



# Das Deutsche Echo

August 2013

Volume 34

Issue 8

*The Voice of the German-American Community*

## Ice

Sunday, August 4, 2013  
3:00 - 5:00pm  
at the GAST Center.

## Cream

We will have plenty of ice cream and other goodies  
and fun for the whole family  
with Fergie the Bear on hand to entertain the kids.

## Social

Doors will open at 2:30 pm  
No Charge for admission but donations will be accepted.  
See you there!

*The Party Committee*

*Reservations by Wednesday July 31st!*

# American Theater Organ Society Concert

**Friday, August 16, GAST Center  
7:00pm**

The program is ATOS 'Variety Music Night' with music from the GAST Geneva Pipe Organ and a variety of music played by many different instruments. The GAST Blaskapelle Band will also be featured, and will perform a debut "Eubie Blake" piano piece called "Chevy Chase" composed and arranged by Bill Rowland, an ATOS and GAST member, and two-time winner of the Scott Joplin International Ragtime Composition Award.



## Upcoming GAST Events

Jul 30	Handarbeitsgruppe	<b>Aug 16</b>	Sep 6	Stammtisch	Oct 7	Movie Night	<b>Nov 10</b>
Aug 2	Stammtisch	<b>ATOS Concert</b>	Sep 8	Konversationsrunde	Oct 13	Celle Concert	<b>Harp Concert</b>
	<b>Aug 4</b>	Aug 20	Sep 14	Adult language	Oct 25	Weinkeller	<b>Nov 17</b>
	<b>Ice Cream Social</b>	\Aug 27	Sep 17	Kinderdeutsch	Nov 1	Stammtisch	<b>Volkstrauertag</b>
Aug 6	Handarbeitsgruppe	Aug 30	Sep 27	Weinkeller	<b>Nov 2</b>	<b>Oktoberfest Party</b>	<b>Dec '4</b>
Aug 13	Handarbeitsgruppe	Sep 2	Oct 4	Stammtisch			<b>Christmas Party</b>
							<b>Dec 6</b>
							<b>Stammtisch</b>



## ...from the GAST President — Leon Boggs

Guten Tag!

Another month rolls by and the temperature climbs as does the price of gas! The summer sort of brings a slump in GAST activities, but that does not mean we are not busy. David Forbes, chair of the GAST Oktoberfest committee is already having meetings and getting us organized. We have once again sponsored the official Oktoberfest poster. Everyone needs to start thinking about how they can help. We will need all of you to step up and volunteer. This is our largest fund raiser. Remember, all of our fund raisers allow us to have our parties, dances, Weinkeller, Stammtisch and also help fund the costs of operating the building. David will be getting info out for pre-Oktoberfest work parties as well as volunteer opportunities at the festival. Please say YES - I WILL HELP!. Many thanks to David for taking on this challenge for us.

We are also busy getting ready for Christkindlemarkt. Arnold Bieber and Ed Anthis are co-chairing this event which is also another fund raiser. When they call for help - say YES! More will come on this event in the months to come.

Terry Pizzo is working on getting her party committee and planning the Ice Cream Social. Fergie Bear will be there! Thanks to Terry for accepting this position for GAST.

As GAST moves ahead, we need to know your wishes, dreams, desires for the organization. I continuer to hear criticism that folks do not like what we are doing, but I hear no ideas of what is wanted that they would like. QUESTION FOR ALL OF YOU: WHAT IS GAST FOR YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE? WHAT DO YOU WANT GAST TO BE DOING THAT YOU WOULD LIKE AND SUPPORT? This is YOUR organization. Help us. the Board of Directors that you elected to run it, do our job of representing you better. We MUST know what you want - let us hear from you. Attend a BOD meeting and talk to us. We will listen.

Have a great rest of the summer and stay cool.

— Leon

## ...from the Building President — Harold Wicks

The rental income for our building is below average for this year and we are not getting the revenue we anticipated when the budget was created last November. We have no rentals for July when we usually have three. August is slow also.

We are doing all that we can to minimize expenses during this time by not running the air conditioning unless it is necessary. Expenses will be kept as low as possible. Some beautification projects have been put on hold during this time of low income. The Bennett Law Co.that has been renting our office space will be moving August 10th. We are looking for a new occupant at this time. Our office space is ideal for three people. Please mention our vacancy to anyone you come in contact with. We will appreciate your help in finding a new tenant. We would sincerely appreciate your help with Hosting the building during a rental. Please volunteer by calling Bev in our office at 918 744 6997.

