



The Voice of the German-American Community

Children's Easter Party



Saturday—March 30
Noon til 2:00pm
Lawn of the GAST Center

Easter Egg Hunt
with refreshments served on the grounds!



Annual



March 22 and 23

It is time again for spring clean up! Here is your chance to make room in your closet and help the German American Society Arts Association with a tax-deductible donation of any serviceable item that no longer fits, is out of style, or hasn't been used in years. Somebody will appreciate being able to buy your electronics, furniture, kitchen utensils, clothes, pictures or books at a bargain price. Everything we don't sell will be donated to the Salvation Army.

Bring your items to the GAST Center on Wednesday, March 20, between 10am and 3pm. If you need someone to pick up your donation, please call or email Arnold Bieber before that date at (918) 357-9156, aobieber@aol.com.

We will need volunteers to sort and price on Thursday, March 21, 9am to 5pm and assist during the sale, Friday, March 22, 9am to 5pm, and Saturday, March 23, 9am to 3pm. If you can volunteer, please call Barbara Conrad at (918) 492-3273.

Upcoming GAST Events

Mar 1	Stammtisch	Mar 22-23	Garage Sale	Apr 5	Stammtisch	Apr 30	Handarbeitsgruppe	May 14	Handarbeitsgruppe
Mar 4	Movie Night	Mar 26	Handarbeitsgruppe	Apr 9	Handarbeitsgruppe	May 3—5	Germanfest	May 21	Handarbeitsgruppe
Mar 5	Handarbeitsgruppe	Mar 30	Children's Easter Party	Apr 14	Membership Mtg	May 3	Stammtisch	May 28	Handarbeitsgruppe
Mar 12	Handarbeitsgruppe	Apr 1	Movie Night	Apr 16	Handarbeitsgruppe	May 6	Movie Night	May 31	Weinkeller
Mar 19	Handarbeitsgruppe	Apr 2	Handarbeitsgruppe	Apr 23	Handarbeitsgruppe	May 7	Handarbeitsgruppe	Jun 3	Movie Night
Mar 22	Weinkeller			April 26	Weinkeller			Jun 7	Stammisch



...from the GAST President — Leon Boggs

I am writing this on Valentine's Day, and am hoping each of you are thinking of, and thanking that special person in your life. We've all been blessed with someone special - let him or her know it each day!

We recently enjoyed a very fine Fasching Party. We thank the Elferratt and the Party Committee for jointly sponsoring this event. It appeared everyone had a good time and lots of fun. The Blaskapelle did an excellent job of providing us a wide variety of music for the evening - thanks to all of you. The Elferratt is making an effort to re-organize itself and determine its future.

We also enjoyed an excellent Anniversary Party. It was especially good to honor two of our members, **Neil Hartman** and **Erwin Jerchau**, for outstanding service to our organization. It was also great to honor the winners of the Youth Essay Contest with award checks for their achievement (winners shown on page 8). We welcomed the students and their families as our guests that night. Many thanks to **Angela Novak** for organizing this contest.

At the Board of Directors Meeting on the 13th of February the Board decided not to pursue the reorganization of the 3 GAST organizations into 1 or 2. The easiest possibility would have been to combine the Building corporation into GAST and leave Arts and the Endowment as they are. It would have taken work to re-write by-laws and work through all the changes necessary. Because GAST funds the Building it made sense both for financial and record keeping purposes. Nevertheless the Board decided against the initiative, and it will not be presented to the membership for consideration. I thank those involved for their work in getting legal opinions concerning this.

Germanfest planning is well under way and Stephen Schneider, chair, and his committee will be looking for volunteers to staff the fund raising festival. SAY YES WHEN CALLED!

The Nominating Committee is seeking folks to run for office and directorships. Please consider serving if you are called. This is your organization - you are needed - so step up and help lead - volunteer at festivals - or any other way you can - to keep us alive and well. Other German societies are closing up shop; we do not want to join them

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2013 - 3:00 PM IN THE GREAT HALL. Make sure your dues are paid by March 1 so you are qualified to vote!

Thanks to all of you as members for all you do for this great organization.

— Leon

...from the Arts President — Gertrud Schmidt

How dependent are we on the internet? Very, very much! An Internet outage for three days made me realize how our mode of communication has changed since the advent of the Internet. There are some pessimists who predict, that by 2050 more than 50% of languages spoken today will disappear in favor of the English and Mandarin languages which are favored by Internet users. According to Wikipedia there are about 6900 languages spoken in the world today, not counting dialects. Depending on whose data are being used, Mandarin - spoken by approximately 935 million people- is in first place. It supposedly is also one of the most difficult languages to learn. English with about 305 million speakers moved up to second place, followed by Hindi, Arabic and Spanish. German came in as number 10 with about 92 million people using German as their primary language. Does that include our 66 adults and 6 children who under the tutelage of **Sindy Andrews, Carols Masters, Grete McNaq, Melanie Roberson, Anja Ritchie** and **Angelique Giddings** hope to acquire enough German language skills to have a chat with friends or family here or over in the old country?

