



*The Voice of the German-American Community*

## German-American Day

October 7 at 3:00pm  
GAST Center



In 1983 Ronald Reagan proclaimed October 6 as German-American Day to commemorate the date exactly 300 years before when thirteen German families, emigrating from Krefeld in North Rhine-Westphalia, landed near Philadelphia, later founding Germantown, Pennsylvania, the first major German settlement in the thirteen colonies. In August of 1987 Congress finally acted to designate October 6 German-American Day which President Reagan signed into law on August 18, 1987. The designation recognizes more than three centuries of German immigration to the U.S. and contribution to the industry, sciences, arts and economy of this country. In a formal White House ceremony President Reagan called upon all Americans to celebrate the date annually with festivities appropriate to the occasion.

GAST celebrates German-American Day annually on the Sunday nearest to October 6, this year on the 7th of October.

The event, as always, is free and open to the public.

Donations are accepted to help defray costs.

Refreshments will be served, including cake, cookies, cheeses and crackers, fruits, coffee, and wine.

**Ruth Bly and Ed Westenhiser are hosts for this event.**

## Oktoberfest

October 17—21, 2012



### Volunteers Still Needed

All Shifts!

Call Jennifer Kearns  
(918) 669-2333

### Oktoberfest Party

Saturday, Nov 3

Doors open at 5:30pm / Dinner served at 6:00pm

Dinner includes, Schnitzel plate and dessert, free

Beer, Tea, Pop and Coffee

Live Entertainment!

Cost: \$10 Oktoberfest Volunteers

\$20.00 Non-Volunteers

Reservations required by 2pm on October 31st

### Upcoming GAST Events

|        |                            |                    |           |                   |        |                         |        |                   |
|--------|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|--------|-------------------------|--------|-------------------|
| Oct 1  | Movie Night                | <b>Oct 17—21</b>   | Nov 3     | Oktoberfest Party | Nov 20 | Handarbeitsgruppe       | Dec 28 | Weinkeller        |
| Oct 2  | Handarbeitsgruppe          | <b>Oktoberfest</b> | Nov 5     | Movie Night       | Nov 23 | Weinkeller              |        | <b>2013</b>       |
| Oct 3  | Folkdancing                | Oct 17             | Nov 6     | Handarbeitsgruppe | Nov 27 | Handarbeitsgruppe       | Jan 4  | Stammtisch        |
| Oct 5  | Stammtisch                 | Oct 23             | Nov 7     | Folkdancing       |        | <b>Nov 30—Dec 2</b>     | Jan 7  | Movie Night       |
|        | <b>Oct 7</b>               | Oct 26             | Nov 13    | Handarbeitsgruppe |        | <b>Christkindlmarkt</b> | Jan 19 | Anniversary Party |
|        | <b>German-American Day</b> | Oct 30             | Nov 14    | Folkdancing       | Dec 3  | Movie Night             | Jan 25 | Weinkeller        |
| Oct 9  | Handarbeitsgruppe          | Oct 31             | Nov 15-17 | Kids' Day         | Dec 7  | Stammtisch              | Feb 1  | Stammtisch        |
| Oct 14 | Konversationsrunde         | Nov 2              | Nov 18    | Volkstrauertag    | Dec 8  | Christmas Party         | Feb 4  | Movie Night       |

## ...from the GAST President



GUTEN TAG!  
OKTOBERFEST IN TULSA  
IST WUNDERBAR!

That is the word now. Our co-chairs **Erica Hartman** and **Arnold Bieber** are charging forth to get us ready to go. The equipment has been washed and pre-bagged for the specific tents and the

electrical equipment has been tested. Sooo—we are well on our way. NOW WE NEED YOU! Jennifer Kearns is our main caller and is hard at it trying to get you to say YES – I WILL HELP! This is our main fund raiser and we all need to volunteer to work at least one shift. Without the funds from this festival, we would have to eliminate much of what we do as an organization. So when you are called, please say yes – to even a short work shift. I'll see all of you out there having lots of fun!

The Board of Directors has voted to let us get a legal opinion letter from an attorney who specializes in non-profit law to see if we can re-organize our three organizations into one or at least two. The tax laws have changed and it is now thought that we can do this. It would sure make it easier to operate. Of course this means lots of work – re-writing By-Laws, etc. So we may be calling on some of you with this type of experience to help us if this can move forward.

It is with great sadness that I share the news that our chair of the Elferrat gave at the last Boasrd meeting. This will be the last Fasching Party organized by this group. They will cease to exist after this party due to a lack of participation and interest in being in the Elferrat. I want to thank all for them for the work they have done to keep this German tradition alive and well here in Tulsa over the years. I especially thank Harold Wicks for 18 years serving as chair! Way to go Harold. The future of the Fasching party is uncertain at this time. It was sad and hard for Harold to report this and it is sad for me to pass it on to you as I see it as another event within GAST dying off. If we want this organization to survive we must all take a serious look at it and ourselves and say “what can I do to help keep it going?” If you have thoughts, ideas, concerns, or constructive criticism, let the Board hear from you. You are invited and encouraged to attend the monthly Board meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm where you can share and discuss with us. This is your way to be involved in leading YOUR organization.