We are urgently looking for two volunteers from the membership, one to serve as committee chair for the Leasing Committee, and a second volunteer to serve as chair for the Operating Committee.

I will do my best to maintain our building and generate the income we most certainly need while I am building president.

Thank you for your support.

Harold Wicks



## ...from the Arts President — Gertrud Schmidt

Have you ever looked up the definition of *volunteer*? Here are the versions of Google and Webster:

“A person who voluntarily undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service without pay”.

“A person that actively takes on a task or project on his/her own accord without pay”.

Some years ago I came across an article by Bruce Raymond in the ‘Canadian Fundraiser’ which laid out the ‘**Ten Commandments of Volunteering**’. Here they are:

**Be a willing volunteer:** Once you have agreed to volunteer your time to a given cause or event, make sure that you not only give it willingly but also that you appear to others to have given willingly. Do not do or say anything that would indicate otherwise.

**Make your energy effective:** Don’t take on so much that you can’t do the job properly.

**Radiate enthusiasm** for what you are doing so that you will contribute in a positive way to the morale of other volunteers. If you can’t perform your volunteer task without grumbling how difficult the task is, the job is too big for you.

**Be loyal:** Give the same loyalty to your organization, its officers and your fellow volunteers as if your volunteer work was how you earned your living. Don’t bad mouth anyone ever.

**Don’t be an armchair General:** He hasn’t the right to criticize who hasn’t the heart to help. If one of your responsibilities is to assess the performance of others, remember to criticize in private; praise in public.

**Be generous:** Make the words “thank you” the most commonly used words in your vocabulary.

**Value the time of others:** Be punctual. Just because you volunteer doesn’t give you the right to keep others hanging about because you can’t organize yourself to be on time. Value other people’s time as you want your own time be valued.

**Don’t be a gossip:** Discourage fellow volunteers from imparting “secrets” to you that are damaging to other volunteers. Belong to no

cliques.

Never threaten to quit without actually quitting. A threat to quit is valueless the second time you utter it. You might become marked as the kind of insecure person who uses threats as a ploy to get his/her own way.

**Share your knowledge:** Above all, teach another volunteer as much about your job as you can, so that if anything happens to you the organization or the event is not left in the lurch.

The GAST organizations are blessed with volunteers who fulfill and live by these commandments. We need more of those dedicated people to continue in our quest to uphold and continue the German culture. So step up to the plate!

I hope to see many of you at the ATOS Concert on August 16, 2013 at 7:00 pm in the Great Hall of the GAST Center. It’s free and I assure you that you will enjoy the music and the delectable, delicious refreshments after the presentations.

Warm Greetings Gertrud

NewsLetter  
**DEADLINE**

**August 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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## Milwaukee Sangerfest

From June 20 through June 22, 2013, the Tulsa GAST Sanger participated in the Sixty-first Nationales Sangerfest held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This tradition started in 1849 in Cincinnati, Ohio with 5 choirs and 118 Sanger. In 1938 the Sangerfest reached its apex in terms of participants with 181 choirs and 5,882 voices. The 2013 meeting was composed of 62 choirs and about 1,100 Sanger.

The festival began with the customary Dammerschoppen or dinner and dancing in Old Heidelberg Park on Thursday evening and concluded with an ecumenical church service and farewell brunch, or Fruhschoppen, on Sunday morning. District concerts were presented on Friday evening at the Empfangskonzert and were followed by a dance and reception. The Hauptkonzert, which was held Saturday evening, was preceded by a lovely banquet and followed by another dance.

St. Louis District, of which the Tulsa Sanger are a part, presented a well-received program consisting of three songs: "Mein Schones Innsbruck am grunen Inn" sung by the women; "Rudesheimer Wein" sung by the men; and "Land der Traume" sung by all. The Hauptkonzert consisted of eighteen numbers including "Das macht die Berliner Luft," "Die Bremer Stadtmusikanten," and "Ade zur guten Nacht." Our audience was the largest in recent history, and each attendee seemed to enjoy the performances which were enhanced with a slide show of the places of origin of the various Lieder. All in all, the food was marvelous and the hotel accommodations were excellent. It was a well organized cultural event.

At present the Tulsa choir needs more singers, and people are encouraged to join. No musical experience is expected and it is not necessary to be fluent in German to participate; an understanding of German sounds is helpful, but not essential. The choir is very willing to teach beginners, and proper pronunciation is easy to learn. Anyone interested should call Betty Donohue at 918 485 2321. The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings during the school year, has social events, and presents concerts at various venues throughout the year. Singing in the German choir is a very enjoyable way to present German culture and traditions to the larger Tulsa community.

