



Das Deutsche Echo

January 2013

Volume 34

Issue 1

The Voice of the German-American Community



Guten Rutsch in's Neue Jahr

Upcoming GAST Events

Dec 28	Weinkeller 2013	Jan 8	Handarbeitsgruppe	Feb 1	Stammtisch	Feb 12	German Language	Mar 4	Movie Night
Jan 4	Stammtisch	Jan 15	Handarbeitsgruppe	Feb 2	Kinderdeutsch	Feb 12	Handarbeitsgruppe	Mar 5	Handarbeitsgruppe
Jan 7	Movie Night	Jan 22	Handarbeitsgruppe	Feb 4	Movie Night	Feb 22	Weinkeller	Mar 12	Handarbeitsgruppe
	Jan 19 Anniversary Party	Jan 23	GAST Folkdancers	Feb 5	Handarbeitsgruppe	Feb 19	Handarbeitsgruppe	Mar 19	Handarbeitsgruppe
		Jan 25	Weinkeller		Feb 9 Fasching Party	Feb 26	Handarbeitsgruppe	Mar 22	Weinkeller
		Jan 29	Handarbeitsgruppe			Mar 1	Stammtisch	Mar 26	Handarbeitsgruppe



...from the GAST President — Leon Boggs

Merry Christmas! It is hard to believe that it is already that time again. The cold weather is helping me get in the spirit of the season. Now we just need some snow – NO ICE!!

All things point to a very successful Christkindlmarkt. Initial figures look very good. Thanks to co-chairs **Carol Wright** and **Arnold Bieber** for a job well done in organizing this event. Also many thanks to all the volunteers for their hard work. This is one of three fund raisers GAST has to earn all the money we operate on for the year. Without each of you helping we would be in serious trouble in keeping our organization alive and well.

We just had a wonderful Christmas Party. Thanks to **Erica Hartman** and her party crew for organizing an excellent dinner of cooked-on-site steak with all the trimmings and great entertainment by the Mike Bennett Band. Our GAST Saengers also provided us some great Christmas carols – both in German and English, and we thank them for hosting this party.

We will soon be moving into the time of year when we will be looking for folks to serve on the Board of Directors and as officers of our organization. Again, it takes people to step up and volunteer to serve to lead this organization. If you are interested in serving, contact Georg Ort. If you are contacted and asked to serve, please consider it. We are at an exciting time in the life of GAST and you can be part of leading it forward.

I want to wish each of you a very blessed and peaceful Christmas and a great New Year. Hope Santa brings you what you want!! See you at the Anniversary Party in January.

—Leon

...from the Arts President — Gertrud Schmidt

It sure looks as though the Mayans - or the people translating of the Mayan predictions - got it all wrong. The world is still turning on its axis, the sun didn't self destruct, a black hole didn't swallow us up and a meteorite flew by our earth without even shaking the dry leaves on our oak trees. So we just keep on going. Or as Will Rogers put it: "We got a new year, let's make the most of it."

Looking back we can say 2012 was a good year for the German American Society as a whole and the Arts Association in particular. Here is a recap and preview of some of the ARTS activities: The Language Classes were well attended in spring and fall and we hope to have another group of eager learners when classes start up again on Tuesday, February 12, 2013, for the adult classes and Saturday, February 2 for Kinderdeutsch. A big THANK YOU to all the organizers, teachers and helpers.

The garage sale went very well in March of this year and brought in much needed and appreciated revenue. In March of 2013 (precise date to be determined) we will be ready for more donations and shoppers at the GASAA garage sale organized again by our tireless Barbara Conrad and her hardworking team. To all: "Vielen Dank".

In May the German American Society Arts Association put on a Spring Concert using Music-Voice students from OU who charmed us with well known melodies from Austrian/German/Hungarian operettas. Arnold Bieber is trying to get a commitment from the Barthelmes Conservatory for a performance. It sure would shoo away the winter doldrums.

The Theater Organ Society treated us to the annual very enjoyable, no cost concert in August using GAST's wonderful Geneva organ and we certainly hope for an encore in August.

