



The Voice of the German-American Community

CORONATION DINNER

Friday, November 11 at 6:00pm

The Elferrat marks the beginning of the traditional Fashing season with the annual dinner for the purpose of introducing the Prinz and Prinzessin for Fashing 2012.



This catered dinner will be held in the GAST Building in the Weinkeller. The cost is \$20 per person. Reservations are required. All members are invited to attend.

For reservations call (918) 744-6997 by Nov 7

VOLKSTRAUERTAG—FORT RENO

Sunday, November 13

A GAST delegation will attend the Volkstrauertag service in Fort Reno, Oklahoma, on the 13th of November. The group will car pool and/or caravan to Fort Reno and any member desiring to attend is welcome and encouraged to go along.

For departure location and time:
Call Barbara Conrad: 918-492-3273
or email her at: boeconrad@sbcglobal.net



TULSA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA “Flavors of Europe” - Chamber Series

Friday, November 18 at 6:30pm

Join us at the GAST Center for a delightful evening of music featuring the virtuosity of Tulsa Symphony’s finest musicians in a program especially selected by them for your enjoyment. This unique program includes a reception and intermission with German wine and cheese, and features:

- Brahms - String Sextet No. 1
- Bach - Selected Brass Transcriptions
- Mozart - “Haydn” Quartets

Tickets are \$25 apiece and available to the public through the Tulsa Symphony at (918) 584-3645 or on their website: www.tulsasymphony.org



Upcoming GAST Events

2011

Nov 1	Handarbeitsgruppe
Nov 4	Stammtisch
Nov 7	GAST Theater
Nov 8	Handarbeitsgruppe
Nov 11	Coronation Dinner
Nov 13	Volkstrauertag Fort Reno
Nov 15	Handarbeitsgruppe
Nov 18	Chambermusic
Nov 22	Handarbeitsgruppe
Nov 29	Handarbeitsgruppe
Dec 2-4	Christkindlmarkt
Dec 5	GAST Theater
Dec 6	Handarbeitsgruppe
Dec 9	Stammtisch
Dec 10	Christmas party
Dec 11	Adventsfeier
Dec 13	Handarbeitsgruppe
Dec 20	Handarbeitsgruppe
Dec 27	Handarbeitsgruppe

2012

Jan 2	GAST Theater
Jan 3	Handarbeitsgruppe
Jan 6	Stammtisch
Jan 10	Handarbeitsgruppe
Jan 17	Handarbeitsgruppe
Jan 24	Handarbeitsgruppe
Jan 27	Weinkeller Abend
Jan 31	Handarbeitsgruppe
Feb 3	Stammtisch
Feb 6	GAST Theater
Feb 7	Handarbeitsgruppe
Feb 14	Handarbeitsgruppe
Feb 18	Fasching Party
Feb 21	Handarbeitsgruppe
Feb 28	Handarbeitsgruppe
Mar 2	Stammtisch
Mar 5	GAST Theater
Mar 6	Handarbeitsgruppe
Mar 13	Handarbeitsgruppe
Mar 20	Handarbeitsgruppe
Mar 23-24	Garage Sale
Mar 27	Handarbeitsgruppe
Apr 2	GAST Theater
Apr 3	Handarbeitsgruppe
Apr 6	Stammtisch
Apr 10	Handarbeitsgruppe
Apr 17	Handarbeitsgruppe
Apr 24	Handarbeitsgruppe
May 1	Handarbeitsgruppe
May 7	GAST Theater

...from the GAST President



GUTEN TAG!

Well Oktoberfest has made it here. As I write this we look at opening next week. It will be a new experience for us in a couple of ways. We have reduced the size of the Bier Garten tent to save some rental fees. We have not opened the 'lower' serving windows in that tent in several years. So we have less space to work in, but should be more efficient. We have also relocated the Ess Zelt to the opposite end of that tent to be closer to the entrance and hopefully more business. Oktoberfest is rapidly approaching the 'break-even' only point and then predictions are that we will actually start losing money if we cannot get more business and spend less money. The GAST Board will keep a close eye on this. I really appreciate all who have volunteered in any way to help us out. Our steering committee has worked hard and I appreciate them all.

I am also excited about our newest Board member, who is also our new Youth Chair – **Angela Novak**. She is already presenting us with some new and exciting ideas. Thanks and welcome Angela.

