



The Voice of the German-American Community

GAST 31st Anniversary Party Saturday, January 21, 2012



Clockwise from top right:
(1) Leon Boggs and Harold Wicks, receiving the Presidents Award; (2) Jack Wynn, receiving the Directors Award and Leon Boggs; (3) 2nd Place Essay winner Evan Couch with her family, Angela Novak, Youth Chair, and Edison High School teacher Uschi Mueller; (4) The 31st Anniversary Cake; (5) The Great Hall with anniversary party members at dinner.



Upcoming GAST Events

All members: plan to attend the Annual Membership Meeting April 22 at 3:00pm in the Great Hall!

Mar 2	Stammtischrunde	Mar 23	Weinkeller	Apr 10	Handarbeitsgrupp	May 7	GAST Theater	May 25	Weinkeller
Mar 5	GAST Theater	Mar 23-24	Garage Sale	Apr 17	Handarbeitsgrupp	May 4	Stammtisch	May 29	Handarbeitsgrupp
Mar 6	Handarbeitsgrupp	Mar 27	Handarbeitsgrupp	Apr 22	Annual Meeting	(or 11 depending on Mayfest)		Jun 1	Stammtisch
Mar 11	Konversationsrunde	Apr 2	GAST Theater	Apr 24	Handarbeitsgrupp	May 8	Handarbeitsgrupp	Jun 4	GAST Theater
Mar 13	Handarbeitsgrupp	Apr 3	Handarbeitsgrupp	Apr 27	Weinkeller	May 15	Handarbeitsgrupp	Jun 22	Weinkeller
Mar 20	Handarbeitsgrupp	Apr 6	Stammtischrunde	May 1	Handarbeitsgrupp	May 22	Handarbeitsgrupp	Jul 6	Stammtisch

This page is sponsored by GAST Member Hildegard Schaffrin

...from the GAST President



Guten Morgen!

I sit here this morning recalling a year ago – the great blizzard! Then look at this year – only in Oklahoma. The most important thing on my mind today is our upcoming Annual Membership Meeting. It will be held Sunday, April 22 at 3:00 PM in the Great Hall of GAST. Reports of activities and plans for the future of our organizations will be presented. This is a great time for you to share your constructive thoughts and ideas. The most important item at this meeting is the election of officers and Board members. There are still open slots. If you are interested in serving or wish to nominate someone, please contact **Georg Ort** – Nominating Committee chair. He would love to hear from you. Above all, plan to be there. We must have a quorum to conduct business. This is one of your duties as a member! This is your organization – come and support it. There are several ideas in the planning stages for the coming year. Look for some exciting things to happen as we work to keep GAST healthy and strong and a very real cultural presence in Tulsa. To accomplish this, we must all work together and not against each other. Times are changing and things are changing. We must change too, but will strive to carry the German heritage and culture into the new day. See you at the Annual Meeting!

—Leon

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS OF GERMAN AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TULSA GERMAN AMERICAN SOCIETY ARTS ASSOCIATION and GERMAN AMERICAN SOCIETY BUILDING CORP.

THE MEETINGS OF ALL 3 ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE HELD SUNDAY, APRIL 22 AT 3:00 PM IN THE GREAT HALL OF GAST. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS WILL TAKE PLACE. Reports of activities and future plans will be given. All eligible voting members [18 years old and dues paid by March 1, 2012] are urged to be in attendance. We must have a quorum present to conduct any business and elections.

Leon Boggs, GAST President
Gertrude Schmidt, ARTS President
Elam Blank, Building President

NEW POLICIES ADOPTED BY THE BOARD

PRIVACY STATEMENT: Effective immediately, the Board of Directors amended its policy to provide for publication in the ECHO and posting on the GAST Website of the names of members only without street addresses, phones or e-mails. GAST will continue to print names, addresses, telephones and email addresses in our membership directory. Permission will be obtained prior to any other member information being published. GAST does not sell its address, phone or e-mail lists.

ROSTER INFORMATION UPDATE: In an effort to update our records for correct addresses, phone numbers and emails, the Board of Directors created a committee, Jennifer Kearns chair, to begin contacting all members to confirm that the information we have on file is accurate. Please see the PRIVACY STATEMENT for any concerns you may have about providing this information, which is obtained strictly for our own use and to facilitate contacting members with society information.

NEW RETURN MAIL POLICY: The Board of Directors also amended its policy to provide that a member name will be dropped from the mailing list if mail (The Echo, etc) to the member is returned to the office as undeliverable more than once. We are paying full postage to send the item as well as for the item to be returned because of bad addresses or unknown whereabouts.

...from the Arts President



Sprechen sie Deutsch? If not, you missed a chance to sign up for German Language classes offered by the GAST Arts Association. On February 4th ten eager youngsters started Kinderdeutsch with teacher **Angelique Giddins**. They learn the numbers, colors, simple sentences and some Lieder under the loving baton of **Hildegard Schaffrin** who can't remember how many children she has taught over more than 30 years of GAST's Lieder Teacher. Their favorite song? 'Muss I den zum Staedtele hinaus'. They sounded very nice when they performed it for us last week. Singing goes with dancing and that's what **Madeleine Schaffrin** teaches the children who after the mental exercises are ready for some physical action.

