



Springtime in Paris Party

At the GAST Center

Saturday, July 21st

The door opens at 5:30pm, Dinner at 6:30pm

MENU
(To be Determined)

Admission for dinner \$20.00

This is a catered dinner
please make your reservations not later than:
WEDNESDAY, JULY 18TH
BY CALLING 918-744-6997

Reservations are required for dinner
and as a reminder
we must have at least 30 reservations
for the party—so please call early!

Thank you, Party Committee



Upcoming GAST Events

Don't Forget the Ice Cream Social at the Gast Center on August 5!

Jul 3	Handarbeitsgrupp	Jul 24	Handarbeitsgrupp	Aug 24	Weinkeller	Oct 26	Weinkeller	Dec 28	Weinkeller
Jul 6	Stammtisch	Jul 27	Weinkeller	Sep 3	Movie Night	Nov 3	Oktoberfest Party		2013
Jul 10	Handarbeitsgrupp	Jul 31	Handarbeitsgrupp	Sep 7	Stammtisch	Nov 15-17	Kids' Day	Jan 26	Anniversary Party
Jul 17	Handarbeitsgrupp	Aug 3	Stammtisch	Sep 28	Weinkeller	Nov 18	Volkstrauertag		
	Jul 21		Aug 5	Oct 7	German-	Nov 23	Weinkeller		
	Summer in Paris Party		Ice Cream Social		American Day	Dec 8	Christmas Party		

...from the GAST President



Greetings Fellow GAST Members:

Time keeps marching on. Another month is here, summer is officially starting which I guess means it can now get hot [or hotter]. The 4th of July is upon us and we all have so much to celebrate on that day – many freedoms that we take for granted. One is that we can gather in our organization to cherish and remember and share the culture and heritage from home countries that many of us can trace our family history back to. We also celebrate the freedoms won for us by so many brave men and women in years past. Last week we had our first Board of Directors meeting in the new term. We welcome 3 new members and a new secretary who was previously a board member. Things are off to a promising start. Welcome aboard to all. We even have most of our ‘standing’

committee chairs in place – several as carry-overs from last term. We just barely get over Germanfest and planning for Oktoberfest and Christkindlemarkt are upon us. The Board did approve our going to Oktoberfest and our operating the 2 food tents as we have in the past. We will remain with the smaller sizes as last year to reduce our cost of rent. We will be a little bigger in the Ess Zelt and have been promised a better location. I have seen the map! We will soon be organizing our Oktoberfest committee and putting volunteer lists together. Please remember, this is still our largest fund raiser. It will take each and every one of us doing our part to make it a success – and we can have fun while we are at it! Just go out there with that thought and see what a difference it makes – I am going to have fun!! Watch for more info to come on this. We do have a couple of party events this summer: An Evening in Paris in July and the traditional Ice Cream Social in August. Again, keep your eyes and ears open for more details.

A note on the “Taste of Old Germany” public meal nights that was mentioned at the Membership meeting. I did get a written, legal opinion from the attorney we have been using. He tells me we can legally do them with a couple of stipulations. Of course we have to pay the taxes on the event. Most importantly we would need to do them as a cultural/heritage event. By this he said we need to explain the area of Germany where the food is from, maybe show on a map, and describe the customs of that area and other unique traits of that region. If we do that, we are staying within the bounds of our 501C status. We will now regroup and see where we go from here. As we begin this new term in office, I want to see GAST thrive move forward sharing our great heritage with the community. We are open to new ideas—bring them to us. We only have so many of our own. This is your organization! Come to the Board meetings and listen and share and discuss. Take some ownership of YOUR organization. Yes, the Board welcomes constructive criticism, but let’s really keep it constructive and *ad hoc*, not *ad hominem*!

—Leon

Newsletter
DEADLINE

July 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.

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...from the Arts President



Fellow members of GAST:

If the last days of spring are any indication this is going to be another hot summer in Oklahoma. My advice: stock up on good books to read and music to listen to and curl up in your favorite cozy and cool corner.

