



GAST GARAGE SALE

March 27-28

The GAST annual Garage Sale will be held Friday and Saturday the 27th and 28th of March at the GAST Center.

The garage sale is one of the main sources of income for German American Society Arts Association (GASAA). In addition to recycling gifts that you really can't use, it is also an opportunity to get rid of items which no longer fit or have lost usefulness for you.

Check your closets and garages for things which fit the definition "one person's junk is another person's treasure". Take your donations to the GAST Office at 1429 Terrace Drive. For pick-up of large items call Barbara Conrad

We are also in dire need of volunteers to help manage this very important fundraiser.

For more information call: Barbara Conrad at 918-492-3273

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GAST

March

- 2 - GAST Theater
- 3 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 6 - Stammtisch
- 8 - Konversationsrunde
- 10 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 17 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 24 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 27 - Weinkellerabend
- 27-28 - **Garage Sale**
- 30 - Jugend Kinoabend
- 31 - Handarbeitsgruppe

April

- 3 - Stammtisch
- 6 - GAST Theater
- 7 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 12 - Konversationsrunde
- 14 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 18 - **Lumpenball & Soup Party**
- 21 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 23 - Weinkellerabend
- 26 - **Membership Meeting**
- 27 - Jugend Kinoabend
- 28 - Handarbeitsgruppe

May

- 1 - Stammtisch
- 4 - GAST Theater
- 5 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 10 - Konversationsrunde
- 12 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 19 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 17 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 22 - Weinkellerabend
- 25 - Jugend Kinoabend
- 26 - Handarbeitsgruppe



...from the GAST President — Arnold Bieber

Fasching, or what most Americans know as Mardi Gras and some Germans know as Karneval or Fastnacht, was celebrated in a big way in the Great Hall of the GAST Center on Saturday, February 14, by about 110 GAST members and guests. No parades, but plenty of dance music supplied by our own Blaskapelle and wonderful food catered and served by Jeff Marlow and his crew. Since this party date happened to fall on Valentine's Day, Party Chair Leon Boggs and his wife Donna and Ruth Bly managed to weave in this special day's theme. Each lady was given a long stem red rose upon entering, and the dessert consisted of cupcakes decorated with a little red heart. The hall was decorated splendidly with accent lights and green, gold and purple balloons. Our MC for the evening, Harold Wicks, was able to assemble an honorary Elferrat to start the ceremonies with a procession to the tune of the Narrhalla March and the crowning of the 2015 Fasching Prinz and Prinzessin, Bill and Ruth Obermark. Following the royal dance, Jan Erdman led the customary polonaise. Later in the evening, the 3 impartial non-member judges had the difficult task of selecting

the most beautiful and the funniest among the many unique and interesting costumes. New this year, there were hourly drawings for additional cash prizes. Everybody had a great time. Thank you, members of the Blaskapelle for an outstanding performance. And thank you, Leon and Harold and your hard working helpers for making this one of the best Fasching parties in a long time.

We were happy to see Max Byars-Horton again. He was visiting Joe and Ginny Rohr and offered to help Joe in the bar at the Fasching party. Thanks, Max. Max taught German at Memorial High School before retiring and moving to Alabama. We miss seeing you performing with the GAST Folk Dancers and volunteering at Oktoberfest, Max.

Speaking of Oktoberfest, we need someone to chair this year's Oktoberfest Committee. Please call me if you are interested. It's not too early to start the planning and preparation for this important fundraiser.

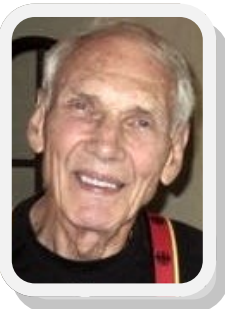
Stephen Schneider has again agreed to chair our Germanfest Committee. Bi-weekly meetings have started in January. There are lots of new ideas to make this festival more interesting and more successful.

The GAST Saenger Choir and the Folk Dancers have started their weekly practice sessions, the Choir on Thursdays and the Folk Dancers on Sunday nights. Come and join the fun. Youth Activity Chair Angela Novak has scheduled monthly German movie showings for high school and college students on the 3rd Monday of each month. Some of the money from the Endowment Trust that was originally appropriated for Great Hall sound equipment has been repurposed to upgrade the downstairs audio/video equipment.

The GAST Board appointed 3 members of the Nominating Committee: Leisha Jury, Irmgard Toschik and Christy Fell. The General Membership Meeting and Election will be held on Sunday, April 26, at 3pm in the Great Hall. Please add it to your calendar and respond favorably if you get a call from a member of the Nominating Committee to serve on the Board of one of our three organizations.

Stay healthy and warm!

