



Das Deutsche Echo

February 2016

Volume 37

Issue 2

The Voice of the German-American Community in Tulsa



Saturday, Feb 6th, 2016
At the GAST Center
Doors Open at 5:30 pm



\$ 20 dollars per person, 16 and older
\$ 10 dollars per person, under 16

Music by the GAST Blaskapelle
Featuring a Costume Contest, Knee Dance, and
Prizes Prizes Prizes

Register by Wednesday, Feb 3, by calling (918) 744-6997

**UPCOMING
EVENTS AT
GAST**

| February | | March | | April | |
|----------|----------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|---------------------------|
| 1 | GAST Theater | 4 | Stammtisch | 1 | Stammtisch |
| 2 | Handarbeitsgruppe | 6 | Volkstanzer | 3 | Volkstanzer |
| 6 | Fasching Party | 7 | GAST Theater | 4 | GAST Theater |
| 7 | Volkstanzer | 8 | Handarbeitsgruppe | 6 | Handarbeitsgruppe |
| 9 | Handarbeitsgruppe | 11-12 | Garage Sale | 10 | Konversationsrunde |
| 12 | Stammtisch | 13 | Volkstanzer / Konversationsrunde | 10 | Volkstanzer |
| 14 | Volkstanzer / Konversationsrunde | 15 | Handarbeitsgruppe | 12 | Handarbeitsgruppe |
| 16 | Handarbeitsgruppe | 20 | Volkstanzer | 17 | Volkstanzer |
| 21 | Volkstanzer | 22 | Handarbeitsgruppe | 19 | Handarbeitsgruppe |
| 23 | Handarbeitsgruppe | 25 | Weinkellerabend | 22 | Weinkellerabend |
| 26 | Weinkellerabend/Volkstanzer | 26 | Childrens Easter Party | 24 | Membership Meeting |
| | | 27 | Volkstanzer | 26 | Handarbeitsgruppe |
| | | 29 | Handarbeitsgruppe | 29-30 | Germanfest |



...from the GAST President — Arnold Bieber

More than 70 GAST members and guests celebrated the Society's 36th Anniversary on January 16. Compared to other German-American clubs our organization is very young. The German Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia was founded in 1764. Operating continuously for over 250 years, it is the oldest German cultural organization in the United States. Many more German societies were formed in the 18th, 19th and 20th century, serving newly arrived immigrants from Germany, Austria and European countries with German minorities. Amazingly, most of these organizations have survived, invigorated by the influx of German refugees after World War II.

Germans have always loved their "Vereine". Somebody once said "when three Germans get together they form a Verein (Club)". According to the Frankfurter Allgemeine newspaper, Germany currently has over 580,000 Vereine and the number is growing. It only takes 7 members to be officially recognized as a Verein. Whatever the purpose or interest of the association may be, many Germans belong to several clubs that form their social circle. There are soccer and various sports clubs, theater and art groups, health and vacation clubs, volunteer fire fighters, organizations that serve the social needs of the communities and those that preserve historical sites. It has been reported that many of them have difficulties finding people willing to organize their activities, willing to serve as group leaders and to entice young people to join.

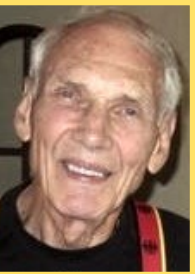
Present and recognized at the Anniversary Party were past GAST presidents, Hannelore Carter (Giles), Stan Conrad, Claus Greiner, Don Wright, Carol Wright and Leon Boggs. Carol Wright received the Directors Award and Ed Anthis the Presidents Award for outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the goals of the German American Society of Tulsa. Our Youth Choir, Angela Novak, announced the winners of the Essay Contest: J. P. Schemmer from Book T. Washington HS, Saleem Batman and Deacon Nixon from Edison H.S. They received cash awards of \$200, \$150 and \$100. The winners, their parents and their teachers, Arcadia Teel and Ursula Mueller were treated to dinner. We received a total of 51 entries from 2 high schools. Barbara Conrad, Doris Wicks and Jutta Tankersley had the difficult job of judging the submissions. Thank you to everyone for participating in this contest.

