



Oktoberfest “Wash Party”

Saturday, September 8 at 8:00am
At GAST

#1

We will be checking the equipment, doing any necessary repairs, cleaning all of the items needed for the festival and packing them up. If you're “handy” and have tools—bring them with you. Donuts & coffee served.

Volunteers Needed!

Call 918-272-7903



#2

Oktoberfest “Sign-Up Party”

Friday, September 14 at 6:00pm
At GAST

Dinner Served!

Our annual Sign-Up Party for Oktoberfest volunteers will be this Friday the 14th of September. If you have not yet volunteered, plan on coming that evening to do so. If you have already signed up—come anyway, and have dinner on us. Let's have a good time as we all prepare to work together for this important fundraiser and prepare for a successful festival!

Volunteers Needed!

Call 918-272-7903
Erica Hartman, Chair

Menu

Sausage
Sauerkraut
Potatoes
Bread & Butter
Apfelstreudel
Beer & Wine

Upcoming GAST Events

Don't forget Konversationsrunde on September 9 at 3:00pm—location and details on page 5

Sep 3	Movie Night	Sep 14	Sign-Up Party	Oct 26	Weinkeller	Dec 7	Stammtisch	Jan 26	Anniversary Party
Sep 4	Handarbeitsgrupp	Sep 18	Handarbeitsgrupp	Nov 2	Stammtisch	Dec 8	Christmas Party	Feb 1	Stammtisch
Sep 7	Stammtisch	Sep 28	Weinkeller	Nov 3	Oktoberfest Party	Dec 28	Winkeller	Feb 22	Weinkeller
Sep 8	“Wash Party”	Oct 5	Stammtisch	Nov 15-17	Kids' Day		2013	Mar 1	Stammtisch
Sep 9	Konversationsrunde		Oct 7	Nov 18	Volkstrauertag	Jan 4	Stammtisch	Mar 22	Weinkeller
Sep 11	Handarbeitsgrupp		German-American Day	Nov 23	Weinkeller	Jan 25	Weinkeller	Apr 5	Stammtisch
								April 26	Weinkeller

...from the GAST President



Greetings my friends – Another month rolls around – it cools off a little – but still no rain. Keep those prayers, rain dances or whatever it is you do going and maybe we will get some of that

much needed moisture.

It is with a heavy heart that I say that one of our members, Tammy Teeters, lost everything – except lives of animals and themselves – in the fires. We are thankful for their safety. GAST is sponsoring a drive to gather items for them. An email has gone out and additional information is available (see Letters to the Editor) for those we want to help. Please do what you can.

We enjoyed a very successful Ice Cream Social. I want to thank the Party Crew for all their hard work. Looked to me like everyone had a great time. Our next event will be the Oktoberfest Wash party and Sign-Up parties on the 8th and 14th of September, resp, see page 1. Plan now to come, sign up and eat!

That brings me to Oktoberfest. The committee is hard at work and they will need your help with working the festival, pre-cleaning all the equipment, etc. Watch for your chance to volunteer. The 2012 GAST Oktoberfest volunteer pin has been designed and ordered – and we are ordering enough for the Blaskapelle! At the last Board of Directors meeting, I decided to shelve the ideas for a German cooking class and the monthly German meal for the public. We had cleared all the legal hurdles, but we do not have enough willing volunteers to make it happen. Maybe another time. Other possible changes are in the air – so stay tuned! In the meantime, let's all get ready to go out to Oktoberfest and work and have some great fun and fellowship.

- Leon

...from the Arts President



Record heat, record drought and fires and records in height, length, speed, etc. at the London Olympics— it almost feels good to get back to routines, predictabilities and work to be done.

The adult German language classes are in the final stages of preparation since lectures are scheduled to begin Tuesday September 11, 2012 and that is only two weeks away. Books have arrived and **Ruth Obermark** has her teaching team in place:

Sindy Andrews, Carol Masters, Grete McNac, Melanie Roberson and newcomer **Anja Ritchie** will guide the students through the maze of German vocabulary, diction, syntax and grammar. The GAST Center will be open for Sign up at 6:00pm. (Cost: non members \$ 85.00, members \$ 60.00, book \$35.00)

Do you think the kids were anxious but also eager to get back to school after the long summer recess? How about adding an hour per week of German language instruction to their curriculum to channel some of the excess energy. Kinderdeutsch will start up Saturday September 15th, sign up time 9:30am at the GAST Center. (Cost: non members \$35.00, members \$20.00). **Angelique Giddings** has proven that she can excite the students with new knowledge that comes from learning new words. **Hildegard Schaffrin** and her granddaughter **Madelaine** will do their part to reinforce the learned words with song and dance. The children might just be ready to show off their talents at the Oktoberfest.

