



Membership Meeting

Apr 14 - 3pm

The GAST annual membership meeting will be held in the Great Hall at 3pm on the 14th of April, at which the Officers and Boards of Directors will be selected for the upcoming year for the three Corporations including GAST, the GAST Building Corporation and the GAST Arts Association. This membership meeting is only held once a year and a quorum of members is needed. GAST needs your participation and your vote. All members whose dues are paid should plan to attend!



The Annual Germanfest celebration will be held in the Great Hall and grounds May 3 through 5, 2013, with authentic German entertainment by the GAST choir, Folk Dancers and the Blaskapelle, together with outstanding Polka bands, traditional food and drink, activities for the children and fun for the whole family. The 2013 GAST May Queen will be crowned. This is one of GAST's biggest fundraisers of the year and is only successful if everyone participates. When you are called to volunteer, say "YES". Better yet. Call the number below today, and let us know you can help.

May 3	Friday	10am—9pm
May 4	Saturday	10am—9pm
May 5	Sunday	Noon—5pm

Volunteers are needed. Call 918-744-6997 to sign up!

Upcoming GAST Events

Mar 30 Children's Easter Party	Apr 14 Membership Mtg	May 3—5 Germanfest	May 28 Handarbeitsgruppe	Jun 28 Weinkeller
Apr 2 Movie Night	Apr 16 Handarbeitsgruppe	May 6 Movie Night	May 31 Weinkeller	Jul 1 Movie Night
Apr 2 Handarbeitsgruppe	Apr 23 Handarbeitsgruppe	May 7 Handarbeitsgruppe	Jun 3 Movie Night	Jul 5 Stammtisch
Apr 5 Stammtisch	April 26 Weinkeller	May 14 Handarbeitsgruppe	Jun 7 Stammrisch	Aug 2 Stammtisch
Apr 9 Handarbeitsgruppe	Apr 30 Handarbeitsgruppe	May 21 Handarbeitsgruppe	Jun 9 GAST Picnic	Aug 4 Ice Cream Social
	May 3 Stammtisch			



...from the GAST President — Leon Boggs

Spring is happening! Flowers are starting to bloom, grass is getting green, it is warming up and we lost an hour of sleep from having to "spring" forward. Life marches on and all is good.

Spring also means it is time for 'Germanfest"! It is right around the corner and Stephen Schneider and his committee are hard at work getting all the details worked out. One of the biggest jobs is getting volunteers to work this festival. **THAT MEANS WE NEED YOU!!** Remember this is one of our major fund raisers and we must all work together to keep this organization financially sound and afloat. So when you are contacted, please say YES! -- I can help!

Another very important event coming up is the GAST Annual Membership meeting. It will be held on Sunday, April 14 at 3:00 PM in the Great Hall. We must have a quorum of 12% of our membership to conduct business. One of the major items of business is the election of officers and directors. You will also get a re-cap of the past year, a look ahead and can ask questions and give us your thoughts and ideas. **THIS IS YOUR ORGANIZATION - WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU TO KNOW WHAT YOU WANT IT TO BE.** Do your part and attend. Thanks to Georg Ort and his Nominating Committee for their hard work in getting willing souls to serve.

We are also already looking ahead to Oktoberfest and they are starting their planning. As we hear from them, we will see how we can again 'plug' in with them.

I want to thank all the current Directors and officers for their hard work. Again, let us hear your thoughts and ideas for GAST. We will listen and discuss and see what we can do with any and all thoughts and ideas.

— Leon

...from the Arts President — Gertrud Schmidt

Spring forward! That was the command to start daylight Savings time on March 10th. But Spring officially starts in the Northern Hemisphere with the equinox and that was March 20th this year. From that day forward the days get longer and the nights shorter until the summer solstice June 21st. In many ancient cultures the spring equinox was celebrated by worshipping the sun god and planting the seeds for a good harvest later in the year. I do feel invigorated by sunlight and I hope all of you also benefit from the longer and sunny days. Let us make good use of the extra sunlight and energy and do something constructive and productive for family, friends, organizations and our country.



