



35th Anniversary Party!

Saturday, January 17

At the GAST Center

Doors open at 5:30pm - Dinner at 6:00pm

Catered dinner with entertainment, to be announced

Admission:

Dinner and Dance: \$20.00

Dance Only \$10.00

Reservations are required!

Call 918-744-6997 by 2pm on Wednesday, January 14

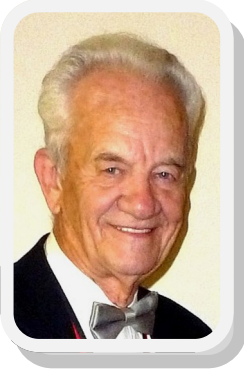
Leon Boggs

Party Committee

JANUARY 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
					Stammtisch	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	GAST Theater	Handarbeit				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Konversa'runde		Handarbeit				Anniversary Party
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		Handarbeit			Weinkellerabend	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Youth Movie	Handarbeit				Kinderdeutsch

...from the GAST President — Arnold Bieber



The days between Christmas Day and New Year’s Eve are a time to relax and reflect, but also to look forward and make plans for the future. Some of us will make New Year’s resolutions, to be a better person, to be more organized, to finish the projects started last year or to start and finish some new ones. Some of us will make serious life changing decisions such as changing jobs, move to another city or reevaluate a relationship. Soon the New Year will be upon us with new problems and challenges. Resolutions will be forgotten or postponed. Nothing has changed. Or has it?

Well, some changes are gradual and some hit you like a ton of bricks. Most changes at GAST happened over a period of years. We have become a mature organization. Some will say complacent. It’s not as exciting as when we worked hard to acquire a building of our own. Then it took more money and a lot of hard work to fix it up to fit our needs. It still requires work to maintain it, but it is not as exciting as it was when it needed major repairs.

Currently, our rental income does not cover the cost of keeping the Office staffed, plus maintenance, repair, utilities and insurance on the building. Most of the money that GAST makes through fund raisers like Germanfest, Oktoberfest and Christkindlmarkt goes to keep the building bills paid. If the fundraisers fall short because of weather or lack of volunteers, we have to dip into the savings accumulated when times were better.

Last year the GAST Board voted to increase the membership fees to \$30 for individuals and \$50 for family memberships as of January 1, 2015. No one seems to remember when the fees were last raised, but the subject came up several times during previous Board meeting and received no support or was voted down. This time the Board agreed that the GAST membership fees were much lower than similar organizations and were woefully short of covering the cost of fulfilling our cultural mission. Please remember that dues must be paid by March 1, in order to be able to vote at the April general membership meeting.

I sincerely appreciate all the work by the Committee and volunteers to make Christkindlmarkt 2014 one of the best in recent years. Yes, the weather had a lot to do with it, but without the enthusiasm of our vendors and volunteers it would be just another Christmas shopping stop. We offer so much more for young and old alike.

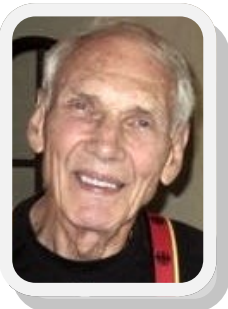
Jutta Tankersley’s puppet show, the Children’s activity room manned by John and Teresa Gallagher and Barbara Conrad’s Bethlehem village were some of the highlights of the weekend. St. Nikolaus (Ed Westenhiser), Christkindl (Lachelle Toschik) (above) and our official greeters, Buddy and Joy Butcher, welcomed the crowds, handed out programs, posed for pictures and gave directions. Ruth Bly and Ginny Greek ran a very efficient kitchen and serving line. Carol Wright and Christy Bradley managed the GAST booths, and Chairman Ed Anthis saw to it that all bases were covered. A heartfelt THANK YOU to all.



May the New Year find you blessed with good spirits and good health.

— Arnold

...from the Building President—Harold Wicks



Our building really looked great during the Christmas season. The trees, greenery, red bows, and lights added a warmth that was very enjoyable. Our two rentals were delighted with our decorations as well.

I am happy to report that during this past year, we have not experienced any major maintenance problems. I hope 2015 will be as successful for us.

