



The Voice of the German-American Community



November 30—December 2

At the GAST Center

Fri: 10am — 7pm Sat: 10am—5pm Sun: Noon—5pm

Christkindlmarkt 2012

Don't miss this fun-filled traditional commencement of the holiday season. Details on page 8

Christmas Party



December 8, 2012

Doors Open at 5:30pm

Dinner at 6:00pm

At the GAST Center

Dinner & Dance

Featuring: The Mike Bennett Band with Sharon Moguin

Admission for Dinner and Dance: \$20 per person

Dance Only: \$10 per person

Menu: Grilled Rib-Eye Steak, baked potato and
slow cooked green beans

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

Please call 918-744-6997 by Wednesday, December 5th at 2pm

See you at the Party!

Upcoming GAST Events

Nov 30—Dec 2 Christkindlmarkt	Dec 28 Weinkeller 2013	Jan 25 Weinkeller	Mar 1 Stammtisch	May 3 Stammtisch
Dec 3 Movie Night	Jan 4 Stammtisch	Feb 1 Stammtisch	Mar 4 Movie Night	May 6 Movie Night
Dec 7 Stammtisch	Jan 7 Movie Night	Feb 4 Movie Night	Mar 22 Weinkeller	May 31 Weinkeller
Dec 8 Christmas Party	Jan 19 Anniversary Party	Feb 9 Fasching Party	Apr 1 Movie Night	Jun 3 Movie Night
		Feb 22 Weinkeller	Apr 5 Stammtisch	Jun 7 Stammtisch
			April 26 Weinkeller	Jun 28 Weinkeller



...from the GAST President



HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL!

This is probably coming to you after the fact, but my wishes to all of you are still there. We all have so much to be thankful for – even in the midst of what seems like a lot of problems in our lives. Stop for just a minute and reflect on all the good

things you have in your life. It is good!

We had a very successful Oktoberfest and I thank **Erica Hartman and Arnold Bieber**, co- chairs for the festival, the entire planning committee and **especially all of you who volunteered!** We could not have done it without you. A special thanks goes to **Jennifer Kearns-Samples** for her outstanding job of recruiting volunteers. We also had a great Oktoberfest Party. Thanks to the Committee for preparing the meal and the Folk Dancers for decorating. It looked like all had a great time.

On the theme of Oktoberfest, the Board of Directors proposed a study of our involvement in Oktoberfest. The festival costs us more each year, and we are all aging which means it is harder to get all the work done by volunteers. On the other hand, if we start paying for the help, we don't make any money. **The Board directed me to establish a Task Force to look at this – our sponsorship, level of our presence at the festival, etc. I am asking for some folks to step up and help me with this. We will look at all of the factors involved and then make a recommendation to the Board as to what our future involvement at Oktoberfest should be. If you are willing to serve on this Task Force, please contact me: W: 918-746-6222; H: 918-258-5201 or on my email at boggsle@tulsaschools.org DON'T BE SHY – STEP RIGHT UP AND LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS.**

Christkindelmarkt is real close and appears to be ready to go. Thanks to **Carol Wright and Arnold Bieber** for co-chairing and organizing this great even. Come out and support all the vendors.

The Christmas Party is scheduled for Dec. 8 and we have booked the Mike Bennett band for your listening and dancing pleasure! Mike promises me a good evening of music. More info on this party will be elsewhere in this issue.

It saddens me to announce that Loyd Samples has resigned as our Media Chair. If anyone is interested in doing this very important job for us, please let me know. If you have any suggestions of someone, let me know that also.

As we move into the very busy holiday season, remember what it is all really about!

—Leon

...from the Arts President



On Sunday November 18, 2012 – Volkstrauertag - a small delegation from GAST travelled to Ft. Reno to honor and commemorate the war dead of all the wars and in particular the 62 German Soldiers from Rommel's Africa corps who had died while in captivity at Ft. Reno

and other POW camps in Oklahoma. The service in the chapel - which was built by the POWs – also was attended by the German Deputy Consul General Mr. Clemens Kroll from Houston, the Honorary Consul of Germany Mr. Charles Wiggin and his wife Renate Wiggin from Oklahoma City, the Governor's Honor Guards, members of the German Air Force stationed at Ft. Sill and members of Veterans groups from Tulsa. While each of the speakers - Mr. Kroll, Mr. Wiggin and Dr. Tony Wohlers – took a different approach as to the purpose of Volkstrauertag the conclusion they reached was the same: "Let us celebrate peace not war".

