



*The Voice of the German-American Community*



## ANNUAL GAST PICNIC

Sunday, June 3rd

1:00 — 5:00 pm

At the home of Neil and Marianne Hartman

17400 E 79th Street North in Owasso

Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, May 30th at 2pm

**PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIRS.**



Beef and Vegetable Kabobs, Hot Dogs, Sausages, BBQ Beans, Coleslaw, Chips  
Watermelon and Cookies, Beer, Pop, and Water

Price of Admission: \$ 10.00 per adult  
\$5.00 for Germanfest Volunteers  
\$5.00 children 5yrs to 12 yrs



### Directions:

- ⇒ Hwy 169 North to 76th Street North Exit in Owasso
  - ⇒ East on 76th St North to 177th E Ave ( about 4 miles—to the red light)
  - ⇒ North on 177th E Ave to East 79th St. North (3rd street on the left)
  - ⇒ West on East 79th St. North to 17400 (house with a white picket fence)
- Please park on the street, we will have a Golf Cart running up and down the street to help you get there.

## Upcoming GAST Events

**Don't miss the Annual Picnic on Sunday, June 3, from 1-5pm**

Jun 1	Stammtisch	Jun 16	Folk Dance Party	Jul 10	Handarbeitsgrupp	Jul 31	Handarbeitsgrupp	Sep 7	Stammtisch
	<b>Jun 3</b>	Jun 19	Handarbeitsgrupp	Jul 17	Handarbeitsgrupp	Aug 3	Stammtisch	Sep 28	Weinkeller
	<b>Annual Picnic</b>	Jun 22	Weinkeller		<b>Jul 21</b>		<b>Aug 5</b>	Oct 7	German-
Jun 4	Movie Night	Jun 26	Handarbeitsgrupp		<b>Summer in Paris Party</b>		<b>Ice Cream Social</b>		American Day
Jun 5	Handarbeitsgrupp	Jul 3	Handarbeitsgrupp	Jul 24	Handarbeitsgrupp	Aug 24	Weinkeller	Oct 26	Weinkeller
Jun 12	Handarbeitsgrupp	Jul 6	Stammtisch	Jul 27	Weinkeller	Sep 3	Movie Night	Nov 3	Oktoberfest Party

## ...from the GAST President



Guten Tag!

I want to start by thanking the officers and directors whose terms are ending the end of May. I greatly appreciate all the hard work and dedication from each of you. Over my first three terms as President, we have had great boards to work with. Again, many thanks for your service to our organizations. I also want to say 'welcome' to the new officers and directors who will be starting their duty June 1. I appreciate your willingness to serve in the leadership of GAST.

WOW! We survived another successful Germanfest. Initial figures look good. I want to thank all of our volunteers who worked some long, hard hours to make this festival a success. Without each of you doing your part, it would not have been the great event it was. I loved walking through the hall and seeing people and their kids laughing, smiling, dancing in their chairs – just having a great time. **JOB WELL DONE BY ALL!** Our next large event will be the picnic. Details and directions are on the front page—hope to see all of you there.

As we move into another term of leadership, I ask each member to consider this: 'What do I want to see GAST doing?' At the Annual Membership meeting, before, during and after the meeting, I heard nothing but negative comments – we can't do this – legal problems [which may be so and we are checking], or we can't do that we are too old, too tired, don't want to do this or that. After a while, I asked, 'What do you want us to do?' I got blank stares and the people walk away. I agree we are growing older and can't do what we used to do. But to survive we must generate dollars and we also need to keep our culture and heritage alive. What do you see us doing to accomplish this? The Board of Directors needs your ideas! We come up with things and get the rug pulled from under our feet from lack of support of the membership. Let us have your thoughts and ideas and let's work together.

**REMEMBER THIS IS OUR ORGANIZATION. COME TO THE BOARD MEETINGS. YOU CAN LISTEN, SHARE AND DISCUSS WITH US. WE ALWAYS MEET THE 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00 PM IN THE WEINKELLER. YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!!!!**

Until next month----

—Leon

### Newsletter DEADLINE

**June 20 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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## ...from the Arts President



If you didn't partake in the German Fest on May 4, 5 and 6 you certainly missed the opportunity for some fun-filled hours with family, friends, acquaintances or anyone you might have run into. There was music by the Diepolder Twins and our very own Blaskapelle. The GAST choir entertained us with well-known tunes and the GAST dancers showed off their rhythm skills. The "Kinderdeutsch graduates" - girls in Dirndls and flower garlands in their hair, the boys in Lederhosen - delighted the visitors with dances to the music of: 'The Farmers Daughter', 'The Shoemaker' and 'Das grosse Gerenne' (the big rush). To the surprise of everyone the little performers then asked their parents for a dance. They hesitated, but complied, making that dance the highlight for the children and adults. They

then welcomed spring with 'Kuckuck rufts aus dem Wald', 'Alle Voeglein sind schon da', and took their leave from the stage with 'Muss I denn zum Staedtele hinaus'. **Angelique Giddins, Hildegard and Madeleine Schaffrin** had prepared them well and should be proud of their protégées.

