



# 36th Anniversary Party

Saturday, January 16

At the GAST Center

Doors open at 5:30pm - Dinner at 6:00pm

### Menu:

Prime Rib  
Parsley New Potatoes  
Green Beans  
Dinner Rolls and Salad  
Anniversary Cake for dessert

Entertainment by Bill Rowland on piano

**Admission:** \$20

Reservations are required  
Call: (918) 744-6997  
by 2:00 pm on Wednesday, January 13,  
with the number in your party.



**UPCOMING  
EVENTS AT  
GAST**

### January

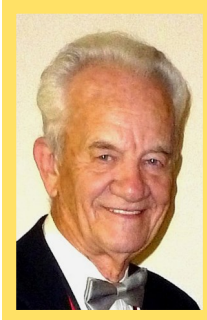
- 4 GAST Theater
- 5 Handarbeitsgruppe
- 8 Stammtisch
- 10 Konversationsrunde
- 12 Handarbeitsgruppe
- 16 **Anniversary Party**
- 19 Handarbeitsgruppe
- 25 Handarbeitsgruppe

### February

- 1 GAST Theater
- 2 Handarbeitsgruppe
- 6 **Fasching Party**
- 7 Volkstanzer
- 9 Handarbeitsgruppe
- 12 Stammtisch
- 14 Volkstanzer / Konversationsrunde
- 16 Handarbeitsgruppe
- 21 Volkstanzer
- 23 Handarbeitsgruppe
- 28 Volkstanzer

### March

- 6 Volkstanzer
- 7 GAST Theater
- 8 Handarbeitsgruppe
- 11 Stammtisch
- 11-12 **Garage Sale**
- 13 Volkstanzer / Konversationsrunde
- 15 Handarbeitsgruppe
- 20 Volkstanzer
- 22 Handarbeitsgruppe
- 27 Volkstanzer
- 29 Handarbeitsgruppe



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

GAST Christkindlmarkt rocks! Aided by nice weather, great publicity and the hard work of our team of volunteers, we exceeded all expectations for one of Tulsa's best loved ethnic festivals. Christkindlmarkt is for all ages. Mothers and grandmothers can shop for Christmas presents at the Laden or one of the many arts and crafts tables.. Dads and grandfathers can browse the Bäckerei and enjoy the Glühwein. Children can watch the puppet show and practice their artistic skills in the Children's Activity Room. And all can enjoy a hearty German meal prepared by our efficient kitchen crew, listen to harp music and visit the Bethlehem Village. Sankt Nikolaus and the Christkindl regularly make the rounds and pose for anyone with a camera or i-phone. Members of the Blaskapelle, not to be outdone, played some German and American Christmas carols on the patio to greet the visitors entering the building and invite those passing by to stop and listen. Great job again, Christkindlmarkt Committee and volunteers!

As the German American Society of Tulsa (GAST) is celebrating its 36<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on January 16, we are reflecting on the challenges and accomplishments of the last thirty-six years. Twenty-five years ago, our good fortune was to acquire a building ideally located in mid-town Tulsa that was suitable for our functions. But it needed a lot of work, much of it done by volunteers. The German American Society Building Corporation owned the building and was in charge of renovating and maintaining it. Our active leasing program at times provided most but not all of the funds needed to cover the increasing costs of office operations, utilities, insurance, lawn care and repairs. GAST was always the banker of last resort by continuing the festivals as cultural contributions to the community and as fundraisers to pay the bills.

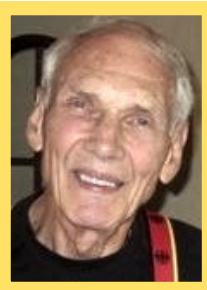
As of December 30, when the signing of the bill of sale will take place at 6 PM in the Weinkeller, all assets and obligations of the GAS Building Corporation will be transferred to GAST. This presents a new challenge for the organization, as we will be operating with fewer officers and Board members. The 2016 budgets, approved by the Board during the December Board meeting, incorporated these and other changes.

Seventy members and guests attended and enjoyed the GAST Christmas Party, organized by the GAST Sänger and catered by Chef Jeff. Our next social event will be the Anniversary Dinner on Saturday, January 16. We will announce the winners of the Essay Contest and the Directors' and Presidents' awards at this event.

Angela Novak, our Maikönigin and Youth Chair, has been busy organizing High School and College German language teachers meetings, the Essay Contest and Youth Movie Nights. She signed up 37 students for GAST Youth memberships which will continue until the end of the school year. She is also tireless in promoting our ARTS adult and children's language classes and took charge of the Children's Christmas Party on December 12. With Angela's example of drive and determination the future of GAST is in good hands.

Have a safe holiday and a great year!

— Arnold



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

We have two rentals this month which is good because January usually does not get any bookings. We are happy to have any income we can get.

We continue to have a very difficult time getting volunteers to host our rentals. I hope some of you good people will make a New Year's resolution to contact Michael, our Office Manager, and volunteer to be on our Host List.

We have joined Weddings of Tulsa which is located in the Plaza at 81<sup>st</sup> and Lewis. We have a display that features a monitor showing photos of our facility. The display can be viewed by visitors during regular business hours. Weddings of Tulsa has eight special events during the year when Brides and other interested people are invited to visit with the representatives of the various services available to them.

Wishing You a Healthy and Happy New Year

— Harold



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

The winter solstice is upon us... the daylight time will be slowly increasing and nights become proportionately shorter and on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December Christians around the world will celebrate the birth of the Christ-child for the 2015<sup>th</sup> time.

