



LUMPENBALL and SOUP PARTY 2015! April 18 - 6pm in the GAST Center

Doors open at 5:30 PM - soup is served at 6:00 PM

Bring your favorite pot of soup or dessert for at least 6 people and get in FREE! If you wish to not cook, your cost will be \$10.00 per person.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 4:00 PM WEDNESDAY APRIL 15 [TAX DAY!!!] BE SURE TO TELL TERRI IF YOU ARE BRINGING A DISH OR IF YOU ARE NOT.

Let's all get together and celebrate tax day - good or bad. Good food and good fellowship make everything better!

See ya there!
Leon & the Party committee



Annual Membership Meeting

**April 26
3:00pm**

The Annual GAST Membership Meeting will be held in the Great Hall at 3pm on Sunday, the 26th of April. This meeting is held once a year for the purpose of electing the succeeding Officers and Directors for the German American Society, the GAST Building Corporation, and the GAST Arts Association. A quorum of members is necessary, and GAST needs your participation and your vote at the meeting. Every member should plan on attending whose dues are paid.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GAST

April

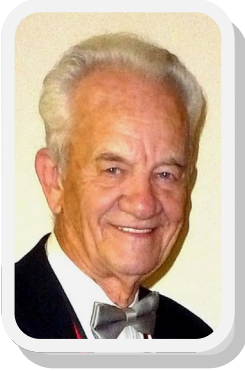
- 3 - Stammtisch
- 4 - **Childrens' Easter Party**
- 6 - GAST Theater
- 7 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 12 - Konversationsrunde
- 14 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 18 - **Lumpenball & Soup Party**
- 21 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 24 - Weinkellerabend
- 26 - **Membership Meeting**
- 27 - Jugend Kinoabend
- 28 - Handarbeitsgruppe

May

- 1 - Stammtisch
- 1-3 - **Germanfest**
- 4 - GAST Theater
- 5 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 10 - Konversationsrunde
- 12 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 19 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 17 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 22 - Weinkellerabend
- 25 - Jugend Kinoabend
- 26 - Handarbeitsgruppe

June

- 1 - GAST Theater
- 2 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 5 - Stammtisch
- 7 - **GAST Picnic**
- 9 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 14 - Konversationsrunde
- 16 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 22 - Jugend Kinoabend
- 23 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 26 - Weinkellerabend
- 30 - Handarbeitsgruppe



...from the GAST President — Arnold Bieber

Are you ready for Spring? I sure am. Officially, it's only a few days away as I write this, but the longer days and warmer weather are encouraging and are certainly an improvement over what we experienced about a month ago with school closings, dangerous road conditions and weather too miserable for outdoor activities.

April will be a busy month for us as we prepare for the General Membership Meeting and Election (on April 26) and Germanfest (on May 1, 2 and 3). We desperately need another successful festival to pay for the increasing expenses of utilities and building maintenance. As hard as our Leasing Committee and Office Manager work to promote the leasing of the "GAST House for wedding receptions and other celebrations, there is just not enough money coming in to cover all of the expenses. Any major repairs or emergencies will require the transfer of additional funds from GAST, GASAA or the Endowment Trust. So please, respond when you get a call to volunteer and help us promote our annual Germanfest. Blaskapelle director **David Lawrence** has agreed to come up with some fresh entertainment ideas, and we have applied for a permit to serve strong (German) beer.

However, we were informed recently by the Tulsa County Health Department that all kitchen and serving volunteers need a no-cost Volunteer Food Handlers Permit which requires attendance of a one-hour-long Food Safety Class. There is additional information about this in a separate article in this issue of the ECHO.

The subject of reorganizing the three (3) existing GAS corporations to form one legal entity has bounced around the organization for a number of years. With an aging membership it has been more and more difficult to find members willing to serve as officers and directors for 3 corporations. Many functions overlap but are usually charged to GASBC (Building Corporation) which is subsidized by GAST fundraisers.

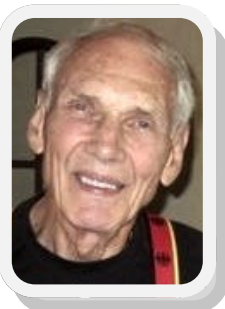
In 2013, the GAST Board engaged the services of a non-profit organization lawyer, Dan Beirute, to research current laws and to give us an opinion as to whether that was legally possible. Mr. Beirute requested that we provide him with our corporation documents and by-laws as well as a list of activities, and he advised us that we could not merge all three corporations which are all classified under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code, but it would be possible for GASBC to deed the property to GAST and dissolve. The rental activity would then be conducted by GAST. Mr. Beirute's advice did not include a recommendation of a merger. Subsequently, the GAST Board voted to pursue this matter, after a discussion about liabilities.

Last year, when I assumed the position of president of GAST and became the Chair of the Executive Committee (EC), the purpose of which is to coordinate the activities of all three corporations, the EC also became the committee which discussed this issue and recommended that the question of the dissolution of GASBC and the merger with GAST be brought before the membership for a vote at the next General Membership Meeting. The GAST Board agreed; a vote by the GASBC Board is still pending. Assuming that the GASBC Board agrees, the question will be included in the notice to the membership for discussion and vote at the General Membership Meeting on April 26, 2015.

