



# Fasching 2014



Saturday, March 1

**GAST Center**

6:00pm to 10:00pm

Come one, come all to the Fasching Celebration! The fun starts at 6:00 p.m. and we will party until 10:00pm with music from our own Blaskapelle, games and the ever popular costume contest (so please dress up as your favorite character!)

**Admission—\$10.00 per person.**

The menu is still being finalized but will be something festive!

Please make your reservation with the GAST office by February 25  
Come and join the fun!

## Upcoming GAST Events

### 2014

- Feb 3 Movie Night
- Feb 4 Handarbeitsgruppe
- Feb 7 Stammtisch
- Feb 8 Kinderdeutsch
- Feb 9 Konversationsrunde
- Feb 11 Adult German Class
- Feb 11 Handarbeitsgruppe
- Feb 18 Handarbeitsgruppe
- Feb 25 Handarbeitsgruppe
- Feb 28 Weinkeller
- Mar 1 Fasching Party**
- Mar 3 Movie Night
- Mar 4 Handarbeitsgruppe
- Mar 7 Stammtisch
- Mar 11 Handarbeitsgruppe
- Mar 18 Handarbeitsgruppe
- Mar 25 Handarbeitsgruppe
- Mar 28 Weinkeller
- Apr 1 Handarbeitsgruppe
- Apr 4 Stammtisch
- Apr 7 Movie Night
- Apr 8 Handarbeitsgruppe
- Apr 15 Handarbeitsgruppe
- Apr 22 Handarbeitsgruppe
- Apr 25 Weinkeller
- Apr 27 Members Meeting
- Apr 29 Handarbeitsgruppe
- May 2 Stammtisch
- May 5 Movie Night
- May 6 Handarbeitsgruppe
- May 13 Handarbeitsgruppe
- May 20 Handarbeitsgruppe
- May 23 Weinkeller
- May 27 Handarbeitsgruppe
- Jun 2 Movie Night
- Jun 3 Handarbeitsgruppe
- Jun 6 Stammtisch
- Jun 10 Handarbeitsgruppe
- Jun 17 Handarbeitsgruppe
- Jun 24 Handarbeitsgruppe
- Jun 27 Weinkeller
- Jul 1 Handarbeitsgruppe
- Jul 4 Stammtisch
- Jul 7 Movie Night
- Jul 8 Handarbeitsgruppe



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

We are marching right along and already are well underway in the new year.

On a bright spot, despite initial estimates to the contrary, final numbers on Christkindlemarkt

show that we actually made a little money. Notwithstanding the bad weather, we saw a net profit of just over \$5500.00. Many thanks to all who worked so hard. It was not one of our better festivals, but that is the way things work sometimes. All three of our fund raising festivals in 2013 were plagued by bad weather which depressed attendance and lowered our income. I continue to tell the Board of Directors that we need to think "outside the box" and find new means to raise funds, within the limitations of our 501(c)(3) structure, means which do not depend on good weather. If you have thoughts or ideas along this line, please let me hear from you.

Our Germanfest committee is ready to get started, so be prepared to step up and do your part. Stephen Schneider will again be chairing that event.

By the time you read this we will have finished the celebration of our 34th Anniversary of GAST with our annual Anniversary Party. I hope all of you were able to come to celebrate. It was my privilege once again to present the Director's Award and President's Award. It is always very difficult to select these individual recipients as so many of the members do an outstanding job of helping us keep this great organization moving forward. The full story on that Anniversary Party will appear in the March 1 newsletter.

I can truly say I am a 'lame duck President' now. Due to term limits I will be out of office the end of this May. This brings to mind that the Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 27, 2014 at 3:00 PM. Put it on your calendar now and plan to attend. New officers and Board members will be elected and the Nominating Committee is already hard at work. If you are called upon to serve, please

consider it **Everyone must work together to keep GAST alive. To be eligible to vote, you must have your membership dues paid by March 1!**

Again, this is your organization. Let us hear your thoughts and ideas. See you at the Anniversary party.

— Leon

Newsletter  
**DEADLINE**

February 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.

### Das Deutsche Echo

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

The 'Neuer Pennsylvanischer Staatsbote' - the Newsletter of the German Society of Pennsylvania - landed in our mailbox around Christmas. The headline that caught my eye and sparked my interest was the announcement of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the German Society of Pennsylvania. Not many societies, clubs or organizations can celebrate a 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. How did they do it? Three cheers for the German Society of Pennsylvania.