In spite of predictions of inclement weather **Arnold Bieber** and **Richard Jagel** represented GAST at the annual Global Fest at TCC on February 20th. And the indefatigable Arnold gave a presentation to 62 second graders at the Owasso Mills Elementary School on March 6. Well done and thank you very much. P.S. Speakers bureau is still looking for speakers!

By the time this newsletter goes to press the GGS (GAST Garage Sale) will be in full swing and I want to thank all of you who lent a hand and in particular **Barbara Conrad** for organizing this big money maker for ARTS. The last session of Kinderdeutsch will be on March 30th. The little students have worked hard to memorize the vocabulary and they say 'bitte' and 'danke' very nicely when they receive cookies and juice after a hard lesson with their teacher **Angelique Giddings**. Certainly they will enjoy the GAST Easter Bunny Party as an encore to their last German language lecture. Now exactly where and when Easter celebrations started is not clear however in the

Continued on page 3, column 2

Leserbriefe

Thank you to Donna and Leon

The Party Committee, on behalf of the entire membership, would like to express thanks to Donna and Leon Boggs for donating the wonderful cake balls at the Anniversary Party.

The Party Committee
Erica Hartman

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

Editorial

Time For Obligatory Volunteering?

If there is a continuing theme in the concerns voiced every month by our President, Leon Boggs, as well as by other Board members, committee chairs, and long-time members, it is that there doesn't seem to be a younger generation coming forward to take their places alongside the veterans, that volunteers are hard to attract among new members, and that in every committee, and for every festival, the same few people show up to do the work. That ten percent of the members do ninety percent of the work may be true in any organization, not only in GAST, and that may not be all bad—if everyone wanted to work every festival the organization would be swamped with people, although some members would probably love to see that happen for a change.

GAST membership provides benefits, far beyond the language classes, festivals, parties, and the society and celebration of our common heritage with some really nice people. Perhaps membership should entail a greater obligation than just to pay dues annually. If the survival of the organization requires more shoulders to the wheel, perhaps membership should have a covenant of minimum participation every year to the benefit of the organization. One shift of volunteer work at one festival or event. If any member fails to meet that minimum obligation in, say, two consecutive years, the member is dropped. Better yet: double the dues, but credit half back to every member who volunteered for one festival or event the preceding year. Too much record keeping? Well, that's what computers are for. Worst case scenario, our dues income would rise, volunteering would mushroom, and some of the veterans could take a break.

David Forbes, Editor

(continued from page 2)

Christian world it is celebrated on the first Sunday after a full moon (March 27th this year) after the spring equinox.

The adult language classes hit a high in numbers this term with 75 eager learners. I am told they are all excited and look forward to continuing lessons this fall. Great job **Ruth Obermark, Sindy Andrews, Carol Masters, Melanie Roberson, Grete McNac** and **Anja Ritchie**. The Barthelmes Concert is now confirmed to take place on May 19th. The next Echo will have more detail.

And just as I was writing this note C. Craft from the American Theater Organ Society called to confirm their plans for the annual concert in the GAST Center Great Hall on August 16, 2013. We will need hostesses for both these concerts - so please step up and help.

Arnold Bieber certainly made us content with the time we live in when he told us about the inflation time after WW I and showed us paper money with denominations in the millions and billions which barely bought a loaf of bread in 1923.

A few interesting concert possibilities are being explored. So stay tuned!

—Gertrud

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

April 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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GAST Garage Sale - Mar 22 and 23



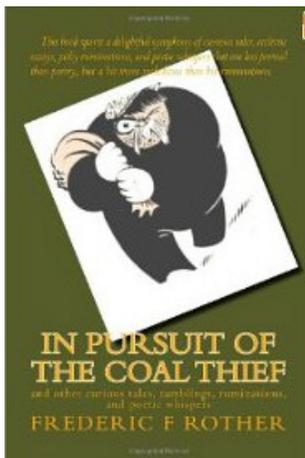
While this publication is on its way to the printer, the annual GAST Garage Sale, one of the primary fundraisers for the GAST Arts Association, is well underway. This fundraiser regularly generates upwards of \$2,000 for GASTAA with little overhead since the event is held in the Great Hall without cost. Arnold Bieber estimated that the revenue might be a little less this year, as there seemed to be fewer larger items with higher price tags such as furniture and electronics. But, he said, the turnout had been very good; there were more than 30 people in line at the door when the Hall opened at 8:30am on Friday, and Bev Bordner indicated that the parking lot was packed most of the morning.

