



The Voice of the German-American Community

## Fasching 2012

**PARTY**  
**FASCHING**  
German-American  
Society of Tulsa

**Saturday** February 18th, 2012  
Doors Open 6:00 PM

**Light Meal**  
6:30-7:00 PM

**REFRESHMENTS**

**Surprises**  
Costumes & Prizes  
\$10.00 per Person  
\$5.00 Students

**GAST Center**  
Entertainment by the  
**GAST Blaskapelle**  
Luigi Balletto  
RSVP at 744-6997  
by 15 February 2012

Prinz Tony 1  
and Prinzessin Leisha 1

### Upcoming GAST Events

Special GAST Theater - Feb 6 at 6:30pm - hosted by Tulsa-Celle Partnership (see details on page 5)

|        |                  |        |                  |           |                  |                              |                  |        |                  |
|--------|------------------|--------|------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|--------|------------------|
| Feb 3  | Stammtischrunde  | Feb 28 | Handarbeitsgrupp | Mar 23-24 | Garage Sale      | Apr 24                       | Handarbeitsgrupp | May 15 | Handarbeitsgrupp |
| Feb 6  | GAST Theater     | Mar 2  | Stammtischrunde  | Mar 27    | Handarbeitsgrupp | Apr 27                       | Weinkeller       | May 22 | Handarbeitsgrupp |
| Feb 7  | Handarbeitsgrupp | Mar 5  | GAST Theater     | Apr 2     | GAST Theater     | May 1                        | Handarbeitsgrupp | May 25 | Weinkeller       |
| Feb 14 | Handarbeitsgrupp | Mar 6  | Handarbeitsgrupp | Apr 3     | Handarbeitsgrupp | May 7                        | GAST Theater     | May 29 | Handarbeitsgrupp |
| Feb 18 | Fasching Party   | Mar 13 | Handarbeitsgrupp | Apr 6     | Stammtischrunde  | May 4                        | Stammtisch       | Jun 1  | Stammtisch       |
| Feb 21 | Handarbeitsgrupp | Mar 20 | Handarbeitsgrupp | Apr 10    | Handarbeitsgrupp | (or 11 depending on Mayfest) |                  | Jun 4  | GAST Theater     |
| Feb 24 | Weinkeller       | Mar 23 | Weinkeller       | Apr 17    | Handarbeitsgrupp | May 8                        | Handarbeitsgrupp | Jun 22 | Weinkeller       |

This page is sponsored by GAST Member Hildegard Schaffrin

## ...from the GAST President



GUTEN TAG!

Well here we are into another year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. What a surprise to leave the Board Meeting the other night and find it snowing. Winter is here!

By the time we read this, we will have had the 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Party for GAST. Many thanks to **Erica Hartman** and her Party Committee for all their work on this event and all the other parties we have. They do a lot of 'behind-the-scenes' work. They look at menus find the caterer and band, and make sure the room is set up and ready to go. We all need to be proud of the fact that we have reached the 'ripe-old' age of 31. At that age and the size of GAST [400+], we are one of the largest and most active German clubs around. The club in

Oklahoma City dissolved a few years ago. We just got word that the club in Lawton is dissolving. We must work together to keep GAST growing and going so that we don't face that same demise. I am very proud to be involved with this group to keep the German culture and heritage alive in the Tulsa area.

It is a great honor for me to be able to recognize a couple of our members with special awards at the Anniversary Party. **Jack Wynn** was selected by the Board of Directors to receive the **Director's Award** this year. **Harold Wicks** was selected the Presidents of GAST, GASAA and GASBC to receive the **President's Award**. As we all looked around at possible folks to receive these recognitions, we found so many that are deserving because of their dedicated and hard work for the organization. Unfortunately, we can only select two. Both of these men have done so much for our organizations over the years – we can't thank them enough. I will just say **THANKS & CONGRATULATIONS!**

It is also a great honor for me to be able to award the three winners of the Essay Contest. I do not have their names at this writing, but congratulate them for a job well done. We had over 40 essays submitted this year! Thanks to our Youth Chair, **Angela Novak** for her hard work in that area.