Next date to mark on your activities calender is Sunday October 7th, 3:00 pm to Celebrate German American Day. Our Blaskapelle will play the Anthems and will provide entertainment. **Barbara Conrad** has persuaded Dr. Tony Wohler to be our speaker for this event. He comes highly recommended by Dr. Eric Schmaltz, our keynote speaker at last year's celebration. Dr. Wohler was born in Bavaria, is currently teaching at Cameron University in Lawton and is the grandson of a POW during WWII. It will be interesting to hear his take on German immigration during the last century. Prior to WWI, it was very difficult for the citizens of the German-Austrian Empire to leave their country since the kings, dukes and other nobles did not want to lose their talented craftsmen. And yet these people often were driven out of their homeland when they did not conform to their lord's religion such as the Huguenots of Austria and France who eventually settled in Pennsylvania and Florida. No charge for this event and refreshments—generously underwritten by ATOS and GAST member **George Starch**—will be served by our charming hostesses **Mary Jane Mueller** and **Ruth Bly**.

Our participation is on track for Kids World, scheduled to take place at the Exchange Center of the Tulsa Expo Square on November 15-16 -17. We have reserved two booths next to the Celle booths and still hope to find an energetic person to chair this event which is very important for our organization. The Tulsa Global Alliance leaves it up to the presenters to set their own theme. **Bright ideas and helpers are welcome.** (Contact person: Arnold Bieber 918 357 9156; Gertrud Schmidt 918 495 3727)

Barbara Conrad is in contact with the German Consulate in Houston to finalize the program for Volkstrauertag on Nov. 18th which again will see a delegation of GASAA travel to Ft. Reno to honor the German Soldiers buried there. Hope to see many of you at these events.

—Gertrud

MEMBER INTERVIEW: President Leon Boggs

This is a new feature for the Echo, which will appear periodically, an interview with different members whose history, backgrounds and experiences will be of interest to all of us.

What is your background and education? I have an Associate of Arts degree from St. John's Lutheran College in Winfield, Kansas, and a Bachelor of Arts—Youth Psychology and Liturgical Music from Concordia Senior College in Ft. Wayne, Indiana as well as a Master of Divinity from Concordia Seminary in Exile in St. Louis.

How did you happen to join GAST? We joined about 19 years ago at the urging of a friend who was also my boss at work—Jim Walker. He got us to work Oktoberfest and suggested we join. The rest is history.

Do you have German ancestry? All I know is that my grandparents on my mom's side came from Germany by boat. From my recollections they came looking for work, but I'm not sure when. They were from northern Germany and while some in their group settled near Enid, some ended up in the oil fields in western Oklahoma around Kiefer, but my grandparents settled in Sapulpa. My mom's father became a storekeeper there where he traded chickens, ducks and rabbits for food in the store and sold vegetables from his personal garden in the back yard. My dad's side has no German!

Was German spoken in your home growing up? I am more on the American side of the organization. We spoke no foreign language in our home. I did take 4 years of German in college and could speak it fairly well then. My grandmother and I spoke and wrote letters in German until her death. Today I can speak and understand a little.

What offices have you held with GAST? I am in my 4th term as President. I have been Secretary and a Board member, I chaired our Oktoberfest operation for 3 years, Germanfest for 2 years, and I was Choir director for a short while.

Where would you like to see GAST in the future? I would love to see us explore the possibility of combining the 3 organizations. I have been told by lawyers that IRS laws would not allow it. But it would function so much easier. I would also like to see us all look at ourselves and this organization and see what we can do to keep it going. We are a very strong ethnic/cultural organization to keep our German heritage and culture alive in Tulsa. Maybe we can't do as much as we once did, but we can all still do something. But as more members say "no" to volunteering or contributing, we will see more programs end, and we will eventually go the way of the Oklahoma City and Lawton German clubs.

If you have a nominee for the "Member Interview" please write to the editor with your candidate name and contact information.

...from the Building President



Over the last several months, members of the operation and interior committees have worked very hard to remodel the downstairs hallway and classroom / bride's dressing room. Finished projects included updating the electrical wiring, new ceiling with recessed lights, painting ceilings and walls in groom and bride's room, adding a door between ladies' restroom and bride's room. The redecorating includes new furnishings and rehang-

ing the Oktoberfest posters.

