



## Germanfest 2011

**Apr 29th, Friday 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM, April 30st, Saturday 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM,  
May 1st, Sunday Noon - 5:00 PM**

The annual Germanfest, hosted by the German-American Society of Tulsa, will be held on the lawn and in the Great Hall of the GAST Center building in Tulsa. Authentic German entertainment by the GAST Choir, Folk Dancers and Blaskapelle together with outstanding Polka bands, food, drink and activities for the children make Germanfest a premier family event. The crowning of the German-American Society of Tulsa's Maikönigin (May Queen) is a centerpiece activity which occurs during the event.

### Festival Food

Bratwurst, Polish or Smoked Bratwurst with Sauerkraut on a bun, Hot Dog on a bun, Hot Dog on a bun with Sauerkraut, Kartoffelpuffer (2 served with applesauce), Schnitzel Sandwich on German Rye with Lettuce, Tomato & Pickle Schnitzel Dinner - Schnitzel, Potato Salad, Green Salad & Bread, Jägerschnitzel Dinner - Schnitzel with Hunter Sauce, Potato Salad, Green Salad & Bread Reuben, Schnitzel Dinner - Schnitzel w/Swiss Cheese, Sauerkraut, Pickle & Potato Salad.

### Music

Sepp Diepolder & his brother Heinz will headline this year's entertainment with music for listening and dancing. Sepp has appeared at Tulsa's Oktoberfest & venues throughout the US.



Courtesy [www.gastulsa.org](http://www.gastulsa.org)

## GAST Happenings

Handarbeitsgruppe Tue. at 10 AM	Jun 24	Weinkeller	Sep 2	Stammtisch	Dec 2	Christkindlmarkt
April 29 Germanfest	Jul 1	Stammtisch	Sep 13	Language classes	Dec 10	Christmas party
May 6 Stammtisch	Jul 23	Italian Party	Sep 18	Piano concert		
May 15 Konversationsrunde	Jul 29	Weinkeller	Sep 23	O'fest signup party		
May 27 Weinkeller	Aug 5	Stammtisch	Sep 30	Weinkeller		
Jun 3 Stammtisch	Aug 7	Ice Cream Social	Oct 29	Oktoberfest party		
Jun 12 GAST Picnic	Aug 26	Weinkeller	Nov 18	Chambermusic		

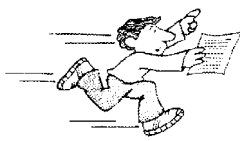
**...FROM THE GAST PRESIDENT**

Well, we survived another Annual Membership meeting. I am glad that we passed the two By-Law amendments to clarify dates for folks to be able to vote in the annual meeting. The previous wording left it open to interpretation and that was causing us problems. Now it is set with a definite date. I hope I survive a third term as your president. I want to thank all the officers and board members who are retiring from service. I greatly appreciate all the time that you dedicated to making GAST a great organization. I also welcome all incoming officers and new board members who will take office in June. **Please remember you are welcome and encouraged to attend the May board meeting – May 11 – just to see what is going on before you officially take office.**

We had a great Lumpenball. Thanks to **Erica Hartman, Ruth Bly and Donna Boggs** for organizing the meal and making the edible center pieces. What a great idea and the soups and desserts were fantastic. Thanks to all who came and joined in a great evening of food, fellowship and conversation. Germanfest is right around the corner as I write this. I know we will have a great festival and want to thank **Tom Morris and his committee** for a job well done. I hope to see all of you sometime over that weekend as volunteers helping us make this a successful fund raiser.

**Helps is needed! We need an editor for the ECHO.** You will see more on this elsewhere in this issue. Please read it and consider how you might help – if we want it to continue. Questions? – contact Fred

Rother at 918 299 4814 or me.



**Newsletter  
Deadline**

**Wednesday, May 18  
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

is published monthly by  
The German-American Society of Tulsa  
1429 Terrace Dr., Tulsa, OK 74104

Office hours:  
Mon. Wed. Fri. 9am - 3 PM  
Library: by appointment during office hours  
**Leon Boggs, President**  
Fred Rother, Editor 299-4814  
Editor: E-mail address: ffrother@yahoo.com  
GAST e-mail: gast@tulsacoxmail.com  
GAST Web page <http://www.gastulsa.org>

**Message Center - 918-44-6997**

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I have heard several comments over the last few months that the Board needs to remember that the membership is the 'boss' and they need to do what the membership wants. With this in mind, I was hoping at the membership meeting to hear from members as to what they wanted to see us doing. I heard nothing. So I am confused. **Please remember all members are welcome to attend all Board meetings. You can share ideas and discuss things with us – just no voting. But that is your place to speak to us. We will listen. We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Weinkeller.**

I hope all of you have a blessed Easter.