I am also greatly excited that GAST is getting involved in a community effort by packing Food For Kids bags at the Community Food Bank on 2 different Saturdays. **Kathy Blank** steered this effort for us and it is great that we are giving something to the community. Thanks to all who supported this effort and worked with us. I hope to see more of this type activity.

Elections for officers and directors is coming up at the Annual Membership Meeting on April 22. If you are interested in serving or wish to nominate someone, let **George Ort** or me know.

As we look at 2012, there is much to be done to keep us moving and growing. We have a couple of new ideas for GAST being looked at and will see more on them later. The key to our success will be that we all work together for the good of the organization and not just for our individual self interests and areas of concern. As always, if you have concerns or ideas, come to the Board meetings and let us hear from you.

—Leon

## ...from the Arts President



Guten Tag!

Have you made any New Year's resolutions? In last Sunday's Tulsa World I came across "Five extra resolutions worth considering" by Laurie Winslow. This one in particular caught my attention:

Resolve to be charitable with your time, talent or treasure. "By giving, you get more than you give, and it can come back and pay dividends too," Safranek said. In other words: **Be a volunteer.**

Volunteering, goes back to pioneer days. There were barn-raising and quilting bees and the school teacher usually was a volunteer.

The definition of volunteering according to Merriam is: **the act of performing social or educational work that benefits the community.** Now doesn't that fit what many of our GAST members are doing as part of the German American Society, the German American Society Arts Association and the German American Society Building Corporation? Without the hardworking members (volunteers) there would not be a German Day, Mayfest, Oktoberfest, Ice Cream Socials, Movie nights, Weinkellerabend, Konversationsrunde, Musical Events and Advent Service to name a few of the activities which are offered by GAST and enjoyed by many.

There are ample opportunities to serve as a volunteer or in a leadership position at GAST. Get in touch with **George Ort** to find out where help is needed. Highschool students have a chance to get social studies credit by helping out at Kinderdeutsch or other events offered by GAST.

Just recently a group of GAST members under the guidance of **Kathy Blank** helped out at the Eastern Oklahoma Food Bank by assembling hundreds of "Food for Kids" backpacks. And the reach of volunteerism by GAST members goes beyond community and country borders as **Ruth Bly** showed and told us during January's Konversationsrunde at her charming house. (See story on page 8 of this newsletter about her work in Haiti!)

I am closing with Albert Schweitzer's words on volunteering: "I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the ones among you who wish to be really happy, are those who have thought and found how to serve."

—Gertrud

### Newsletter DEADLINE

February 15 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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**Message Center - 918-744-6997**

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## GAST Members Pack Backpacks for Kids

Backpacks for 4000 elementary students are assembled and boxed for delivery by volunteers every week at the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. On January 14<sup>th</sup> several GAST youth members, 16

board members and 2 spouses worked from 1-3:00.



Jennifer Martin, Angela Novak, and Leon Boggs



Jennifer Martin, Martha Ort, Stern and Stephen Schneider, and Jim Walker

Board members encourage other GAST members to join them Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at the Food Bank to pack again. If you are interested please call Bev at 918-744-6997 or the message machine at 918-744-6998. Leave you name, phone number, email address so we can send you the volunteer form and directions. See you on the assembly line.

*Story and photographs courtesy of Kathy and Elam Blank*

## Leserbriefe

### **Thanks to Ruth Bly**

We wish to thank Ruth Bly for her gracious hospitality and for her update on Haiti and a holiday reminder to us all as to how grateful we should be for our lives as compared to the suffering of these poor people. Our next meeting will be on 12 February at 3pm in the home of Arnold and Gwen Bieber ( 918-357-9156) who live at 6409 East El Paso Pl. (Broken Arrow). We will discuss the background and history of Fasching and how this unique event has become an integral part of German lore and history. Please plan to attend and tell your own experiences of memorable Fasching events . Don't forget to collect items 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 call Barbara Conrad (918-492-3273)

**Stan and Barbara Conrad**

### **Board Members Needed**

The GAST board is in need to fill several board positions. If you are interested to serve for the 2012/2013 year, or if you would like more information please contact one of the following persons:

**Georg Ort** - (918) 665-7108  
**Arnold Bieber** - (918)357-9156  
**Christy Fell** - (918) 747-1919  
 Georg Ort , Chair  
 GAST Nominating Committee

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



## The Sunshine Lady

Our membership thankfully suffered no reported injuries or illnesses this month and no get well cards were sent out.. May that continue for many months!

