



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

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

October

- 2 - Stammtisch
- 5 - GAST Theater
- 6 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 13 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 20 - Handarbeitsgruppe
- 22 - Weinkellerabend
- 27 - Handarbeitsgruppe



...from the GAST President — Arnold Bieber

Did you know that about 25% of current Oklahoma residents can claim at least one German ancestor? Germans constituted the largest wave of immigrants to Oklahoma in the late 19th and early 20th Century. Many had lived in other states before moving to Oklahoma and were enticed by the prospect of owning land in Oklahoma and Indian Territory. Most of them were hard working farmers needing more space to feed their growing families.

Germans from Russia who had immigrated to the United States because they were denied the special rights granted to them by Catherine the Great and Russian tsars established their own communities, churches and schools in Oklahoma. Many Germans from Imperial Germany (1871-1918) came to America to avoid conscription into the Kaiser's army or to find a better, less restricted life. Oklahoma was truly the land of opportunity.

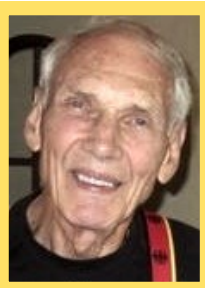
I was privileged to read and translate some of the documents these early German settlers to Oklahoma brought with them. Their children often intermarried with other ethnic groups and the use of the German language was discouraged during and after World War I. There was no incentive or opportunity to teach their grandchildren who eventually inherited the keepsakes from the old country.

Mining activities and the oil boom brought more Germans to Oklahoma. So did the flow of refugees from the East German provinces and the occupation by American troops after World War II. This resulted in a revival of the German language which is now the fourth most spoken language in Oklahoma, after English, Spanish and Cherokee. The mission of the German American Society of Tulsa is to promote and preserve the German language, culture, traditions and customs through educational, social activities and events for the enrichment of our members and the community. You don't have to be German or have German ancestry to join and participate in our activities. An interest in the German culture or a desire to learn more about it and to socialize with like-minded people is all you need.

I invite you to come to the Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 2 at 3 PM and bring the children and grandchildren and your friends for an afternoon of German Gemütlichkeit. Don't forget to make reservations by calling the GAST Office (918-744-6997) on or before Wednesday, July 29.

Enjoy!

— Arnold



...from the Building President—Harold Wicks

We are having a few more activities in August. We have one rental and several G A S T functions. We also have the American Theater Organ Society of Tulsa annual concert. Our Blaskapelle Band is playing also. Please come to enjoy this very popular event.

Best Wishes,

— Harold

...from the Arts President — Gertrud Schmidt



Thoughtful, lively and enthusiastic comes to mind when I reflect on the bART concert which was presented to GAST on June 21, 2015. The Dean of Conservatory Sheri Neubauer,

Faculty Coordinator John Rush and accompanist Aaron Beck together with more than 20 students treated the audience to an afternoon of delightful music. There were violin, cello, bass, flute, piano and vocal solos and duets with combinations of these instruments. The performers covered the whole spectrum of easy beginners to quite advanced pieces by a great variety of composers. A heartfelt “thank you” to the bART students and management.

Sorry if you missed this enjoyable afternoon... however there is another treat on the GAST-ARTS calendar. On August 21, 2015 at 7:00 pm the American Theater-organ Society of Tulsa (ATOS) together with GAST’s Blaskapelle (brass band) will entertain us with a variety of organ, piano, vocal and Blasmusik (brass music) in the Great Hall of our GAST House. ATOS always manages to put together a wonderful program of a combination of classical music and tunes in the lighter vein for the enjoyment of the audience.

Our Blaskapelle under the baton of David Lawrence will not only provide auditory delights with a charming variety of music, but will also give a work-out to our arm and leg muscles. The Blaskapelle is practicing the Radetsky March by Johann Strauss senior (1804-1849). There is not a New Years Eve celebration in Vienna or summer concert on the grounds of Schoenbrunn castle by the ‘Wiener Symphoniker’ that does not end –by popular demand-with the Radetsky March. The visitors are usually enticed by the conductor to clap their hands and stomp their feet... first gently and the second time around more thunderously in rhythm to the theme. If you have never heard it... come and listen and participate- it is fun! This march was commissioned to honor the Austrian Field Marshall Graf Johann Joseph Wenzel Radetsky von Radetz (1766-1858) for his victory at Custora (1848) to end the Italian War of Independence.



The senior Strauss very much sympathized with the Habsburg Empire and his Radetsky March may be considered the signature piece of the big Habsburg Empire and- after 1918- of the much smaller Austrian Republic.

