



## GAST Prepares for Oktoberfest 2015

Linde Oktoberfest Tulsa will be held this year from the 21st to the 25th of October, and as always GAST will have a major role. To fill that role we will need lots of volunteers.

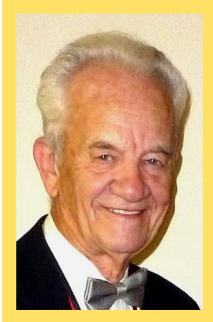
The Oktoberfest Committee will schedule a Saturday in September to remove all the cooking equipment from storage, clean and test it and be sure it is in proper working order. The Committee will also schedule a time for volunteers to meet at GAST to wash, sort, and bag all utensils, pots and pans that will be used at the festival. Volunteers will need to move items from the garage to the kitchen, washers and dryers and baggers to get everything cleaned and bagged and coded for the appropriate tent at the festival, then restored in the garage for storage until we are ready to head to the Festival and set up.

For both of these events, the more volunteers we have, the easier and faster the job will be completed.

The Oktoberfest Committee will also schedule a sign-up party for a Friday in September. Announcements will be made as to the dates and times.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT GAST

September	October	November
1 - Handarbeitsgruppe	2 - Stammtisch	1 - Volkstänzer
4 - Stammtisch	4 - Volkstänzer / German Amer Day	2 - GAST Theater
6 - Volkstänzer	5 - GAST Theater	3 - Handarbeitsgruppe
7 - GAST Theater	6 - Handarbeitsgruppe	6 - Stammtisch
8 - Adult Language Classes	11 - Volkstänzer / Winterreise II	7 - Oktoberfest Party
8 - Handarbeitsgruppe	13 - Handarbeitsgruppe	8 - Volkstänzer
12 - Kinderdeutsche	18 - Volkstänzer	10 - Handarbeitsgruppe
13 - Volkstänzer	20 - Handarbeitsgruppe	15 - Volkstänzer / Volkstrauertag
15 - Handarbeitsgruppe	22 - Weinkellerabend	17 - Handarbeitsgruppe
20 - Volkstänzer	22-25 <b>Oktoberfest</b>	22 - Volkstänzer
22 - Handarbeitsgruppe	25 - Volkstänzer	24 - Handarbeitsgruppe
25 - Weinkellerabend	27 - Handarbeitsgruppe	26 - Weinkellerabend
27 - Volkstänzer		
29 - Handarbeitsgruppe		



## ...from the GAST President — Arnold Bieber

Our Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 2, was well attended. Young and old, everybody loves ice cream on a hot Oklahoma afternoon. And we had plenty of it, along with fresh fruit, cookies, ice coffee and punch. Our organizers, Erica Hartman, Ruth Bly and David Forbes purchased the ice cream and all the extras, set and decorated the tables and got everything ready for 130 ice cream lovers. Our helpers, Susan and Roger Bey and Ginny and Paul Greek were kept busy filling heaping bowls of ice cream with delicious toppings. Who needs Braum's or Dairy Queen when we can make our own banana splits and sundaes? Only one serious complaint - we forgot the sugar free ice cream for those with dietary restrictions. Otherwise, well done, Ice Cream Social volunteers.

We are looking forward to this year's Linde Oktoberfest on the fourth weekend in October, starting with a corporate night on Wednesday, the 21<sup>st</sup> and ending on Sunday, the 25th. This is the 37th year of Tulsa's Oktoberfest tradition. Tulsa Oktoberfest precedes the founding of the German American Society of Tulsa by only a few months, as most of our founding families were also active participants when the festival started in 1979. This year it promises to be more authentic Bavarian. River West Festival Park has been completely renovated to meet the needs of Oktoberfest and other festivals. There will be new tents with new stages and dance floors. There will be new bands, more varieties of beer and food, but also more family oriented activities. GAST will again be the sponsor of the Oktoberfest Poster and will be a major vendor of the German cuisine. We have been offered an opportunity to manage the food kitchen of the "Alte Wiesen", patterned after the original Munich version where meals are served by girls dressed in dirndls (or guys in lederhosen) and the mood reminds one of German Gemütlichkeit. More on that in the next issue of the ECHO.

