



Ice Cream Social



August 2, 2015
3:00 to 5:00pm
At the GAST Center

This annual event is always a favorite at GAST and a treat for young and old alike. Everybody's favorite flavors with a dizzying selection of chocolate, caramel and fudge, toppings, sprinkles, candies, and sweets to seduce the firmest health nut from his diet. Come in out of the heat, meet some new people you haven't seen before, or recently, and enjoy some real camaraderie.

Doors open at 2:30pm

No charge for admission but all donations are gratefully accepted.

See you there!
The Party Committee

Please make reservations by calling the GAST Office by Wed, July 29: **918-744-6997**

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GAST

July

- 3 - Stammtisch
- 7 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 14 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 21 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 24 - Weinkellerabend
- 28 - Handarbeitsgruppe

August

- 2 - Ice Cream Social
- 4 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 7 - Stammtisch
- 11 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 18 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 21 - ATOS Performance at GAST
- 25 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 28 - Weinkellerabend

September

- 1 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 4 - Stammtisch
- 7 - GAST Theater
- 8 - Adult Language Classes
- 8 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 12 - Kinderdeutsche
- 15 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 22 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 25 - Weinkellerabend
- 29 - Handarbeitsgruppe



...from the GAST President — Arnold Bieber

Change is coming to Linde Oktoberfest Tulsa! Carol Wright, a member of the Event Management Team, presented the new lay-out to the GAST Board at our June meeting. The River West Festival Park renovation, still being completed, was designed for the needs of Oktoberfest and other annual festivals. But the changes will also make the Park more inviting to year-around visitors with an improved trail system, restrooms and play areas. The renovation should be complete by the time Oktoberfest starts, October 22-25.

I am looking for a GAST Oktoberfest Chairperson who is up to the challenge of putting together a committee of volunteers that can handle the changes we will have to make to adjust our operation to the new design. The goal is to continue the Tulsa Oktoberfest tradition and to make it as authentic as possible.

As a founding sponsor, the presence of the German American Society of Tulsa is as important to the festival, as the revenue generated is to the Society. If you are that person, give me a call at 918-357-9156.

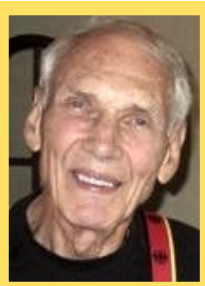
We had a very pleasant indoor picnic on June 7, thanks to Party Chair Leon Boggs and his committee. About 60 members and guests enjoyed the catered meal provided by Jeff Marlow and his crew. Even though it did not rain, the 90+ degree outdoor temperature made the air-conditioned Great Hall a much more comfortable place for conversation and old-fashioned "Gemütlichkeit". Our next major social event is the Ice Cream Social on August 2.

Most GAST activities slow down during the summer. The Folk Dancers and the Choir take a well deserved break until September. But, unless I am mistaken, the Blaskapelle and Handarbeit ladies continue their practices and work sessions, even when some members are absent due to vacations. And, of course, thanks to never-tiring host Elke Meyer, Weinkellerabend still takes place on the fourth Friday of each month. It's a great opportunity to invite guests and prospective new members. So is Stammtisch, managed by Joe Rohr with the help of Dann Bjorkland, on the first Friday of each month. If you have never participated in one of our activities or attended our informal functions, I encourage you to do that. You can come as you are, and leave when you must, but when you are there, you will have a good time and get to meet some new people.

We still need to fill some positions on various standing committees. Give me a call if you are interested and want to be involved. This is your organization!

Have a great summer!

— Arnold



...from the Building President—Harold Wicks

We are entering a slow period as far as activities in our building are concerned. Except for Weinkellerabend, on July 24th, we have no other GAST events or rentals during the month.

David Lawrence is running the office and doing a fine job. We are looking for someone to start working in the office early in August when David goes back to his job of teaching in Jenks.

Best Wishes,

— Harold

...from the Arts President — Gertrud Schmidt



The meteorologists are in agreement. It was the dampest May in Oklahoma's recorded weather history. Storm after storm rumbled through Tulsa but – fortunately- sparing us from the

worst. Certainly I was not the only one welcoming the first sunny days of June and hoping for it to stay that way until fall. But umbrellas and galoshes had a short stay in the closet.