— Arnold



...from the Building President—Harold Wicks

We have a few maintenance items going on in the building. ARNOLD BIEBER is replacing some ballasts in our light fixtures. We are installing a projector and sound bar in the Weinkeller to improve our equipment for movie nights. Our project to have Wi-Fi in the building will be getting started sometime this month.

We only have one rental of the Great Hall for this month. We are still trying to rent our office space.

Our Fasching Party on the 14th of this month had excellent attendance and judging by the smiles and the laughter everyone had a great time. The results of our costume contest and the knee dance contest are shown on page 4 along with some photos of the event.

— Harold



...from the Arts President — Gertrud Schmidt

German language classes are in full swing. When I asked several of the 62 eager learners what motivated them to study the German language – travel came in first; acquiring sufficient

proficiency to communicate with relatives or friends in the “Old Country”- be it Germany, Austria or Switzerland was second; maintaining what they have learned in College or High-school came in third.

At last count we had seven children attending Kinderdeutsch on Saturday morning. Chas, Janie and Lillyane are returners and were eager to help the newcomers put together the alphabet. I do admire Angela Novak’s patience with this lively lot and how eventually she manages to get them involved and calmed down. The stored energy then finds an outlet when Jeff Mosburg makes them sing and dance. The first German words they memorized very well are “bitte” and “danke” because that is the way to get cookies and juice.

Learning a foreign language opens not only communications among people, it opens a window into the diverse cultures of these countries. How do they greet strangers or friends? Is it a stiff bow, a firm handshake or a hug and maybe a kiss on the cheek – from the generous Swiss you may get three smacks –left-right-left- if you are a family member or friend; one smack from the frugal Germans; a kiss on your hand from a formal Austrian gentleman or a hug and a kiss or two among friends. As you may have observed even among men who politically are on opposite sides the Russians acknowledge each other with a bear hug. It’s tradition! What are the appropriate ways to address people you just met? As the intermediate and advanced German students will tell you it is in the third person. I remember how taken aback I was when everyone addressed me with my first name during my first days in this country while I dutifully called them Mrs., Miss, Mr., Dr., and last name. Eventually someone took me aside and explained that I was too formal and should adopt the American way of addressing people. I did! But it took a while before I felt comfortable with this –what I perceived as casual- approach.

It is always a very good idea to know about the cultural uniqueness and taboos of the country one plans to visit. For example: haggling over prices may be expected in

some countries but may not get you what you want in others.

Tulsa Community College will again put on ‘Globalfest’ on February 24, 2015 from 10:00am -3:00pm. Foreign students and ethnic organizations are invited to show what is unique and special about their country. There will be music and dances and tables with ethnic food and decorated with the typical items of the respective country. GASAA -as in previous years- will participate. The backdrop will be what most people associate with Germany: the German Flag: Black, Red, Gold, a Dirndl and Lederhosen- even though these are typical Bavarian costumes and no blue blooded Prussian would wear these on second thought some do, to show their affinity to this very beautiful southernmost German state. There will be school-books, picture books and a DVD “Über Deutschland” (Aerial Germany) will show Germany’s unique and beautiful places. We thank Barbara Conrad for getting this disc for us through the German Consulate in Houston. This exhibit is open to the public! I hope you had a chance to enjoy the diversity of cultures right here in Tulsa.

Gertrud

Newsletter
DEADLINE

March 18 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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Fasching 2015

Saturday, February 14



Costume Contest Results:

Best Looking Female: Elke Meyer, "The Orange Flapper"

Best Looking Male: Harold Wicks, "French Painter"

Best Looking Couple:

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Butler, German Officer and Wife.
Funniest Looking Female:

Irmgard Toschik, "Woman in Night Gown"

Funniest Male: Harlem Globetrotter Basketball Man

Funniest Couple:

Ruth and Bill Obermark, "Nurse and Patient"
Judges Choice:

Joe Carter & Hannelore, "King & Queen of Hearts"

A Big Thank You to our Judges: Sylvia Spillman, Gerri Inman, and Tyler Merriman.

Our Knee Dance Winners were:

Bruce Jordan and Sophie Jordan



Since Fasching and Valentine's Day happened to be on the same day, all prizes related to Valentine's Day and each Lady received a Rose when she arrived. Our Thanks to RUTH BLY and ED WESTENHISER for suggesting handing out the roses.

BILL and RUTH OBERMARK were chosen to be our Prinz and Prinzessin for the evening.

The Blaskapelle played several audience participation numbers that many enjoyed. Our May Queen, LaChelle Toschik, helped lead the dances.

We had more than 100 reservations and are pleased with the very positive response.

Thank You, Infinity Music, for the use of your colored lights.