I wish everyone a very Happy New Year.

Choose to be Happy

— Harold

HELAU HELAU HELAU FASCHING IS COMING FEBRUARY 14TH HELAU HELAU HELAU
 We are going to have our Annual Costume Contest. Wear a costume to help drive the Evil Winter Spirits away.
 We will be looking for YOU to make this the most fun party of the year.
 We know it is also Valentine’s Day, but we hope YOU will celebrate with us.



...from the Arts President — Gertrud Schmidt

Happy New Year! I hope you made some New Year's resolutions, formulated your wishes and got into the New Year full of energy- because if you have no plan and no wishes to pursue you will stagnate. That is the message of some of the poems written for the turn of the year.

I also hope that Santa Claus or the Christkindl (Christ child) with their helpers--the elves--were good to you and your loved ones, fulfilled some of your wishes and you celebrated a peaceful, joyous Christmas. The Christ Child's coming into this world is well documented but there are several versions as to the origin of St. Nikolaus aka Santa Claus. Surely you heard or read some of these tales. The origin of the elves is quite a different story. In the German and English literature since the Middle-ages, elves are described as luminous beings, fluttering about, being helpful and kind. The latest version is that they live on the North Pole. Before that time the term 'elf' designated a nature spirit--sometimes even a demon--who inhabited waters (remember the Rhine Maidens of the Nibelungen Lied), woods or mountains depending on which Germanic tribe's mythology you read. Many of these mythological stories or religious writings were meant to serve as guidelines to a good and satisfying life for mankind.

Pastor Christopher Ricker from our German sister city Celle--who treated us to the Third Advent Service at our GAST HAUS--also emphasized the need to avail ourselves of the biblical and legal guidelines so that we may live in peace with our fellow men. I wish to thank Barbara Conrad for finding this sincere and charming speaker for us, the GAST Choir for the lovely renditions of our traditional Christmas songs, Susan Calvert for her solo presentations, the readers of the Christmas revelation Doris Wicks, Arnold Bieber and Hannelore Hall and the GAST members who got the Great Hall ready for this wonderful and enjoyable Third Advent celebration.

2014 as a whole was a good year for GAST. No rained out Germanfest, German American Day, Oktoberfest, or Christkindlmarkt, bringing in much needed revenue. Volkstrauertag was a challenge but bravely undertaken by seven daring GAST members. The adult language classes were well attended in spring and fall. Ruth Obermark and her teachers hope to have another group of eager students when classes start up again on February 3, 2015 even though it was necessary to raise the fee to \$ 100.00 for non-members and \$ 80.00 for members for the ten week course. Angela Novak and Jeff Mosburg have some bright ideas how to entice more youngsters to take up Kinderdeutsch starting on Saturday, January 31, 2015. Erwin Jerchau still presents good German movies on the first Monday of the month to a faithful following. Arnold Bieber single handedly covered the requests for Speakers Bureau. Thank you Arnold!

The concert offered by students of the Barthelmes

Conservatory in May, the traditional ATOS concert in August were well attended as was the German Morgenstern Trio's Chamber music presentation in November, which was arranged by the Tulsa Global Alliance and Celle Partnership and held in the Great Hall of our GAST HAUS.

In alternate years the Tulsa Global Alliance put on the "Kids World" exhibition at the Tulsa Expo Square. 2014 was the year for this fabulous exhibit which aims to expose students and adults to cultures from every corner of the world. Exhibitors show their uniqueness in life styles, education, arts, history, sports etc. This year's GAST ARTS exhibit was a "bang-in" success. 'Soccer' was the theme for which Jeff Mosburg and his German Language students put up a soccer goal and posters of the various German soccer teams. You may remember that the German Nations Soccer Team won the World Title in Rio. T-shirts and maps and soccer paraphernalia were supplied by Jutta Tankersly. Boys and girls loved to kick in goals... actually the girls--at least during my stint at the exhibit--got more goals! Getting their passports stamped had priority for the many visitors to the GAST Booth for which they had to say 'bitte' and 'danke'. Thank you Jeff and helpers.