—Leon

## ...from the Arts President



How lucky can any Arts President get, than to have their last cultural event be the **Barthelmes Conservatory of Music's Tulsa Young Chamber Musicians!** I wish more of our membership (fewer than 30 came) would have attended this wonderful event. As it was we had around 120 people present and received \$64 in donations, which were given to the Barthelmes Conservatory for their scholarship program. Some of the students from last year were among those present and an exciting new aspect, African drums, was also presented. It is my sincere hope that when these young people once again give of their time and talent, that our organization will hear the call and help to encourage these future Mozarts, Beethovens and Brahms to continue to enrich our lives with music.

Thank you to the **Pizzos, Frankens, Mertens, and Seibolds** for their generous monetary donations, which will help Arts continue their excellent cultural offerings under the leadership of **Gertrud Schmidt, Barbara Conrad** and **Charles Meyers**. I suspect that more donations may be underway or received. I will request you be recognized in our next ECHO.

Speaking of recognition, these last two years saw a long host of individuals who gave time, money, garage sale items, advice, talents and such to Arts, making it possible to invite membership and public to a variety of events, at no cost or reasonable cost (as with our language classes). **Barbara Conrad** and **Arnold Bieber** have been the main work horses, representing GASAA around Tulsa and the globe, extending and bringing German culture to the public at large. **Charles Meyers, Harold Wicks** and **Ruth Obermark** worked closely together to finally designate our building with a very visible signage that blends into the historic character of the building. **Fred Rother, John Toschik, Michelle Morris,** and **Terry Sponsler Pizzo** helped get the word out to the community through publications, signage, and the internet. **Marianne Strong, Greta McNac, Frieda Odell, Doris Gallagher, Patricia and Alexander McLaurin, Angelique Giddings, Jutta Tankersley,** and a host of other teachers helped continue our adult language classes in Fall and Spring. **Hildegard** and **Madelaine Schaffrin, Anglique Giddings,** and the many parents who committed themselves to the 8 week Kinderdeutsch were always helpful seeing to it that toys were put up, dishes washed, and the Weinkeller left in good order. **Ginny Therion, Mary Schmitz, Hildegard Schaffrin, Susan Bey,** and an endless group of 'how can we help' individuals saw to it that receptions were elegant and enjoyable. The list goes on and on and thus it is inevitable that many individuals remain unsung. Alone the list of those who opened their homes to the Konversationsrunde and those who presented programs throughout these last two years would fill an entire Echo page. A brief research of the articles that **Barbara Conrad** and **Gertrud Schmidt** have written over the past two years will give you a good insight into that. Just click on the Echo's past issues on the website and you'll see what I mean. Naturally, these kudos would not be complete without my most favorite Arts item in the world – movie night, presented by maestro **Erwin Jerchau**, who is ending our 2010/2011 season with the Sissi trilogy, preceded by a musical Vorschau.

If you were at the membership meeting you will have heard my choice words about not agreeing with the character assassinations, the nit-picking, and the secret slate of officers, where individuals serving a tenure that could continue are not asked if they want to or are willing to, but are simply ignored and dropped from the balloting process. It is difficult enough to find volunteers, without alienating those who have given of their time and talents. This organization has been far too stingy with its recognitions and kudos and there is a core group that seems to think children on the premises are akin to mold and mildew, because they dare to put dolls to bed on the picnic table and don't necessarily pick up whatever toys are available.

Without the kudos and without the children, this organization will see its sunset sooner, rather than later, and instead of remaining and maintaining German culture on foreign soil, for native Germans to come and reclaim, like the French did their grapevines from California, there will be nothing here. On the positive side, the 79 or so individuals who attended the membership meeting did vote in a fresh new face, with a great background to the board, which this

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde

Our last meeting was at the home of **Stan and Barbara Conrad** at which we hosted a student visitor from Celle, the Germany sister city of Tulsa. The meeting evolved into a most interesting discussion as to how we Americans see ourselves as opposed as to how others see us. Unsurprisingly, these two opinions were not the same and lead to some lively interactions.

The next meeting will be at 3 pm, 15 May in the home of **Gertrud and Ortwin Schmidt** who live at 5133 E. 86<sup>th</sup> Place, Tulsa (918-495-3727). The theme at this meeting is traditionally preparation for the summer break at which time we sing songs, recite poetry and discuss our vacation plans. Please feel free to bring any music, verses, musical instruments etc. related to this theme. This will be our last meeting until Fall and we wish each and every one a fun-filled summer.

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).

*(Continued from page 3)*

organization does need and I applaud.

Well they say it's not over until the fat lady sings.....♪♪♪♪♪...so there you have it...my presidential reign is at an end, and with the leasing turmoil going on, I am actually grateful not to have received the memberships' endorsement for the Board. Thank you for that and thank you for the events you attended in the past two years. Please support your incoming officers, let your voices be heard and stay informed.