Oklahoma where the winds come blowing down the plains..... and blowing it did! The flag bearers of the Governor's Honor Guards und Veterans Groups had a hard time holding on to their banners as the wreaths were laid, the Rev. D. Hefta spoke the prayer, the congregation sang 'Ich hatt' einen Kameraden', David Marshall played the bagpipes and the Governor's Honor Guard sounded Taps. Thanks to **Barbara Conrad's** careful planning it certainly was a memorable day for all.

Another success story was Kids World—See story on Page 4.

Christkindlmarkt starts the Advent time! Come, see and buy! Friday Nov. 30. Saturday Dec. 1 and Sunday Dec. 2.

Join us for the Advent Service conducted by Rev. Tiewes on Sunday Dec. 9th at 3:00 at the GAST Center Great Hall. Our choir and the congregation will sing the familiar Christmas songs and put you in the Christmas spirit.

Another Christmas tree story: Martin Luther was wandering through the forest one evening and noted how the stars sparkled through the limbs of an evergreen, thus appearing as though the tree was bejeweled with light. Inspired by the sight he cut down the small fir tree, took it home, and decorated it with small candles so that he could share it with his children.

Enjoy the holiday season! And to all of you a very good 2013!

—Gertrud



MEMBER INTERVIEW:

Claus Greiner

1. Can you tell us a little about your background. Where have you lived and worked? **German Elementary and High School, and afterward an apprenticeship for 3 ½ yearsm which included more schooling. After becoming eligible to continue school, I did so to get a “Meister Brief”. Some years later I went back to school again and took Engineering classes. Except Spaichingen (our German Hometown) we have lived in Winnipeg, Canada, Jackson, MS.**

2. How and when did you happen to join GAST? **It was in 1983 when I was transferred from Jackson MS to Tulsa.**

3. Are you first generation Americans? **Yes, we were the first members of our family to come to the US.**

4. Are you German on both sides of your family? **Oh. yes. My father was Production Manager in a company in Spaichingen. My mother was not working during that time. Recreation at that time was very minimal: movie theater, some travel, etc.**

5. Where in Germany did you come from and how did you happen to emigrate? **I grew up in Spaichingen. In 1979 I got a job offer to work with Hilti in the US. I started off in Jackson, MS and I was transferred to the Hilti plant in Tulsa where I worked until I retired. I was Production Manager at Hilti for 16 years.**

6. Tell me about your family, children, grandchildren, if any, and where do they live? **We have one Daughter and 6 grandchildren. They all live in Broken Arrow.**

7. Do you ever attend the Movie Night at the GAST center, and if so, do you enjoy seeing the German language cinema? **No. We were never much interested in the movies.**

8. What language do you and your wife speak together? **We still speak German if nobody is around.**

9. Do you have a hobby, or a favorite activity that would be a surprise to other members? **Well, I do have some hobbies. I enjoy photography, videos, travel, playing piano, but nothing that would surprise anyone.**

...from the Building President



The recent remodeling of our building is almost completed. The entryways and most of the downstairs have been tiled. The entire building has been professionally cleaned.

These projects have brought to light just how many events and activities our GAST center hosts. On the office calendar we have 4 weekly meetings, 5 monthly events, 6 monthly committee meetings, 1 quarterly event, 3 biannual events, 10 annual events, and one time parties. (See Events Calendar on Page 5) Plus several events not meeting in the building. This year we will host 34 outside paid rentals, in kind users (i.e. Poster Party), and numerous Arts events. Our building is also used as a Tulsa County Precinct Voting Place.

Most of these require set up sessions and all require oversight and lock up procedures. It takes many dedicated and hard working volunteer members (and Bev) to keep all this running smoothly. We are thankful to all who contribute their time and effort.