There was not just food for eyes and ears, the taste-buds were tempted by culinary treats such as sausages and schnitzels, potato salad and sauerkraut and the best Apfelstrudel and Kaesesahne cake in town. A lot of planning and constructive working together by all three sections of the GAST organization was necessary to pull off these wonderful three days of celebration. The GAST Special Events Committee laid the plans for the daily events, GAST Building group made sure the house was in order inside and out and GAST Arts contributed some of the entertainment. A good time was had by all the visitors, thanks to a host of hardworking volunteers who made it all possible. My (imaginary) hat is off to all!

Hard to believe, but we are already planning the fall language classes. Adult classes will start on September 11, 2012 and Kinderdeutsch September 15, 2012. The cost for these classes are \$ 85.00 for adult non-members, \$65.00 for members. Kinderdeutsch \$ 35.00 per non-member child, \$ 20.00 for member's child.

Here are a few other dates to put on your calendar.

American Theater Organ Society Concert usually on the third Friday of August. This is an annual very enjoyable event.

German American Day October 7, 2012. **Barbara Conrad** already has a speaker lined up. The Blaskapelle will do its part to entertain us.

Participation in 'Kids World -' which is scheduled for November 15-16 and 17 - is anticipated. We are looking for a coordinator - duties include working with the organizers and getting volunteers for the three shifts each day - for this event which will give us exposure to many people.

Volkstrauertag on November 18, 2012 again will see a delegation of GAST members drive to Ft. Reno to honor all the War dead and the German soldiers who are buried there in particular.

We are still trying to get a mutually agreeable date for performers from the Barthelmes Conservatory. So stay tuned.

Movie night on the first Monday of the month will continue thanks to **Erwin Jerchau**.

Any bright ideas or topics of interest? Let me know!

—Gertrud

# Leserbriefe

but still interesting that German biologists would be pursuing such an arcane investigation in Tasmania, of all places.

Editor

## Enjoys the Newsletter

Congratulations on another beautiful edition of the GAST Echo. I especially enjoy the mystery contests — I never know the answers, but I still hope I may win some day. The color photos are lovely and the way they are laid out adds to their appeal. I also enjoyed your interesting story about the Tasmanian Tiger (although I must admit that the technological part of the DNA investigation was a bit over my head). The newsletter gives me all the information I need to keep active in the club, and I look forward to receiving it each month.

Ruth Obermark

*I appreciate your very gracious remarks. In my email reply to you I admitted that I would have guessed none of the Who/Where am I? mysteries myself and had to look them all up. I'm constantly amazed that so many of our members can get these each month. The technological part of the DNA investigation was way over my head too,*

## Weinkeller Correction

In the last issue of Das Echo, "What's what in GAST" Weinkeller is the FOURTH FRIDAY each month, unless otherwise stated. Please correct, Thank you,

Erica Hartman

## Thanks to Garage Sale Volunteers

I wish to personally thank all of the volunteers who so graciously gave of their time and efforts to make a resounding success of our recent garage sale. Without your willing and capable participation in this vital fundraiser, it would have been impossible to manage this enterprise. At the risk of forgetting some individuals, I wish to collectively give everyone a pat on the back and thank you.

Barbara Conrad

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

## GAST Members!

### You have two chances to enjoy a Folk Dance/Folklore Weekend

#### 1st Chance

Gala Folk Dance Party Saturday, June 16, 2012, at 6:00pm  
An Evening of Dinner, Music and Dance  
Enjoy a Display of Trachten from North Germany and  
Exhibition of Folk Dances "From the Water's Edge"

presented by members of the **American Federation of German Folkdance Groups.**

Dinner is served at 6:30pm and will be prepared in our kitchen by Erica, Ruth and the kitchen crew.