Not to short-change our Berliners David also put ‘Berliner Luft’ on the GAST Blaskapelle program of the ATOS Concert. Paul Lincke (1866-1946) set the lyrics by Heinrich Bolton Baeckers to music (1904) as part what of would eventually become the operetta ‘Frau Luna’. This operetta subtly ridiculed the Hohenzollern King Friedrich Willhelm II of Prussia who was known to overindulge himself with wine and women. Soon this song morphed into the unofficial hymn of the city of Berlin. Just like the Radetsky March for the Vienna Symphony ‘Berliner Luft is a “must performance” for the season finale of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra at the Berliner Waldbühne . Habsburg and Hohenzollern Empires are relegated to the history books. The music lives on! Come and enjoy the music, the camaraderie and the refreshments after the concert.

Gertrud

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

August 19 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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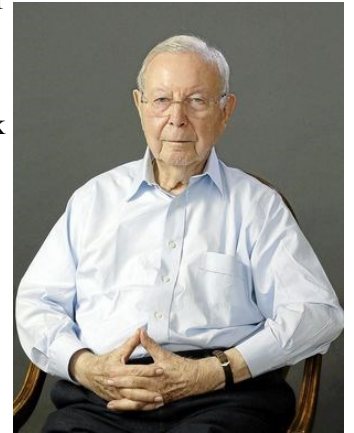
KEN RENBERG HONORED BY TULSA WORLD

Longtime GAST member Ken Renberg recently received some well deserved recognition in a front page (above the fold) article by the Tulsa World on Renberg's experiences during World War II as a part of the World's focus on veterans in its Monday editions.

Renberg was born to Jewish parents in Delmenhorst, Germany, in 1920. By 1937 the Nazi persecution against Jews was increasing and his parents took the precaution of sending him to America to live with his aunt in Enid, Oklahoma, where he lived and went to high school. His parents also emigrated from Germany to Oklahoma in 1939 but settled in Tulsa.



He graduated from High School in 1939 but within months, when the Germans invaded Poland in September 1939, he enlisted in the National Guard, serving with the Guard's 45th Infantry Division in an artillery battalion in Enid.



Once in the army, Renberg was shipped overseas, to Scotland, where he was assigned to the 18th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Infantry Division, which would be a leading unit for the planned invasion of France. His flawless native German would be of great use to in intelligence gathering, and long before the invasion took place, Renberg was trained in interrogation techniques and was actively involved in questioning German prisoners of war for any obtainable and useful knowledge about their units, locations, size, armor, officers, etc.

Renberg's unit suffered heavy casualties at Omaha Beach although he was not injured until a few weeks following the invasion when his unit was caught in a German bombardment outside St. Lo. He and a friend were hit by shrapnel at the same time, his friend dying almost immediately while Renberg escaped with a serious shoulder wound and later spent a month recovering in a hospital. He received the Purple Heart.



German Panther taken by GI's during the Battle of the Bulge

After recovering, Renberg was assigned to the 102nd Infantry Division on the German Border. The surprise German counter offensive in December, 1944, punching through the Ardennes forest in a desperate rush toward Antwerp, later called the "Battle of the Bulge" delayed the invasion of Germany itself until Hitler's gamble had been stopped and the way into the heart of the enemy was open.

Once in Germany, Renberg was put in temporary charge of an allied prisoner of war camp, formerly a farm, over the course of Renberg's time at the camp processed more than 35,000 German prisoners of war. Renberg had only 15 military police officers to assist him. The story of his work at the camp was printed in the Tulsa World at the time.

Renberg's fight was personal. As a German Jew he had seen the Nazi menace up close and knew the horror of their efforts to exterminate the Jews of Europe, and perhaps understood as much as anyone how close they came to success.

Renberg, today at the age of 94, is a resident of Montereau at Warren Woods retirement community.

Renberg's story, written by Tim Stanley, appeared in the Tulsa World on Monday, July 6. Pictures and graphics by Tulsa World

GAST BLASKAPELLE

On August 21st, the GAST Blaskapelle kicks off its busy season at the GAST Center with the American Theater Organ Society in a joint concert which has become a wonderful annual event. They will also play at the Jazz Hall of Fame on the 2nd of October in celebration of German Unity Day and then return to the GAST Center to help us celebrate German-American Day on the 4th. During this time of year, we also get invited to play at a variety of retirement communities that hold mini-Oktoberfest parties. We already have two lined up, one at a retirement community near Tulsa Hills and another in Sand Springs. After that, Tulsa's Linde Oktoberfest will be in full swing, where our blaskapelle, and our singers and dancers, have been asked to help kick off the festivities at the opening ceremony.

Anyone who has ever played in a band in the United States owes a big debt of gratitude to early European, and especially German, immigrants to the United States who brought over a tradition of community band music from across the Atlantic, a tradition that our blaskapelle continues to this day.