Oktoberfest is still our largest fundraiser, that helps us maintain our beautiful building and to continue our cultural activities. I hope you will respond favorably when someone from the Oktoberfest Committee calls you to volunteer for a shift or two at Oktoberfest. We will also schedule several work sessions in September to get the equipment ready. We will need your help then too!

In the meantime, enjoy the last few weeks of summer and the Labor Day holiday weekend.

— Arnold



## ...from the Building President—Harold Wicks

We have been very grateful for the excellent job that David Lawrence has done in running the office and handling the myriad details of leasing the building and assisting in all of our own events at the GAST Center. When Terri Bullis left our administrative situation was precarious but David stepped up and filled in with a star performance that could hardly have been hoped for. Thanks so much David for your service above and beyond.

That service, however, was by necessity only temporary, and fortunately at the same time David must return to his regular work we have found and hired a permanent office manager, Michael Hassan, for whom we have high expectations. Please see my introduction of Michael in a brief story on Page 5 of this issue.

— Harold



## ...from the Arts President — Gertrud Schmidt

September: For people in the northern Hemisphere it spells: harvest-time, beginning of fall, equinox.... from now on the days are getting shorter and cooler. For Ruth Obermark it spells: Get the teachers lined up for the ten week

German language classes which will start Tuesday, September 8, 2015, at 7:00 pm for the adult students and on Saturday September 12, 2015, at 10:00 am, for Kinderdeutsch.

During a brainstorming session, teachers Carol Masters, Sindy Andrews, Angela Novak and Christy Crockett together with Ruth Obermark, Arnold Bieber and Jutta Tankersly came to the conclusion that English as well as German—being living languages—have over the last ten years undergone changes which they felt need to be addressed in their teachings of the German language. In 2005 German schools enacted new spelling rules (which some educators think were not necessary), the Oxford Dictionary of the English language has included some words which reflect the information technology age and the newspapers have adopted some abbreviations which came from texting into the mainstream use. The search was on for more up-to-date text and work-books for our students. Goethe Institute to the rescue! “Menschen – Deutsch als Fremdsprache” (People.... German as a Foreign Language) by Bueder was recommended and promptly procured by Ruth. The teachers accepted it wholeheartedly and will use it for beginner and intermediate student lectures. The emphasis is on conversational, interactive German language rather than sentence structure, spelling and grammar – the bane of many students.

In 1951 the Goethe Institute succeeded the ‘German Akademie’ which was founded in 1925 to assist foreign teachers teach German and get them acquainted with German Culture. To date there are 159 offices worldwide. Its efforts in international cultural exchanges are supported by the German Government and through fees for language courses. Who was Goethe? Ask any student who has gone through the German school system and he/she will tell you that Johann Wolfgang von Goethe is one of the greatest German classical poets whose most famous work is ‘Faust’. J.W. was born August 28, 1749, in Frankfurt (state of Hesse) to Caspar Goethe – a jurist- and Katherina Elisabeth Textor – who grew up in a family of intellectuals. Goethe described his genetic make-up in a little poem which in essence says: “From my father I inherited my stature and the stern way of looking at life. My mother gave me my happy nature and a fondness for story-telling and poetry”. (Vom Vater hab’ ich die Statur des Lebens ernstes Fuehren; vom Muetterchen die Frohnatur die Lust zu Fabulieren) Already at age eight he wrote poems for his grandparents and at age 16 he qualified for University study. His father nixed his desire to study art and instead sent him to Leipzig to study law. Johann Wolfgang complied but

continued writing plays, poetry and scientific papers on mineralogy and comparative anatomy. In 1775 he was invited to Weimar as teacher to the two sons of King Karl August of Saxonia. He became involved in politics, advisor for finances and fire safety, setting up reading sessions and organizing theater presentation and more. The death in 1779 of his sister Cornelia whom he dearly loved, the death in 1782 of his father, and the burdens of the court all took their toll on Goethe’s health. He took a break from all his duties and travelled to Italy (1786) where he spent time with artists and immersed himself in art history. After his return he broke with his long-time platonic love Charlotte von Stein and took Christiane Vulpius as partner and married her in 1806. She died in 1816, and his only surviving son August died in 1830 in Italy. On March 22, 1832, Goethe died. For more close-up information go to Weimar and visit the Goethe Museum.