It is thought that sign language was the mode of communication when the genus Homo appeared about 2.5 million years ago on this earth and that it wasn't until Homo sapiens made his debut - about 100,000 years ago- that language came into use as a way of sharing information. Writing developed about three to four thousand years ago and it was the main pathway to transmit information to posterity until the Information Technology age came upon us. Society appears to be at crossroads: Internet, texting, twitter, Face-book have taken over books and letters and face to face personal exchanges. Blessing or curse - it's here and we should optimize its potential of speed and potential for far and wide dissemination of information but minimize the negative impact it has on social competence and aggression.

The GAST Dancers and **Arnold Bieber** certainly did their part of communicating German culture in person to the students and visitors at Rogers High School (story on page 7) and GASAA will do so again at TCC Metro Global Fest.

A small group made it to the Gilcrease Museum for a walk through the Edgar Payne exhibition and enjoyed exploring the Ancient America and Native America aka 'Enduring Spirit' exhibits. The next Konversationsrunde will meet at the GAST office on March 10, 2013 to hear **Arnold Bieber** talk about the 1920's inflation era in Germany.

We hope to have a firm date from the Barthelmes Conservatory for a Spring Concert. Young aspiring musicians will share with us what they have been working on so very hard during this semester.

As is almost tradition the ATOS group will again delight us on the third Saturday in August.

And don't forget the garage sale on March 22-23. We can use any help we can get. Barbara Conrad who recharged her batteries on a cruise around New Zealand will be delighted to hear from you.

And so would I.

—Gertrud



From Die Bierstube

As many of you may have noticed, there is a new face behind the bar. With the new year, GAST has a new Bar Committee chair. **Ed Westenhiser** has passed the reigns to **Loyd Samples** – and no, Ed's not going away any time soon! The work that **George Starch** and Ed have done over the past years has provided a rock solid foundation for us to build on.

As the year progresses, we hope to add some new things to our bar that will make it more enjoyable and more accessible than ever before.

First, we need to build a great bar staff, and for that WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!! You don't have to be 21 years of age to be an important part of our bar staff. We need assistants to help out at dinners and parties who only need to be 18. I promise you that you will not be stuck washing glasses. We also need staff behind the bar. You have to be 21 to be back there, but we don't mind one bit if you're 85 either! I understand that many established members have been soured on volunteering and I guarantee that I am NOT a business as usual kind of guy and we are not playing those games. In the GAST bar we celebrate one Germany, old and new together – we go oompa-oompa-oompa AND oontz-oontz-oontz! This is a great place to get to know all the members and there are many other rewards. Our job is to make people happy and we have a great place and product to do that with – all that is missing is you.

Email loydsamples@cox.net or call the GAST office and leave your name with Beverly: 918-744-6997. Come join us, you are wanted and needed at GAST.



Leserbriefe

Edgar Payne Exhibition at Gilcrease Museum

Tulsa has a real treasure only a 5 minute drive from downtown on the Sand Springs Expressway. Turn north onto Gilcrease Road, a couple of miles later and you are at Gilcrease Museum, containing oilman Thomas Gilcrease's extensive collection of paintings and sculptures of the American West and thousands of artifacts from excavations in North, Central and South America. The University of Tulsa has managed the museum since 2008.

GASAA President Gertrud Schmidt is a volunteer docent at the Gilcrease Museum. She regularly gives tours in English or German for visiting groups from all over the world. On February 10 she volunteered to be our Konversationsgruppe guide to explain each of the many paintings of the Edgar Payne Exhibition "The Scenic Journey" currently on display at the Gilcrease Museum in German. Great job, thank you, Gertrud.

Jutta Tankersley, Uschi Mueller,
Patricia McLaurin and Arnold Bieber.

Thanks to Board of Directors for Award

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for selecting me to receive the Directors Award. This is a great honor, and I appreciate it very much. I am hoping that my health will improve so I can be more active in the organizations once again,

Neil Hartman

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

NewsLetter DEADLINE March 20 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.

Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde

The Konversationsrunde will meet on Sunday, March 10, 2013 at 3pm at the GAST Office 1429 Terrace Drive. Arnold Bieber will talk about the 1920's inflation era in Germany. Refreshments will be served and there will be ample 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 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 Gertrud Schmidt at 918 495 3727 (Co-chair).

