



The Voice of the German-American Community

## GAST **31<sup>ST</sup>** ANNIVERSARY PARTY

at the GAST Center  
Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> 2012  
Doors open at 5:30pm  
Dinner served at 6:00pm



Dinner and Dance: \$ 20.00 per person  
Dance Only: \$ 10.00 per person  
Entertainment by: **G - NOTES**



*Sauerbraten*  
*Mashed Potatoes*  
*Green Beans in Mushroom Sauce*  
*Cucumber Salad*  
*Bread & Butter*  
*Lemon Bars and Cream Puffs*  
*Coffee, Tea and Water*  
*Anniversary Cake*

This is a catered dinner by **Ludgers**  
reservations are required by Wednesday, January 18th, 2pm.  
Please call 918-744-6997  
No shows will receive a bill.

## Upcoming GAST Events

**Stammtischrunde**  
**Friday, Jan 6**  
**starting at**  
**6:30pm**  
**GAST Weinkeller**

### 2012

- Jan 2 GAST Theater
- Jan 3 Handarbeitsgruppe
- Jan 6 Stammtisch
- Jan 10 Handarbeitsgruppe
- Jan 17 Handarbeitsgruppe
- Jan 21 GAST  
Anniversaary Party
- 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
- May 4 Stammtisch  
(or 11 depending on Mayfest)
- May 8 Handarbeitsgruppe
- May 15 Handarbeitsgruppe
- May 22 Handarbeitsgruppe
- May 29 Handarbeitsgruppe
- Jun 1 Stammtisch
- Jun 4 GAST Theater
- Jul 6 Stammtisch
- Aug 3 Stammtisch
- Sep 7 Stammtisch

## ...from the GAST President



Christmas is almost here. Christkindelmarkt has happened – and it was very successful. Many thanks to our co-chairs – **Carol Wright** and **Arnold Bieber** and their great team of volunteers in all the other areas of the market. Job well done by all! The Christmas Party, hosted by the GAST Saenger was terrific. Thank you choir. Everyone seemed to enjoy the evening – good food, listening to our choir and just visiting. Many thanks to our party committee also for organizing the meal and the band.

Now we move forward to our next festival – Germanfest. We have a signed contract with our band, the Diepolder twins. We also have new co-chairs for this event – **Stephen Schneider** and **Elam Blank**. I am sure they will soon be organizing their steering committee and seeking volunteers to run another successful festival. Please be ready to step up and do your part by volunteering.

It was with great sadness that I read in the newspaper over the weekend of the passing of our friend and fellow member, Annemie Waldroop. I ask that we all keep Glen and the rest of the family in our thoughts and prayers. It is especially hard to lose a loved one this time of year.

Our Anniversary Ball is coming in January. We will be presenting our annual Director's and President's Awards to those who have been selected. We will also present the winners of the High School/College Essay Contest with their awards. It promises to be an exciting evening with good food, music and fellowship.

This time of year also brings about nominations for officers and board members for all 3 organizations. **George Ort**, chair of the Nominating Committee and his crew are already at work, if you are contacted, please consider serving in whatever way they are asking. If everyone says no, or I have already done my turn, or let someone else do it – we will soon be out of business since you are not willing to serve to help keep one of the largest cultural groups in town going. We see and hear that German clubs across the country are folding. Do we want to be on that list? It takes folks to serve as leaders and volunteers to carry out the functions to keep us alive and well. You hold the fate of GAST in your hands!

Always remember, the Board meetings are open to all members. Come and share and discuss with

us – let us know what YOU want. But if we adopt your ideas, be ready to help carry them forward.. I hope all have a very blessed Christmas and a great New Year.

• *Leon*

*GAST Saenger  
Photo courtesy of Irmgard  
Toschik*



## ...from the Arts President



This year certainly will go down as the 'year of records' for Oklahoma. Fierce blizzards with record snowfall hit us in February. The longest string of 100 degree days in July and August accompanied by the severest draught in Oklahoma history certainly made us thankful for the invention of air-conditioning and the few drops of rain that fell. And just to top it all, earthquakes with an intensity never before recorded in Oklahoma, rocked and rolled us in October. Well Arts didn't break any records, but looking back, we did have a very successful and enjoyable year.