**Menu:** Rouladen, Spatzele, Red Cabbage, Green Salad, Bread and Butter, Apple Strudel

Reservations required – **Deadline Wednesday, June 13 at 2 PM** - Call (918) 744-6997

Cost: \$20.00

#### 2nd Chance

### 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Weekend Workshop of the American Federation of German Folk Dance Groups

will be held at the GAST Center

Friday, June 14, Saturday June 16 and Sunday June 17.

GAST is hosting the workshop and You are invited to participate in the Folk Dance-Folklore weekend Pre

Registration is required. - Deadline is June 8, 2012.

We will be learning Dances from the "Waterkant" (Water's Edge) and Sword Dance.

Registration includes the syllabus of dances, meals and snacks plus the Gala Folk Dance party Saturday night.

For more information or a registration form contact Carol Wright at 918 299-2839 or email at [d.c.w@xcox.net](mailto:d.c.w@xcox.net)





## The Sunshine Lady

We lost a long-time GAST member last month with the passing of Adolf "Joe" Johannsen. Our condolences and support to his wife Jana.

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



Monday June 4, starting at 6:30 PM  
Das Musikmagazin

Starting at 7:30 PM

### Eine halbe Ewigkeit

Starring: Matthias Habich, Peter Franke, Lambert Hamel, Anna Maria Sturm and Ulrike Grote

## GAST Names New Band Director

Lisa Lahmeyer has been selected to serve as co-director of the GAST Blaskapelle Band, filling the position formerly held by Shawn Usedom, who was recently transferred to California by his employer. Lahmeyer will share director duties with David Lawrence who is now completing his second year as co-director.

Lahmeyer received a degree in Music Education from Oklahoma State University with study emphasis in both voice and instrumental music. She currently serves as instructor in the 7th and 8th grade choral program with the Jenks Public Schools. Previous to her Jenks employment, she taught 8 years at Tulsa's Webster High School in both the choral and band programs. She is also the founder of the Spotlight Brass, a private musical group active in the local area.

The Blaskapelle Band was formed 11 years ago with an initial membership of 4; today, the band has 25 active players. The band is primarily a German Band, playing the old German favorites; however, the band also plays a variety of American music including patriotic, big band, and popular

American tunes. The band plays for a number of GAST events throughout the year, and also schedules public appearances by invitation before various public audiences. All band earnings for outside public appearances are returned to the GAST general



operating fund.

*Story provided by Lance Larry*



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**GAST**

is grateful to the following members for their continued and generous support:

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# New Members

Dieter & Edith Bohn  
Seminole, OK

Hans Drechsler  
Seminole, OK

Andy & Yvonne Hale  
Tulsa, OK

Robert & Gisela Kelly  
Seminole, OK

Jessy Price  
Tulsa, OK

Peter Rose & Rosemarie  
Adams  
Seminole, OK

Karl Sassenberg  
Tulsa, OK

Ronald & Susan Schrader  
Broken Arrow, OK

# Jennifer Martin New May Queen

Jennifer Martin was crowned GAST's 33rd Maikönigin (May Queen) during our annual Germanfest celebration on May 5.

This continues an old German tradition that some say dates to pagan times. As Maikönigin, Jennifer will help organize the children's St. Nikolaus and Easter Parties and represent GAST at the opening of Oktoberfest and other official functions. Each year a new Maikönigin is selected by the May Queen Committee chaired by

Christy Bradley.



2012 Maikönigin, Jennifer Martin, (above) and being crowned by the outgoing May Queen, Angela Dolittle (left).



German-American architect widely regarded as one of the post-World War I pioneering masters of modern architecture, using modern materials such as industrial steel and plate glass to define interior spaces.

## Who am I?

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



Answer to "Where Am I?"  
in the May issue:  
Porta Nigra (Black Gate), Trier

**Siggi Grimm** was the first correct respondent, but lots of people knew this one.  
Congratulations!

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



## Germanfest

### A Tale of Two Cultures

Germanfest, from May 4-6, 2012, held on the lawn and in the Great Hall of the German American Society of Tulsa building, brought unprecedented publicity (and revenue!) this year to the Tulsa organization. Offering traditional German food, entertainment (including children's activities) and gifts, as well as wonderful weather, GAST members and volunteers provided a memorable family event for hundreds of Tulsans and visitors from around Green Country.



By bringing a tiny slice of Germanica to the heart of America, Germanfest strengthens GAST's outreach mission, and preserves many of our favorite features of German culture.

*Story and pictures courtesy of Stephen Schneider*



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