



Germanfest

May 1 through 3, 2015

**A Celebration of German
Food and Music**

Music by the GAST Blaskapelle

All members should plan on attending the festival and bringing their family and friends. Germanfest is one of GAST's major fundraisers each year, and the support of the membership is important to the success of this event.

Festival Schedule:

Fri and Sat, May 1 and 2: 10am to 9pm

Sun, May 3: Noon to 5pm



If you are volunteering in the kitchen or on the serving line, you must have your volunteer food handler's permit from the Health Dept., obtainable online at:

<http://www.tulsa-health.org/food-safety/food-classes-permits/volunteer-classes>

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GAST

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
- 21 - **Barthelmes Concert**
- 23 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 26 - Weinkellerabend
- 30 - Handarbeitsgruppe

July

- 3 - Stammtisch
- 6 - GAST Theater
- 7 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 14 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 21 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 24 - Weinkellerabend
- 28 - Handarbeitsgruppe



...from the GAST President — Arnold Bieber

Celebrating Maifest (Mayfest) has a long tradition in German cities and villages. It usually involves decorating and erecting a “Maibaum” (May tree), colorful parades and the coronation of a Maikönigin (May Queen). It is a celebration of spring, the greening of gardens and meadows, new life, lots of flowers. Young men, especially enjoy the competition, the chance to court the fairer sex, and sometimes they will invade another village to cut down and steal their Maibaum, which can result in some fist fights when they get caught.

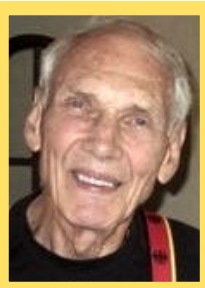
Tulsa already had an annual Mayfest when the German American Society of Tulsa was formed. So it was a natural for GAST to participate, which we did for many years. Just like Oktoberfest, it involved getting volunteers to bring in and set up equipment at a designated site, schlepping supplies and then finding a place to park. So, in 2004, when there was construction everywhere in downtown Tulsa, and the future on Mayfest that year was in question, the GAST Board decided that we would have our own festival, in our building, on our site, and we would call it **GERMANFEST**. This will be our 12th year of Germanfest, and it will be bigger and better than ever. More activities, more entertainment, more fun! That means we need more volunteers. I hope you have answered the call, and you will be there to help us make this important cultural contribution to the community and fundraiser for the organization more successful. And don't forget to shop the Laden for that unusual Mothers or Fathers Day gift!

We recently had some complaints from members who have not received their monthly ECHO newsletters. I checked into this with our Membership Chair, Tom Bordner, and Paul Greek who maintains our membership database to determine what our current procedure is. They told me that all members who have paid their dues by March 1st should continue to receive their newsletter, either by mail or electronically, as they have specified. If a member misses the deadline, he/she will be added back to the database when the dues are received. The March 1st deadline also establishes the eligibility to vote at the General Membership Meeting and/or to be nominated for office. **It is very important that the Membership Chair is notified of any changes of address, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses.** When a mailed ECHO is returned to us, we pay first class postage to get the change of address information that may or may not be on file at the Post Office. Our ECHO editor, David Forbes, usually sends an e-mail broadcast message to those members that have specified the electronic version of the ECHO. However, it is always available on the internet by keying <http://membership.gastulsa.org> and clicking on “Das Deutsche Echo”. That website has a lot of other interesting information about GAST that you might also like to review. Please let us know if you do not get your ECHO in a timely fashion. Be patient, though, sometimes the snail mail takes a little longer.

The results of the General Membership Meeting and Elections on Sunday, April 26, will be published in the June ECHO.

See you at the GAST House,

— Arnold



...from the Building President—Harold Wicks

The storm that occurred the evening of March 25th ripped some tile from the roof of our building. We had to replace two ridge caps and twenty flat tiles. The repair was completed on March 31st.

Rentals continue to be slow. Where did all the June Brides go ? We used to be “Sold Out”, but that is not the situation this year. We do not have any rentals in July or August. It is encouraging that we have people coming to see the building almost daily.

Hoping for the Best

— Harold



...from the Arts President — Gertrud Schmidt

Spring has sprung! Dogwoods pink and white, Redbuds and Azaleas are in full bloom and pollens, pollens everywhere keeping bees and the Pharmaceuticals industry happy. After the very frosty winter

our Azaleas looked brown and withered and I was very tempted to cut them down. But since the gardeners in the parks around Tulsa left those straggly bushes alone I followed their lead. And lo and behold with the first warm temperatures they all started to bud out and now are a real treat for the eye and soul.

Spring is almost synonymous with spring-cleaning. And cleaning out closets, storage places and garages leads to garage-sales, rummage sales and flea markets. Barbara Conrad again organized the annual GAST ARTS garage sale - a two-day event that took place March 27-28, 2015. Days before the actual sale days the volunteers were busy collecting, sorting, pricing and displaying the wares. While initially there was doubt if there was enough to sell, the tables and benches eventually did fill up with a variety of useful 'treasures'. There are some garage-sale shoppers who always find a few irresistible items while some 'lookers' needed to be persuaded by Barbara's and her helpers charms to pick up a thing or two and fill up their bags. In the end shoppers and sellers were happy. The shoppers with their goods and the sellers aka GAST ARTS with the income which makes some of the activities offered by ARTS possible. In spite of competition from a huge flea market at the Expo-Square the take was about the same in \$\$\$ as last year. Thank you Barbara and all you charming helpers.

