



Oktoberfest Volunteer Party



Saturday, November 3, 2012

Doors Open 5:30 PM, Dinner 6 PM
Entertainment: Polkatimers

Admission: \$10.00 for Oktoberfest Volunteers, Non-Workers \$20.00

Reservations must be made by Wednesday, Oct 31, 2012
Call the GAST Office at 918.744.6997

Volkstrauertag

Fort Reno

Sunday, November 18, 2012

A GAST delegation will attend the Volkstrauertag service in Fort Reno again this year. The service will be on the 18th of November, and the group will car pool and/or caravan to Fort Reno and any member desiring to attend is welcome and encouraged to go along.

For departure location and time:
Call Barbara Conrad: 918-492-3273
Or email her at: boeconrad@sbcglobal.net



GAST members, from left, Max Tankersley and David Marshal standing in front of the chapel at Fort Reno. The two played the bagpipes during the ceremony at the cemetery for Volkstrauertag 2011. Photo by Fred Rother

Upcoming GAST Events

Oct 30	Handarbeitsgruppe	Nov 13	Handarbeitsgruppe	Nov 30—Dec 2	Jan 4	Stammtisch	Feb 22	Weinkeller	
Oct 31	Folkdancing	Nov 14	Folkdancing	Christkindlmarkt	Jan 7	Movie Night	Mar 1	Stammtisch	
Nov 2	Stammtisch	Nov 15-17	Kids' Day	Dec 3	Movie Night	Jan 19	Anniversary Party	Mar 4	Movie Night
Nov 3	Oktoberfest Party	Nov 18	Volkstrauertag	Dec 7	Stammtisch	Jan 25	Weinkeller	Mar 22	Weinkeller
Nov 5	Movie Night	Nov 20	Handarbeitsgruppe	Dec 8	Christmas Party	Feb 1	Stammtisch	Apr 1	Movie Night
Nov 6	Handarbeitsgruppe	Nov 23	Weinkeller	Dec 28	Weinkeller	Feb 4	Movie Night	Apr 5	Stammtisch
Nov 7	Folkdancing	Nov 27	Handarbeitsgruppe	2013		Feb 9	Fasching Party	April 26	Weinkeller
								May 3	Stammtisch
								May 6	Movie Night

...from the GAST President



GUTEN TAG!

Another month rolls by and we actually see signs of fall! And of course that means Oktoberfest! As I write this we are almost loading the trucks to move out there. Things look great thanks to our great planning committee co-chaired by **Erica Hartman &**

Arnold Bieber. Special thanks goes to **Jennifer Kearns-Samples** for an outstanding job on recruiting volunteers. It is a very time consuming and thankless job. But she has done great. THANKS JENNIFER. I want to thank all you volunteers for offering your time and "talents" to help us make what is still our largest fund raiser a success. Without each of us doing our part, we could never make it. News of the volunteer Oktoberfest is on page 4.

We are looking ahead to the Christmas party and the Anniversary Ball and making preliminary plans. The Director's and President's Awards will be awarded at the Anniversary Ball as well as the winners of the Youth Essay contest. That should be a great event. Watch for the date and put it on your calendar.

We continue to seek legal counsel on streamlining our organizations. Laws have changed that may allow us to simplify our operations. We want to make sure we do everything correctly so we are dealing with a lawyer specializing in non-profits. Once we get his legal opinion, the Board will look it over and bring it to the membership. In the process so far we have found some of our non-profit status codes were wrong. These have been corrected and taxes re-filed under the correct codes. It seems every time we turn around we find something wrong that needs to be fixed! But we are working on getting everything up to snuff.

GAST continues to grow and take in new members. We must find ways to involve ALL of our members and keep this organization alive and well. We are recognized as a major 'cultural/heritage' organization in this area. We need to find ways to get that true German culture and heritage out to the public. Any ideas? let us know. As always, remember that this is YOUR organization. Let the Board hear from you. We want your ideas and constructive criticism. Attend the meetings and discuss and share with us. Please don't sit silently on the sidelines and complain amongst yourselves about what we are not doing or are doing wrong. Be part of the group!