As we approach the end of the year, it becomes time to start looking at elections for the next year. **George Ort** is our Nominating Committee chair, and he with his committee will soon start looking for candidates. REMEMBER! THIS IS YOUR ORGANIZATION. IF ASKED TO SERVE, PLEASE STEP UP AND HELP KEEP THE ORGANIZATION GOING STRONG. Along this line, it was reported at the recent Board meeting that we have 430 members! That is great – but look at the number who actually are doing the 'work' of the organization. I know some cannot. But many more could and should be. Let's all think about this. If it continues to be only a few, GAST will soon go out of business and that will be a sad day for all of us.

I always remind you – this is our organization – you and me. Let's work together to move it forward. If you have thoughts or ideas let us hear from you. Come to the Board meetings – 2nd Wednesday of each month. You can share with us, discuss with us and let us hear what you have to say. It gets 'old' not seeing anyone do this, but then hear all the gripes and complaints at our other events about how unhappy some are. We cannot improve or change if we do not hear from you. So please come and do your part and let us hear from you.

- Leon

...from the Arts President



If you missed the celebration of German American Day at the GAST Center, you missed hearing the very interesting, thought-provoking proclamations from our President Barak Obama, Governor Mary Fallin and Major Dewey Bartlett- read by Arnold Bieber- and a stimulating presentation by Dr. E. Schmaltz. His main theme was: 'Where did the German immigrants who settled in Oklahoma come from?' They came from every corner of the former 'Holy Roman Empire of German Nations' also called the 'Habsburg Empire' which was cut into pieces by Napoleon and completely dismantled after 1918, and from several regions of Russia. Many of them became unwanted citizens in their own land. Some left voluntarily when given a fair chance, others were forcefully removed to lands they did not know. For many of these displaced people as well as for numerous others who looked for a new beginning, America was the land of freedom and

opportunity. They brought with them traditions and talents which they used and shared freely. The German American Day Celebrations certainly was an 'Upper' for the audience. We owe **Barbara Conrad** a big 'Thank You' for finding this fabulous speaker for us.

The GAST Blaskapelle also deserves our special thanks. After the beautiful renditions of The German and American anthems they entertained us with some rhythmic, well-known marches and melodies which saw the visitors clapping and tapping.

Many enjoyed chatting with Dr. Schmaltz during the reception. Vielen Dank to the hospitality team of **Mary Anne Mueller, Gwen Bieber, Erica Hartman, Ruth Bly** and **Ed Westernhiser**. The cake, decorated with the GAST emblem, was almost too beautiful to be cut... but it did taste good.

Volkstrauertag is fast approaching. The Consul General of Germany, Roland Herrmann, will arrive in Tulsa from Houston on Saturday Nov. 12th and is interested in spending some time with GAST members to learn more about our organization. With a delegation of GAST members he will travel on Sunday Nov. 13th to Fort Reno to take part in honoring the war dead of all wars and in particular the sixty German prisoners of war dead who are buried at the Ft. Reno annex cemetery. The celebration will begin at 2:00pm in the chapel, which was built by the German prisoners of war.

Consul General Herrmann will give the address, Dr. Schmaltz will speak, bagpipes will play on the way to the cemetery where the laying of the wreath will take place with the Honor Guards in attendance.

There is a military cemetery for U.S. service men at the old Ft. Reno and as mentioned in the October Echo the Fort has quite an interesting history and is worth a visit.

In the July issue of the Echo I alerted you to the Tulsa Symphony's Expanded Season. On November 18th at 6:30 pm. The GAST Center Great Hall will be the venue for the first of the "Flavors of Europe Chamber Series". The program includes the Brahms- String Sextet No. 1; Bach's- Selected Brass Transcriptions and Mozart's-Haydn Quartets. A reception will follow the performance. There is a cover charge of \$ 25.00.

By the time you read this latest issue of the Echo Halloween will have passed and the stores will be sparkling with Christmas decorations... hard not to think 'Christmas'. Our traditional Advent Service will be held on Sunday December 11th at 3:00 pm in the GAST Center Great Hall. Pastor Tiews will hold the service and the choir and congregation will sing the old familiar Christmas songs so dear to our hearts. It's a wonderful opportunity to spend some enjoyable and thoughtful time with family and friends.