On a lighter note, we will announce the name of our 2015/16 Maikönigin at the General Membership meeting. And please, bring your children or grandchildren to the Children's Easter Party on Saturday, April 4

Members interested in GAST issues are welcome to attend the next Board meeting on April 8 at 7 PM.

— Arnold



...from the Building President—Harold Wicks

Winter has gone! Yeah! Heating season is over, and cooling season has begun. We did not have any heavy snow this year, so we did not have to pay for snow removal. Rental of our building continues to be slow and other venues say they are experiencing the same situation.

A funeral home has approached us about renting our building for Asian funeral services. They would rent the building for Saturday from 8 am to 9 pm, Sunday 8 am to 9 pm, and Monday from 8 am to 10 am. We will need 4 to 6 people to host these rentals.

WE WILL PAY AN HOURLY WAGE TO ANYONE WILLING TO SIGN UP. We do not expect anyone to do this for free! We would like to have TEN people on our list for working these events. **THIS NOTICE IS NOT LIMITED TO MEMBERS ONLY!** If YOU have friends who would like to earn some extra money, Please give them this information. Please Call Terri at 918 744 6997 if you are interested.

Have A Good Day

— Harold



...from the Arts President — Gertrud Schmidt

The first day of spring is only a few days away- at this writing- and Mother Nature certainly does her best to make us welcome the season - just as she made sure it was wintery when we

put Franz Schubert's "Winterreise"- performed by Dr. Ted Vestal and Dolores Duke- on our winter musical program on February 22, 2015. Unfortunately the threat of inclement weather kept many 'Lieder' enthusiasts at home. The intimate setting made for a most enjoyable afternoon for the guests. We owe Dr. T. Vestal and Mrs. D. Duke a big "Thank You" for sharing their unique artistry with us.

Most of the songs in the 'Winterreise' cycle would fall under the classification of Art Songs, but some –such as the 'Lindentree' (Am Brunnen vor dem Tore)- certainly morphed into for what Johann Herder (1744-1803), poet, philosopher, theologian and literary critic was the first to coin the term 'Volkslied' – folksong. The credit for the English term folksong and folk music goes to W.J. Thomas 1846 (Oxford Dictionary of Music 1974). There is no definite criterion what constitutes an Art song versus Volkslied. Art songs just like arias require more voice control and their lyrics often deal with the ethereal. A Volkslied speaks of and to the emotions of the people. There are songs of longing for the 'Heimat' (home country), the mountains, the sea, songs for the seasons, students and drinking songs, marching and soldier's songs, hunting songs, joking and mocking songs and of course songs of friendship and love. Just as art songs found their way into the folksong register, folksong themes appear in serious classical music.

Experts in the field of ancient music think that the origin of the folksong is the ballad as sung by the minstrels who not only were entertainers and primarily catered to the sentiments of their audience, but they also were the messengers who told their listeners of the wonders and goings-on in distant lands. It was therefore accepted that the songs were passed on by word of mouth from generation to generation and that lyricists and composers of folksongs were unknown. Thorough research proved this notion wrong. To satisfy my curiosity I checked our German song books and found names such as v.Eichendorff, Achim v.Arnim, Clemens

v.Brentano, Silcher, Goethe and many more. I spare you the very wordy definition of 'folksong' as adopted by the International Folk Music Council in 1955.

The minstrel was replaced by choirs and small singing groups which often made modifications to the text or music and added instrumental accompaniment of which the guitar, fiddle and accordion were the most popular. During the Romantic Age folksongs and folks poetry were rediscovered and recognized for their artistic values and therefore collected. One of the most well-known collections is 'The Boy's Wondrous Horn' (Des Knaben Wunderhorn).

As Goethe said: "Folk music has its place in every household". At GAST we are grateful to our GAST Choir and Blaskapelle who do their best to keep German Art songs and Folk-music alive.

In spite of still very icy road conditions Arnold Bieber, Barbara and Stan Conrad represented us at TCCs Global Fest. Our exhibit was awarded First Prize. Well done!

Hope to see you at the Annual Membership Meeting on April 26, 2015 at 3:00pm at the GAST House. Frohe Ostern!

Gertrud

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

April 15 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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Message Center - 918-744-6997

The German-American Society, Arts Association
and Building Corp. do not necessarily endorse
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Repairs Continue on the GAST Office

Harold Wicks is caught replacing two cracked glass panes in the windows of the GAST office on March 20th. The biggest part of the job seemed to be scraping and chiseling out the old, weathered putty which was rock hard from age. Harold was confident in replacing the glass, and glaziers points, re-applying the putty, and having the bank of windows better than new. Apparently there isn't anything that Harold can't fix.