~ Elam

Newsletter DEADLINE

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



GAST SÄNGER News

On Sunday November 11 at 7:30 P.M. the GAST Sänger presented a short Christmas concert at Sears at 21st and Yale to help the store open its season of pre-holiday sales. The audience was quite appreciative.

For the first time in several years, the Sänger participated in the opening ceremony of Oktoberfest by singing with the Blaskapelle. The choir is now preparing music for the GAST Christmas party on the 8th of December and the Deutschen Adventsgottesdienst service which is coming up in December as well.

The singers are happy to welcome a new member, Megan Ford. Ms. Ford is a member of Margarete McNac's advanced German class and has spent a semester studying and traveling in Germany. The choir is always delighted to accept new members, and encourages anyone to join who enjoys beautiful German music. To do that, just come to practice at 7pm on any Thursday, excepting holidays, at the GAST center.

Betty Donohue

Kids' World 2012

The German tables were laid out with all the accessories a German School kid needs: (mostly from the collections of **Barbara Conrad**, **Jutta Tankersley**, **Arnold Bieber** and GAST) Schultuete to start the first day of school, satchel, books, study and lesson plans, a few play things like a VW beetle toy car. There were boards with German and English words and phrases on it so that the students could test their knowledge of these two Germanic languages. The maps of Germany were of particular interest to the adult visitors, who often tried to find the city or town of their ancestors or

trace the route these folks had to take to get to a sea port. For the younger crowd the collecting of "Visas" for their "Passport" was the most exciting and important accomplishment.

Jeff Mosburg did a great job staffing our booth with students and members so that all visitors could be attended to. A big THANK YOU to all you volunteers.

Gertrud Schmidt



Leserbriefe

KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY December 16

Members! Please note the annual Kids Christmas party will be at the GAST Center on Sunday, December 16, from 2:00-4:00pm with lots of food and games! 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

GAST NEEDS EVENT HOSTS

The German American Society Building Corp. rents the hall for many kinds of events. When we do this we are covering many expenses for upkeep etc. on the buildings. However, when we do this we need your HELP. We ask that you help by volunteering to HOST while these events are taking place. The REASON: to make sure everything is running smoothly and that the building doesn't get trashed. That is basically it... It's not a hard thing to do and can be very rewarding. It's also a good time to read that book or just have family time, social time, play games and so forth. PLEASE call the office and VOLUNTEER at 918-744-6997. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE

THANK YOU OKTOBERFEST VOLUNTEERS!

To all the wonderful Oktoberfest volunteers, especially our Volunteer Coordinator Jennifer Kearns-Samples, thank you, thank you, thank you! Many of you gave up vacations and family time to prepare for and work during the festival to make it one of the best and most successful Oktoberfests ever. The weather was great, the crowds were hungry, and you were there to fulfill their needs. Because of you, GAST will be able to continue its programs and to pay for some needed renovations to our beautiful building. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Erica Hartman and Arnold Bieber
GAST Oktoberfest Co-Chairs

ANNUAL GAST GARAGE SALE IN MARCH

An early reminder that in March we will hold our annual GAST garage sale. In addition to being one of our major fund-raisers, it is a wonderful opportunity to clean out your closets and other storage spaces from clothes that no longer fit or are no longer in style and any other items that are just taking up space.

Barbara Conrad

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



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

Scheduled events at GAST

Weekly meeting

Blaskapella Practice—Mondays
Handarbeit—Tuesdays
Dance Practice—Wednesday
Choir Practice—Thursday

Monthly events

Movie Night—1st Monday
Stammtisch—1st Friday
Library Hours—MWF
Weinkellerabend—4th Friday
High School Youth Group—Mondays

Monthly Committee meetings

Board meeting—2nd Wednesday
Executive committee—2nd Wednesday
Arts C & E committees—2nd Wednesday
Operating committee—Tuesday before Board
Finance committee—Wednesday before Board
Party committee—when needed

Now Playing at the Erwin Jerchau GAST Theater

Monday December 3, Starting at 6:30 PM
Alpenstar Weihnacht



Starting at 7:30 PM

Lauras Wunschzettel

Starring: Christine Neubauer,
Francis Fulton Smith,
Nadia Tiller and Walter Giller.