The Garage Sale is normally scheduled in March because of availability of the Hall—the last thing the Arts Association wants to do is oust a paying renter and cost the Building Corporation a

rental fee. The Garage Sale is normally scheduled a little later in March, but this year that would have interfered with the Children's Easter Party.

According to Arnold Bieber much of the remaining items would be marked down substantially for Saturday, and anything not sold would be donated to charity.

Left, Gertrud Schmidt and Irmgard Toschik at the check-out counter, doing a brisk business.



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE GAST LIBRARY

“In Pursuit of the Coal Thief”

By Frederic Rother

Fred Rother, who with the help of his wife, Irene, edited this newsletter for many years, has recently produced his first published work, a small volume consisting of a fun mix of poetry, short essays, personal reminiscences and satirical musings on every imaginable topic. The writing is brisk and personal, often quixotic and farcical alternately probing odd notions that occurred to him while brushing his teeth or mowing the lawn and revealing serious glimpses of his family's history in the turmoil of postwar Germany. The style could perhaps be described as P. J. O'Rourke channeling Andy Rooney.

Rother was born in eastern Germany in what is now western Poland, and some of his most poignant stories reveal his childhood years during the second World War in Nazi Germany and afterward. After the war he and his family were forcibly relocated to western Germany, along with millions of other Germans, and the story of that and his emigration to the United States in 1949 are very moving from a childhood perspective.

The title of the book doesn't become known until 90 pages in with the short historical essay “The Hunt for Kohlenklau” describing the Nazi program during the war to encourage public support for eliminating all energy waste by turning off lights, shutting off heat in unused rooms and avoiding unnecessary power use. Specifically to frighten the children into support of this program the Nazi authorities created a hobgoblin, the “Kohlenklau” or coal thief, and plastered his image all over Germany. To this day, Rother admits he instinctively turns off lights or powers off devices when exiting a room.

The book can be obtained from Amazon.com and is very reasonably priced at \$12.95



Now Playing at the Erwin Jerchau
GAST Theater

Monday April 1, starting at 7:00 PM
 (Please note different starting time)

Die Flucht

Part 1 and part 2

Starring: Maria Furtwagler, Jean-Yves Bertflood,
 Tonio Arango, Juergen Hentsch Schmeide
 and Angela Winkler



Member Interview

Charles O. Meyers, Jr.

Echo: Well my first question is your ancestry. Unlike some of the long-time members you don't have an accent. **Meyers:** No, I do have some German ancestors, though, who came to America before the Civil War. From East Prussia. But my parents' families come from West Texas.

Echo: So, how did you end up in Tulsa? **Meyers:** Well my parents both attended Texas Tech University in Lubbock, and after college my father worked for Phillips Petroleum Company for 12 years. I was eight years old at the time we moved to Tulsa from Bartlesville when my father went to work for National Tank Company (C-E Natco). He was a chemical engineer and designed natural gas processing equipment. After his retirement we worked together in the oil and gas industry.

Echo: Are you retired now? **Meyers:** Well, I'm pretty busy, but when people ask me if I am retired, I usually tell them I am just trying not to let work interfere with my hobbies.

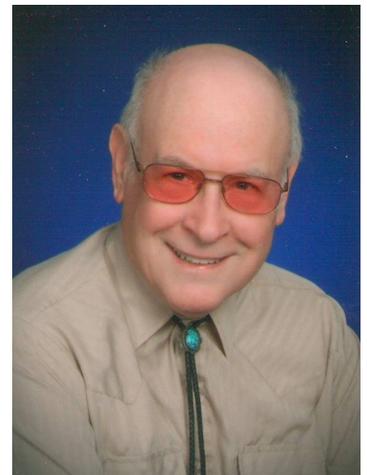
Echo: Which are? **Meyers:** Trout fishing, preferably in Colorado; and I like to read—mostly history and historical fiction.