AGAIN, SEE YA AT OKTOBERFEST!!

—Leon

## ...from the Arts President



A well attended American Theater Organ Society Concert started up the GASAA 2012-2013 Biennium in the GAST Great Hall where piano, organ and vocal music delighted the audience. Discussions around the refreshment tables were lively and full of plans for next year's ATOS concert at the GAST Center. Again thank you George Starch for underwriting the food and libations and Ruth Bly and Mary Jane Mueller for

being perfect hostesses.

Adult German Classes sign up attracted 47 eager students on September 11<sup>th</sup>. They will be led through the maze of German vocabulary, syntax and grammar by our able and charming teachers **Sindy Andrews**, **Carol Masters**, **Grete McNac**, **Melanie Roberson** and **Anja Ritchie**. **Jutta Tankersly** steps in as substitute when needed.

Kinderdeutsch on the other hand had a meager but very enthusiastic turnout. We do hope for a few more late signers to make it possible for us to continue the class. **Angelique Giddings** again teaches the eager recruits and **Hildegard Schaffrin** volunteers her time to lead the group in ‘Liedern’. The students may display their talents at the Octoberfest.

‘Kids World’ is taking shape. **Jeff Mosburg** is taking the helm for these very important three days - Nov. 15/16/17- which will expose more than 5000 school children to the many different cultures around the globe. Our theme will be “Schule”. Typical decorations and posters and curricula of the various school systems of Germany will be shown and the students will make a “Schultuete” into which they may place some of the items they collect during their stroll through this big exhibit. When Jeff, Barbara or I call you and ask you to man our booths.... **Please help out.**

Some of you may have read the article in the Tulsa World about a 90 year old German whose wish it was to see Camp Gruber again where he was a POW 1944-1946. His niece Pat Simonelli fulfilled her uncle's wish and so it happened that the public affairs officer for the VA in Muskogee—Benita McClellan—arranged two full days of activities for this very spry gentleman from near Bremerhaven. She extended an invitation to GAST to attend a ceremony on Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm at the Three Rivers Museum in Muskogee, honoring Franz May. **Arnold and Gwen Bieber**, **Barbara Conrad** and her sister Vroni and yours truly headed to Muskogee and cheered when Mayor Bob Coburn made Franz May an “Honorary Okie from Muskogee.” Franz May had fond memories of Oklahoma and its friendly, kind and generous people.

GASAA will honor the POWs, less fortunate than Franz May, who didn't survive and who lie buried at Ft. Reno. A delegation from GAST will travel to Ft. Reno November 18<sup>th</sup>. The honor Guard will lay the wreaths, Vice Consul Wiggin and Dr. Tony Wohlers will speak and music will be provided by **Suzanne Calvert** in the chapel that was built by the German POWs. If you are interested in joining the delegation get in touch with **Barbara Conrad** 918 492 3273.

And then it won't be long and Christkindl Markt will welcome eager shoppers and the Advent Service on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm make you realize that Christmas and the end of 2012 is near.

—Gertrud

## MEMBER INTERVIEW: Arnold Bieber

1. *Arnold, tell us your educational and professional background? -*

I came to this country in 1957 at the age of 22 with a formal education and apprenticeship in industrial business. Unable to find a job in my field in my new hometown Chicago, I settled for temporary work in retail sales.

Uncle Sam came calling a few months later, inviting me to experience Oklahoma and Texas in an Army green uniform.

After discharge from the Service I lived in Oklahoma City and Duncan, OK for a number of years before moving back to Chicago. There I worked in Sales and Purchasing at a Metal Service Center and met my wife Gwen. My privately owned employer was acquired by Tulsa based Williams Companies. We moved to Broken Arrow in 1977, moved to Philadelphia in 1986 and back to Broken Arrow in 1997 when I retired.

2. *How long have you been a member of GAST and how did you happen to join?*

A colleague of mine who was married to a German woman told me about GAST and the fun he was having working Oktoberfest. Gwen and I first joined GAST in 1981, then again after our return from Philadelphia.

3. *When and how did you or your ancestors first come to the U.S.?*

Relatives on my mother's side immigrated to Pennsylvania in the late 19th century, followed by aunts and uncles after WW I.

I was born in a small town in Masuria, East Prussia which is now part of Poland. My father owned a business making and repairing farm wagons and equipment. An uncle encouraged me to try life in the US during his visit to Germany in 1955. I am totally German, naturalized American citizen since 1962.