Until next month ----

—Leon

...from the Arts President



I do hope many of you enjoyed the celebration of German-American Day which GASAA put on for you and your friends at the GAST Center. And while you were being welcomed by **Barbara Conrad**, listening to the Blaskapelle playing the German and American anthems and then some well-known tunes and hearing the Proclamations from the President of the

United States, Governor Fallin, and Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett, all being read by Charles Meyers and while you were enjoying Dr. Wohlers speaking of the history of German immigration and then partaking in some refreshments afterwards, I was sitting on an airplane heading for Munich, Germany. I am borrowing a remark from General McArthur: "I shall return" (October 30th). A big 'Thank You' to all of you who have helped to make this another successful event for our organization.

The planning for 'Kids World' is continuing under the chairmanship and guidance of **Jeff Mosburg**. This event is offered every other year under the patronage of the Tulsa Global Alliance and is intended to expose students and adults to many different cultures from around the world. Stimulating the imagination of young and old with performances, pictures and exhibits and offering a learning experience while having fun and also dispelling some misconceptions and prejudices is the aim of this event. Of course it only works because there are willing volunteers to prepare for this very important festival. Staffing the booths for this three day event is always a challenge. So step up to the plate! Friendly smiles will be your reward.

Next on the list for GASAA is Volkstrauertag November 18th. As every year a delegation of our members will drive to Ft. Reno to honor the German soldiers and all the fallen of all wars. Ft. Reno was established in 1875 to protect the Cheyenne-Arapaho Indian agency in Darlington from hostile Indians. Its usefulness faded by the end of the 19th century and it was put to various military and later agricultural uses. It was assigned as a POW camp in 1943 to house the prisoners of war from the Rommel defeat in North Africa. At one time there were 1335 prisoners at the camp. They performed work as field hands, carpenters, bakers, mechanics, tailors... and whatever needed to be done. The prisoners constructed the chapel and planted the trees on both sides of the entrance leading to the Ft. Reno post. The little museum at the Fort is worth a visit. Let **Barbara Conrad** know if you are interested in joining the delegation. (918 492 3273)

Enjoy Oktoberfest, and have a Happy Halloween! See you in November.

—Gertrud

MEMBER INTERVIEW:*Lois Voeller*

Tell us a little about your family situation: Well, I am married to Al, and have been for almost 59 years. We have 5 sons and 1 daughter, 17 grandchildren plus 5 greats—none in Tulsa.

What is your educational background and experience? And Al's? For me, high school only, but I was able to take advantage of this and to spend many years in various areas of medical activities including 3 years as a medical records supervisor at the army hospital at Fort Riley, Kansas, while Al was in college. Then 12 years of owning and operating a medical transcription service and later 15 years as Executive Director for a large medical professional organization. As a part of which I organized annual continuing medical education course meetings for Urological physicians in many areas of the U.S. and several in foreign countries.

What about Al. Does he have a German background?

Oh, yes., although Al's family actually came from what is now Ukraine in the Odessa region around the turn of the last century. His mother was born here, but his father emigrated at the age of 9. We have been fortunate to travel to Russia and Ukraine a few years ago with a group from the University of North Dakota, and to see the village where his parents and grandparents lived. Al was born in this country but raised in a very Germanic household and spoke no English until he started school.

Did his father come through Ellis Island? He did. In fact, we have been able to document his arrival here even to the ship on which his father, grandmother and an aunt traveled.

What about your own background? My family is largely English and Scotch. My only German connection is through Al and my adoption by our German friends. I have studied German, and while I am not fluent I am able to understand and make myself understood in most situations. But, except for occasional phrases, we do not speak German in the home. However, when Al is speaking with his brothers the conversations is almost always in German.

When did you join GAST and what positions have you held?

Oh, we are charter members. Both Al and I have been very active in all 3 organizations and filled many positions over the years. We both were members of the committee which found the building, later to be the GAST center. Al co-chaired the committee responsible for extensively renovating the building and helped in building much of the improvements. He has served on committees and the Board of Directors. I have served in several different positions on the Board for 17 years or so, was Editor for the Echo in the early years and served 20 years as Chair or member of the Leasing Committee. Al and I both helped to do the set-ups for leased events for 20 years and hosted leased events many times. The two of us, with another individual, were in charge of the "bank" for Germanfest and Christkindlmarkt for several years. Al has helped with set-up for the GAST food booths for Oktoberfest for at least 33 years. This is my 12th year chairing the shuttle committee.

