guess our mother fixed us a dinner that was different from what other kids had, too.

Mother insisted on knowing where we were at all times. You'd think we were convicts in a prison. She had to know who our friends were, and what we were doing with them. She insisted that if we said we would be gone for an hour, we would be gone for an hour or less. We were ashamed to admit it, but she had the nerve to break the Child Labor Laws by making us work. We had to wash the dishes, make the beds, learn to cook, vacuum the floor, do laundry, and all sorts of cruel jobs. I think she would lie awake at night thinking of more things for us to do.

She always insisted on us telling the truth the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. By the time we were teenagers, she could read our minds. Then, life was really tough! Mother wouldn't let our friends just honk the horn when they drove up. They had to come up to the door so she could meet them while everyone else could date when they were 12 or 13, we had to wait until we were 16.

Because of our mother we missed out on lots of things other kids experienced. None of us have ever been caught shoplifting, vandalizing other's property, or ever arrested for any crime. It was all her fault.

We never got drunk, took up smoking, stayed out all night, or a million other things other kids did. Sundays were reserved for church, and we never missed once. We knew better than to ask to spend the night with a friend on Saturdays.

Now that we have left home, we are all God-fearing, educated, honest adults. We are doing our best to be mean parents just like Mom was. I think that is what's wrong with the world today. It just doesn't have enough mean moms anymore.

*This spot is sponsored by*

*Harold and Doris Wicks*

*Thank you*

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**We welcome these new members  
to the GAST Family**

Arnold and Valerie Schmidt  
2514 Terwilleger  
Tulsa, OK 74114  
918-747-4149

Danny Hensiek  
5147 S. Harvard Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74135  
918-493-2266

Eny Weber  
4131 S. Quincy Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74105  
918-712-2636

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and enjoy a Family Fun Festival!



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## Kudos!

Many Thanks to **Ruth Bly** and **Elke Meyer** for sewing quilts for the children of Haiti. The idea started in the "Handarbeitsgruppe" and Ruth Bly and Elke Meyer fulfilled the idea.

So far 65 quilts have been sent and 50 are ready now. Ruth and Elke are continuing this project. Thank you, GAST members and friends, for the generous donations to the raffle. The raffle price was a quilt.

The proceeds are used to buy batting for the quilts. Material has been donated by various people.

— Erica Hartman



**Sweet Potato says:**

There is no such thing  
as a non-working mother!

Hester Mundis



## The Sunshine Lady

Jesse Tauber passed away at age 84 at her son's home in Arizona on March 6, 2010 she was cremated and her remains were returned to her native Germany.

Get Well cards were sent to Marcia Fox, Ursula Castle, Kurt Jablonski, Ursula Jablonski and Don Linde.

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 at [book\\_worm34@hotmail.com](mailto:book_worm34@hotmail.com) or call me at 357-9156

—Gwen Bieber

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

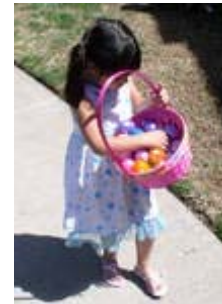
The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



*The Voice of the German-American Community*



## **The Kids' Easter Party on April 3**



# German Fest

## *Don't miss it!*

## *Be there!*

*April 30—May 1*