Projects that are still underway include installing new carpet in the Weinkeller, classrooms and hallway, removing the carpet from the stairs and refurbishing the treads and risers. After new carpet is installed, we will have the building professionally cleaned.

Many members have helped with these projects under the leadership of **Buth Bly** and **Ed Westenhiser**.

The building is our largest asset. It demands endless amounts of work and money. In return, it gives us a fabulous place to meet, something to share with our community and a nice source of income. Our office manager, **Bev Bordner**, has leased our building for over 40 events so far. One such event is the upcoming wedding highlighted on the last page of the newsletter.

Newsletter DEADLINE

September 19 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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ICE CREAM SOCIAL PACKS THEM IN!

Sunday, August 5th from 3:00 to 5:00pm

What better way to spend a blistering Sunday afternoon than sampling ice cream with a lot of other fun adults and children similarly taking refuge from the heat. The annual Ice Cream Social is either a firm GAST tradition or it ought to be, and I hereby move that it be made one!

Walking into the great hall I was stunned to see a huge crowd, buzzing with excitement and nothing but smiles on the faces of all. First on the buffet line were some welcome drinks and a delectable selection of wafers and cookies dispensed by **Mary Schmitz and Gertrud**



Schmidt. I had planned to be good, but Gertrud seduced me into trying a delicate straw shaped wafer with a chocolate cane striping called, a “love note” she explained. Imagining I had discovered an old German treat I inquired, but no. Keebler or something, but excellent.

Leon and Donna Boggs and Roger and Susan

Bey manned the ice cream line, huge buckets of different flavors with a selection of candy, sprinkles, hot fudge and

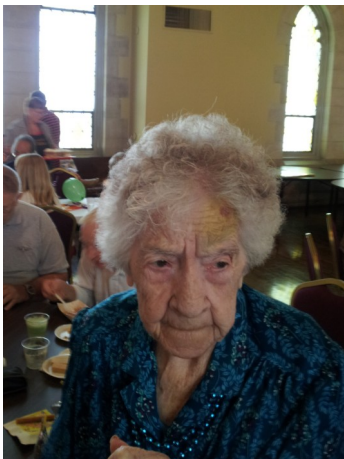
other toppings, that would have been Baskin Robbins proud. Having no sense of adventure, I settled for the vanilla with chocolate sauce, but soooo good!

Erica Hartman, Ruth Bly, Joann Sieber and Ed Westenhizer all worked to make the party successful, ferrying fresh goodies from the kitchen and serving guests, refreshing drinks and treats throughout. Ruth was purveying ice cream coffee and insisted I try it. My diet in shreds, I did. Coffee, Kahlua, whipped cream and ice cream, swizzled with another “love note”. I have just

three words: **Wun . . . Der . . . Bar!**

Three guests celebrated their birthdays at the party: Hubie’s daughter Julie, Lisa White, and Carol Wright’s mom, Rosamond Sievers, who had just turned 97 on August 2. A wonderful turnout with more than 100 people in the hall by my estimate, a nice mix of old and young, and from the accents I heard from several corners of the globe including a lovely young lady at my table, Henreike Narjen, a summer exchange student from Celle, Tulsa’s sister city in Germany.

Erica Hartman and Ruth Bly, top right; Roger and Susan Bey, top left; Carol Wright, bottom right; her mom, Rosamond Sievers, bottom left.. Top photos courtesy of Kathy Blank



Leserbriefe

Tulsa County Election Board Still Needs Volunteers

The Election Board is still needing volunteers to serve as precinct officials for the upcoming 2012 election cycle. Applicants must be registered voters and live in Tulsa County. Pay scale ranges from \$87 to \$97 plus mileage. Classes start in October. Call the Tulsa County Election Board for details

Donations Needed for Mannford Fire Victims

GAST Member Tammy Teeters and her husband lost their home and two workshops in the Mannford fire. They and their pets are okay, and they hope to get a FEMA trailer soon. They need: Queen size sheets, blankets, towels, cooking utensils, plates, cups, glasses etc. Please drop off your donations at the GAST office. Thank you for your help.
Erica Hartman - 918-272-7903

“Celebrations” Column

Please note on page 5 the new “Celebrations” column in which we will announce any special events, births, weddings, significant birthdays or , anniversaries that a member would like to publicize. Just write a letter to the Editor with the information being sure you have the permission of the concerned individual(s).

Editor

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



The Sunshine Lady

Our members enjoyed good health in July and no "Get Well" cards were sent out.