See above resolutions and wishes: Make your wishes known to GAST and GAST ARTS. Come and partake in the many events that GAST and GASAA offer. Better yet, get involved!

May you enjoy a happy, prosperous and peaceful 2015!

- Gertrud

Newsletter
DEADLINE

January 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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German Immigrants: Their Assimilation and Contributions

By Dr. Tony E. Wohlers, Cameron University

Below is Part III, the conclusion, of a condensed version of the excellent and informative speech given by Dr. Wohlers at the GAST Center on October 5 for German-American Day.

As World War I began to engulf nations in Europe and beyond, the dynamics of German immigrant integration underwent profound changes – changes whose legacies are still visible today. Once a strong self-conscious ethnic group that deliberately identified with its homeland, suppression of all things German emerged as the dominant pattern during the First World War. In the course of less than two years anti-Germanism reached all parts of the United States. Six years after leaving the presidency, the still influential Theodore Roosevelt posited:

*There is not room in this country for hyphenated Americanism. Our allegiance must be purely to the United States. We must unsparingly condemn any man who holds any other allegiance.*¹

And so, a more problematic chapter of German immigrant integration commenced. Boasted by more than 200,000 untrained volunteers authorized to investigate individual loyalty, the patriotic propaganda of the American Protective League fanned anti-Germanism. Ultimately, these developments culminated in book burnings, banning of German music and language instruction, Anglicization of names, vandalism, and the censorship of the German press.

But while such intimidation may have speeded up the assimilative process, it did not create it or essentially shape it. Far more powerful forces were at work: some obvious, such as intermarriage, the diversification of residential patterns, and the loss of leadership in the German community; some far subtler, such as the sense that ethnic identification, beyond a certain point, ceased being an advantage and became an impediment to further security and upward mobility. By the 1930s, when yet another wave of German immigrants arrived, the forms of German ethnic identity that had been so aggressively developed in the late nineteenth century had faded almost completely, and the German-American communities that had formed in those years followed the eighteenth-century community into the mainstream of American life.

Let us now turn to that third 1930s wave of Germans – a wave as distinctive as the previous two. From an intellectual perspective, however, no other single group of immigrants to this country has had such an impact on American life. It is not only the flamboyantly famous—Hannah Arendt, Hans Bethe, Rudolf Carnap, Erik Erikson, Erich Fromm, Paul Tillich—who had astonishingly influential careers here. Others of equal or greater fame such as Einstein, Gropius, Panovsky, and Schoenberg were international figures before they arrived.

At least as important was the large second range of talents who, re-establishing themselves in major institutions, kept up a flow of influence whose quiet ramifications are beyond measure: Hajo Holborn, Carl Hempel, and Erich Auerbach at

Yale; Albert Hirschman, Felix Gilbert, Ernst Kantorowicz, and Hermann Weyl at the Institute for Advanced Study; Hans Morgenthau and Leo Strauss at the University of Chicago; Konrad Bloch and Ernst Kitzinger at Harvard; Max Delbrück at Caltech; Karen Horney at the New School; Richard Krauthamer at Vassar and New York University; Paul Kristeller and Franz Neumann at Columbia; Kurt Lewin at Iowa and MIT; Herbert Marcuse at Brandeis and San Diego; Oskar Morgenstern at Princeton; Karl Wittfogel at the University of Washington—the list seems endless; but even an enormous list would be limiting and invidious.

Literally hundreds of immigrants of the Hitler years have left decisive imprints on American life in the academics, arts, literature, film, business, and government. Many of them were exiles, not emigrants. They did not wish to leave Germany but were forced out by a murderously oppressive regime. They therefore viewed their native world—not only the leadership of the Nazi regime but the entire population whose acquiescence made the horror possible—with loathing. Yet they were themselves products of German culture, and they continued to cherish its wide range of achievements. In doing so, their contributions continue to shape this country – a “teeming Nations of nations.”

¹Mary Manning, 2014. *Being German, Being American. In World War I, They Faced Suspicion, Discrimination Here at Home*, p. 16



Clockwise from above: Hannah Arendt, political theorist; Hans Bethe, nuclear physicist; Rudolf Carnap, philosopher and psychoanalyst; Erik Erikson, developmental psychologist and psychoanalyst; Erich Fromm, social psychologist, psychoanalyst, sociologist, humanistic philosopher, and democratic socialist; and Paul Tillich, one of the most influential theologians of the 20th Century.