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Fasching 2013

The Fasching Party Costume Contest always makes this a well attended event each year and 2013 was no different. Guests enjoyed a complete dinner with entertainment including dance music by the GAST Blaskapelle. How fortunate we are to have our own band play for us!

The Giant Pretzel was baked by **Irmgard Toschik** and won by Ken Nolte, a guest of Elke Meyer, who found one of our mustard-filled Berliners.

The Costume Judges this year were Art and Linda Paul and Pack and Marcia Miracle. They selected the following contestants as costume winners this year:

Best Looking Female: Doris Wicks (Cigarette Girl)

Best Looking Male: Don Wright (Sergeant Major)

Best Looking Couple: Kenneth & Patricia McLaurin (Hippies)

Funniest Female: Carol Wright (Milka Cow)

Funniest Male: Hubie Pollock (Russian Officer)

Funniest Couple: (Christy Bradley and Robin Bacchus (Ravens))

Judge's Choice: Harold Wicks (Cowboy)

Knee Dance Contest Winners: Hubie Pollock and Rene Wagenblatt



Thank you members and Blaskapelle The Elferrat, Harold Wicks, Chair



Clockwise, starting at left: (i) Prisoners, Uschi Mueller and Adelheid "Heidi" Eichhaus-Pitzer; (ii) Hippies, Patricia and Kenneth McLaurin; (iii) "Milka" Cow, Carol Wright; Giant Pretzel maker Irmgard Toschik with winner: Ken Nolte



Elferrat Chair Harold Wicks, getting a little help with the microphone from Leon.



Angry Birds: Teresa and John Gallagher



Don Wright awards "Funniest Couple" to Christy Bradley and Robin Bacchus.



Hubie Pollock and Leon Boggs offer their knees to dancers Rene Wagenblatt and Doris Wicks

Story courtesy of Harold Wicks
Photographs courtesy of Arnold Bieber



Now Playing at the Erwin Jerchau
GAST Theater

Monday March 4, starting at 6:30 PM

Flott in den Tag

Das Musikmagazin

Starting at 7:30 PM

Eine Prinzessin zum Verlieben

Starring: Mariel Baumeister, Rene Steinke,
 Thomas Fritsch, and Gudrun Landgrebe



Member Interview

Gertrud and Ortwin Schmidt



Well, first, can you tell us about your family? Ortwin and I were married almost 48 years ago in Santa Ana, California. No kids...therefore...no grand kids, but we have nieces, nephews and godchildren in this country, in Germany, Austria and Swizerland, so lots of family!

Was your education here in the U.S.? Yes, both Ortwin and I got a BS in Microbiology from the U.C. (Long Beach), then moved to Seattle where he got his PhD in Virology at the Univ. of Washington and I earned a Masters in Laboratory Medicine.

How did you end up in Tulsa? Ortwin came here in 1985 to take a job with the Osteopathic College, later part of OSU. It was Stan Conrad who interviewed him for that job at a meeting in Las Vegas. I stayed on at the University of Washington where I was in charge of the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory (aka infectious disease Laboratory!) I also was a consultant for the Rainier School for handicapped children and the Seattle Tissue Bank. But in 1994 I took early retirement and joined Ortwin in Tulsa.

Can you tell us where you both emigrated from and what gave you the impetus to leave home? Ortwin was born and raised in Bad Windsheim, Franken, which is near the famous medieval town of Rothenburg and came to the USA in 1960 to study. He was promptly drafted and spent two years in the American Armyof all places, in Germany. I was born in Braunau, Austria, which is about 35 miles from Salzburg. I finished Realschule in Burghausen, Bavaria, studied Chemistry in Munich and worked for a short time in Petrochemistry for Hoechst Chemical Company in Frankfurt, Hoechst. I decided to take a year off to see the United States. My sponsors lived in Newport Beach, California, so that is where I started out. Working as a chemist in a clinical lab (Hoag Memorial Hospital), I became acquainted with Microbiology.... the rest is history. Ortwin and I met while taking evening classes at U.C. (Long Beach) and that is history as well! Ortwin came to California because his only sister married a GI and was living in Long Beach at that time. During our study and working years we went back to Germany and Austria every two to three years and since our retirement we go annually. Of course relatives came and visited as well and it gave us great pleasure to show off some of the places we enjoyed, particularly the National Parks! Both Ortwin and I enjoy the out-doors and did a lot of hiking in the Cascades and Olympic Mountains of Washington State.