At the last meeting the GAST Board appointed the 2015/16 Nominating Committee: Christy Fell, Irmgard Toschik and Leisha Jury. They will be calling to invite you to serve as an officer or director of the German American Society of Tulsa (GAST) or the German American Society Arts Association (GASAA). The election will take place at the General Membership Meeting on Sunday, April 24. Please respond favorably. We need to continue the work started by the Founding and Charter Members of GAST in 1980.

Harold Wicks was appointed Building Manager and Leon Boggs was appointed Chair of the Leasing Sub-Committee. Carol Wright and Leon Boggs have agreed to co-chair Germanfest, scheduled for April 29, 30 and May 1, 2016. They will form the Germanfest Committee, find sponsors and assign volunteers to prepare for the festival. The earlier date may avoid the conflicts with other ethnic festivals that we have experienced during the past couple of years.

I hope to see you at the Fasching Party on February 6. It will be fun for young and old. Bring a guest or two.

— Arnold



...from the Building President—Harold Wicks

We are experiencing our normal slow down of rental activity during the first three months of the year. We have only one rental in February and two in March.

During the heating season, we have to check the chemicals in the boiler twice a week to be sure it is operating efficiently.

Our cleaning service has cleaned our vents, grills, and stainless steel walls in our cooking area. We have to do this every other year because the cooking oil collects on everything. We also must keep the area clean to pass the Health Department inspections.

DONATION RECEIVED

Joe Rohr and I were in the building one day in January, when a man came to the door with a case in his hand. He opened the case to show us an accordion that he wanted to donate to GAST. The accordion is a beautiful Rivoli that is red and white. He said "I hope you can put it to good use or find a good home for it". The donor is Al Framton and his wife Monika. He said they attend our festivals. We told Al how much we appreciate their generosity.

— Harold



...from the Arts President — Gertrud Schmidt

Definition of anniversary: ‘The annual return of some notable event’. The German American Society of Tulsa “GAST” celebrated the 36 anniversary of its founding in the Great Hall of our

GAST House on January 16, 2016. Arnold Bieber as President of GAST and the evening’s MC greeted the guests – in particular some of the founding members present. Carol Wright was honored with the Directors Award and Ed Anthis with the Presidents Award for their extraordinary efforts on behalf of the organization and its mission to ‘promote and maintain German and European Culture, customs and language and establish and maintain a cultural and social organization’.

Under this umbrella the GAST ARTS Association (GASAA) will continue to offer language classes for adults and children, concerts, speakers bureau, movie evenings, Konversationsrunde, Adventfeier and will celebrate German American Day and Volkstrauertag.

Even though the German language appears to be losing its predominance in trade and science to the English language, the classes offered by GASAA are well attended mainly by students who wish to travel and those who want to resurrect or maintain what they have previously learned. By popular demand by the students, the adult classes will be extended from ten to twelve weeks and the eight week Kinderdeutsch to a ten week course as recommended by the teachers. It is the students’ and teachers’ fervent hope that shortening the time between Spring and Fall semesters will help them retain more of the learned material.

Language and writing are some of the basics of any civilization. While the Egyptians, Romans, Greeks, Chinese, Olmecs and Mayans had a written form of communicating information 2000-4000 years ago, writing came relatively late to the Germanic tribes. There is no written history of the Goths, Celts, Prussian, Bavarian or the Gaul people. Oral transmission was their only way to preserve historic information. You know what happens when a story is told over and over again! Were it not for Roman historians Seneca and Tacitus we would know little about the battles fought between the Romans and the Germanic tribes. Early Roman-Christian missionaries to Germania brought the art of writing with them, taught it to their converts who then became the first Historians of their time.

It wasn’t until Martin Luther translated the Bible from Latin into German, which in effect created what we call now ‘High German’ by unifying the often very diverse German dialects, that the common man showed an interest in the art of writing. This was aided by Johannes Gutenberg (1398-1468) of the

mechanical moveable press. The era of mass-communication had begun! The reports by Grimmelshausen of the 30 year war (1618-1648) events, writings of poets and humorists stimulated the interest of the common man in this new art. This enthusiasm seems to be waning: no more cursory writing, abbreviations which challenge the most imaginative minds and changes in connotation of words that might get you into trouble. I promise you, that our teachers will provide the students with excellent German and good writing!