Many Thanks To All,
Harold Wicks and Leon Boggs



are you on **facebook?** **GAST is**

GAST has three Facebook pages:

- One is for the Society to share information and photos and comments about our activities. The address is - **German -American Society of Tulsa**. You will see our emblem.
- Our second page is designed to promote the rental of our building. You can see some posting and photos from previous renters. The address is - **The GAST House**. You will see a picture of our building.
- The third one is where the GAST Blaskapelle shares their activities in photo and video's of their involvement in the community. The address is – **GAST Blaskapelle**. You will see the GAST emblem as it appears on the Blaskapelle's pin.

Please visit all these pages and press the “like” button then press the “invite” button to invite all your friends to like it too.. This will help get the word out about our pages. The Blaskapelle page is managed by the Blaskapelle and the other two are managed by Terri in the GAST Office.



Article courtesy of Carol Wright

Hey, Party Committee!

Why do I always have to make party reservations by a specified deadline?

ANSWER: Because we have to order the number of meals we need from the caterer late Wednesday or very early on Thursday. The caterer in turn has to order the food and supplies he needs to prepare our meal. GAST is charged by the number of meals we order. If we order too many - because you made a reservation and then did not come to the event, GAST still has to pay for your meal. **IF YOU DON'T MAKE A RESERVATION BY THE DEADLINE** but come anyway or call in even on the day of the event, we probably will not have enough food. That may mean folks who did call in on-time do not get a meal because we run out of food. And this happens regularly! Please try to understand why we have to impose a cutoff date and time. This same thing is true even if we are cooking our own meals - we must know how much food to purchase and do not want a lot of stuff left over.

If you have questions or comments, contact me and we can visit

Leon Boggs, Party Chair

COMING SOON TO THE GAST HOUSE - LUMPENBALL and SOUP 2015!

We will again have our Soup Party, Saturday, April 18, 2015. Make your favorite soup or dessert to share with at least 6 people. Bring either one and your family will get in FREE. If you do not provide a soup or dessert, admission will be \$10.00 per person. We will listen to German CD's and have great fellowship.

Doors will open at 5:30 and soup will be served at 6:00 PM. Plan now to attend and find your favorite soup recipe and/or dessert. More details - with reservation dates will come later.

We can all share our misery from the tax man!

Leon Boggs, Party Chair



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 March 2, starting at 6:30 PM

Schlager von gestern und heute

With Hansi Hinterseer, Heino & Bettina, Patricia, Oesch's die Dritten, Manuela Felner, Inge & Maria, Al Martino, James Last & his Band and many more

Starting at 7:30

Luisen Versprechen

Starring Christine Hörbinger, Tim Bergmann, Caroline Peters, Margarita Broich, and Ulricke Bliefeld

Angela Novak's Jugend Kinoabend:

Monday, March 30
Starting at 6:30—9:00pm

die Bücherdiebin

(In German with English Subtitles)

Price—\$10 per person (\$5 for members)

Dinner item (usually, pizza or subs) included



Sunshine Lady

We expressed our condolences to the family of long-time GAST member **Frieda Elsbeth (née Wolff) Kimberlin** of Shawnee, Oklahoma who passed away at home on the 12th of December of 2014. Her ashes were buried at Calvary Cemetery in Shawnee on the 10th of January. Frieda is survived by her two children, Eric who lives in Oklahoma City, and Melissa Taylor and her husband David of Sasakwa (Seminole County), Oklahoma.



Please call or email if you know a GAST member who is ill, who has suffered an accident or injury, or a family loss. We like to express birthday greetings, congratulations on marriages, births of children and grandchildren and best wishes, Get Well, or sympathy on appropriate occasions for our members.

Email: davidalanforbes@gmail.com or telephone (918) 770-1743



This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



Das Deutsche Echo

March 2015

Volume 36

Issue 3

The Voice of the German-American Community

Die Deutsche Konversationsrund

Chris Day shared with us his experiences as an exchange student and during several visits to Freiburg Germany. A big Thank you to Barbara and Stan Conrad for hosting the Konversationsrunde and adding your Freiburg stories which made for lively conversations.

On March 8, 2015 the Konversationsrunde will meet at 3:00 pm at the Gilcrease Museum (1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Road in Tulsa) for a walk through the exhibition "Ancient America" which is all about the Incas of South America and the Mayas and Aztecs of Mesoamerica. Your tour guide will be Gertrud Schmidt. The museum fee for senior Non-member visitors is \$6.00. We do have a few free tickets.

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, March 6, 2015 – 6:30 PM
in the GAST Weinkeller. Hope to see you there.
Zum Wohl,
– Joe Rohr, Chair

New Members

Dean Jones
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Remember, you must renew by March 31st and pay your annual fee or you will be unable to vote at the annual meeting!

Tom Bordner
Membership Chair

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