Celebrating the third Advent with us in our GAST House Pastor Inge Matern, from our German sister city Celle, time and again iterated the message of the angels over the stable in Bethlehem "*fuerchtet euch nicht*" [fear not] but share joy by helping and healing fellow men in need. With this she made reference to the more than a million refugees who wish to settle in Germany, a few other European countries and the United States. Will these people, of such divergent backgrounds and differing religions, assimilate to their new environment? That is one of the main questions being pondered by the people of those countries. There is concern that overzealous fanatics among them will quell the good will and raise resentment and fear. Pastor Matern cited Johannes the Baptist: "Do good deeds, not only in material things but by preparing and leading the way to understanding and love".

I had the pleasure of touring with Pastor Matern through some of the galleries of the Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Arts—locally known as the Gilcrease Museum. Recording History in Art shows clearly that it took time, patience, willingness to learn, understanding and mutual respect for all those people from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe and the Native people of the Americas to fuse into a great Nation working hard to achieve "Peace on Earth."

What were some of the highlights of GAST ARTS (GASAA)? Adult language classes are still popular while Kinderdeutsch had to be cancelled in fall due to low enrollment. GASAA participated and won first prize for its exhibit at Tulsa Community College's Global Fest. Our display at Eisenhower International Festival was visited by several hundred excited students who pushed around the VW, BMW, Porsche and Mercedes mini cars and erected fantasy castles with Lego blocks.

The American Theater Organ Society's concert is a standing tradition and always fills the House while the Barthelmes Conservatory students have a smaller but very committed following. To the enjoyment of German Lieder enthusiasts, in March and October, Dr. Ted Vestal and Dolores Duke presented Schubert's Winterreise - some of its Lieder qualify as folk-songs.

Dr. Eric Schmaltz gave the address for German American Day (see Nov. and Dec. Echo articles). The musical

framework was provided by the GAST Blaskapelle. A small but very committed group of GAST members again celebrated Volkstrauertag at the Ft. Reno Chapel and cemetery.

A very heartfelt thank you to all who responded to our solicitation letter. It is because of your generosity that we can put on some of the foregoing activities. This income, the proceeds from our 'Garage Sale' and raffle keeps our budget in the "black".

We are now working on the activities for 2016 and hope for another productive and enjoyable year. Suggestions and volunteers are always welcome.

To all of you a very peaceful and joyous New Year

Prosit 2016

Gertrud

NewsLetter  
**DEADLINE**

**January 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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#### 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

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# Christkindlmarkt 2015



## 2015 Christkindlmarkt Quilt Winners



Kim Whitty from Sand Springs was this year's lucky upstairs winner of the 2015 Christkindlmarkt quilt crafted by the GAST quilters at Tuesday's Handarbeitsgruppe. Pictured (at right) is Kim's daughter-in-law accepting the quilt on her behalf. This beautiful, one-of-a-kind quilt was made by Ruth Bly, Elke Meyer, Francine Mullen, Helga Roepel and Irmgard Toschik.

Kathy Wade from Owasso was the downstairs winner of the quilt made by Ruth Bly, pictured at left with the lucky winner.

Come join the Handarbeitsgruppe each Tuesday from 10 am to 1 pm and bring your lunch. The group makes a quilt twice a year to raffle for the benefit of GAST, first in May at Germanfest and each December at Christkindlmarkt. Feel free, as many members do, to work on projects of your own. Not a quilter? Not a problem. Several of the other participants are not quilters but come to enjoy the fun and camaraderie. They will look forward to having you there.

From all of the Tuesday Handarbeitsgruppe to everyone: Frohe Weihnachten und ein gesundes neues Jahr!



*Photos and story courtesy of Irmgard Toschik*

## Childrens Christmas Party



**December 12, 2015**

*From top right, group picture with St. Nikolaus; Maikönigin, Angela Novak with Santa's helper, Christy Bradley, bottom right; and with St. Nikolaus, below; and kids at play, top and bottom left.*



# GAST

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

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Now Playing at the Erwin Jerchau  
**GAST Theater**

Monday January 4, starting at 6:30 PM  
**Musicals and the best Hits, 2015**  
With Helene Fischer, Hansi Hinterseer,  
Andrea Berg, Die Paldauer  
und the James Lest Orkester

Starting at 7:30 PM  
**Im Tal des Schweigens 4**  
**Der zweite Frühling**  
Starring Christine Neubauer, Sascha Hehn,  
Timothy Peach, Veronika Fitz, Julia Gschnitzer

Angela Novak's

# Youth Kinoabend

Monday, January 25, starting at 6:00 PM  
**Into the Woods (2014)**

(in German with English subtitles)

Starring Meryl Streep, Anna Kendrick, Emily Blunt and Johnny Depp

Includes dinner and snacks - \$10 per person (\$5 with youth membership cards)

Youth cards will be for sale at the event!



## Elke Leach **Sunshine Lady**

This month we sent a sympathy card to **Erika Black** on the death of her husband.

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

# A D V E N T S F E I E R



*Adventsfeier December 13, 2015: Pastor Inge Matern from Celle, Germany, with Stan and Barbara Conrad*

This page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



# Das Deutsche Echo

January 2016

Volume 37

Issue 1

*The Voice of the German-American Community*

## ***Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde***

The next get-together will be at the GAST Office on January 10, 2016 at 3:00 Pm. Gabriele Blankenship will tell us the rest of the story about her trip to Israel.

Refreshments will be served.

**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, January 8, 2016 – 6:30 PM  
in the GAST Weinkeller.**

**Hope to see you there.**

**Zum Wohl,**

**– Joe Rohr, Chair**

## **New Members**

No new individuals were added to the Membership at the most recent meeting of the GAST Board of Directors:

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