Last year I looked into the history and terms of rummage sale and garage-sale and left 'flea market' to your own imagination. Actually there are two possible versions to the term flea market. One claim is that "marche aux puces" (market with fleas) started in Paris/France about 1860 for a market where shabby secondhand goods were sold, oftentimes upholstered old sofas and chairs that might have brought with them fleas. Here in America the term may have derived from the East River (Manhattan) 'Fly market' which eventually morphed via various dialects into 'flea market'. Wherever the term originated, and if it was justified or not, I am certain our offerings were free of Siphonoptera! (wingless blood sucker).

Our Kinderdeutsch students did enjoy a few Saturdays off due to spring-break and inclement weather. But most of them were there April 4, 2015 to hunt for Easter eggs after their lesson. The Easter bunny had hidden colorful eggs and all sorts of sweets in and around our GAST House. St. Peter or whoever is in charge of sunshine, clouds, rain and storms

was kind to the Easter egg hunters.

Read all about Germanfest in Arnold Bieber's article in this issue of the Echo.

The Barthelmes students again will treat us to a concert on June 21, 2015 at 3:00pm in our GAST HOUSE. They have been studiously working on pieces from many well-known and some not so well-known composers.

See you at the GAST HOUSE

Gertrud

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

May 20 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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Lumpenball

April 18 at the GAST House

Soup Party



GAST last had a Lumpenball / Soup Part in April of 2012. In casting about for some new party ideas, Leon Boggs' Party Committee decided to have it again this year and gauge the reaction. Based on the enjoyment of those attending, it was a format that should be repeated annually.

This year's party was held on the 18th of April in the GAST Center and had a good attendance. About 35 people were there. An even dozen individuals brought soup dishes to share and several others prepared and brought a wide variety of desserts from cookies to brownies, cherry jello, cheesecake and much more. The soups ranged from Leon Boggs' Cabbage Patch and Arnold Bieber's split pea soup, both of which were excellent, to potato cauliflower soup, a vegetable, *pasta e fagiolo* and several varieties of what was essentially chili. Erica Hartman made two crockpots of soup that were delicious. No surprise that many of the soups featured cabbage and a distinct Germanic flavoring. Most of those present went back for seconds, thirds, and more in an effort to sample as many different kinds of soup as possible. Most of the dishes were cleaned up pretty well. None of the soup chefs went home with much left over, but nobody went home hungry either so the Soup Party, by that measure, was a complete success.

Donna Boggs reported that the cash income from admission for those not bringing a soup or dessert was not great, but the costs for the party were similarly modest, so that in sum she thought the event covered expenses and did no damage to the budget for the month. All you could ask for. Let's do it again next year!

Children's Easter Party



The Easter Bunny made his appearance at the GAST House on Saturday April 4th at Noon. He had plenty of help hiding easter eggs and the 11 children who joined the fun had a great time finding them and just as much fun getting their treats.



Irmgard Toschik and LaChelle Toschik relax a minute during the Children's Easter Party.

GAST

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

*Rick & Terry Pizzo
John & Teresa Gallagher*

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Now Playing at the Erwin Jerchau

GAST Theater



Monday May 4, starting at 6:30 PM

Melodien zum Mitsingen

With Stefanie Hertel, Patrick Lindner, die Mayrhofer,
Sitgrid & Marina, Helene Fischer, Hansi Hinterseer,
Corinna Zollner, die Ladiner and many more

Starting at 7:30 PM

Das Paradies in uns

Starrig Katja Flint, Martin Brambach,
Jürgen Maurer, Maria Emde and Bax Landgrebe

GAST PICNIC! SUNDAY ,

JUNE 7, 2015 -- 1:30 PM ON THE LAWN AT THE GAST HOUSE!
[weather permitting. If it rains we will move inside.]

We will have catered barbecue with sides, and cold watermelon for dessert.

COST: \$5.00 Per Person for Germanfest Volunteers. \$10.00 Per Person for non-Volunteers

RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY 4:00 PM WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3!!
You must call the office [\[918-744-6997\]](tel:918-744-6997) by that date and time!

Bring your own favorite lawn chair to relax in. See you at the picnic.
Leon and the party committee.

Elke Leach

Sunshine Lady

This month we sent "Get Well" cards to the following individuals:

Christel Harms
Ginny Rohr
Guenter Bode

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

Email: elke@one-ring.net
Or telephone: Elke Leach at (918) 252-3838

Leserbriefe

Thanks to Garage Sale Workers

I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped me to make our Garage Sale so successful. It would not been possible without the time and effort you gave us.

A big thank you also to all those who generously contributed items for the garage sale and made them available to GAST for this important fund raiser.

Barbara Conrad

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

May 2015

Volume 36

Issue 5

The Voice of the German-American Community

Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde

The Konversationsrunde met at the GAST House's Weinkeller on Sunday April 12, 2015 at 3:00 pm and heard Tom Clark and Christopher Day talk about their experiences as teachers taking students to our sister city Celle. German exchange student Svenja Peters from Celle who is currently spending time at Riverfield School shared her impressions of life in Tulsa. Arnold Bieber – as always- was the perfect host.

Since May usually suffers from an overload of festivities the Konversationsrunde will not meet. The Konversationsrunde will next meet in September. Watch for time and place in the September Echo.

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, May 8, 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 admitted
at the most recent meeting of the GAST
Board of Directors**

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