Put October 4, 2015, 3:00 pm on your calendar. Come and celebrate German American Day with us at the GAST House. Dr. Eric Schmaltz couldn’t resist Barbara Conrad’s charm and agreed to be the speaker and our Blaskapelle will play the National Anthem and entertain us with enjoyable music.

Gertrud

Newsletter  
**DEADLINE**

September 16 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

#### Arnold Bieber, President

David Forbes, Editor: 918-770-1743

Editor E-mail address: davidalanforbes@gmail.com

GAST e-mail: gast@tulsacoxmail.com

GAST Web page <http://www.gastulsa.org>

### Message Center - 918-744-6997

The German-American Society, Arts Association  
and Building Corp. do not necessarily endorse  
advertisers and/or ad content.



# Ice Cream Social

Sunday, August 2



This page is sponsored by John Millar

## Folkdancers Put Their Dancing Shoes Back On

The GAST Folkdancers are ready to resume regular practice sessions. Open to GAST members and friends between 16 to 100 years. Middle-school age if accompanied by an adult.

We invite you to join us for evenings of fellowship while learning German, Austrian and Swiss Folk dances for our enjoyment and in preparation for our Fall season. You do not need a partner. No experience necessary and it is also good exercise. You need only comfortable shoes and an interest in being part of the GAST Folkdancers as we prepare to present programs at various Oktoberfest venues.

**Our opening session will be Sunday, August 23, 2015 from 6 till 8 pm in the GAST Weinkeller. Subsequent meetings will be on Sunday evenings from 6 - 8pm.**

For more information please contact Carol Wright at [clw2of6@gmail.com](mailto:clw2of6@gmail.com) or GAST office 918-744-6997



## Leserbriefe

### Herzlichen Dank

For over 10 years we enjoyed the wonderful people at GAST and the many activities the club provided.

We are leaving Tulsa, as the German saying goes, "mit einem lachenden - und einem weinenden Auge". Happy to be close to our children and grand children and sad, because, we will be far away from all our Tulsa friends.

A special thanks and best wishes to the GAST choir; we wish you all a great future. And remember, learning songs and singing is the best medicine for age related problems.

Auf Wiedersehen and let's keep in touch,  
Sonia & Peter Ahrenkiel

*Contributions by members are welcome and should be sent to: [davidalanforbes@gmail.com](mailto:davidalanforbes@gmail.com)*



## New GAST Office Manager: Michael Hassan

Meet our new Office Manager, Michael Hassan. Michael comes to us as a former Operations Manager sub-contractor for the Arts & Humanities Council of Tulsa's rental program for Harwelden Mansion and the Hardesty Arts Center.

Michael was born in Tulsa and is a graduate of Jenks High School and the University of Oklahoma. He earned his Bachelor's degree from the College of Journalism in Public Relations. In his tenure with the Arts & Humanities Council, he oversaw the largest re-branding campaign that Harwelden Mansion has ever had, along with raising awareness of the venue through web development, social media and vendor marketing strategies which resulted in an immediate revenue increase within his first year.

Michael has done other work in the events industry in Tulsa which has brought him to our beautiful GAST House on several occasions. He admittedly has a passion not only for weddings and events, but also for the preservation and sharing of historical buildings like ours. The renting of our building helps us share its beauty with the community, create life long memories for so many countless people and it also raises awareness of our groups and events that we share with the community, such as Germanfest and Kristkindlemarkt.