Thanks to **Arnold Bieber, Jutta Tankersley, Doris Wicks** and **Carol Wright** for getting the Magnet School Project off to a good start.

Looking forward to seeing some of you in Fort Reno and many of you at the Advent Celebration.

—Gertrud

Newsletter DEADLINE

November 16 at 5 PM

The newsletter goes to press the first Wednesday after the Board meeting. The Board regularly meets at the GAST Center at 7pm on the second Wednesday of the month.

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Leserbriefe**Christkindlmarkt
Volunteers Needed**

We need Christkindlmarkt volunteers for setup, teardown, kitchen, serving, children's area, merchandising, pricing, and decorating. Everyone can be involved in promoting this important fund raiser. A flier is available to help promote the event and can be obtained in the office (during hours) for anyone wishing a copy to post at his place of work, church or community activities. This would really help us get word out. Everybody needs to pitch in if they can. Call (918) 299-2839.

—Carol Wright

GAST Sanger

On Saturday October 8, 2011, the GAST Sanger performed Oktoberfest selections at St. Henry's Catholic Church in Owasso. The Sanger, directed by Susan Calvert and accompanied by Tom Bordner, enjoyed a warm reception from the parishioners as they sang old favorites like "Kornblumenblau" and "In Geselliger Runde." The concert was followed by a dinner featuring brats and beer. After a summer hiatus punctuated by a summer social at the home of Stan and Barbara Conrad, The Sanger were happy to be on the road again. We are now getting ready for our upcoming Christmas season for GAST and other engagements that will come along.

— Betty Donohue

GAST Garage Sale

Just a reminder to start saving all your "junk" and white elephants for the GAST garage sale to be held in March of 2012. This is a major fundraiser for the Arts Association. Thanks!

— Stan Conrad

Communications from members are welcome and should be sent to davidalanforbes@gmail.com

Non-Perishable Food Drive

GAST is starting a food drive —non perishables only—to be donated to a charitable organization to be determined by the GAST Board of Directors in December.

We are asking ALL MEMBERS and all internal groups: Choir, Dancers, Blaskapelle, Handarbeits Gruppe, Stammtisch, etc. to participate in this worthy cause.

Beginning NOW and through December 15th, please donate as often and as much as you can, bringing your collected cans and non-perishable food items in when you are coming for any reason. There will be boxes in the Weinkeller as well as in the kitchen at the duplex for your donations.

We have almost 4 months to accomplish a great food drive. Let's show the Community how generous the members of the German American Society can be. Thank you for your participation.



The Sunshine Lady

Get Well cards were sent to Beverly Bordner, Terry Pizzo and Carl Edmondson and a Sympathy card to Frieda Odell on the death of her husband, a former member. Frieda formerly taught our adult German Class.

Please call or E-mail me if you know a GAST member who is ill. Also, please let me know if it is appropriate to send a sympathy card.

E-mail: book_worm34@hotmail.com,
or telephone 918-357-9156

—Gwen Bieber

Now Playing at the

GAST Theater

An Erwin Jerchau Presentation

Monday November 7, starting at 6:30 PM

Alpenstar TV

Das Musikmagazin

Starting at 7:30 PM

Geküsst Wird vor Gericht

Staring

Fritz Karl, Ann-Kathrin Kramer,
Susanna Simon, Adele Neuhauser
and Anita Matija



Interesting News from the Old Country

Heidi the Cross-eyed Opossum passes away at the Leipzig Zoo

Germany's most celebrated opossum, Heidi, passed away last month at the age of three and a half years, rather old for opossum which normally live about two years. Heidi achieved worldwide celebrity status and became a national darling in February of this year after successfully predicting American Oscar winners.

Heidi was the runaway star of the Leipzig Zoo after her photograph appeared in the mass-circulation



newspaper Bild in December of last year. The cross-eyed marsupial captured the heart of the German public and in short order had attracted legions of fans, more than

320,000 on Facebook alone at the time of her death, and was a hit on YouTube.

Zoo officials were unable to explain her cross-eyed appearance which is apparently rare in animals, but *Der Spiegel* speculated that her condition may have been caused by a poor diet early in life causing fat deposits to accumulate in her eyes. Officials doubted the animal was in any pain and had no difficulty getting around or negotiating her zoo environment. In all other respects, Heidi looked like a normal opossum.

