



The Annual Germanfest will be held on the lawn and in the Great Hall, including authentic German entertainment by the GAST Choir, Folk Dancers and Blaskapelle, *below*, together with outstanding Polka bands, food, drink and activities for the children. The centerpiece activity will be the crowning of the GAST May Queen!

Germanfest Dates and Times

May 4	Friday	10am - 10pm
May 5	Saturday	10am - 10pm
May 6	Sunday	Noon - 5pm

Speisekarte

Bratwurst
 Polish or Smoked Bratwurst
 (with Sauerkraut on a bun)
 Hot Dogs
 Kartoffelpuffer
 Schnitzel Sandwich or Dinner;
 Jaegerschnitzel Dinner;
 Reuben Schnitzel Dinner



Upcoming GAST Events

Don't miss the Annual Picnic on Sunday, June 3, from 1-5pm (See Page 7 for details)

May 1	Handarbeitsgrupp	May 15	Handarbeitsgrupp	Jun 1	Stammtisch	Jun 22	Weinkeller	Jul 21
	May 4-6		May 20		Jun 3	Jun 26	Handarbeitsgrupp	Summer in Paris Party
	Germanfest		Spring Lieder Concert		Annual Picnic	Jul 3	Handarbeitsgrupp	Jul 24 Handarbeitsgrupp
May 7	GAST Theater	May 22	Handarbeitsgrupp	Jun 5	Handarbeitsgrupp	Jul 6	Stammtisch	Jul 27 Weinkeller
May 8	Handarbeitsgrupp	May 25	Weinkeller	Jun 12	Handarbeitsgrupp	Jul 10	Handarbeitsgrupp	Jul 31 Handarbeitsgrupp
May 11	Stammtisch	May 29	Handarbeitsgrupp	Jun 19	Handarbeitsgrupp	Jul 17	Handarbeitsgrupp	Aug 3 Stammtisch

...from the GAST President



Guten Tag! Wie gehts?

Spring has sprung – the grass is green and growing [especially the weeds] and the flowers are blooming. That means Germanfest is just around the corner. I hope all of you are stepping up to volunteer to help make this festival another great success. It is one of our main fund raisers and also a very good way for us to keep the German culture and heritage alive in this community. We must remember that we are probably one of the largest and most active ethnic groups in town. We are also about the last German group in the state! Maybe we need to look at things from time to time to bring in folks from out of town who used to have a German Society and no longer do. Any thoughts or ideas

on that line? Remember we had people from Seminole come to Fasching. As I write this, I note that we will be having our Annual Membership Meeting this coming Sunday. As you read this, I am hoping all of you attended. I want to thank our Nominating Committee: **Georg Ort, Christy Fell** and **Arnold Bieber** for a great job of getting a slate of officers and directors together to keep this organization going. It is not easy to do this when so many people are not willing to serve. What happens when those who are willing term limit out and no one else will step up? Think about that. I am excited to mention that we do have a new idea/function in the works. The Board approved this venture and gave the ‘go ahead’ to proceed to see if we can make it happen. It is “A Taste of Ol’ Germany”. It will be a German meal that is open to the public. We plan to have a one dish menu at each meal for a set price. We have several different menus that will be used, but will be open for more ideas from YOU! We are ‘shooting’ for a start date of this July. We are working on PR and getting all the necessary Health Dept. permits, etc. We will see how that goes and then decide if we do it once a month, bi-monthly or once a quarter. This will be a trial run for awhile. We do want to make some \$\$\$ but also want to continue to spread the German culture, heritage and food in this area. We are known for our food at all of the festivals we do, so why not capitalize on that? We will need YOU to help us. There are still many details to work out and if you are interested in helping, please let me know. **Don Wright** led a task force to get much of the ground work done and to the point we are at right now. Thanks Don. Now we need to pick up the ball and run and see if we can make this happen. It will be work. But I also see a lot of fun in it. I keep recalling Germanfest – we left Mayfest and set out on our own with Germanfest and look where it is now. Also look at Christkindlemarkt. We can do it!!! GAST is alive and well – because of YOU. This is OUR organization and it takes all of us to make it function. Thanks for what each of you do for GAST.

—Leon

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

May 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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...from the Arts President



Poems and songs abound about the wonderful month of May and we had to learn to recite and sing quite a number of them. I can't remember all of these verses and songs, but I do remember that most spoke of beauty, happiness and love. Small wonder that some very important holidays are celebrated in May. To name a few: May First is celebrated in many countries honoring the working people, others hold Cinco de Mayo dear; there is Mayfest and Germanfest- the latter put on by GAST and its fabulous hostesses Erika Hartmann and Ruth Bly - here in Tulsa; Memorial Day on the last Monday of the month has an interesting history. It started out to honor the fallen union soldiers of the Civil War but is now celebrated in the USA as a day of remembrance of all the fallen soldiers of all the wars; and of course there is Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May which honors mothers worldwide.

The Kinderdeutsch *Graduates* will dance for us during the Germanfest on Saturday May 5th at 6:30-7:00 pm. Be there - encourage them!