GASAA bade farewell to spring with a most enjoyable concert on May 20th in the Great Hall of the German American Center. The concert started off with “Her picture enchants me” and “Oh I feel it” from Mozarts ‘Magic Flute’ which certainly brought back memories of first romances. Pierrots dance song and Mariettas song from Korngold’s ‘Die Tote Stadt’ were more thought provoking pieces. The Strauss and Lehar melodies made you think that their time must have been a more carefree one - history tells us a different story - it’s just that the people never lost their lust for life and expressed it in music. Soprano Elizabeth Fischborn, soprano Nicole Robertson, tenor James Stoia, baritone Will Browning and accompanist and voice coach Lorne Richstone certainly hit the mood of the compositions and expressed it perfectly in voice and demeanor. Elizabeth Fischborn put together a program that warmed the hearts of everyone in the audience – a nostalgia trip for the senior crowd and a new way of looking at romance and frivolity for the young. After the concert many of the visitors sought out the artists to thank them personally for a wonderful afternoon and expressed hope for a repeat performance.

As the crowd enjoyed the refreshments - served by our hostesses **Mary Jane Mueller** and **Doris Wicks** and assisted by **Ruth Bly**- there was happy chatter about the concert, the when and where and who of yore performed these timeless melodies.

That made me think that this concert did a dual service: it made the audience reminisce and enjoy the music but it also provided an outlet for interpersonal communication which everyone seemed to thoroughly appreciate. In the age of texting, e-mailing, ‘face-booking’, “tweeting”, and whatever other technological and impersonal virtual ways of communication there are available, the person to person talk seems to be relegated to the old-fashioned. And yet a good person to person talk is the only way to ascertain the speaker’s intent and meaning.

So come and talk to each other at any of the GAST functions!

I especially want to give a big **thank you** to **Arnold Bieber** who always can be counted on for the set up and organization of GASAA events and for again serving as Chairman for the ARTS Committee. I look forward to work with Arnold and our committee this GAST season and I want to encourage all members of GAST to take an active part in **their** organization.

With the words from Lehar’s Giuditta: ‘Freunde, das Leben ist lebenswert’ Enjoy life!

—Gertrud

GAST SÄNGER

The GAST SÄNGER have been busy doing what they do best: singing. The group met and performed at Whiteside Park on the 20th of May. The group performed for Hubert Pollok, one of our members, who engaged it to sing at his Linden tree that is planted at the park. The thank you letter (below, right) was sent to the Choir from



“Hubie” for printing in the Echo so that all of the members would be aware of the event and the performance of the GAST Säger. The second picture down is of Hubie holding one of the Lindentree blossoms. The last one is a shot of choir singing at the park.

The GAST Säger also drove to Cole Camp, in Missouri on the 9th of June and took part in the annual Cole Camp Sägerfest. We have been doing this yearly since 2002. Although our group was small this year we were received very graciously and we are still called the “sophisticated singers from Tulsa”.



The GAST Säger is now on a summer break but the group would love to add more singers when it starts back in September. If anyone is interested in joining this wonderful activity which does so much to preserve the German heritage and music for the City of Tulsa, please call the GAST Center for more information and the dates of future practices.

Story by Irmgard Toschik
Images courtesy of Carol Wright and Arnold Bieber

Letter from Hubert Pollak at right transliterated by Irmgard Toschik



Leserbriefe

Tulsa County Election Board needs volunteers

The Election Board is soliciting help from GAST to provide volunteers to serve as precinct officials for the upcoming 2012 election cycle. Training classes are beginning soon. Good volunteer work for retirees. Applicants must be registered voters and live in the County. Pay scale ranges from \$87 to \$97 plus mileage. Call the GAST office for details (918) 744-6997 or the Tulsa County Election Board.

Communications from members are welcome and should be sent to davidalanforbes@gmail.com

5/30/12

Dear GAST SÄNGER,

Thank you for singing at my Springfest. Songs of yesterday as “Der Mai ist gekommen, Am Brunnen vor dem Tore and all the Mai Folksongs awakened memories of childhood and love and added a special touch to our festivities.

Also thank you for participating hanging cards with sentiments on my Linden tree at the S.W. corner of Whiteside Park. I saw the cards flutter in the morning breeze as I walked by this morning on my walk. One of the especially nice decorated cards with a Maikaefer (Lady bug) proclaims on one side: “Lebe, Liebe und Lache”, while the other side reads it’s translation : “ Live, Love and Laugh”. Good advice for living!