Do you still read German books, watch German language cinema, or is it strictly English now? Well, for many years we had a subscription to the Spiegel (a sort of News Week) but discontinued it last year since most of the info is on the net. I love history.. so my favorite American Author is James Michener. Just recently I read Richard Powers "*The Time of our Singing*" and Siddharta Mukherjee's "*The Emperor of all Maladies*". (A history of Cancer) both books in English. The last German book I read was Marcel Reich-Ranicki's "*Mein Leben*". Since I am History Buff I became a member and docent of the Gillies,- the volunteer group at the Gilcrease Museum. We aren't movie goers. Occasionally Ortwin taps into ZDF or ORF and we watch some of their shows. We both love Opera and orchestral music and are members of the Tulsa Opera Guild.

And you have been members of GAST for how long? We joined GAST in 1996 with the Conrad's as sponsors. Initially we were mainly involved with the Konversationsrunde. Barbara Conrad, Gwen and Arnold Bieber persuaded me to take the position of president for Arts and that's where I am since July, 2011.

What changes would you like to see in GAST if any? Well, society as a whole is at a crossroads. Personal get-togethers are not that important to the younger crowd, they prefer to twitter and facebook, etc. Maybe we have to make a greater effort to show them how important meetings with living, breathing persons are and get them away from the "virtual world" and back into the real one.

GAST

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

Rick & Terry Pizzo

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GAST Folkdancers Appear at Culture Fair

Will Rogers College, Junior High and High School hosted a World-Wide Cultural Fair from 6-8pm on Tuesday the 12th of February with key participation by the GAST Folk Dancers, within the Europe unit. There was "A Taste of World Cultures" in food prepared by Sodexo with tasty samplings from Asia, Africa, Europe, South America and North America.

The Students and Faculty had prepared displays of the culture from these continents. These were complimented with exhibits by various community ethnic and cultural organizations. **Arnold Bieber** presented the exhibit from GAST to represent Germany.



The GAST Folkdancers were received well by a very attentive group of students, parents and faculty. We also received some inquiries about joining our group. Remember, new dancers may join at any time during our dancing season. A dance partner is not necessary. Come join us and have fun.

Please contact Carol Wright for more information.

Story courtesy of Carol Wright; photo courtesy of Tina Pena, Rogers H.S

Stammtischrunde

Friday, Mar 1

6:30 PM

in the GAST Weinkeller.

Hope to see you there.

Zum Wohl,

– Dann Björklund, Chair

New Members

David & Gabriele Gonzales
Jenks, OK

Linda & Roger Marshall
Tulsa, OK

Jennifer Murray
Tulsa, OK

Roy & Tina Still
Broken Arrow, OK

Reinstated Members

Bruce & Deborah Jordan
Tulsa, OK

Who am I?



This famous American entrepreneur was born in 1881 in Detroit to a German father who had settled there in 1872 and who had prospered as a timber baron. At the age of 35 he founded Pacific Aero Products in Seattle which company was later eponymously renamed. After World War II, he visited his father's hometown of Hohenlimburg (now part of Hagen, in Westphalia) where some family members still live. But it is difficult to research the family, ironically, because bombers built by this individual destroyed the town's vital statistics records during the war.

Answers should be sent to davidalanforbes@gmail.com



Answer to "What am I" in the February issue: The Hundertwasserhaus "Waldspirale" or Forest Spiral building in Darmstadt, Germany. Designed by the Austrian artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser (1928—2000), it contains 105 apartments, a parking garage and a kiosk, café and bar at the top of the spiral, just visible at left.

Ruth Obermark was the first correct respondent. Congratulations!

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



Das Deutsche Echo

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Volume 34

Issue 3

The Voice of the German-American Community

GAST Essay Contest Winners Announced

German American Society of Tulsa
Secondary School and Post-Secondary School
Essay Contest Fall 2012

Essay Topic: The edition of *Kinder- und Haus-Märchen* celebrates its 200th anniversary this year. *Using Kinder- und Haus-Märchen* as your primary source, compose an essay using one (or several) of the following prompts as your focus. Remember to develop your main idea and then use the text, examples, and personal experiences to support your ideas and opinions.

- What importance did the Brothers Grimms' travels have on the publishing of the collection and the German language today?
- How have the Grimms' collection of fairy tales influenced your life?
- What impact has the vast collection of stories collected by the Brothers Grimm made on the American culture?
- Elaborate on a tale from the Grimms' collection of significance to you.
- Identify the version with which you are familiar and compare to the original for adaptations that may have been made.

The Results of the 2012 GAST Essay Contest:

1st Place **Holly Harper** Bixby High School
 2nd Place **Zach Gray** Bixby Middle School
 3rd Place **Sean Young** Bixby High School
 Honorable Mention **Kenner Wignall** Bixby H.S.



Left to right: Zach Gray, Holly Harper, Angela Novak (seated), Kenner Wignall, and Sean Young

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