The Sunshine Lady



No Sympathy/Get Well cards were sent out in November. Our members seemed to have been enjoying good health

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

Convention Of Tauroggen

December 30, 1812

Two hundred years ago this month, Generalleutnant Ludwig Yorck von Wartenburg, a Prussian military officer took a bold and defiant step to wrest Germany from Napoleonic control. In 1812 Prussia, and most of the German states, were members of a forced alliance with France, and under the Treaty of Tilsit, Prussia was obligated to support Napoleon in his invasion of Russia. Many Prussians officers had left the army or defected to Russia to avoid this hated service,



Ludwig Yorck von Wartenburg

perhaps most prominent of them, Carl von Clausewitz.

But after Napoleon's defeat before Moscow and with French forces in retreat before the Russian army, Yorck, finding himself and his army isolated before the armies of Russian General Hans Karl von Diebitsch, was torn between his duty under the French alliance, to attempt a breakthrough and to retreat with the French, and his patriotic desire to seize the historic opportunity to force a break with the gallic empire. He chose the latter, meeting with Diebitsch on December 30th in the small town of Tauroggen (now, Taurage, Lithuania) and signing a truce, for which he had no authority from and provided no advance notice to the King of Prussia. The act electrified the Prussian people and the German states, and resulted before long in the *Treaty of Kalisch* in which Prussia allied itself now with Russia to throw off the Napoleonic yoke.



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GAST

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

*Stan & Barbara
 Conrad*



494-0649

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

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Die Konversationsrunde

Annual Christmas Konversationsrunde
December 16, 3:00 pm
 At the home of Ortwin und Gertrud Schmidt
 5133 East 86th Place 918 495 3727

Let's celebrate the Christmas season! Bring your favorite Christmas story or song. We will read the old familiar stories and sing songs we remember so well.

As usual there will be some Christmas cheer, coffee, tea and goodies to enjoy.

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

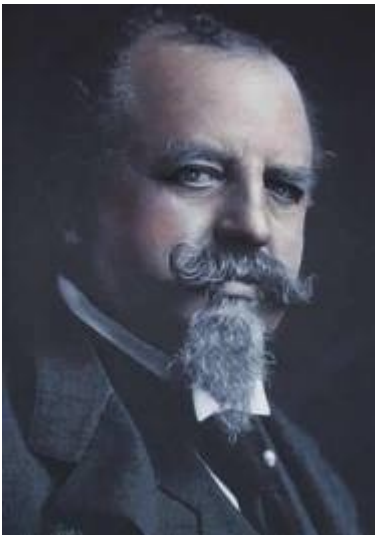
Friday, Dec 7
 6:30 PM
 in the GAST Weinkeller.
 Hope to see you there.
 Zum Wohl,
 – Dann Björklund, Chair

New Members

Jim and Pat Lubas
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Kenneth Nolte
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Jim Reib
Tulsa, Oklahoma



Who am I?

Hint: a brewer

Email your answer to:
davidalanforbes@gmail.com



Answer to "Where Am I?"
 in the November issue:

The Pinakothek der Moderne building, an art museum in Munich. It was designed by Stephan Braunfels, a German architect and was constructed over seven years from 1995 to 2002. The museum is part of the Neue Pinakothek and Alte Pinakothek museums.

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



Das Deutsche Echo

December 2012

Volume 33

Issue 12

The Voice of the German-American Community



Christkindlmarkt - 2012

November 30 through December 2

Christkindl and St. Nikolaus will be waiting for you at the 2012 GAST Christkindlmarkt. Reminiscent of traditional German Christmas markets, GAST will be featuring craft items, holiday foods, entertainment and delectable German food and treats.

The fair is open from 10:00 to 7:00 on Friday, November 30, 10:00 to 5:00 on Saturday, December 1 and noon to 5:00 on Sunday, December 2

Patrons will meet many of our former vendors as well as some wonderful new ones. As always, the Nutty Bavarian will have delightful spiced nuts. And one lucky visitor will win a beautiful, handmade quilt.

To fill your tummy, you can purchase schnitzel, wurst, gulasch, apfelstrudel, stollen and other traditional German foods.

Free admission so bring your family and friends and begin your holiday season with this wonderful, timeless German tradition—a delight for children of all ages!

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