So what did you do on those dreary wet days when gardening, walking the dog or just strolling along the river meant challenging Thor – the old Germanic God of thunder and lightning. I read a lot. The newspapers and journals were full of stories of anniversaries. There was D day – the horrible battle on the shores of Normandy. On May 7, 1945 - seventy years ago- General Eisenhower accepted the unconditional surrender of Germany in Rheims by the German General Jodl. That officially ended World War II for Germany on May 8, 1945. At peace ever since, Germany's military has acted as support to the Western Allies- including in Afghanistan and Iraq. On September 2, 1945 Emperor Hirohito signed the surrender of Japan on the deck of the battleship Missouri. Just as Germany, Japan has been at peace since that historically important day.

Going back 200 years on April 1, 1815 Otto von Bismarck (*shown, right*) was born in Schoenhausen/ Saxonia. Surely everyone has heard the name Bismarck. Maybe they do not know that as Chancellor to Emperor William I, he is credited with unifying the 17 German States. Even though he created a Health and Accident -insurance and Old Age pension system for the working class, he defended the monarchy and was vehemently opposed to a Democracy of and for the people. Understandable, since he belonged to the class of Nobles. The many statues, names of places, streets, lakes, islands, mountains and even a city in North Dakota speak of the high esteem Otto von Bismarck was- and to a limited extent- is still held in Germany and abroad. Have you ever tasted a 'Bismarck Hering'? A trader of Stralsund got permission to use this name for a fish dish – a herring-specialty of this town. So much for name recognition! Compared to 200 years and 70 years GAST is a relative



newcomer to the 2015 anniversaries. Its articles of incorporation were signed January 22, 1980. We did celebrate this anniversary with an Anniversary Ball on January 17, 2015. So here we are, 35 years later still upholding our Mission: "Preserve and promote the German language, culture, traditions and customs through educational and social events for the enrichment of its members and the community". GAST ARTS- which was incorporated one year later- diligently works on this mission.

The American Theater Organ Society will treat us to a concert on August 21, 2015 at 7:00pm in the Great Hall of our GAST House. Language classes for adults start up on Tuesday September 8, 2015 at 7:00pm and Kinderdeutsch on Saturday September 12, 2015 at 10:00am. Our wonderful GAST Blaskapelle will play for us on German American Day October 4, 2015 at 3:00pm. Members of GAST will again honor the German soldiers and the Fallen of all wars at a ceremony at Ft. Reno November 15, 2015 at 2:00pm. On December 13, 2015 the annual Advent Service will be held in the Great Hall of our GAST House. Join us for these events and enjoy some good chats and fellowship.

Gertrud

Newsletter
DEADLINE

July 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.

Das Deutsche Echo

is published monthly by
The German-American Society of Tulsa
1429 Terrace Dr., Tulsa, OK 74104

Office hours:

Tue through Fri: Noon - 6pm

Sat: 9am - 3pm

Library: by appointment during office hours

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Message Center - 918-744-6997

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bART Center for Music
Recital at the GAST Center
June 21, 2015