...from the Building President

Our remodeling efforts continue to improve the appearance, function and safety of our building. The completed projects in the downstairs hallway include new ceiling tiles with recessed lighting, refurbishing the steps, updated electrical systems and additional lighting at the bottom of the stairs, with repainting and rehangng of the Oktoberfest posters.

Our next project is to replace the carpet downstairs with tile which has already begun. During this phase, we will be working around our GAST events and accommodating our lease dates to the best of our ability. We appreciate everyone's cooperation while our improvements are underway.

~ Elam

Newsletter DEADLINE

November 21 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 a Success for GAST

At the time this issue goes to press the Oktoberfest tents haven't yet been dismantled and there is a lot of tallying and calculating to be done by the accountants and by the Board, but I am going to go out on a limb and pronounce this most important GAST fund raiser a success.



Everything, absolutely everything, conspired to make this year's Oktoberfest successful: a recovering economy, the sunny skies and warm weather, and the city's elimination of parking problems by means of shuttles carrying festival goers from 4 different city locations. And it didn't hurt to have the advance publicity from NBC's "Today" show and *Bon Appetit* Magazine citing Tulsa's festival as one of the top German food festivals in the world and one of the largest of its kind in the U.S. That's heady stuff.

The pictures here were all taken early afternoon on Friday before any hint of the evening crowds had appeared. Within a few hours the area between the GAST tent (above) and the Esszelt (below) across from us with a live band was a literal raucous, surging sea of people, with lines at all 6 manned windows of our tent and 24-30 volunteers working furiously to keep up with the demand. The entertainment area across the walkway overflowed with loud music, singing, and assorted noise, revelers standing on the tables to escape the press of the crowd, and the dance area and stage bursting with celebrants. Saturday was the same with food orders heavy and steady until the fair closing at 11:00 and beyond. Hot dog buns were the first to give out and GAST members were ransacking Tulsa grocery vendors for all that could be obtained.



was a much needed resource for GAST. To **Leon Boggs, Erica Hartman, Arnold Bieber** and other crucial members: a "Great Job!" and to all who volunteered and played their part.



Loren Neilsen & Karl Darnieder on potato pancake duty

Society veterans remarked that our ranks seemed to be filled more by outside volunteers—high school and college students earning needed community service hours—than perhaps ever before. Whether or not a good indication of the future, the society's status as a qualified 501(c)(3) corporation provided a needed opportunity for the students to get required hours at the same time their energetic assistance

Story and photographs by David Forbes

Leserbriefe

**HELP WANTED:
GERMAN-SPEAKING CNA**
The Home Health Agency needs a German-speaking CNA to help care for an elderly Alzheimers patient, a paid position. Interested? Call Melinda Griffin, Comfort Keepers at 918-636-2871

FASCHING PARTY TO CONTINUE
It had appeared, as President Boggs announced last month, that the Elferrat would not be able to continue arranging the Fasching Party. However, the Board, Elferrat and Party Committee have agreed on a solution: starting in 2013 the Party Committee and Elferrat will have a joint responsibility for Fasching so that these parties can continue as they have in the past. I want to assure the Party Committee that members of the Elferrat are very willing to assist with all aspects of the party. The date of the next Fasching Party is February 9, 2013.

Harold Wicks, Chairman

**KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY
December 16**
Members! Please note that the annual Kids Christmas party will be at the GAST Center on Sunday, December 16th, from 2:00-4:00pm with lots of food and games! Huge fun for kids of every age from 1 to 100! Everyone is welcome. No charge for admittance and reservations are not required. Don't miss it.

Jennifer Martin

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

Celebrations

Thomas Conrad turned 40 in September, and the family celebrated the milestone, below, with lots of GAST members in attendance.