Adult language classes started February 7, 2012 with 35 participants. Classes range from: Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced German. **Ruth Obermark** and her teachers **Sindy Andrews**, **Carol Martin**, **Grete McNac**, **Melanie Roberson**, **Marianne Strong** (substitute) and **Jutta Tankersly** were ready to receive and work with the new and continuing students.

Both, English and German belong to the West Germanic Language Group so it is not surprising that there are many similarities between the modern English and German language.

After the collapse of the West Roman Empire the Danes, Frisians and Anglo-Saxons invaded England which had been under Rome's control for almost 400 years. Some of you may remember from history lessons that 1066 AD the Normans invaded England and at that time Franco-Roman was added to the language 'Gemisch' of Celtic-Roman-Anglo-Saxon origin.

In what is now Germany, the Germanic dialects of the various tribes—from the Prussians to the Bavarians—were unified into what is called 'High German' by Martin Luther with the translation of the Bible from Latin into German. Both modern English and German are living languages to which new words and terms are added as needed. Just read Walther von der Vogelweide the German Minnesinger (1170-1230 AD) or the writings by the English poet Geoffrey Chaucer (1343-1400 AD) to appreciate the many changes that have occurred in the German and English languages. No need to go that far back in history though. Have you noticed during your last visit to Germany or Austria how many English words have been adopted there into everyday use since the end of WW II?

Speech is a very powerful tool. So let us use it to the best of our abilities in German or English. Test your German when **Elizabeth Fischborn** entertains us with excerpts from Operettas on Sunday, May 25, 2012, at 3pm in the Great Hall of our GAST House. Thank you **Barbara Conrad** for finding this gem for us.

The talented students of the Barthelmes Academie want to share with us some of the beautiful music they have learned to play. **Arnold Bieber** is in the process of finding a mutually agreeable date for their performance. More about it in the next Echo.

—Gertrud

Newsletter DEADLINE

March 21 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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Konversationsrunde

We wish to thank **Gwen and Arnold Bieber** for graciously hosting our February session. We had a most interesting discussion regarding Fasching, Karnival, Mardis Gras and other related festivities related to the beginning of the Lent Session. The next meeting will be on 11 March at 3:00pm in the home of **Barbara and Gerald Taron** who live at 6562 South 218th East Ave in Broken Arrow, telephone # 918-355-2370. They will show us excerpts, information and lead a discussion on one of their recent trips abroad. Please plan to attend.

Stan R. Conrad

THE GREAT GAST GARAGE SALE OF 2012

Please do not forget to bring your White Elephants, hidden treasures, un-needed appliances, junk, donations, etc. to the GAST Center for the annual GAST garage sale 24-25 March. We will receive items any time between now and then. Call the GAST Center beforehand to ensure that someone is there and pickup is available if necessary. The actual sale dates will be from 9am to 5pm on Friday and from 9am to 3pm on Saturday.

Starting on 21 March we will need volunteers to help sort, arrange and price all items before customers arrive. During the sale we will need cashiers and re-stockers as well. After the sale, we will need volunteers to prepare unsold items for transport to the Salvation Army for final disposition. We will try as much as possible to run two shifts each day but must always prepare for the unexpected. We can use volunteers just about any time you can help. Even a few hours would help the overall effort. This is a major fund-raiser for us and helps us to sponsor many of our other activities which do not generate revenue.



Put these dates on your calendar:

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|---|
| March 21: | 10:00am to 3:00pm | Drop off usable sales items at the GAST Center. If you have large items, please arrange for pick-up |
| March 22: | 9:00am to ???? | Volunteers work on pricing and arranging of sales items at the GAST Center |
| March 23: | 9:00am to 5:00pm | Sale Day |
| March 24: | 9:00am to 3:00pm | Sale Day |

After the sale closes help is needed to consolidate the unsold items to get them ready pick up by the Salvation Army. We still need things to sell and we still need all the volunteer help we can get.

For more information call Barbara Conrad at 918 492 3273



The Sunshine Lady

GAST sent get-well cards to **Dale Parsons, Darlene Tegeler and Harold Wicks** and wish them all speedy recovery from surgery!

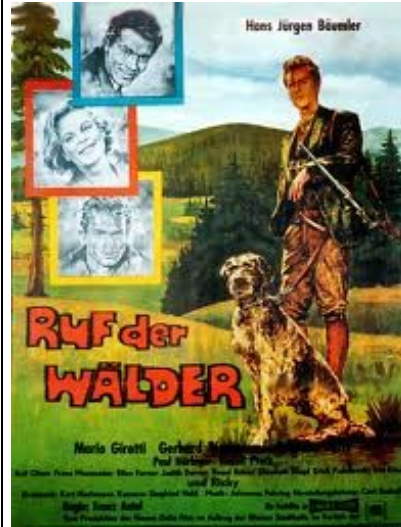
Please call or E-mail me if you know a GAST member who is ill. Also, please let me know if it is appropriate to send a sympathy card.