Echo: So what do you do when you're not reading or in Colorado trout fishing? **Meyers:** Among other things, I'm pretty busy with GAST. I have served as Second Vice President of the GAST Arts Association and have just accepted an invitation to be nominated for GASTAA First Vice President. And I am a Trustee of the GAST Endowment Fund. I am also a member of the Tulsa City-County Library Commission, the University of Tulsa Heritage Committee, the Gilcrease Museum National Board, and a Trustee of the Charles and Marion Weber Foundation.

Echo: What is your family situation? **Meyers:** I have never married and have no siblings. I have lived in the same house for 60 years.

Echo: So all your schooling was here in Tulsa too then? **Meyers:** Yes, I graduated from Edison High School and attended the University of Tulsa (B.S.) My military service was here too—I was a member of the Oklahoma Air National Guard in the 60's and early 70's.

Echo: How did you happen to get started at GAST? **Meyers:** Oh, I had attended several events with GAST member Charles Weber. After my parents passed away about 5 years ago I had time to join and did.



GAST

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Rick & Terry Pizzo

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Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde

On March 10th Arnold Bieber treated us to a fascinating historical insight into the inflation era after WW I in Germany. There was paper money in the millions and billions in denominations and money printed by cities and counties because the federal bank could not keep up with the rapidly changing demands. Barbara also shared some of her collections. Frankly those numbers were simply mind boggling.

There were good discussions afterwards and the wonderful refreshments were enjoyed by all.

The next Konversationsrunde will meet on Sunday April 21, 2013 at 3:00 pm at Stan and Barbara Conrad's house who live 7837 S 70th E Ave. Tulsa 74133 Tel. 918 492 3273.

Barbara will tell us all about Amber and I am sure will show us some of her Amber treasures. There will be refreshments and plenty of time to chat.

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).

Stammtischrunde

Friday, Mar 1

6:30 PM

in the GAST Weinkeller.

Hope to see you there.

Zum Wohl,

—Dann Björklund, Chair

New Members

Doug Brown
Tulsa, OK

Kevin Miller
Claremore, OK

Debbie & Stephen
Clary
Tulsa, OK

David Parker
Broken Arrow, OK

Herta DuVal
Tulsa, OK

Gary Patton
Tulsa, OK

David Fetgatter
Tulsa, OK

Glenn Plum
Tulsa, OK

Bob Millr &
Gary Harris
Tulsa, OK

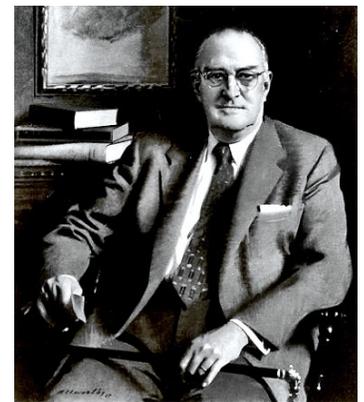
Dave Puskas
Tulsa, OK

Where am I?



One of the most stunning of the natural wonders of Germany can be found here. Among some of the beauty found here are sandstone needles, beech forests and mesa-like mountains. Wildlife seen here ranges from fire salamanders, dippers and otters in the gorges and valley floors and in the pinewoods look out for the Eurasian Pygmy-owl, the smallest owl in Europe. Rarely, will anyone find, in any natural wonders in the world, a better place to climb than here with over 1000 sandstone towers which climbers can conquer via 14,000 climbing routes.

Answers should be sent to davidalanforbes@gmail.com



Answer to **“Who am I”** in the March issue: **William Boeing**
Tom Bordner was the first correct respondent. **Congratulations!**
Tony Jury was the first correct respondent –online edition.

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



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