Now Playing at the Erwin Jerchau GAST Theater

Monday November 5, starting at 6:30 PM
Musik aus dem Alpenland



Starting at 7:30 PM
**Drei Engel auf der
Chefetage**
Starring: Wofan Wilke
Moehring,
Muriel Baumeister,
Elena Uhlig
and Heikko Deutschmann



The Sunshine Lady

Sympathy/Get Well cards were sent out to:

- Bob and Dora Schein: Dora's mother, Roberta C. Rennie of Ponca City, passed away at 92.
- Carl and Shirlee Stoops, former members of GAST, lost their son, Mike, age 60 and a former Tulsa policeman, on October 12.
- Annie Johnson is awaiting cataract surgery in mid November. She has had other medical concerns, but is slowly recovering from them.
- Ursula Jablonski, has just returned home after a week in the hospital and is also recovering. I will keep everyone advised of her progress.

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

Traditions

Oktoberfest Munich 2012

Munich, Germany's second largest city and the capital of the State of Bavaria, is the birthplace of



Oktoberfest, with the festival being held this year in the Theresienwiese area, a 15 minute walk from Munich's main train station. The tents, like that shown left, below, can hold up to 100,000 visitors at a time.

This year the price for a stein of beer, holding about a liter of the beverage, averaged €9.2, or around \$12.00, and more than 7 million liters of the brew, almost 2 million gallons, are consumed each year at the festival.





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GAST

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

*Stan & Barbara
Conrad*



494-0649

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The Plaza Del Sol Center at 101st & Mingo**

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Die Konversationsrunde

We would like to thank Hubbie Pollock for hosting our last Konversationsrunde. We had a delightful afternoon of reciting prose and poetry, which I am sure most of us had not heard in years. Hubbie also showed us some of his paintings that he made from his travels. This was followed by some very tasty snacks prepared by Hubbie's daughters. There will be no meeting in November due to the ceremonies held at Ft Reno cemetery honoring the war dead of WW2. These casualties include German POWs interred in Oklahoma during the war who died while in American custody. We encourage you to carpool and attend this tribute to all of the fallen of WW2 to be held at 2 PM on the 18th of November.

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.

Stammtischrunde

Friday, Nov 2
6:30 PM
in the GAST Weinkeller.
Hope to see you there.
Zum Wohl,
– Dann Björklund, Chair

New Members

Chris Deson
Tulsa, Oklahoma

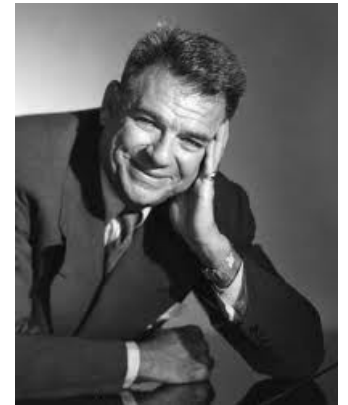
John N. Johnson
Tulsa, Oklahoma

David & Sardie Lawrence
Tulsa, Oklahoma



Where am I?

Identify the structure and city



Answer to "Who Am I?"
in the October issue:
Oscar Hammerstein II

Carol Wright was first to name this famous German-American. Congratulations!
Consolation Prize to **Carla Hayes** who guessed the famous German-American pictured was **Arnold Bieber!**

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



German - American Day

GAST celebrated German-American Day at the GAST Center at 3:00pm on Sunday the 7th of October. Sponsored by the German-American Society Arts Association, the event celebrates the anniversary of the 1683 emigration of a community of Germans from Bremerhaven Germany to Pennsylvania and the establishment of the first significant German community in the new world. The event was hosted by **Ruth Bly** and **Ed Westenhiser**. Entertainment featured a rousing rendition of the German and American anthems by the GAST Blaskapelle, followed by performance of "Gruss an Kiel" by Friedrich Spohr, "Preussens Gloria" by Johann Gottfried Piefke, "Ode to Joy" by Ludwig Von Beethoven, and ending with John Philip Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever". Charles Meyers, Jr. read the proclamations of the holiday, and Cameron University (Lawton) Professor, Anthony Wohlers, PHD, gave the keynote address. A cornucopia of pastries and refreshments were served attendees.

A huge thanks to **Barbara Conrad** and her team, and **Ruth Bly** and **Ed Westenhiser** without whose contribution the event would not have been possible.



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