4. *Do you have children? Grandchildren?*

Between my wife and me we have 5 children and 8 grandchildren. Most of them live in the Tulsa area, some live in Texas and one granddaughter lives in Wisconsin.

5. *Is there one particular job, committee, or festival you really enjoy more than any other?*

I enjoy all of the GAST family and activities. There is less pressure now that I serve on various committees, rather than as president of the Arts Association and GAST.

6. *Do you have a hobby, or a favorite activity that might surprise other members?*

It's probably not a surprise that I enjoy fishing and boating when it's not too hot or too cold.

7. *What kind of reading do you enjoy, and what was the last book that you read? Do you prefer to read in German or English or are you indifferent?*

I read newspapers and magazines in English and German. I prefer non-fiction books and the internet. The last book I finished was probably a James Michener novel.

### GERMAN SPEAKING EMPLOYEE NEEDED

VeriZon has an immediate opening for a employee in an Accounting Consultant position speaking and reading in German. The position will deal with bill audit of vendors who provide services to VeriZon in Germany. Below is a description of the main functions required for the job. You can also review the same posting at

[https://www22.verizon.com/about/careers/openings/HJOBP000000003704452.html?sp=.](https://www22.verizon.com/about/careers/openings/HJOBP000000003704452.html?sp=)

If anyone from your society is interested in this position, please forward the resume directly to me at the e-mail address below. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Elmira Geniatulina, Audit Manager  
VeriZon, International Bill Audit Group  
Phone: 918-590-5606  
Cell: 918-264-7255  
Fax: 571-918-6763  
6929 N. Lakewood Avenue  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74117  
E-mail: [elmira.geniatulina@one.verizon.com](mailto:elmira.geniatulina@one.verizon.com)

## Newsletter DEADLINE

October 17 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**

The German-American Society, Arts Association  
and Building Corp. do not necessarily endorse



## Oktoberfest Wash Party

September 8—8:00am

Well, I felt badly deceived when I arrived for the Oktoberfest Wash Party early Saturday morning. There was no music, no dancing, and no beer, so I can be forgiven for wondering what kind of party this was going to be. However, there were a lot of very nice people who turned out to help get all the equipment, utensils, pots and pans and everything else cleaned up, checked out, bagged and ready for Oktoberfest.



Erica supplied coffee and orange juice and with the doughnuts at least no one starved. Everybody managed to have a lot of fun without the music or dancing, but next year, I am absolutely volunteering to bring the beer. *David F*

Top Photo: from left: In front, Audrey Harris, Jim Walker, Gina Therion; Behind, Erica Hartman, Ruth Bly and Chuck Westenhiser; Rear, Daniel and Gerwald Koehler  
At Left: Outdoor wash crew.



## Oktoberfest Sign-Up Party

September 14—6:00pm

The sign-up party on Friday evening attracted a nice turnout of volunteers for Oktoberfest with more than half of all volunteer positions filled. Everyone enjoyed a nice traditional German dinner of wurst and kraut, which was excellent, and Apfelstredel for dessert. Beer and wine were available, and all appeared to enjoy themselves. There are still volunteer positions and many

shifts unfilled so if you were not able to make it to the sign-up party you are still needed to work this most important fundraiser for GAST.



Top Photo: Jennifer Kearns signs up volunteers for Oktoberfest shifts.

At right, volunteers line up for a traditional German style dinner with wurst and sauerkraut, potatoes and apple streudel



## Leserbriefe

### Thanks to GAST Choir

I enjoyed my experiences during my student exchange in the GAST family. Especially the family Fruehling. Sig was then singing in the Choir and supported me very much during that time. I also wrote some music for the Choir since not much suitable material was available then. For Frau Arlene Fruehling, whose ancestors came from Pomerania, I searched for the "Pommerlnied" and set it to music for the GAST Choir, in thankful memory for the support I received from you and in the hope that you can perform it in your repertoire.

*Roland Eckert, Minister of Music at the Leonhards Church in Stuttgart and GAST admirer*

### Thomas Conrad Party

*The family of Thomas Conrad wishes to thank all of the friends of Thomas who attended his recent 40th birthday party. Your presence at this joyful occasion and thoughtfulness for Thomas is greatly appreciated and hopefully we can do this many more times in the future.*

*Stan, Barbara & Thomas Conrad*

### Christkindlmarkt

Anyone wishing to take part in planning and organizing let us know. We will be welcoming volunteers for decorating, setting-up, selling, serving, cooking, cashier, hosting etc. after Oktoberfest. Put it on your calendar, Friday, Nov 30, thru Sunday, Dec 2. Help is needed in all areas.