Spring will be here before long! Time to clean out closets, drawers, garages of all those ‘white elephants’ cluttering up precious space. Barbara Conrad (918 492 3273) will be happy to accept those treasures as she is planning our traditional ‘Spring Garage Sale’ on March 11-12, 2016. Call her for large item pick-up, take smaller bundles to the GAST Office at 1429 Terrace Drive. Every gift is very much appreciated as the income from the Garage Sale helps us continue to offer concerts, lectures, parties for our membership and to the public.

Gertrud

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

February 17 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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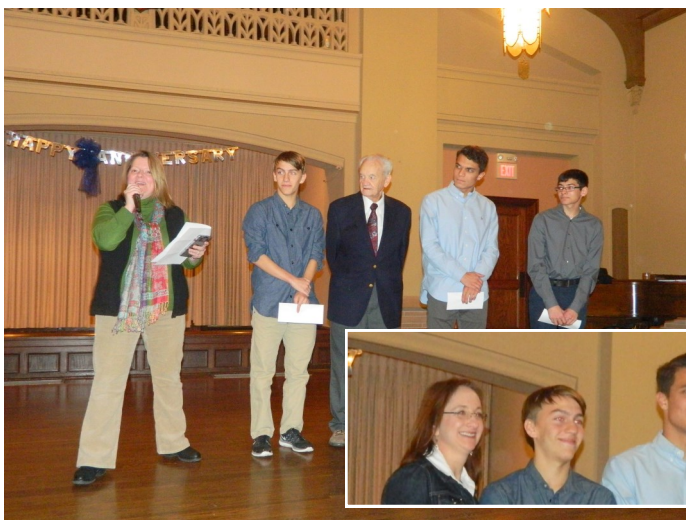
36th Anniversary Party



Clockwise from upper left, the 36th Anniversary Cake; above, a delicious, beautifully plated prime rib dinner; top right, Arnold Bieber with the Director's Award winner Carol Wright; below, left, Angela Novak and Arnold Bieber with the Essay Contest winners, (inset) Teachers Arcadia Teel and Uschi Mueller with the essay contest winners; at left, Arnold Bieber congratulating President's Award winner Ed Anthis;

Essay Contest:

"Research and identify the effects of the overwhelming influx of refugees currently seeking asylum in Germany. Elaborate on the role Germany plays in assimilating these refugees into the general population. Consider the various social, governmental, and religious sectors in Germany, including churches (Catholic/protestant/Islam it/Jewish), education, finances, government, healthcare, housing/resettlement and welfare, and how their services impact this integration process. As a nation with decades of experience integrating and unifying its own citizens, reflect on whether Germany can emerge from this refugee crisis and maintain its global connectedness of the political and economic superpower."



GAST Sanger Coming Off Busy Season

The GAST Sanger were quite busy in the fall and early winter. On November 10, 2015, they performed at the Broadmoor Retirement Center to a very appreciative audience. This was the first time the choir had sung at the Broadmoor, and they look forward to returning next year. In keeping with tradition the choir members decorated the great hall for Christmas and performed at the Christmas party and Adventsfeier. Christmas party attendees seemed to appreciate one of our new songs, "Ring the Bells," very much. This Christmas piece is one of the few truly American carols and originates in the Blue Ridge mountains. On December 15th the choir did a return singing engagement at the Cancer Center of Tulsa. After a brief winter break choir members will begin preparing for Maifest.

Article courtesy Betty Donohue

Folk Dancers Ready to Pick Up Their Feet Where They Left Off

The holidays are over and the Winter Doldrums are setting in. It is time for the Folk Dancers to break those Doldrums and get a little exercise as a bonus. We will begin meeting and dancing on Sunday, February 21 from 6 to 8 pm. And then continue meeting on Sunday from 6 to 8 pm through May. A partner is not required.