This page is sponsored by John Millar

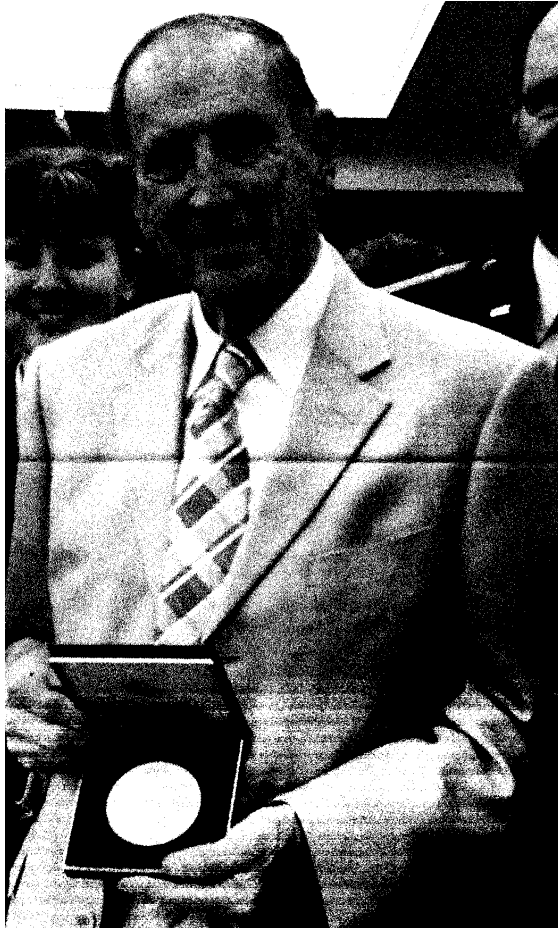
GAST Member Jack Wynn Receives Award

Long-time GAST member Jack Wynn was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal during the Oklahoma Wing Conference held April 25 at the Sequoia State Park Lodge near Wagner, Oklahoma. The medal was awarded to the Civil Air Patrol and its members to honor their service during World War II. Wynn was the only Oklahoma member receiving the award.

The Civil Air Patrol, under the Office of Civil Defense at the outset of the war and later under the War Department, had a critical role in providing anti-sabotage flights, anti-submarine patrols on the nation's coasts, border patrol flights, search and rescue missions, and training pilots for the fledgling Army Air Force.

Wynn, who was 16 at the time of the outbreak of war, worked for his uncle at a small airport in Crete, Nebraska, doing miscellaneous work, washing planes, mowing grass and at the same time learning to fly. He became a Civil Air Patrol cadet and performed the service for which he was later recognized. He later joined the Army Air Corps and served for 2 years from October 28, 1943, to October 28, 1945.

Wynn has been a member of GAST since the mid-1980's and married to his wife Jenny for 63 years this July 19.



SCHWARZES BRETT



Oktoberfest at Riverparks West will be held from October 21 (Corporate Night) to October 25 this year. GAST, as always, will be an important participant and is looking for volunteers, as well as a special volunteer to chair this year's Oktoberfest Committee. Anyone interested should communicate with the GAST President to discuss this important position.

Arnold Bieber
(918) 357-9156
Email: aobieber@aol.com

GAST Picnic Draws Nice Crowd

The GAST Picnic was held in the Great Hall at GAST on June 7th at 1:30 pm. A catered meal was served of barbecue with sides and cold watermelon for dessert. The event was originally expected to be held on the lawn and participants urged to bring their favorite lawn chairs, but before the date arrived the program chair, Leon Boggs, had determined that arrangements could be better managed inside the Great Hall than on the lawn. Particularly the beer, which most considered an essential feature of the picnic, could be kept cold and served only with difficulty outdoors while in the Great Hall beer service is handled routinely. With weather uncertain at the same time, everyone agreed an indoor picnic made good sense.

Party chair, Leon Boggs, estimated attendance in excess of 60 members. At press time, accounting for revenue and costs of the event were not available, but it was not expected that the event would significantly adversely effect GAST for the year.

GAST

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

*Rick & Terry Pizzo
John & Teresa Gallagher*

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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Elke Leach Sunshine Lady

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

This month we sent a Sympathy card to:

Ron Sanning and family upon the decease of Christa Cherny

And a "Get Well" card to:

Siegfried Grimm and David Forbes

GAST Sanger at Cole Camp

The GAST Sanger finished the spring season in good form. They performed at the GAST Germanfest on the first weekend in May and the following week entertained the University Village Retirement Community. A significant portion of the audience at University Village is either of German origin or descent and this crowd really enjoys our music. The audience there is always large, pleasant, and appreciative. On the second weekend in June the singers made their annual trip to Cole Camp, Missouri for a day of singing with the St. Louis District. After the main afternoon performance the singers participated in a district wide sing-along that allowed for more socialization among the groups attending. The choir always looks forward to this event and it allows the Tulsa German American Society to be well represented in the district.



Story courtesy of Betty Donohue



GAST Sanger at Cole Camp, top right: It didn't just rain, it poured, but the facilities inside, (above) were dry, and the show went on. the GAST Sanger, at right, middle and bottom, performed 6 different songs. Pictures courtesy of Arnold Bieber

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



Das Deutsche Echo

July 2015

Volume 36

Issue 7

The Voice of the German-American Community

Die Deutsche Konversationsrund

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, July 3, 2015 – 6:30 PM

in the GAST Weinkeller.

Hope to see you there.

Zum Wohl,

– Joe Rohr, Chair

New Members

The following individuals or families were added to the Membership at the most recent meeting of the GAST Board of Directors

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