*Co Chairs,  
Carol Wright and Arnold Bieber*

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



## The Sunshine Lady

Get-well cards were sent out to:

**Richard Jagel**, recovering from the flu.  
**Charlotte Kerpon**, on chemotherapy for the past 4 months.

**Annie Johnston**, awaiting an appointment for cataract surgery.

**Ursula Jablonski**, awaiting test results and a possible shoulder operation

Not reported last month, Get-well cards were sent out to **Neil Hartmann**, **Gwen Bieber**, and **Barbara Tarbar**

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](mailto:marthaort@gmail.com),  
 or telephone 918-728-0103

—Martha Ort

## Die Konversationsrunde

A big 'Thank You' to Barbara and Gerald Taron for getting die Konversationsrunde off to a good start. A few photographs from the Taron's trip are shown on the back page of this issue. Those and other photographs and their stories of airline and car travel made us appreciate the stamina needed to undertake such an expedition. Half-way through the presentation Barbara Conrad fortified us with cake, cookies, coffee and wine. Thanks, Barbara!

The next Konversationsrunde will be on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the house of Hubert Pollock who lives at 3912 E 40<sup>th</sup> St. Tulsa, Tel.: 918 742 4620. The theme is: "Gedichte und Verse". Recite your favorite poem, or be prepared to read some verses. Hubert loves Eichendorf, but Ringelnatz, Brecht, etc., or even your very own artistic outpouring will be appreciated. Come and share.

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 cultural interests of its members. For suggestions, information or hosting of one of our meetings, please call Barbara Conrad (chair) 918-492-3273 or Gertrud Schmidt (co-chair) 918-495-3727.

## Now Playing at the GAST Theater

Monday October 1, starting at 6:30 PM



**Musik in der Nacht**

Starting at 7:30 PM

**Gottes mächtige Dienerin**

Starring: Christine Neubauer,  
Remo Gevone, Thomas Loibl,  
Ullrich Gebauer, and Tina Engel



## Traditions

### Almabtrieb in the Alps

An Alpine farmer in lederhosen leads his cattle down from the mountain pastures, where they stay during the summer, to their stables in the valley. The cattle are traditionally richly decorated for the drive and the procession in



late September is an annual event, a wonderful tourist attraction in many villages and a huge crowd pleaser.



Almabtrieb in Berchtesgadener Land

Top Photo courtesy Christof Stache/AFP/Getty Images

Lower Photo courtesy Berchtesgadener Land Tourist Bureau





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**GAST**

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

*Stan & Barbara  
 Conrad*



**9999 S. Mingo Rd—Suite T  
 The Plaza Del Sol Center at 101st & Mingo**

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## Stammtischrunde

Friday, October 5 at 6:30 PM  
in the GAST Weinkeller.

Hope to see you there. Zum Wohl,  
— Dann Björklund, Chair

## GAST Folkdancers

A dedicated group of GAST Folkdancers traveled to Choctaw, Oklahoma, for their annual Oktoberfest, an event we have participated in for more than 10 years.

We presented 2 programs to an enthusiastic crowd with wonderful, cool weather conditions. We are now preparing for a private party followed by our performance at the Tulsa Oktoberfest. Please come to see and support us in the Esszelt on Sunday, October 21 at 12:30pm.

New dancers are always welcome to join us and a partner is not required. GAST membership is also not a requirement. Invite your friends and families. For more information contact Carol Wright at 918 299-2839 or [d.c.w@cox.net](mailto:d.c.w@cox.net)



## New Members

Jennifer Cobb  
Tulsa, OK 74103

Jenny Dalby  
Tulsa, OK 74133

Jenny Kucera  
Tulsa, OK 74105

Scott V. & Danielle Morgan  
Tulsa, OK 74105

Casey & Reagan Reininger  
Tulsa, OK 74104

Clarissa Siragusa  
& Tommy Tate  
Inola, 74036



## Who am I?

Second of this name, his grandfather (1847—1919) was a businessman, theater impresario and composer in New York City who emigrated from Stettin, Prussia, at the age of 17 and whose passion for opera led him to open several opera houses, reigniting the popularity of opera in America. What is the grandson's name (pictured here)?

Email your answer to: [davidalanforbes@gmail.com](mailto:davidalanforbes@gmail.com)



Answer to "Where Am I?"  
in the September issue:  
**Limburg Cathedral**

Limburg an der Lahn—has a population of about 34,000 and is the district seat of Limburg-Weilburg in Hesse, Germany, lying between the Taunus and the Westerwald on the river Lahn. Limburger cheese was developed in the 19th century in this area, at the time a German duchy.

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



# Das Deutsche Echo

October 2012

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Issue 10

*The Voice of the German-American Community*

## European Journey

Barbara and Gerald Taron's two month journey this summer (see Die Konversationsrunde on page 5) took them from Tulsa to Marseille and through the Baltic States of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to St Petersburg, Moscow and home via London.



*Clockwise from above, Trakai Castle in Lithuania; rooftops of Tallinn, Estonia, and the old city square in Riga, Latvia.*



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