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: marthaort@gmail.com,
or telephone 918-728-0103

—Martha Ort



Now Playing at the

GAST Theater



Monday September 3, starting at 6:30 PM
Star Treff unterwegs
Presentiert von Armin Stockl

Starting at 7:30 PM
Annas zweite Chance

Starring: Christine Hörbinger (left),
Friedrich von Thun, and Petra Morze, Simon Morze and Mariane Mendt

Celebrations!

Carol Wright's mother, Rosamond Sievers celebrated her 97th birthday on August 2. Mrs. Sievers joined Carol at the Ice Cream Social on the 5th of August to celebrate.

Happy Birthday Rosamond, and many more!

News from the Old Country

HTWWW

HANDTASCHWEITWURFEWELTMEISTERSCHAFT

One of the most amusing sporting events on the globe took place this month and ambitious participants trained for the World Masters Purse Distance Throw which began on Saturday the 11th of August, and was being held for the first time in the German Republic.

Highly motivated national teams from 16 different countries trained in Movie Park, Germany. The expert jury is under the chairmanship of Irmgard Knuppel and will make their decision based on complicated rules of competition and choreography.

Altogether there are fourteen different levels of competition up to the grand finish. The Event attracted intense media attention from both domestic and foreign news outlets, as well as a lot of excitement from the attending crowds!

Jens Vatter served as the trainer for the German National team and ran his athletes through a grueling ritual of training methods.



Wer bekommt die goldene Handtasche? Check out <http://htwwwm.com>

Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde

Traditionally we start off the first Konversationsrunde after the summer recess with tales of wonderful trips and happenings since we last met.

Barbara Taron will be our first presenter after she and her husband covered a lot of miles in many countries. It is also a time for brainstorming for future meeting themes.

Barbara Conrad has graciously offered her home for this meeting on September 9th at 3:00 pm. The Conrads live at: 7837 S 70th East Ave. in Tulsa.

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 call **Gertrud Schmidt** at 918 495 3727 (Co-chair).



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*Stan & Barbara
 Conrad*



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ATOS CONCERT

Annual Performance at the GAST Center

The Sooner State Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society performed its Annual Variety Music Show at the GAST Hall on Friday the 17th of August. The performance was free and open to the public. Donations were accepted.



The program featured the 1929 Geneva Pipe Organ, Baldwin Grand Piano and other instruments, vocalists, and the GAST Blaskapelle. Carolyn Craft is the ATOS Program Chairman and principal organist. Other performers were Phil Judkins, Jeanette Maxfield, organists; Rill Roland, rag time piano. Wayne & Myra Underwood, vocals with piano accompaniment.

Refreshments were provided by GAST during a 20-minute intermission between the first and second half of the evening's performances.



Stammtischrunde
 Friday, September 7
 starting at 6:30 PM
 in the GAST Weinkeller
 Hope to see you there.

New Members

Werner & Mary Lehnert
 Tulsa, OK

Robert J. & Jane Padrick
 Smith
 Tulsa, OK

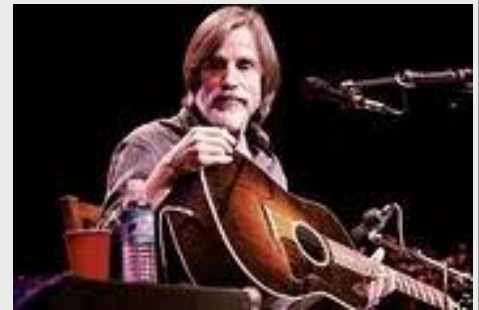
Renee Wagenblatt
 Tulsa, OK

Where am I?



Inside and outside views of this well-known structure.

*Reply to:
 davidalanforbes@gmail.com*



Answer to "Who Am I?"
 in the August issue:
Jackson Browne

Tom Bordner—1st correct respondent
 from the online edition
Martha Gossmann—1st correct respondent
 from the print edition

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



GAST Hosts Union of German Groom and Oklahoma Bride



Jennifer Dokken of Oklahoma and Siegfried Giess from a small town near Frankfurt am Main, Germany, are to be wed in a ceremony at the GAST Main Hall. The reception will also be held at GAST.

The couple met in Finland while working for the same German employer and after the ceremony in Tulsa will travel on to Ukraine and ultimately Dubai. Jennifer retired from her work in order to return to Tulsa and prepare for the wedding. The bride's parents live in Owasso. The groom's parents live in Linenbach, near Frankfurt am Main, and will travel to Oklahoma in order to attend the nuptials.

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