Christkindlmarkt

December 5 - 7
2014



Clockwise, from top left: Ginny Greek at the entry booth; Christkindl (Lachelle Toschik) and St. Nicolaus (Ed Westenheiser); a busy serving line; Roseanne Pinnick on goulash and Stan Conrad on potato pancakes, right; Jutta Tankersley's puppet show in the lower hall; harpist, Linda Barton Paul; and left, diners enjoying the authentic German food.



This page is sponsored by the GAST Sanger and by Dan Dennehy

GAST

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

Rick & Terry Pizzo

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Now Playing at the Erwin Jerchau

GAST Theater



Monday January 5, starting at 6:30 PM

Die Starparade der Volksmusik

With Die Kloostertaler, Kastelruther Spatzen, Hansi Hinterseer, Die Landauer, Geschwister Hofmann and many more

Starting at 7:30 PM

Die Holzbaronin

Staring Christine Neubauer (*at left*), Henriette Conforius, Andy Gatjen, Felix Vörtler and Michael Mendel

Youth Movie:

Monday, January 26
Starting at 6:00pm

7 Zwerge: Männer allein im Wald

Starring: Otto Waalkes, Cosma Shiva Hagen,
Martin Schneider, Boris Aljinovic
And Nina Hagen



The GAST Sanger Have Busy Fall Schedule

The GAST Sanger completed their 2014 season by performing for both the Society's Christmas Dinner and the Adventsfeier service on December 13th and 14th. All in all it has been a good year for the choir. This fall, the members sang for two nursing homes, Franciscan Villa and University Village, and on December 8th we performed Christmas music for the Cancer Center of America in Tulsa. At all three venues the audiences seemed very happy to have us come and entertain them. Various audience members at all three places even joined in with the singing. It was heartwarming to see how so many people knew our selected songs even though most of the music was in German. The choir is very grateful for all the hard work our director, Susan Calvert, does for us, and we really enjoyed her lovely solos at Adventsfeier.

The choir will take a winter break and reconvene in the early spring. Anyone wishing to join the Sanger is more than welcome. Just come to practice at 7:00 on Thursday nights in the Weinkeller. To determine when we start up again in 2015 call Betty Donohue at 918-485-2321 for details. Singing in this choir is great opportunity to promote German culture and music to the greater Tulsa area and to enhance the Society's annual traditional programs. It's difficult to imagine a Weihnacht party or Adventsfeier at GAST without German music and the Society's singers.

Story courtesy of Betty Donohue

Leserbriefe

THANKS TO RUTH BLY

I would like to thank Ruth Bly for taking over the responsibility for management of the kitchen at our recent Christkindlmarkt festival. The long hours and hard work are really appreciated to make our festival a success. I also want to thank Leon Boggs for cooking all the gulasch. It tasted wonderful. Thanks to all the other support volunteers from the kitchen that stepped up to make this event a success.

Erica Hartman

APFELSTRUDEL FOR SALE

Large \$10

Small \$5

Call Terri in the GAST Office
918-744-6997

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

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



Das Deutsche Echo

January 2015

Volume 36

Issue 1

The Voice of the German-American Community

Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde

Come and join us on January 11, 2015 at 3:00 pm at the home of Jan and Jess Heffner who live at 8212 S. 73rd East Ave. Tulsa. (Tel: 918-286-2634). We will chat in German and explore all the changes and jargons which have infiltrated the spoken and written German language. A good chance to recall, maintain or perfect your German language skills.

Refreshments will be served.

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: Barbara Conrad (chair) at 918-492-3273 or Gertrud Schmidt (co-chair) 918-495-3727

Stammtischrunde

Friday, January 2, 2015 – 6:30 PM
in the GAST Weinkeller. Hope to see you there.
Zum Wohl,

– Joe Rohr, Chair

New Members

**There were no new members inducted into GAST at the
December Board Meeting**

**Tom Bordner
Membership Chair**

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