GAST KITCHEN AND THE TULSA HEALTH DEPARTMENT

It was brought to our attention during Christkindlemarkt that GAST is not fully in compliance with Tulsa Health Department regulations in the operation of its kitchen. The GAST kitchen is a priority 2 level certified kitchen, in that we handle, prepare and cook raw foods. Since we are a certified kitchen, we must meet the Health Department's codes and requirements. One such requirement is that we must have on the premises a Certified Kitchen Food Safety Manager. Leon Boggs took a required 8 hour class, tested and passed with high marks. For that reason, Leon is a required certified individual and GAST meets the requirement for a person having certification to be on the premises. Leon's license will hang in the kitchen and according to the Health Department he will be the Person in Charge of all food safety issues for our festival operations.

GAST was also found deficient in that, on inspection, our volunteer workers did not have Food Handler's Permits issued by the Health Department. The rule is that any person who handles, prepares, serves, sells, or gives away food, other than to his immediate family, must have a Food Handler's Permit. The rule applies to all kitchen or food workers, food preparers, dish washers and food line servers, busboys and drink servers, whether paid or volunteer.

The Food Handler's Permit can be obtained upon application, after attending a class of approximately 2 hours, and passing a brief (24 question) multiple choice test. The applicant obtains a 3-year Food Handler's Permit for a fee of \$13.00. If the applicant is an unpaid volunteer, a one-year Food Handler's Permit can be issued and the fee is waived. This permit cannot be used to obtain employment in the food industry. GAST is therefore asking all of our members who act as food volunteers to take the necessary steps without delay to obtain the Food Handler's Permit.

According to the Tulsa Health Department website, training for food handlers can be taken at the THD Eastgate Metroplex Training Center at 21st and 145th East Ave. Class schedule and information is available on the THD website at <http://www.tulsa-health.org/food-safety/food-classes-permits/volunteer-classes>. A study guide is available in pdf format on the same website.

Members may contact Leon Boggs or Ruth Bly to learn available times for classes and more information. GAST appreciates everyone working with us so that we will be in compliance for any future inspection.

The Health Inspector will certainly be back during Germanfest. THD will be watching us closely since they found these problems at Christkindlemarkt. They have informed us we need to correct these deficiencies or action can be taken against us - fines and/or closure of the kitchen, which would be extreme, but it could happen.

If you have question, please call Leon Boggs - [918-258-5201](tel:918-258-5201).

GAST Children's Easter Party

Saturday, April 4

Noon to 2 PM.

The German Osterhase (Easter Bunny) will make his appearance at GAST at noon on the 4th of April. Bring your children and grandchildren (or great grand children) to meet the GAST Easter Bunny and his helpers and join in the fun and excitement. Easter egg hunting will be on the GAST lawn (unless the weatherman disappoints us with some April showers, in which event we shall move inside).

Fun and games, arts and crafts, food and treats an Easter egg hunt with lots of surprises and pictures with the Easter Bunny. Don't miss it! You are encouraged to bring a plate of snacks to share.

Make your reservation by Wednesday April 1, with the children's names and ages. Call the GAST Office at (918) 744-6997 or email



Free Admission 2015

Germanfest

Come enjoy
a celebration of
German food & music!

German-American Society of Tulsa
Join us on the lawn & in the Great Hall of the GAST Center

Friday, May 1:	10:00am – 9:00pm
Saturday, May 2:	10:00am—9:00pm
Sunday, May 3:	Noon—5:00pm
Volunteers are still needed !	

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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Hannelore Giles Carter

Stan & Barbara Conrad

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Now Playing at the Erwin Jerchau

GAST Theater



Monday April 6, starting at 6:30 PM

Melodien der Berge

Whit Psayer & Barbara, Rudy Giovammini & Belsy Die Kloostertaler, Oliver Corviano, Die Bergkameraden, Helene Fischer, Vincent & Fernando and more

Starting at 7:30 PM

Unter weissen Segeln

Träume am Horizont

Starring Sigmar Sollbach, Daniela Ziegler, Bernard Schir, Sanne Scharp and Martin Weineck

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



Die Deutsche Konversationsrund

Come to the GAST House's Weinkeller on Sunday April 12, 2015 at 3:00pm to hear what Tom Clark has to tell us about his experience as a teacher taking students to our sister city Celle: how did he and the students evaluate the German School system, German life-styles, entertainment, family-life and interaction with the public. An exchange student from Celle who is currently spending time at Riverfield School in turn will tell you about her impressions of life in Tulsa. The film "Über Deutschland" (aerial Germany) will run as a silent accompaniment.

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, April 3, 2015 – 6:30 PM

in the GAST Weinkeller. Hope to see you there.

Zum Wohl,

— Joe Rohr, Chair

New Members

Barbara Allinder
Tulsa, Ok

Patricia Kelly
Bixby, OK

William Elliott
Tulsa, OK

Kat B. & Daniel M. Marrs
Tulsa, OK

All members must renew their membership by March 31st and pay the annual fee in order to be able to vote at the annual meeting on April 26.
Tom Bordner, Membership Chair

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April 2015

Volume 36

Issue 4

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