GASSA will put on its own May celebration with an afternoon of songs on May 20, 2012 at 3:00pm in the Great Hall of the GAST Center. Soprano Elizabeth Fischborn, who is working on a graduate degree in voice at OU, Baritone Will Browning and Tenor James Stoia and accompanist Loren Richstone will entertain us with solos, duets and trios from operas and operettas. Erich Wolfgang Korngold 1897-1957 of Austro/Hungarian background is best known in this country for many musical scores for movies and his operetta "Die Tote Stadt" (The Dead Town). 'Mein Sehnen, mein Waehnen' (My longings, my imagination) and 'Marietta's Lied' (Marietta's Song) two songs from "Die Tote Stadt" are on the program. Johann Strauss Jr. 1825-1899 better known as the Waltz King of Austria also wrote several operettas. Elizabeth will sing 'Fruehlingsstimmen Walzer' (voices of Spring) and 'Komm in die Gondel' (Get into the gondola) from the operetta "Eine Nacht in Venedig" (A Night in Venice) will be presented. From the ever popular operetta 'Die Lustige Witwe' (The Merry Widow) by Franz Lehar 1870-1948 Austro/Hungarian you will enjoy the 'Villja-Lied' (The Song of Villja), 'Da geh ich ins Maxim' (Then I go to Maxim's) and 'Lippen Schweigen' (My Lips are Sealed). There is more... but it is subject to change so let these listed songs tempt you to attend this very special occasion. There will be refreshments and a chance to chat with the artists after the presentation. And all that is **Free!**

Kinderdeutsch ended March 31, with the Easter Party that followed their last lesson crowning their efforts. Adult German Language classes also ended by the time you read this. All classes were very successful and enjoyed by the participants, some of them eagerly looking forward to resume their studies in fall. A big 'Thank You' to the teachers **Sindy Andrews, Carol Masters, Grete McNac, Melanie Roberson, Jutta Tankersly, Marianne Strong, Angelique Giddins, Hildegard Schaffrin, Madelaine Schaffrin** and organizers **Ruth Obermark and Arnold Bieber** who made it all possible.

Der Mai, der Mai, der lustige Mai, der kommt herangerauschet (May, May, the jolly May comes rushing...)

Enjoy the jolly month of May

—Gertrud

...from the GAST Building President

The leasing committee met to discuss renting out Weinkeller. The following are the guidelines that were established for rentals. 1. Cost: \$450 per event. 2. Lunch rental: we request a maximum of 50 people due to number of available parking spaces. 3. Evening limit is 80 people due to size of Weinkeller. 4. Rental includes use of tables, chairs, and projection screen. 5. Stammtisch will be locked and not available for rental party.

Remodeling of the downstairs of our building is currently underway. The hall will be retrofitted with a drop ceiling and recessed lights. The women's bathroom, both classrooms, and the hall will also be painted.

---Elam

NOTICE

TO THE MEMBERSHIP FROM THE PARTY COMMITTEE



Reservations for parties need to be made by 2PM on the designated date. If at that point 30 reservations or more are not received - the party will be cancelled. Everyone who made reservations will be called and advised of the cancellation. We apologize that this measure is necessary, but it is too hard to actually plan and execute a nice party, if the attendance is not there.

Erica Hartman/Party Committee.

GAST SÄNGER

On March 16, the GAST Sänger had a St. Patrick's Day party in the home of Betty Donohue and Bruce Feddersen in Wagoner. There was a good turnout with plentiful food and drink. Irish coffee, whiskey cake, and soda bread were paired with Butterkäse, souse, German beer, and wines.



The Sänger finalized their Germanfest music and concert, and are preparing for their participation at the Cole Camp convocation where they will practice music for the National Festival that meets in Milwaukee next year. They will also present a short program for the evening portion of the get-together. The Cole Camp concert is always eagerly anticipated and enjoyed. Choirs from all over the St. Louis district attend.

The Sänger are now accepting new members and anyone can join the group. Participating in the choir and augmenting its size enhances GAST's contributions to the perpetuation of German music in the area and provides enjoyment and education for many people. It is also a great deal of fun.

Betty Donohue



The Sunshine Lady **GAST Theater**

Our GAST members enjoyed good health last month and we sent out no get-well or sympathy cards!

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



Monday May 7, starting at 6:30 PM
Alpenstar TV
Das Musikmagazin

Starting at 7:30 PM
Eine Liebe im Zeichen des Drachen
Starring: Erol Sander, Li Lin,
Denise Zich and Steffen Wind

Interesting News from the Old Country

BERLIN'S LEIBNITZ INSTITUTE PROBES BASIS FOR EXTINCTION OF TASMANIAN TIGER

The results just published provide insights into the genetic health of the Tasmanian Tiger (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*) before it was exterminated by hunting.

Lead author Dr Brandon Menzies, an Honorary Fellow of the University of Melbourne, who completed the study at the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research in Berlin, said the latest study revealed that the Tasmanian Tiger had the same or even less genetic diversity than its close relative the Devil. "Hence, Tasmanian Tigers may have faced similar environmental problems to the Devils, had they survived," Dr Menzies said.