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

### Er kann mir gestohlen bleiben

He can remain kidnapped (I suppose said of a really nasty person.)

*Now Playing at the*

## GAST Theater



Tulsa-Celle Partnership will host the  
GAST Theatre

Monday, February 6, Doors open at 6:30, Movie starts at 7 PM

### **Kirschblüten** (Cherry Blossoms)

starring Hannelore Elsner and Elmar Wepper  
*in German with English subtitles.*

Admission is free for GAST and TGA members and their guests.

The Partnership will provide popcorn, coffee and water.

Donations of additional snacks are appreciated.

A synopsis of the movie can be found at the TCP website:

<http://www.tulsa-celle-partnership.com/upcoming-events.html>

## Interesting News from the Old Country

### LOCALS ARE ERECTING A SNOW CHURCH IN BAVARIA

This church at Mitterfirmiansreut, near the Czech border, is more than 65ft in length and boasts its own tower. It's made up of some 49,000 cubic feet of snow.



And the parishioners are obviously not put off by the sub-zero temperatures as they turn out for a Christmas service. Though the building's so flaky they'll have to give the baptism of fire a miss.

Hundreds of attended the opening of frozen church yesterday. It had been due to be completed before

Christmas but there was a lack of snowfalls. Luckily during the ceremony the heat from people's bodies did not melt the specially-designed building - dubbed God's igloo.

The structure was bathed in blue light as it opened in the evening with a blessing from Dean Kajetan Steinbeisser. But the cool appearance was not all for snow. Villagers built the chilly worship hall to pay tribute to their ancestors.

In 1911 a group of residents had built the first snow church in an act of protest. A trip to Sunday mass for the people in the mountain community meant a 90-minute walk to the neighboring town of Mauth, and they were angry not to have their own church.

Residents decided to remember their relatives and rebuilt the church at an estimated cost of 100,000 euros, according to plans by architect Alfons Doeringer.

Dean Steinbeisser says: 'It was meant as an act of provocation - believers from the village got together and built a snow church because they didn't have a church here. The Dean is understood to have ruled out holding Mass, weddings or baptisms within the church.

The building, which can hold up to 200 people, will remain open as a tourist attraction until the Spring. A number of events are planned throughout the coming months.

*Reprint courtesy of TimesUnion.com*

# GAST

is grateful to the following members for their generous support:

***Rick & Terry Pizzo***

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***John & Teresa Gallagher***

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## New Members

J. Scott & Deidra Bruton  
18324 So. Cedar Ridge Rd.  
Claremore, OK 74019  
918-341-1636

Gregg & Sarah Kennedy  
Rt #1 Box 83 A  
Cleveland, OK 74020  
918-243-5106

### Prior Members Reinstated

David S. & Bernice Layson  
5361 N. 63rd W. Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74126  
918-430-0436

Jeffrey D. Day  
714 So. Cedar St.  
Sapulpa, OK 74066  
918-224-7641

## ...from the Building President

Renting our building to non-members is one of the key components in paying for the maintenance of our building. Over the last five years, we have averaged 33 such rentals per year. Currently we are receiving \$1600 for a four-hour event plus decorating time. This includes tables, chairs, and our kitchen used as a catering kitchen.

Bev has met potential renters whenever they request to tour the building. Her willingness to make extra trips to show the building on her days off has resulted in 15 signed contracts for 2012. This puts us ahead of what we usually have leased by the end of January.