We welcome new dancers, over the age of 16, at any time during our dancing season. Dancers between the ages of 12 and 16 years of age, accompanied by a parent or guardian, are also welcome.

Please come and give it a try. We look forward to seeing some new faces. If you have any questions please contact Carol Wright (918) 630-9029 or Christy Bradley (918)724-6777 or the GAST Office (918) 744-6997.

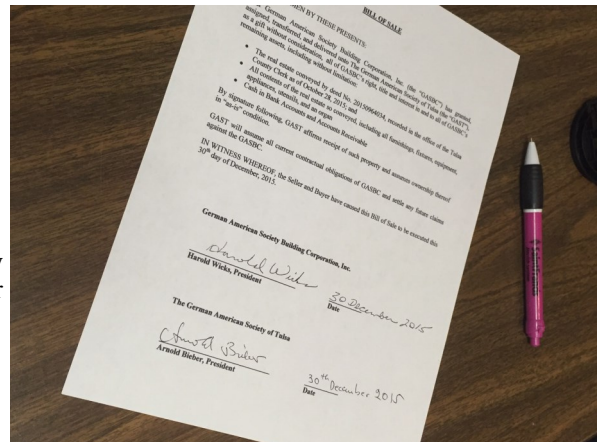
Article courtesy Carol Wright



GAST Center transferred from Building Corporation to GAST

On December 30 the contracts were signed formally transferring the GAST Center from the German American Society Building Corporation to the German American Society of Tulsa, a move recommended by the Board's attorneys and approved by the Boards of each of the organizations at the last Members Meeting.

Article and pictures courtesy Arnold Bieber



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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Wicks

Hannelore Giles Carter

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Now Playing at the Erwin Jerchau
GAST Theater

Monday February 1, starting at 6:30 PM
 Die schönsten Melodien
 Whit Hansi Hinterseer, Judith & Mel, Die Amigos,
 Geschwister Hofmann, Helene Fischer and more

Starting at 7:30 PM
Der Wildschütz
 Im Tal des Schweigens 5
 Starring, Christine Neubauer, Timothy Peach,
 Alexander Strobele, Veronika Fitz and Ronia Forcher

Angela Novak's

Youth Kinoabend

Monday, February 22, starting at 6:30 PM
Frau in Gold
 (in German with English subtitles)
 Starring Helen Mirren and Ryan Reynolds

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

Youth cards will be for sale at the event!



GERMANFEST 2016 IS COMING SOON!!

Planning is underway and YES we will need YOU to volunteer. Think about what you like to do and say YES when contacted. This is a major funder raiser for GAST and we all must work together to make it a successful festival.

WE DO NEEDS YOUR HELP NOW!! We need nominations for our 2016 May Queen. She is crowned during the festival. She must be a member of GAST and at least 18 years old. We need your suggestions as soon as possible. Please call Leon Boggs at [918-258-5201](tel:918-258-5201). You may leave a message if we are not home.

More info will be forthcoming. Thank you for helping us now with your nominations.

Leon Boggs, Germanfest Committee

Elke Leach Sunshine Lady

This month we sent sympathy cards to Guenter Bode and Ursula Mueller; Get Well cards to Don Wright, Elke Meyer, and Harold Wicks; and birthday cards to Jack Wynn (90) and Hubert Pollock (90)

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 page is sponsored by Arnold & Gwen Bieber

The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



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Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde

Gabriele Blankenship and Barbara Conrad led us on interesting excursions in the Holy Land. We were almost ready to pack our bags and see for ourselves. Thank you Gabriele and Barbara and thank you Arnold Bieber for the refreshments and libations. Our next get-together will be at the GAST Office on February 14, 2016 at 3:00 pm. Thomas Mohr, nephew of long-time GAST member Ursula Andress and currently guest student at Holland Hall will talk about his "American School" experiences and looks forward to lively discussions. 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, February 5, 2016 – 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:

Romney and Stoner Nesbitt
Tulsa

2016 Dues Must be paid prior to March 1st for a member to be eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting.

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