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

—Gwen Bieber

**Alles hat ein Ende, nur die
Wurst hat zwei.**

Now Playing at the GAST Theater



Monday March 5, starting at 6:30 PM
Musikparadies

Starting at 7:30 PM

Ruf der Wälder

Starring: Hans Jürgen Bäumler,
Mario Girotti, Johanna Matz,
Paul Hörbinger and Rudolf Prag

Interesting News from the Old Country

Witchcraft Trial Reopens in Germany After Almost 400 Years

Cologne, Germany—A German witchcraft trial was set to reopen Monday, the 13th of February, after almost 400 years, in a bid to clear the name of a woman who was burned at the stake in 1627.

Katharina Henoth was head of the post office in Cologne, Germany, when she was charged with witchcraft, tortured and eventually sentenced to death, despite her protests of innocence, the Kolner Stadt-Anzeiger reported.

She was accused, among other things, of causing the illness and death of several people, but it is thought the charges against her may have been politically motivated.

Hartmut Hegeler, a 65 year old retired priest, is bringing the case to the same city authority that convicted Henoth four centuries ago, where he hopes she will be acquitted.

He told the newspaper that the city's appeals committee had an "historic opportunity" to clear Henoth's name and take "a symbolic stand against a vio-

lation of human dignity."

Hegeler decided to fight to clear Henoth's name af-



ter a group of students he taught at a local college asked him when the women who were convicted of witchcraft charges were later acquitted, and he realized that they had not been.

He also hopes that the committee will acquit the other alleged witches sentenced to death in Cologne.

Article reprinted from NewsCore



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 their continued and generous support:

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New Members

Greg & Anne Daubney
Bixby, OK

Heather & Michael Daubney
Bixby, OK

Rebecca & Alan Thompson
Tulsa, OK

W. Bond Love
Tulsa, OK

Judy Sharpe
Barnsdall, OK

Robert Messinger
Tulsa, OK

Hari Rotithor
Tulsa, OK

NEW PRACTICE NIGHT FOR GAST FOLKDANCERS

We will be meeting and dancing on Wednesday nights in the Weinkeller beginning February 22, 2012 at 7 pm. We welcome all newcomers and a dance partner is not required. If you have a friend who is interested, bring them along too. Just wear comfortable shoes and be prepared for fun, fellowship and exercise while learning German, Austrian and Swiss Folk Dances. Junior and Senior High students are welcome!

GAST will again be hosting the annual, national Folkdance workshop of the American Federation of German Folkdance Groups. It will be June 15, 16 & 17 at the GAST Center. I will have more details next month on how the membership can be involved in hosting this event. Please contact me if you want more information on dancing with us or about the workshop.

Carol Wright,
d.c.w@cox.net
(918) 299-2839



MEMBER DUES MUST BE IN BY MARCH 1

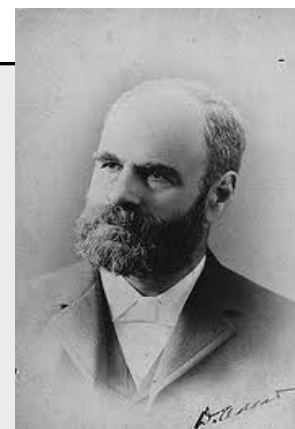
Please send your check for your dues payment promptly to avoid any interruption in membership privileges!

- Tom Bordner

What am I?

This castle lies in the West of Germany, between Koblenz and Trier above, and surrounded on three sides by, the Moselle River. It is still owned by the same family that lived here in the 12th century, 33 generations ago, and a branch of the family still resides in a portion of the castle. One of the very few castles on the left bank of the Rhine which has never been destroyed.

Reply to davidalanforbes@gmail.com



Answer to "Who Am I?"
in the February issue:
Dankmar Adler

Arnold Bieber was the first
correct respondent.
Congratulations!

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



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GAST Essay Contest—Fall 2011

The Essay Contest was sponsored by GAST Youth and was open to college level students this year and again to grades 6 through 12. We only had participation by secondary students this year. There were 40 essays submitted from Edison Preparatory School and from Bixby High School: The topic was: “Explain how social networks have influenced the lives of people in the community. Compare your own community to an area of the German-speaking world with which you are familiar. Demonstrate an understanding of cultural features of the German-speaking world. Elaborate on the importance of social media to the acquisition of German for non-native speakers in Oklahoma.”

The same topic was used, only in German, for the post-secondary category, but there were no submissions.. See attached if you need more info about rules/procedures for this contest. The essays were copied for viewing by the public at the anniversary dinner.



1st Place Winner Jefferson Haffener

The winners were:

1st place Jefferson Haffener \$150 (Jr. at Bixby High School)

2nd place Evan Couch \$100 (8th grader at Edison Preparatory School) Pictured on page 1

3rd place Kevin Hill \$75 (Jr. at Bixby High School)