We need a couple members to volunteer an hour to help with set up on Friday mornings. Volunteers insure that all the rent money is used for building expenses. If you are available to help, please **call Bev on MWF at 918-744-6997.**

-- Elam



### MEMBER DUES MUST BE IN BY MARCH 1

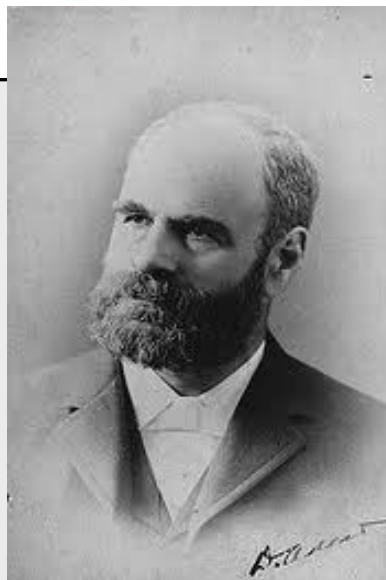
Please send your check for your dues payment promptly to avoid any interruption in membership privileges!

- Tom Bordner

## Who am I?

Born in Eisenach, this native German, whose mother died at his birth, immigrated to America with his father and settled in Detroit. He fought in and was wounded during the U.S. Civil War, and afterwards pursued a career as an architect, becoming one of the nation's leading pioneers in the development of steel framed skyscrapers, and an expert in acoustics for building auditoriums and theaters. With his partner he built more than 100 buildings in Chicago.

Reply to [davidalanforbes@gmail.com](mailto:davidalanforbes@gmail.com)



Answer to "Where Am I?"  
in the January issue:

**Stone Hall  
Nymphenberg Palace (Munich)**

**Nathan Jelken** was the first  
(and only) correct respondent.  
Congratulations!

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



## GAST Members Work to Benefit Haiti

For several years, Ruth Bly has made 60-70 baby quilts and sent them to Haiti via Pastor and Mr. Sonya and Jerry Dickheber. Last year Ruth and Ed Westenhizer joined this group at their own expense to the Haitian village of Anse-A-Galet on the island of Gonave to deliver the blankets to the joy of the recipients.

Haiti, the poorest country in this Hemisphere, is still straining from the after-effects of the earthquake on January 12, 2010, which killed almost 300,000 people and



left more than a million homeless.

An aerial view of Port au Prince shows acres of cardboard and corrugated-metal shacks and trailers. Sanitary conditions are dismal, favoring the spread of cholera and other infectious diseases. Much promised aid has never arrived and many of the donations are being mismanaged. Ruth and Ed had the satisfaction of knowing that this missionary group's personal contact assured them that the children of Ansa-A-Galet are the beneficiaries of their generosity. Ruth is already working on the next batch of baby quilts.

Columbus landed on this second largest island of the Greater Antilles on the 5th of December, 1492, and named it La Espanola (now: Hispaniola). The native people of this island, the Taino, called it 'Ayiti' which variously is translated as 'the land of the high mountains' or 'home of mother earth'. Many of the native people succumbed to disease brought by the European colonizers: the French, Spanish, German and Dutch.



The political history of the island is a stormy one. The French occupied the western

part, the Spanish the eastern part of the island which they named San Domingue / Santa Domingo respectively. The importation of African slaves began in 1517 for work in the sugarcane fields and copper mines. The slave revolution of 1804 made Haiti the first black led republic in the world and, after the USA, the second democracy in the Americas. They called their country Haiti. Santa Domingo split off from Haiti and became an independent state in 1844, the Dominican Republic. Unfortunately Haiti became a haven for pirates and smugglers. The export of sugar, coffee and Indigo provided relative prosperity for a short period but which deteriorated due to corruption and political infighting. AIDS ravaged the country in the 1980's. Haiti has a history of brutal rule.



Haiti's current president, Michel Martelley, certainly has come into office at a difficult time with exhausted resources and overpopulation plaguing this country of 9.7 million inhabitants which remains dependent on financial aid from the US and UN.

*Story courtesy of Gertrud Schmidt  
Haiti photos courtesy Wordpress.com*