Speakers for the German American Day and Volkstrauertag emphasized the need for cooperation among nations and work towards peace which the small but committed audiences enthusiastically applauded.

In the midst of the hassle of the Christmas season the Advent Service at the GAST Center provided a welcome reprieve from the media and business generated hype and hectic. The choir and congregation sang the traditional Christmas Songs, members **Doris Wicks**, **Arnold Bieber** and **Barbara Conrad** read the story of the birth of Christ and the Reverend Christian Tiewes spoke of the transformation of the baby in the manger to the savior of man.

The last get together of the year for the Konversationsrunde took place at the Schmidt Haus. The readings and stories by **T. Storm**, **J.Y. Eichendorff**, **R.M. Rilke** and others as well as singing the familiar Christmas Songs brought back memories of times gone by – the good ones which we treasure and the bad ones which we weathered – and therefore all these memories make us look forward with confidence to 2013.

As above: "Make the best of the NEW YEAR". Come and join us at the many events that GAST and GASAA put on. Enjoy and make a commitment to your organization.

—Gertrud



MEMBER INTERVIEW:**Erica Hartman**

You and Neil have been married how long? 56 years. We were married in Linz, Austria, in 1956.

Any family? Oh, yes! Three married children, two grandchildren, and two great grand children, fortunately all living in the Tulsa area, except our granddaughter who is married to a serviceman stationed at Fort Bragg, NC.

What is your background, and Neil's? I'm a metallurgist. I worked for several oil companies and also for Heat Exchanger Manufacturing here in the U.S. In Europe, I worked for the European Exchange System. After Neil retired from the U.S. Army he completed his education as an aeronautical engineer. He has a passion for flying, which is one of the reasons we settled in Tulsa. Neil made me learn how to fly so I would lose the fear of the unknown, and also so I could fly the airplane if something would happen to him when we are up in the air.

You're Austrian? Yes, I am an only child and come from a small family. My Dad died when I was 7 years old. He had been in the Dachau concentration camp. All of my relatives still are in Austria.

What about Neil? He's from Scranton, Pennsylvania. His great grandfather was from the Netherlands and entered through Staten Island.

Do you speak German privately? Both Neil and I do speak German. And our children do as well, thanks to my mother—they spent full summers with her in Austria and they were forced to learn German and to speak it as she spoke very little English.

Do you read in German or watch German movies? I read very little in English or German, but I enjoy the German-language movies at GAST Movie Night. I recommend that very highly.

You've been a GAST member how long? A long time—I joined GAST at their second meeting. I just felt that I needed to belong to a German-speaking group and help keep up some of the culture and traditions.

You're an indefatigable volunteer. When I get involved in something I give 100%. I do get overwhelmed at times but when someone says the dinner was good or I see people enjoying the food and festivals—and GAST benefits—that is reward enough for me.

Anniversary Party

Saturday, January 19, 2013

At the GAST Center

Doors open at 5:30pm—Dinner at 6pm

Menu:

Roasted Rosemary Pork Loin w/ red wine mushroom sauce

Served on a bed of red cabbage

Fresh spinach salad

Roasted red potatoes

Roasted zucchini, yellow squash, & cherry tomatoes

Dinner rolls w/ herbed butter

Warm Bavarian chocolate cake w/ caramel sauce

Anniversary Cake

Coffee, Iced Tea and Water

Entertainment: THE G-NOTES

Admission: Dinner and Dance \$ 20 per person

Dance Only \$ 10 per person

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

Call 918-744-6997 by 2pm on Wed, Jan 16TH

Erica Hartman

the Party Committee

Newsletter DEADLINE

January 16 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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Leon Boggs, President

David Forbes, Editor: 918-770-1743

Editor E-mail address: davidalanforbes@gmail.com

GAST e-mail: gast@tulsacoxmail.com

GAST Web page <http://www.gastulsa.org>

Message Center - 918-744-6997

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Christkindlmarkt has another successful year !