Origin of the Brass Band: Long ago, in the late Middle Ages, band music got its start when musicians of the louder, or "high" instruments of the time formed outdoor groups that would play at a variety of civic and military events. They typically played secular music popular with the common people in contrast to the quiet or "low" instrument music which was played indoors and was associated with the church and nobility.

Jump ahead to the early 1800s when brass instruments get a major technological upgrade. Before this time, brass players could only play a limited number of notes and had to manually change the tubing of their instruments in order to play different sets of notes. Along came the invention of valves. With just three of these newfangled valves, brass players could play all the notes in a chromatic scale just like their string and woodwind counterparts.

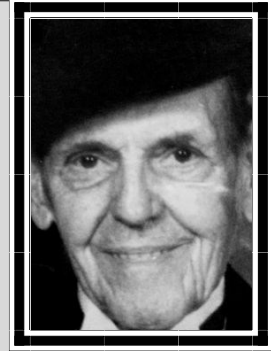
At that point, brass bands and brass-supported wind bands took off. They were great for playing outdoors and for military and community events, and by the turn of the century they were found in virtually every major community in the US. This is the time of John Philip Sousa, *right*, a world-renowned band leader and composer who toured Europe and the US and who had, arguably, the most famous musical act in the world.



Our own GAST Blaskapelle came in to being in 2002 with the efforts of a few GAST members that are still active in the blaskapelle today:

Dan Belcher, Craig Sanford and Max Tankersley. We have since grown to a band of 38 musicians, and we are proud to carry on this great tradition of the community band for the German-American Society and for the Tulsa community as a whole.

Story courtesy of David Lawrence
Director, GAST Blaskapelle



IN MEMORIAM

Wayne Randolph Beebe
3/18/1915—7/4/2015

Longtime GAST member

Wayne Beebe passed away at his home on the 4th of July, surrounded by his family. Wayne was born in 1915 in El Reno and moved with his family to Tulsa in 1917, attending Lee Elementary and Central High School.

Wayne served more than 4 years in the U.S. Army during World War II as a ground radio operator, initially in the United Kingdom and then served in the North African campaign under General George Patton. Returning to Oklahoma after the war he was employed by Exxon (then, Jersey Production and Research Co. He was married to Mary K. Winn in 1956 and the couple purchased a home and raised their family in Tulsa.

Wayne was an enthusiastic walker, making the daily 8 mile round trip from their home on Brookside to downtown Tulsa. He also enjoyed jogging and bicycling and was one of the charter members of the Tulsa Bicycle Club, leading many rides and creating the Wednesday Night Route which many Tulsa cyclists still enjoy.

Wayne and his long-time friend and companion Jan Erdman were active for a time in GAST. The pair enjoyed the folk dancing and were most recently seen at Germanfest cutting a rug during the festival. He is survived by Jan, and his son David and daughter Elizabeth and her husband.

A Celebration of Life is planned, the date, time and location will be available on
<https://www.facebook.com/WayneRBeebe>

davidforbes@gmail.com

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 out Get Well cards to:

Gwen Bieber, Gerald Taron, Barbara Allinder
And a Congratulations card to Jenny and Jack Wynn on the occasion of their 63rd anniversary!

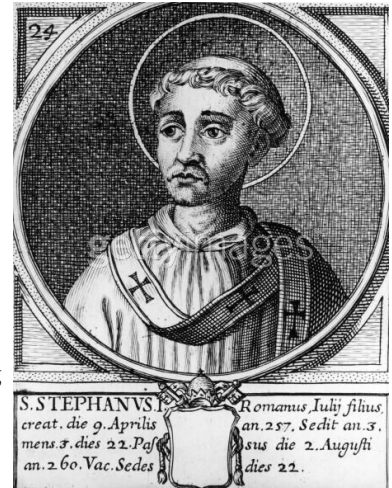
August in German History

843 Treaty of Verdun signed on the death of Louis the Pius, dividing the Carolingian Empire into West Francia, Middle Francia, and East Francia (the earliest stage of the Kingdom of Germany lasting until 962.)



936 Otto I "The Great" *at left*, crowned King of Germany at Aachen Cathedral.

1057 Stephen IX, *at right*, originally Frederick of Lorraine, elected Pope but, dying at the time of his election, he reigned for less than 8 months.



1939 The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact signed setting peaceful relations between Nazi Germany and the USSR and containing the secret protocol for the partition of Poland, assignment of the Baltic states into the Soviet sphere of influence as well as certain other east European territories.

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



Das Deutsche Echo

August 2015

Volume 36

Issue 8

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, August 7, 2015 – 6:30 PM
in the GAST Weinkeller.

Hope to see you there.

Zum Wohl,

– Joe Rohr, Chair

New Members

No individuals or families were added to the Membership at the most recent meeting of the GAST Board of Directors

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