Hubert Pollak



The Sunshine Lady

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to:
Karl-Heinz Darnieder.

A correction from our column last month:
Jana

I had a phone call from a member requesting
a correction on last month's
sympathy card, Jana is his daughter, not his
wife. Thanks, Gwen

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

Now Playing at the

GAST Theater



GAST Theater resumes September 3
Stay tuned for information

News from the Old Country

GERMANY'S CANDIDATE FOR "UGLIEST BIRD IN THE WORLD"

First, Germans everywhere collectively adopted Knut, the cute bear cub born at the Berlin Zoo who had been rejected by his parents. Well, Knute is doing fine, thank you, but now the country has developed a national fondness for a new creature, also rejected by his parent, but this time it is not cute.

"Nelson", is suddenly the rage of Europe. The "Daily Mail" quickly dubbed him "the ugliest bird in the world" something of a cross between "a roast chicken and an alien." Jaime Weinman in "World—Macleans" described him as looking like "an Ewok that has been chewed up and spat out."

Nelson is a Kea parrot chick, the only one of



three eggs to hatch, recently born at the Leipzig Zoo and immediately the mother parrot, "Owaka" would have nothing to do with him, according to Timm Spretke, the zoo's deputy director, refusing even to

nurse him. After spending his first month after hatching in an incubator, Nelson is now being cared for by Zoo employees. He has little appetite and is "not out of the woods" according to Spretke.

Keas are native to New Zealand, and like the "ugly duckling" in the story of that name may be unattractive at birth but

do not remain so long. Adult Keas are not only intelligent and remarkably curious, but beautiful, particularly in flight when the striking green and gold under its wings is on display.

Story by David Forbes, Editor



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GAST

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

*Stan & Barbara
 Conrad*



Watch teams compete in a tug-of-war with a 100,000 lb. plane and enjoy our Family Fun Festival!



FREE ADMISSION

Saturday, June 2, 2012 9am-1pm
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New Members

We had two new members

Robert & Linda Frantz
Oklahoma City, OK

Claudia Howard
Sand Springs, OK

We also had one reinstatement

Dorthea F. Hite
Broken Arrow, OK



Stammtischrunde

Friday evening, Jul 6
starting at 6:30 PM
in the GAST Weinkeller
Hope to see you there.

Zum Wohl,

– Dann Björklund, Chair



Instead of complaining that the rosebush is full of thorns,
be happy that the thorn bush has roses!

German Proverb

What am I?



Answer to "Who Am I?"
in the June issue:
Ludwig Mies van der Rohe

Martha Goss was the first
correct respondent from the print
edition, and
Roger Bey was first correct
respondent from the online edition.

Reply to: davidalanforbes@gmail.com

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



Das Deutsche Echo

July 2012

Volume 33

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The Voice of the German-American Community

ELAM BLANK CLOSES THE AMISH KITCHEN

Those unfortunate members who have never had the experience of eating authentic German and Amish food prepared by our own Elam Blank will now never get the chance. Elam has closed the venerable Amish Kitchen at 3147 S. Harvard Avenue, and he has vowed not to re-open it. Elam has operated the Amish Kitchen in Tulsa since 1988.

Elam is originally from a small community of Amish near Lancaster, Pennsylvania but adopted the Mennonite faith, thus embracing technology and accepting more contact with the outside world. The difference between the Amish and Mennonites is not great, the Amish being a very tradition sect or subgroup of the larger Mennonite Church. Elam moved to Tulsa to attend Oral Roberts University and like many of us loved the city too much to leave, remaining after finishing at ORU.

His cooking experience began in his own home with traditional family recipes prepared for family and friends, and by 1988 began cooking at the Junior Chamber of Commerce lunchroom. Before long Elam had his own restaurant, and over the course of the next 23 years, with the steady encouragement of his wife Kathy and those close to him, he has operated five different restaurant locations, all with his distinctive rustic authentic German fare.

Elam is staying busy today remodeling a house in Gilcrease Hills, along with his duties as President of the GAST Building Corporation. GAST wishes Elam the best in retirement, or in whatever direction he goes from here.



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