*Story and photo courtesy Arnold Bieber*

## Leserbriefe

### OKTOBERFEST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As noted in the President's report, page 2, planning for Oktoberfest is underway and we will be in need of every able bodied person who is willing to step up and volunteer for a shift. We will also need shift supervisors and those who have annually filled a role in one fashion or another to make the festival a success for GAST. Please call the GAST Office at (918) 744-6997, or email: [gast@tulsacoxmail.com](mailto:gast@tulsacoxmail.com) to indicate your availability. Of call or email me directly if you would like to help.

*David Forbes*  
Oktoberfest Committee  
[davidalanforbes@gmail.com](mailto:davidalanforbes@gmail.com)  
(918) 770-1743

*Communications from members are welcome  
and should be sent to  
[davidalanforbes@gmail.com](mailto:davidalanforbes@gmail.com)*



This page is sponsored by John Millar



# The GAST Blaskapelle

The German American Society of Tulsa is very fortunate to have not one but two excellent band directors. David Lawrence has directed the group since 2009, and for the last 18 months Lisa Lahmeyer has served as co-director, the two alternate playing with the band and directing. David plays the euphonium, or baritone, and Lisa plays the trumpet.

The Blaskapelle began with four players originally, but today numbers 38 members. The band plays at a wide variety of venues both within the City of Tulsa and beyond and remains an indispensable fixture in festivals and celebrations throughout the state, perhaps most notably at Oktoberfest. For the past five years, the Blaskapelle has played at the opening of Oktoberfest as well as at the ceremonial tapping of the first keg, and, of course, the band will be on hand for this year's celebration as well, performing with the GAST Saenger as well as the GAST Volkstanzgruppe. The three GAST musical organizations performed together for the first time last year and will repeat the performance in 2013, which in all probability will become a fixture and highlight of the celebration.

For Oktoberfest 2012, the Blaskapelle debuted a new song for the festival (see below) written and orchestrated by David Lawrence called *Oktoberfest in Tulsa*. It is, David explains, an "upbeat polka-style tune with lyrics extolling the virtues of Tulsa's famed Oktoberfest."

The Blaskapelle will be performing at the GAST Hall on August 16th at 7pm with the ATOS (see front page) in which members of the American Theater Organ Society and the Blaskapelle alternate playing different musical pieces. The Blaskapelle will be scheduling a Polka Dance night in September, date not set, and on October 3rd and 4th will play at the Jazz Hall of Fame, with Jazz Hall of Fame CEO Jason McIntosh planning some special events to commemorate German Unification Day and German American Day. The Blaskapelle plans a concert of German music on the 4th at the event with brats and a number of different German beers served.



The Blaskapelle is shown at left playing at the new Guthrie Green stage downtown on the 19th of May. At that performance, the band debuted David Lawrence's new arrangement of Woody Guthrie's *This Land is Your Land* in commemoration of the venue and Woody's birthday centennial.

*Story & photo courtesy David Lawrence*

## Oktoberfest in Tulsa

It's Oktoberfest in Tulsa, get ready for a wonderful ride,  
It's Oktoberfest in Tulsa, down by the river side.  
It's Oktoberfest in Tulsa, come just as you are,  
"Cause it's Oktoberfest in Tulsa, where everything is wunderbar!

And . . . you . . . can . . .  
Buy a pretzel piping hot, put some mustard on a brat.  
Get a stein or souvenir, drink a cold, dark German beer.  
Come and party day and night. Join us in gemutlichkeit!  
Now put a wiener on a bun, 'cause, wow, this party's just begun!

I love . . . we love . . .  
Oktoberfest in Tulsa, the greatest part of every year,  
It's Oktoberfest in Tulsa, join us for sausage and beer.  
It's Oktoberfest in Tulsa, drive down, or bike, or run.  
"Cause it's Oktoberfest in Tulsa, the festival that's second to none!

And . . . you . . . can . . .  
Eat a tasty wiener schnitzel, sing a song, or even whistle.  
Grab a big ol' tuba and join a German oompah band.  
[oompah oompah oompah pah, oompah oompah oom . . . pah!]  
Have somebody paint your face, or watch the Great Bier Barrel Race.  
Now go put on your leather pants, and let's all do the chicken dance!