The Barthelmes Young Chamber Musicians delighted us in March. The American Theater-Organ Society's concert in August was well attended, Jeongwan Ham's Piano recital in September was very much appreciated by young and old lovers of Piano music and the Tulsa Symphony filled the great Hall of our GAST Center with 152 enthusiastic listeners who enjoyed 'Flavors of Europe'. German American Day and Volkstrauertag made us thankful for the contributions and sacrifices of the people who shaped this country then and now.

As the language classes - Kinder Deutsch and Adult German classes – concluded, many of the participants promised to return, which speaks well for our teachers.

The Gast Singers, Susanne Calvert and accompanist Peggy Cooper provided the musical framework for the Advent Service – officiated by Pastor C. Tiews.

The Konversationsrunde got off to a good start but was a little spotty in fall due to time conflicts with events that took precedence. Reading and singing of old familiar Christmas stories and tunes made the group at the Schmidt Haus appreciate the Christmas message of freedom, light and love at the last Konversationsrunde of the year.

The Speakers Bureau was busy and hopes to attract some helpers in the New Year. Looking forward to 2012 we again will try to bring to you some enjoyable afternoons or evenings with music, Movie Nights, get interesting speakers for the traditional German Day and Volkstrauertag and Advent.

Starting off the New Year is the Movie Night January 2<sup>nd</sup> which will be a joint get-together with the Celle group.

**Ruth Bly** will host the first Konversationsrunde on January 8<sup>th</sup> at her house.

We hope you can get us some interesting raffle items to be raffled off during our 31st Anniversary party on January 21.

Language classes will start up on February 4th for Kinderdeutsch and February 7<sup>th</sup> for the Adult Classes.

The Garage Sale—our main source of income—is planned for March 23-24.

So mark your calendars!

My special thanks to the GASAA Cultural and Education committee, to all the diligent helpers, idea people and faithful supporters.

Happy Holidays and Prosit Neu Jahr!

—Gertrud

### Newsletter DEADLINE

January 18 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.

#### Das Deutsche Echo

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#### Message Center - 918-744-6997

The German-American Society, Arts Association and Building Corp. do not necessarily endorse advertisers and/or ad content.

## GAST Party Raffles Benefit ARTS Programs

The German American Society Arts Association will again accept donations of items which can be raffled off at GAST parties. Items should be new or have a special cultural value.

Please call or email Arnold Bieber at the number or address below or drop them off at the GAST Office during office hours. A receipt for tax purposes can be provided.



### Arnold Bieber

Chairman, Cultural & Educational Committee

Tel: 918-357-9156 Email: aobieber@aol.com



## Christkindlmarkt Quilt Winner!

Our lucky quilt winner for this years raffle was Tom Blackwell a new resident to Tulsa. Mr. Blackwell was more than pleased and will give the quilt to his mother for Christmas. The quilt was made by several ladies in the Handarbeitsgruppe and brought in over \$1000 profit this year, thanks to Christy and her crew selling tickets at Christkindlmarkt.

## PARTY RESERVATIONS New Policy Announcement

The deadline for reservations for all GAST parties is now 2:00 PM on the Wednesday prior to the party. Those who have reservations will receive a ticket at the time of check-in at the party to reserve their meal. Those making reservations after the deadline or walk-ins with no reservation, will not receive a meal ticket and will be allowed to eat only after those with tickets have eaten and if there is still food left. This must be done to get the counts to the caterers by their deadlines and to make sure those that make reservations on time get a meal.

**The GAST Board of Directors**

## Leserbriefe

We want to thank everyone who participated in Christkindlmarkt as a volunteer or as a shopper. The 2011 Christkindlmarkt was both successful and profitable. We were lucky to have reasonably good weather that generated a good turnout. Our team of volunteers worked well together. It is time for the Christkindlmarkt Committee to get together to discuss the operation of the market and areas of possible improvement. We will meet on January 5 for our de-briefing. The committee would welcome ideas and suggestions from the membership. If you have comments, suggestions, or constructive criticism to offer please contact **Arnold** at [aobieber@aol.com](mailto:aobieber@aol.com) or (918) 357-9156 or **Carol** at [d.c.w@cox.net](mailto:d.c.w@cox.net) or (918) 299-2839 before January 5. Again, Thank you for your support and participation.