"Due to the similarly poor genetic diversity of the animals, this new data suggests that the genetic health of the Tasmanian Tiger and Devil may have been affected by the geographic isolation of Tasmania from mainland Australia approximately 10-13 thousand years ago," he said. The thylacine has been the focus for biologists due to its unique evolution in Australia and extinction. Having evolved from a marsupial into a mammal that is very similar to a dog or wolf, but being marsupials, the females had a pouch in which they carried their young.

Dr Menzies said that while the thylacine was hunted to extinction due to the imposition of a government bounty from 1888-1909, with the last known animal dying in captivity in 1936, one question that continued to puzzle biologists was how genetically diverse the thylacine population was prior to its extinction.

Using a combination of traditional DNA sequencing

methods and next generation sequencing technology, a team of international scientists led by Dr Brandon Menzies, and Dr Andrew Pask, from the University of Connecticut, who also holds a fractional appointment at the University of Melbourne's Zoology Department, demonstrated the very limited DNA variability between individual thylacine specimens.

With contributions from scientists in Germany, the USA and Australia, researchers compared mitochondrial DNA extracted from 14 museum specimens that were between 102-159 years old.

The results revealed the thylacine specimens were more than 99.5 per cent similar over a portion of DNA that is normally highly variable between individual animals. "If we compare this same section of DNA, the Tasmanian Tiger only averages one DNA difference between individuals, whereas the dog, for example has about 5-6 differences between individuals," Dr Menzies said.

He said in a direct comparison with other species, the thylacine averages about 5-10 DNA base differences over the coding sections of the mitochondrial genome.

"This is quite low when compared to other species including the wolf (77) or African humans

(85). The Tasmanian Devil has about 10 DNA differences between individuals over the whole genome, which is also low.'

"This work highlights our need to understand all of Tasmania's and Australia's unique flora and fauna so they are also not lost to extinction," he said.

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New Members

Jennifer Jannsen
Claremore, OK 74017-4853

ANNUAL PICNIC

SUNDAY, JUNE 3rd, FROM 1PM-5PM

New Location: Neil Hartman Jr. Home
17400 E 79th Street North in Owasso

New Menu: Old Fashioned Picnic

Directions and Details will be published in the NEXT Echo.

Konversationsrunde

A few hardy souls ignored the forecast of bad weather and met at Gilcrease Museum on Sunday, April 15, for a tour of the "Dreams and Visions" exhibition, by Gertrud Schmidt, a 60 minutes history on the value of the land, the dreams and visions of the original inhabitants and the newcomers as seen by the artists.

The next Konversationsrunde coincides with the E. Fischborn Konzert on May 20, 2012, at 3:00pm in the Great Hall of the GAST Center. Since most of the songs are presented in German this concert makes it a wonderful substitution for the usual Konversationsrunde. This will be our last meeting until fall.

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 of one of our meetings, please call Barbara Conrad at 918 492 3273 (chair) or Gertrud Schmidt at 918 495 3727 (Co-chair).



Answer to "Who Am I?"
in the April issue:
Franz Boas

Carol Wright was the first
correct respondent.
Congratulations!

Where am I?

Name of the structure and the city.

Reply to: davidalanforbes@gmail.com

Hint: Left bank of the Rhine

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



WHAT'S WHAT IN GAST

Handarbeitsgruppe

Meets every Tuesday from 10:00 to 2:00 in the GAST office. We are a group of ladies who like to sew, crochet, knit, etc. Everyone brings whatever they want to work on. Once a year we make a quilt to raffle off at the Christkindlmarkt. Not all ladies take part in this but there are usually about four of us who accomplish this task and it represents a nice income for GAST. Come join us and bring your own sack lunch.

Stammtische - meets first Fridays of each month in the Stammtische of the Weinkeller. No charge, no reservations. Only good conversation with mostly guys. Only charge is the beer you drink. Normally meets about 6:00pm. Dann Bjorklund is the chair but Charles Meyers reports for the board.

Konversationsrunde - meets in members' houses normally the third Sunday of each month at 3:00pm. German spoken. Speaker and host will be announced in the Arts President's letter or other item in the Echo. Anyone welcome.

Weinkeller Abend - simply what it says, evening in the Weinkeller. No reservations, light supper furnished. Donations requested. Normally held on the third Friday of each month at 5:30 but depends on schedules of other events. Members and friends invited. Elke Meyer is chair. This event is very popular.

Spring "Lieder" Concert

Sunday, May 20 at 3:00 PM
in the GAST Center

Enjoy an afternoon of beautiful music. Oklahoma University graduate student Soprano Elizabeth Fischborn, *at right*, with Baritone Will Browning, Tenor James Stoia, and Loren Richstone on the piano will perform popular selections from Mozart, Korngold, Strauss and Lehar.



Refreshments and a chance to meet the performers will follow.
The event is FREE and open to the public.