The 14th Annual Christkindlmarkt was again a success thanks to the many volunteers who worked tirelessly to “make it happen”. The good weather provided additional help for our success. Despite a questionable economy preliminary reports indicate that it was even more successful than last year.



While our GAST Café, Backerei and Laden provided the majority of the income the 23 other vendors were an asset to the overall success of the Markt. They were pleased with being a part of our Markt and several have already asked to return next year.

To those of you who have volunteered in the past or would like to have been involved but were not contacted for this year, please do not feel that you would not have been welcome or needed. Please step forward and make yourselves known. There were several areas in which additional volunteers would have been appreciated.

It is nice that so many of our volunteers have been involved for several years and can proceed in their area with minor direction. But, please keep in mind that we need some new (and younger) volunteers to step in as apprentices. Those who have been



there for many years are not still there because “no one can fill their shoes” but because no one has stepped forward to try.

It is difficult to start giving individual “Thank You’s” because there is always someone deserving who is left off of the list. You know who you are. Therefore, Arnold and I want to thank EVERYONE who had any part in this worthwhile endeavor including those who attended only to enjoy the food, shopping and atmosphere of our traditional German Christkindlmarkt.

Carol Wright and Arnold Bieber
Co-Chairs, Christkindlmarkt.



Leserbriefe

GAST FOLKDANCERS RESUME PRACTICE

Come Dance the Winter Blues Away! The GAST Folk Dancers are planning to resume practice sessions (weather permitting) on Wednesdays. January 23, 2013. 7pm till 9pm in the Weinkeller will be our first session of the season. New Dancers always welcome, no partner required, no charge to participate. Come join the Fun, Fellowship and exercise of German Folkdancing.

For further information contact
Carol Wright 918 299-2839 or
d.c.w@cox.net

ANNUAL GAST GARAGE SALE TO BE HELD 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

FASCHING PARTY IN FEBRUARY

February 9th
6:00 to 10:00pm
Costume Contest

3 Course Dinner with Dance Music
Don't miss this fun evening.

Your hosts
The Elferrat

GAST STILL NEEDS EVENT HOSTS

We are still looking for a few volunteers to host events taking place in the GAST Hall. Easy duty, bring a book, and socialize a little with some others in the hall.

Call the office at 918-744-6997

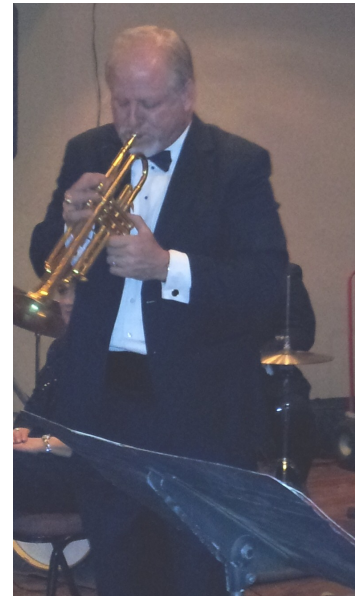
Communications from members are welcome and should be sent to
davidalanforbes@gmail.com

Christmas Party



**December 8, 2012
Dinner and Dance**

A good turnout for the annual Christmas party, a catered affair with grilled rib-eye steaks and baked potatoes. The food was wonderful, the decorations festive, and the Mike Bennett Band with the sultry voice of Sharon Moguin had members on their feet. A beautiful evening.



The Sunshine Lady

We sent out a get well card to **Gwen Beiber** who is recovering from surgery, and to **Neil Hartman** who is at home recovering well after a routine heart procedure. We wish both a speedy and full recovery, and hope all members had a great Christmas and are looking forward to a wonderful New Year!

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 Erwin Jerchau GAST Theater

Monday January 7, Starting at 6:30 PM

Andreas Fulterer and Band
Mein Weg

Starting at 7:30pm

Im weissen Rössl
Starring Peter Alexander
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Adrian Hofen
Werner Finck and
Fritjot Vierock





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

*Stan & Barbara
 Conrad*



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

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Die Konversationsrunde

The first Konversationsrunde of 2013 will take place on Sunday, January 13, at 3:00 pm at the GAST Office 1429 Terrace Drive. Ingeborg Mueller will talk about 'The winding path to America: Reflections of an interesting life'. There will be refreshments and plenty of time to chat and reminisce.