One question I asked was: when did German immigrants first arrive in Oklahoma. Here is OK History 101: Oklahoma was a part of Louisiana Territory which belonged to France. In 1803 Jefferson bought it from Napoleon who was busy fighting wars in Europe and needed money. It was 'Unassigned Land' until 1830 when part of it became Indian Territory by the 1830 Removal Act. President Jackson started to relocate the Native American Tribes who - by treaty or force had lost their ancestral lands east of the Mississippi- to this "unsettled" Territory. Of course there were Native people living in this area. After 1834 there were 60 different tribes living in this land- not always peacefully. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century farmers and new immigrants hungered for land. The unassigned lands were opened to settlers in 1889 – the famous Oklahoma Land Run. And during this event German farmers and businessmen entered the state and made it their home. Because of the rush to stake out a claim families were scattered all over the territory and therefore initially no German communities were formed. There were 739 German- born residents in Oklahoma Territory in 1890. Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory merged to become the State of Oklahoma in 1907. At the first United States decennial census in 1910 27,599 residents are listed as German-born. By that time small German communities had been formed who established German language churches, schools, newspapers and social clubs. WWI was a difficult time for the Germans. They were forced to give up their native language and customs. A priest was thrown in jail because he administered the last

rites to a parishioner in German. During the next 30 years the German population in Oklahoma dropped to 5900. There was also a shift from farms to the cities - Oklahoma City and Tulsa in particular.

After WWII a new wave of immigrants arrived in the US from Germany and German nationalists from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Russia and Yugoslavia, and many settled in Oklahoma. These new arrivals were craftsmen, professionals and academics and German wives of American Service men . This led to a renewed interest in German culture and formation of Social Clubs, choirs and literary groups.

Which brings me to GAST! Who? When? Where? What? There are several names that are indelibly associated with the German American Society of Tulsa: Joe Hardt ( 1927-2009) who as a very young man came from Oberhausen to New York and then to Tulsa where he married Anneliese and worked for more than 30 years for Channel 2. When the River Parks Department mused about some Fall Festival for Tulsa it was Joe who suggested Oktoberfest... and he became known as Mr. Oktoberfest. Together with Siegfried and Dorothea Heit, John and Irmgard Toschik, Stan and Barbara Conrad, Ted and Ursula Castle and Ludwig and Rosie Obermaier and others, they formed GAST and incorporated this organization on January 22, 1980. So we are 34 years old! Do you think we will make it to 250? For tax reasons the ARTS section of GAST was incorporated January 12, 1981 and the business section aka GAST Building March 26 1986. Joe Hardt was GAST's first president and held that position for three years. Through the hard work of the members and the generosity of Dr. & Mrs. Barthelmes GAST was in a position to acquire the Church of Christ Scientist Building which now is our wonderful GAST Center.

The mission of all three parts of this organization is: "Preserve and promote the German language, culture, traditions and customs through educational and social events for the enrichment of its members and the community".

Come, help support your organization.

- Gertrud





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

We have had two parties interested in our office space, but so far no firm commitments.

We have a little more than 1000 square feet with three office spaces. The post office is next door and the Broken Arrow Expressway is only a block away. We are advertising on Craigslist and looking for other ways to get our property noticed. Any way that you can help would be very much appreciated.

Our Leasing Committee, chaired by Leon Boggs, is evaluating our current program and will have a number of suggestions for changes in our rental program in the near future, designed to increase our number of rentals through additional marketing, to streamline our rental program and to increase our profitability on each rental.

Our Operating Committee Chair, Arnold Bieber, is compiling a list of repairs and projects to be accomplished this year. Some repairs which have been recently completed are: Kitchen sink drain leak fixed, dolly under the chest type freezer painted as requested by the Health Dept., Kitchen cabinet latch replaced, broken bar window replaced, and floor of the Great Hall cleaned and recoated. And, of course, many other items get taken care of on a daily basis that do not get reported.