We're very lucky and happy to have Michael on our team. He is excited to be getting started and is looking forward to bringing new life and new ideas to our rental program.

*Story and photograph courtesy of Harold Wicks*

# 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.

10802 Quail Plaza Drive, Suite 104  
Oklahoma City, OK 73120  
Telephone (405) 418 8800 Fax (405) 418 8803  
KPerea@neccoandbyrd.com

“Northeastern Oklahoma’s Finest”



- All foreign & domestic Cars & trucks
- Standards & automatic
- Front & 4-wheel drive
- Clutches & transfer cases
- Manuals—overdrives
- Carry-outs available

**We are here to help!**

- Free, no obligation transmission inspection
- Computerized diagnostics
- Free towing available
- 36 months, 36,000 miles warranty available
- Financing available W.A.C

**665-7229**

9726 E. 46th Pl.  
Just east of 46th & Mingo



**Credit Cards Accepted:**

VISA, Mastercard,  
American Express,  
Discover Card

## GREAT TASTING PORK



**All Natural, Pasture Raised  
Call Cedar Farm (918) 224-2566**

## The TRAVEL Group

Lower airfares through consolidators and ticket brokers!

**494-0649**

9999 S. Mingo Rd—Suite T  
The Plaza Del Sol Center at 101st & Mingo

# GAST

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

*Harold & Doris  
Wicks  
  
Hannelore Giles Carter  
  
Stan & Barbara Conrad*

# Euro-mart

### European Foods

Cheese • Sausage • Fish • Coffee • Tea  
Candies • Chocolates • Cookies • Crackers  
Old World Herbs and Vegetables

**We Now Have TWO Locations!**

**www.TulsaEuroMart.com**



Find us on Facebook

### Euro-Mart South

7847 E. 71st St. • Tulsa, OK. 74133  
At The Landing behind TOYS-R-US  
EuroMart.South@gmail.com

**918-249-8355**

### Euro-Mart Midtown

1615 East 15th St. • Tulsa, OK. 74120  
On Cherry Street  
EuroMart.Midtown@gmail.com

**918-289-0578**



Now Playing at the Erwin Jerchau

## GAST Theater

Monday September 7, starting at 6:30 PM  
Wunderbare Melodien

With Hansi Hinterseer, Helene Fischer, Andreas Gabalier,  
Udo Jürgens, Andre Rieu, Heino, Oesch die Dritten  
and many more

Starting at 7:30 PM

Im Tal des Schweigens

With Christine Neubauer, Sascha Hehn,  
Veronica Fritz, Timothy Peach,  
Julia Gschnitzer and many more

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](mailto:elke@one-ring.net)

Or telephone: Elke Leach at (918) 252-3838

I mailed a "Get-Well" card to Erica Hartman, and a sympathy card to Linda Paul and family upon the death of her mother.

### Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde

Come to Ortwin and Gertrud Schmidt's House (5133 E. 86 Place) on Sunday, September 13, 2015, at 3 pm to hear and see all about Barbara and Gerald Tarons travels in exotic lands. As always there will be good discussions while enjoying the refreshments.

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) at 918-495-3727

### Stammtischrunde

Friday, September 4, 2015 – 6:30 PM  
in the GAST Weinkeller.

Hope to see you there.

Zum Wohl,

– Joe Rohr, Chair

### New Members

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

Jillian Masters, Tulsa  
Eric Noble, Tulsa  
Brian Bailey, Claremore

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



# Das Deutsche Echo

September 2015

Volume 36

Issue 9

*The Voice of the German-American Community*



## Siegi's Sausage Factory

8104 S. Sheridan Road, in Tulsa

(918) 492-8988

[www.siegis.com](http://www.siegis.com)

Email: [info@siegis.com](mailto:info@siegis.com)



Tulsa's  
premier  
German  
delicatessen  
and restaurant!

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit 528  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

German-American Society Arts Association  
Das Deutsche Echo  
1429 Terrace Drive  
Tulsa, OK 74104  
Return Service requested