I love . . . we love . . .  
Oktoberfest in Tulsa, the greatest part of every year,  
It's Oktoberfest in Tulsa, join us for the sausage and beer.  
It's Oktoberfest in Tulsa, the festival that's number one.  
Yes, it's Oktoberfest in Tulsa. Come on! Let's have some fun!

*Music and lyrics by David Lawrence*

# GAST

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

*Rick & Terry Pizzo*

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## Fall Language Classes Begin in September

GAST German language classes begin again on Tuesday nights in September for the fall 2013 session. The spring class session enrolled more than 70 students and there were more than 25 students in the unannounced summer session this year, which was held at the request of the students. The fall session is usually well attended and Ruth Obermark, who oversees the program, expects to have 15 or so students for each class of the four levels: Beginner I, with 2 classes; Beginner II; Intermediate; and Advanced.

The Beginner I class is generally big enough to divide. Sindy Andrew, who was born and raised in Stuttgart, has taught this class for 4 sessions. The class uses a textbook with audio CDs and supplements provided by Sindy. Doris Gallagher, a Berlin native with many years of teaching for GAST, will probably be teaching the second Beginner I class, unless she is needed elsewhere. This class is for “never-ever” students, in Ruth’s words, who have had no exposure at all to the German language. The Beginner II class is a follow-up class for those who have completed the Beginner I class or, perhaps, have taken German classes in school years ago but feel the need for refreshment with the basics. The class uses the same textbook as the first class and delves more deeply into the commonly used phrases and the proper grammar that is necessary. This class is taught by Carol Masters, a retired teacher with 43 years of teaching German at Edison High School in the Tulsa Public School system.

The teacher for the Intermediate class is Melanie Roberson, who, after teaching for 2 years in Germany on a Fulbright scholarship, has taught German for 27 years at

Broken Arrow High School. Ruth pointed out that she has a loyal following of repeat students who enroll each session to practice and learn more. The students’ skills are in place, but they may not feel comfortable about advancing to the next level. Melanie does a great job of providing extra study materials and making the class fun.

Grete McNac teaches the advanced class, which is basically conversational German. Grete is a native of Vienna, Austria, and she generally has a special topic for reading and discussion each week, during which she gently corrects or explains the grammar. Students also prepare reports to be discussed. Grete has many fun games to liven the lessons. Most of her students have continued to repeat her class, in some cases more than seven or ten years, as a means of keeping their language skills sharp.

The students have the flexibility of “placing” themselves in whichever class they feel is appropriate for them, with the option of moving from one class to another if they wish to experiment.

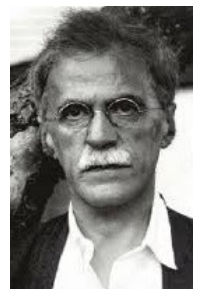
Adult Classes for those aged 16 and older begin on September 17, from 7 to 9 pm, (come 40 minutes early for registration) and continue every Tuesday for 10 weeks. The session always ends with a combined party the last hour of the 10<sup>th</sup> week where German food and wine is shared. Registration is \$65 for members and \$85 for non-members. The beginning book costs \$35. Anyone interested in more information may contact the GAST office or call Ruth at 918-245-1095.

Story courtesy of Ruth Obermark

## WHAT AM I?

A coalition of German states formed to manage tariffs and economic policies within their territories. The coalition came into existence on January 1, 1834 although it had been in development since 1818 with the creation of a variety of custom unions among the German states. By 1866 it included most of the German states and was the first instance in history in which independent states had consummated a full economic union without the simultaneous creation of a political federation or union.

Reply to: [davidalanforbes@gmail.com](mailto:davidalanforbes@gmail.com)



Answer to “Who am I” in the July 1 issue: **Alfred Stieglitz**  
The first correct respondent this month was: **Tom Bordner**  
Tied for second place were Gerwald Kohler, Mary Mueller,  
Teresa Wilber, Craig Sanford, and Doris Wicks

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The back page is sponsored by **Kenneth Renberg**



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## **Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde**

The next meeting of the Konversationsrunde will take place on September 8th at 3:00pm, with the location yet to be determined.

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, July 5

6:30 PM

in the GAST Weinkeller.

Hope to see you there.

Zum Wohl,

—Dann Björklund, Chair



## **The Sunshine Lady**

*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](mailto:marthaort@gmail.com) or tel 918-728-0103

—Martha Ort

## **New Members**

Juan and Rachel Hiraldo  
Tulsa, OK

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