—Uschi Mueller



## Wanna be a famous publisher?

Well, a little bit famous, maybe.

GAST is looking for someone to continue to publish our monthly newsletter, "**Das Deutsche Echo**". It requires a medium level of computer literacy and a desire to produce a quality product. I will be available to baby-sit your startup efforts for several months. Please call or email me and I'll give you more details.

—Fred Rother

ffrother@yahoo.com or phone 918 299 4814



## Stammtischrunde

Friday evening, May 6, starting at 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 2, starting at 6:30 PM  
**Hansi Hinterseer Open Air Konzert  
 (2008)**

Starting at 7:30 PM

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 Wilma Degischer and Walter Reuer

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## Failure, but not quite

After Fred Astaire's first screen test, a 1933 memo from the MGM testing director said: "Can't act. Slightly bald. Can dance a little."

Astaire kept that memo over the fireplace in his Beverly Hills home.

## Playgroup Inquiry

A gentleman who is a new member of our organization came to the office last month to ask whether we might have a playgroup arrangement for preschoolers. He and his wife have a young son who is being raised to be bilingual and they would like to find other parents with the same desire. I promised him I would make an effort to help by posting a notice in our newsletter to learn if there is an interest in such a group, which would meet at public parks and other places.

Unfortunately, I have momentarily mislaid the business card he gave me, but I am hoping he will be reading this notice and contact me again. If you are interested in forming a summer playgroup, or if you know of someone else who might be, please call me at (918) 245-1095, or call at the office, and I will arrange to connect you with any others. Thanks.

—Ruth Obermark

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*Thank you*

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We welcome these new members  
to the GAST Family



William Stith  
2005B E. 51<sup>st</sup> St.  
Tulsa, OK 74105  
918-744-0205

Glenn & Christina Hatcher  
9165 E. 117<sup>th</sup> Place S.  
Bixby, OK 74008  
918-369-1134

David Forbes  
6105 W. Phoenix Ct.  
Broken Arrow, OK 74011  
918-254-1621



*Sweet Potato says:*

Forgiveness  
is the  
sweetest  
revenge!



**The Sunshine Lady**

GAST sent Get-Well cards, one to **Ron Baucom** and one to **Barbara Conrad**.

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](mailto:book_worm34@hotmail.com) or phone me at 357-9156

—Gwen Bieber

## The GAST Choir

The GAST Sanger, under the able direction of Director **Susan Calvert**, have reconvened after their winter break to begin practicing a new repertoire for the spring and summer seasons. Our summer schedule will include the German Fest, Coal Camp, and possibly a special concert.

For participation at Coal Camp, which is the St. Louis regional meeting, the choirs involved will feature music from the composer Friedrich Silcher, 1788-1800, with works including "So nimm denn meine Hande," "Annchen von Tharau" and "Sah ein Knab, ein Roslein stehn."

We welcome several new members to our group: **Stan Conrad, Virginia Self, Mieke Epps, Chuck Highfill, and Steve Kollmorgen**. Stan was welcomed aboard as our new choir manager and we are looking for new members so anyone interested should come to practice on Thursday evenings at 7:00 in the Weinkeller. We especially need altos.

Several long-time members of the choir deserve recognition. We want to thank **Tom Bordner** for his accordion accompaniment to our fall concerts. He put some zip in our music. We also want to thank **Siggi Grimm** for his long-running and dedicated service to the choir in his capacity as the previous choir manager. Choir members are also grateful that **Teresa Gallagher** has recovered from very complicated back surgery and is back with us. Other members have also undergone serious surgeries and various limb replacements, and we are pleased to announce that despite myriad physical hindrances, we are all back to singen und schunkeln like never before. Join us!

—Betty Donohue



This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



# Das Deutsche Echo

May 2011

Volume 32

Issue 5

*The Voice of the German-American Community*



We recently completed of the move of the store and restaurant..

We are now open Monday-Saturday and will be serving lunch and dinner in our vastly expanded new restaurant.

Don't forget to come shop in our new "Factory" Salesroom!

Our new location is now at **81st** and Sheridan

Just one mile north of our old location at 91st and Sheridan.

**We've got plenty of parking now!**

This is Siegi's Sausage Factory?

What happened to the old Siegi's?

Well, we moved.!

## 125th Anniversary of the Automobile



Throughout 2011 the country famous for its Autobahn celebrates the invention of the first automobile by Carl Benz 125 years ago. The activities focus on a variety of occasions where you can get a hands-on experience with German cars such as automotive-themed attractions and car museums with fabulous models of Porsche, Mercedes Benz, BMW, and more. Venues across the country are gearing up to host

exciting motor shows, exhibitions, classic car rallies along the scenic routes, and the "Summer of Cars" in the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, where the birth of the motor car will be celebrated with a multitude of events over a period of 125 days.