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.

GERMAN EXCHANGE STUDENT SEEKS HOST FAMILY

Submitted by John Rogers

Bob Behrent lives with his family in Klötze, Germany... about 40 miles East of Celle. His father, Carsten, is a linguist/interpreter by vocation... typically translating documents in and out of German, English, Czech and Russian... or serving as an interpreter. He also serves as a city councilor and plays on Klötze's volleyball team. His mother, Andrea, is a teacher... primarily middle-school ethics, music & German in the Klötze school system. He has a sister, Rica, who is 12 years old.

Bob attends an accelerated school, plays soccer, plays the violin and has a weakness for video games. Carsten & Bob have completed the 450-mile Oklahoma FreeWheel bicycle ride, and the entire family has hiked to the top of Pike's Peak and into the Grand Canyon. Last month, Bob scored "Excellent" on the English standardized exam for prospective exchange students.

Bob mentioned his interest in becoming an exchange student when he & I first met in Klötze, during my second trip there in 2010. His first trip to America was in 07/2011, when the Behrend family visited us in Tulsa. Carsten & Bob returned once since (for FreeWheel 2012). During that visit, Bob, Carsten & I met with one of the principals at Jenks School and were given a tour of their facilities.

My wife & I have explained to Bob and his folks that we would be pleased to work toward Bob's becoming an exchange student in Tulsa. I also explained my desire that my wife and I not serve as Bob's primary host family... I am 63 yrs old/young, and Bob's interests would be better served by his living with a host family having a school-aged student of similar age. My wife & I would like to serve as Bob's secondary & secondary home here would alleviate a number of concerns. He would be welcome to stay with us days, nights, weekends and weeks if such would allow his primary host family peace of mind, and private times and travels. We also carry the confidence of his parents, should medical or legal decisions need to be discussed and made.

Any interested persons should communicate to the Echo editor at davidalanforbes@gmail.com or to me at jrogers@samson.com, and jrogers123@msn.com with questions or suggestions to my cell at (918) 625-5305.

John Rogers



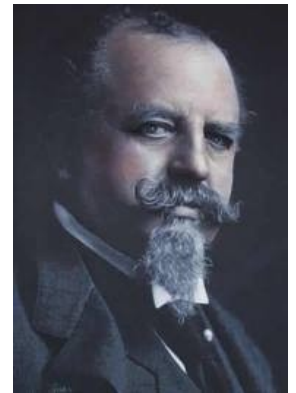
Stammtischrunde

Friday, Jan 4
6:30 PM
in the GAST Weinkeller.
Hope to see you there.
Zum Wohl,

– Dann Björklund, Chair

New Members

*There were no new members
admitted during December*



Answer to "Who Am I?"
in the December issue:

Frederick Pabst

(28 Mar 1836 – 1 Jan 1904)

a German-American brewer who
founded the Pabst Brewing Company

Tom Bordner was the first correct
respondent. Congratulations!

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HANDARBEITSGRUPPE RAFFLE

The Handarbeitsgruppe finishes the year with great success. The quilt raffle brought in over \$1200 at Christkindlmarkt. The lucky winning ticket was held by Bruce and Michaela Marriner. Below is the winning couple and the quilters that spent many hours making this years beautiful quilt, which is called a log cabin pattern. If you are interested in sewing, knitting, crochet etc., come join us. We meet every Tuesday in the office from 10am. to 2pm..Bring your lunch and your work, or just come

and check us out for a visit. The Handarbeitsgruppe wishes all of you Frohe Weihnachten and ein gesundes neues Jahr. Merry Christmas to all!



Handarbeitsgruppe, from left to right: Elke Meyer, Ruth Bly, Irmgard Toschik, Helga Roepel. With the winners, Bruce and Michaela Marriner, center.

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