Would YOU Please donate four hours of your time to host a rental event in our building? We need the income from the rentals and we need your help to keep this program alive. For more information, Please call Bev in the office at (918) 744-6997. Office hours are 9 am to 3 pm Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

— Harold

## Interesting News from the Old Country



*The German defense ministry has issued new rules on soldiers' dress code. From now on "dirty" tattoos, ostentatious piercings and bushy beards have all been outlawed. The Bundeswehr's first update to the regulations in years dedicates a new section to "body modifications", also including implants, brandings, decorative scars and piercings inside the mouth cavity*

Ordinance A.26301.11, on the Appearance of Federal Troops" caught the eye of military blogger Thomas Wiegold - "something of a weathervane of army opinion" according to Der Spiegel magazine. The 200-plus comments from soldiers on his blog post outnumber those on more serious issues.

As well as the ban on mohawks and bushy beards, new rules on tattoos proved particularly controversial. They are permitted, but discriminatory, pornographic and unconstitutional" images must always be covered up when soldiers are in uniform. The rule applies even if they appear on the hands, neck or face - which, as the comments note, could prove difficult.

Tubular piercings in the mouth must be removed, and those in ears must be covered with "fleshtone material". Magnetic implants are forbidden altogether.

It is not clear how the army intends to implement the regulations, but the Der Spiegel expects more guidelines to follow soon.

*News item courtesy BBC News and Radio—Voice of Russia. Photo courtesy "The Local"*

## **Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde**

A big 'Danke Schoen' to Helga Greiner for hosting the first Konversationsrunde of the new year 2014 and sharing with us a wonderful and very personal story of a friendship spanning three Continents and many years. A mask made by Helga's Japanese friend is a daily reminder of a wonderful friendship.

Ursula Andress will be our speaker for the Konversationsrunde February 9, 2014. Ursula will share with us her experiences as a Hospice worker. We will meet at the Schmidt house: 5133 East 86 place Tulsa at 3:00 pm

**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 one of our meetings please call:**

## **Stammtischrunde**

Friday, February 7, 2014  
6:30 PM

in the GAST Weinkeller.  
Hope to see you there.  
Zum Wohl,

—Dann Björklund, Chair

## **New Members**

Diana & Julie Beaulieu  
Tulsa, OK

Harvey & Betty Diez  
Tulsa, OK

Art & Linda Paul  
Tulsa, OK



Join our weekly Conversational German language classes, beginning on Tuesday, **February 11**, at 7 PM. Enrollment starts at 6:00 PM. The 10-week course is still only \$65 for members and \$85 for non-members. Lesson books and CDs are \$35.

We also offer Kinderdeutsch for children from 4 to 12 years old on Saturday mornings, 10 - 11:30 AM, starting **February 8**. The 8-week course includes German phrases, songs and folk dances. Each session ends with a video, juice and cookies. \$20 for members, \$35 for non-members, \$5 discount for additional children from the same family.



It's never too early to think 'GARAGE SALE' for GAST. The annual garage sale is one of our major fundraisers. As you put away the summer clothes and yard gadgets, plan to rearrange your furniture or remodel your home remember that GAST-ARTS will be happy to accept your usable discards! This is an opportunity for you to clear out some closets and free up some storage space.

# GAST

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

*Rick & Terry Pizzo*

If you are in need of an ATTORNEY in the Oklahoma City Metro Area, you may contact **CHARLES J. BYRD** at NECCO & BYRD, P.C. We are a law firm with over 80 years of combined experience.

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Now Playing at the Erwin Jerchau

# GAST Theater



Monday February 3, starting at 6:30 PM  
Melodienreigen der Volksmusik

Starting at 7:30 PM

## Wenn die Musik spielt am Woerthersee

Starring Vivi Back, Klaus Biederstaedt, Grete Weiser,  
Hubert v. Meyerinck and Margite Scherr

## What am I?



## The Sunshine Lady—Martha Ort

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

This Frankfurt skyscraper earned the “Best Tall Building in the World—2011” award by the Council of Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat. The building uses about half of the energy of a typical European office building and less than a third of the average U.S. office building..

Reply to:  
[davidalanforbes@gmail.com](mailto:davidalanforbes@gmail.com)  
subj: What Am I?



Answer to “Who am I” in the January 1 issue:  
**George Armstrong Custer**  
The first correct respondent was **Lance Larry**  
And there were 14 other correct respondents!

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# Das Deutsche Echo

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*The Voice of the German-American Community*



## Siegi's Sausage Factory

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