Heidi was a Virginia opossum. According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources the Virginia opossum is one of the oldest and most primitive species of mammal in North America, with its ancestry stretching back more than 70 million years and the current animal is little distinguished from its forebears. The opossum is the only marsupial to originate in North America.

Heidi and her sister Naira had been found as orphans in North Carolina and raised in an animal sanctuary before being transferred to the Leipzig Zoo in May of 2010. The animals were quarantined there for a time before being put on public display.

Before the zoo put Heidi out of her misery in late September she had been suffering for several weeks and had not been able to move with the apparent worsening of her pain due to her age despite increased doses of medication to help her, according to a public statement by the Leipzig Zoo Director Joerg Junhold.

In March of this year, Heidi had picked two out of three Oscar winners: Colin Firth and Natalie Portman to win the Best Actor and Best Actress awards, but incorrectly chose "127 Hours" over "The Kings Speech" to win Best Picture. Heidi made her selection by choosing which grape she wanted from those offered, each grape being associated with a particular nominee.

- David Forbes, *Das Deutsche Echo*

For Sale—Fine Set of Rosenthal China

117 Piece, Pre-WWII (1920-1940) Pattern R2689 bone-colored with a 1/4" 18k gold encrusted black floral band. Service for 17 including dinner, salad, and bread plates with generous serving pieces, visible at www.replacements.com.

Family service crated and shipped to Oklahoma from Germany after the War by B.C. Clark Jewelers in Oklahoma City. Sale Price \$7,000.00 including shipping (appraised much higher).

Call Jim or Margaret Zercher at (405) 787-8548
email: margaretzercher@cox.net

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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918-712-7872

Christkindlmarkt 2011

December 2, 3 & 4

<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
10:00 - 7:00	10:00 - 5:00	12:00 - 5:00

The GAST Christkindlmarkt committee and its volunteers will transform the GAST Center into a Christmas wonderland with booths featuring Nutcrackers, Smoker-männie and a wonderful selection of Christmas tree ornaments. Christkindlmarkt offers a variety of Wurst, Kartoffelpuffer, hot apple cider, hot chocolate and coffee and St. Nikolaus himself will be walking among the booths to the delight of those children who attend. This wonderful annual celebration is open to the public.

Volunteers are needed!

Call Carol Wright at 918-299-2839 or email her at d.c.w@cox.net

Konversationsrunde

November is a busy month for all of us. Volkstrauertag on the 2nd Sunday of November and early Thanksgiving Holidays leave no dates for Konversationsrunde. This program will resume December. Watch for the date and place in the next Echo.



Stammtischrunde

Friday evening, November 4
starting at 6:30 PM
in the GAST Weinkeller
Hope to see you there.
Zum Wohl,
– Dann Björklund, Chair

Morgen, morgen, nur nicht heute, sagen alle faulen Leute

Where Am I?

Name of the City and Square. Reply to: davidalanforbes@gmail.com



Answer to "Who Am I?"
in the October issue:
Ludwig Heinrich "Lou" Gehrig
Martha Gossman was the first correct
respondent. Congratulations!

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



Volkstrauertag - Fort Reno, Oklahoma

November 13, 2011

During World War II a major part of what was then Fort Reno west of Oklahoma City was rebuilt starting in 1943 as an internment work camp for German prisoners of war. The first prisoners began arriving in July of 1943. The number of prisoners at any one time varied due to transfers between other camps, but it was often as many as thirteen or fourteen hundred, and most of them worked as farm laborers in the area, at the Douglas Modification Plant in Oklahoma City or at Tinker Air Field.



There are a total of 62 German soldiers buried at the Fort Reno POW cemetery. The Fort is the site of a special service annually on Volkstrauertag and is commonly a pilgrimage of area residents with German extraction or an interest in the subject. Much like Memorial Day it is an opportunity for Germans and Americans alike to show their respect for and honor those who perished on both sides in the two World Wars.

The service, which visitors can attend, is held at the Fort Reno Chapel (*shown at left*). Guided tours are available year round, and several exhibits and displays are available for viewing.

German American Day

October 9, 2011

Dr. Eric Schmaltz (below right), professor at Northwestern Oklahoma State University spoke at the GAST Center after reading of proclamations from President Barack Obama, Governor Mary Fallin, and Mayor Dewey Bartlett, and playing of the German and American anthems by Baskapelle.