**Arnold Bieber and Carol Wright**

We wish to thank Gertude and Ortwin Schmidt for graciously hosting our Christmas meeting. A good time was had by all as we sang some of the old songs that we grew up with and exchanged stories of our childhood experiences of Christmas. The next meeting (11 January 2012) will be in the home of Ruth Bly (919-355-1371) who lives at 2501 East Tacoma Street in Broken Arrow at 3pm. Ruth will relate to us some of her recent experiences in Haiti. As you are well aware, Haiti, in addition to being the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, was recently subjected to one of the worst earthquakes of the past decade. Ruth is a quilter and has used her talents to relieve this unimaginable suffering and anything we can do to help would certainly be appreciated. Please plan to attend. Don't forget to collect for our Spring garage sale in which we turn our white elephants into funds for the Arts Association. Pick up and storage is now available. For details me at (918-492-3273)

**Barbara Conrad**

Communications from members are welcome and should be sent to [davidalanforbes@gmail.com](mailto:davidalanforbes@gmail.com)



## The Sunshine Lady

We sent out get well cards this month to:  
**Barbara Conrad, Jan Erdman,**  
 and **Leisha Jury.**

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](mailto:book_worm34@hotmail.com),  
 or telephone 918-357-9156

—Gwen Bieber

*Now Playing at the*

## GAST Theater

*An Erwin Jerchau Presentation*



Monday January 2, starting at 6:30 PM  
 Alpenstar TV

Starting at 7:30 PM

***Bis das der Tod uns scheidet***

Starring, Muriel Baumeister (*at left*),  
 Bernhard Schir  
 and Simone Baer

## Interesting News from the Old Country

### German scientists grow artificial skin using cells from babies' foreskins

German scientists have created a machine that manufactures human skin using cells from a baby boy's foreskin for use in testing cosmetics and other consumer products.

The scientists at the Fraunhofer Institute in Stuttgart, Germany, hope the skin they've been able to produce will provide a humane alternative to using animals in testing of cosmetics and other products.

The machine has been dubbed the "Skin Factory." It is a sealed growing environment just seven metres high, three metres wide and three metres high which is kept at a constant temperature of 37 degrees centigrade.

It fosters the growth of skin samples from cells extracted from foreskins of boys 4 years-old or younger who are circumcised. The older the baby, the poorer performance is obtained from the harvested skin, according to Andreas Traube, the project spokesman.

Before a child's foreskin was contributed to the project, their parents provided the scientists with permission, according to Germany's Südkurier newspaper. .



Foreskins were not used by the scientists merely because they were a source of excess human skin cells.

"It's also important that the cells come from as uniform a source as possible, in order to avoid abnormalities in the production of new skin."

The scientists are also looking into using stem cells as a source for skin production.

The process can produce up to 10,000 or more cells from a single foreskin and make skin up to 5 millimetres thick in just six weeks. After the cells from the foreskins have multiplied inside the machine, they're injected into a gel that forces them to grow into a sheet that simulates the epidermis — the outermost layer of human skin. To create a model that simulates human skin, three of these layers are fused together, according to the Südkurier

At present, the Fraunhofer Institute is producing about 5,000 new samples per month, the DPA reported.

For their next project, the scientists are working on reproducing the human cornea.

*Reproduced courtesy of The German Herald, Deutsche Presse Agentur, and the Daily Mail*

**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](http://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](mailto: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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# Christkindlmarkt 2011



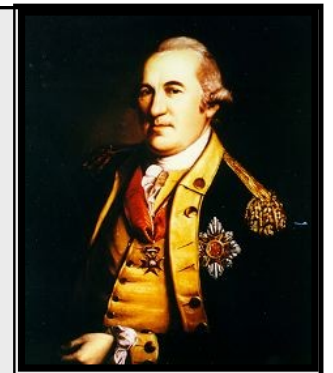
Clockwise from upper left:  
(1) GAST Bäckerei,  
(2). Harpist,  
(3). Christkindl &  
St. Nikolaus,  
(4).roasted  
almonds  
vendor, and  
(5) authentic  
Nutcrackers  
display



## Where am I?

Identify the room and the building.  
Reply to [davidalanforbes@gmail.com](mailto:davidalanforbes@gmail.com)

*(Ceiling fresco below)*



Answer t"Who Am I?"  
in the December issue:  
**Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben**

**Ginny Rohr** was the first correct  
respondent. Congratulations!

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



# Das Deutsche Echo

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Ft. Reno  
Volkstrauertag Ceremony  
November 13, 2011



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of Arnold Bieber



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