



Even though the Taxman took it all, let's celebrate our poverty together with the

## LUMPENBALL / SOUP PARTY

Also known as BEGGAR'S or HOBO BALL / SOUP PARTY)

**Saturday, April 9, 2016 at the GAST CENTER**



BRING FAMILY AND FRIENDS,  
HAVE FUN WITH THE THEME  
DRESSED IN THE RAGGIEST  
ANYONE'S EVER SEEN  
VYING FOR PRIZES

COME BRING THE FUN

WITH SOUPS AND MAYBE A HONEY BUN!

We'll enjoy the comfort soups and sweets provide, as we commiserate about our tax base. There will be games, conversation and music through the ages, with a Charleston or two, a waltz and a twist, and maybe a tango will be on our list.

**PLEASE BRING ENOUGH SOUP AND/OR A DESSERT TO SHARE.**

**Bread, Butter, Coffee, Tea, and Water will be provided.**

**ADMISSION IS FREE, FOR EACH PERSON BRINGING A DISH TO SHARE.**

**(Without a dish admission = \$10 for adults, \$5 for ages 13 to 19 // 12 & under = free)**

**Costumes will be judged and awards given in the following categories:**

**GAUDIEST / FUNNIEST / BUMMIEST / BEST TEEN / BEST CHILD**

**Doors open at 6 P.M., with food service to begin around 6:30 P.M.**

**Entertainment: records and CD's (Bring your favorite if you like)**

**RSVP by Wednesday April 6<sup>th</sup> by calling GAST office: 918 744-6997**

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS AT  
GAST**

April		May		June	
1	Stammtisch	1	Volkstanzer / Last day of <b>Germanfest</b>	3	Stammtisch
3	Volkstanzer	2	GAST Theater	5	GAST Picnic
4	GAST Theater	3	Handarbeitsgruppe	6	GAST Theater
6	Handarbeitsgruppe	6	Stammtisch	7	Handarbeitsgruppe
9	<b>Lumpenball Soup Party</b>	10	Handarbeitsgruppe	14	Handarbeitsgruppe
10	Volkstanzer / Konversationsrunde	8	Volkstanzer	21	Handarbeitsgruppe
12	Handarbeitsgruppe	17	Handarbeitsgruppe	24	Weinkellerabend
17	Volkstanzer	15	Volkstanzer	28	Handarbeitsgruppe
19	Handarbeitsgruppe	24	Handarbeitsgruppe		
22	Weinkellerabend	22	Volkstanzer		
24	<b>Membership Meeting</b>	27	Weinkellerabend		
26	Handarbeitsgruppe	29	Volkstanzer		
29-30	<b>Germanfest</b>	31	Handarbeitsgruppe		



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

April will be a busy month at the German American Society of Tulsa. A party on April 9 will set the tone for our social activities. Our Party Co-chairs, Uschi Mueller and Christy Bradley, have some surprises in store, so don't miss it. On Sunday, April 24, the membership will elect the officers of the German American Society of Tulsa and the German American Society Arts Association for one year and 4 new directors for two years. All members are encouraged to attend to hear about last year's activities and plans for the 2016/2017 activity year, but only those who have paid their dues by March 1 are eligible to vote, according to our by-laws. There are no other items to be voted on, and with only 2 organizations it should be a much shorter meeting, leaving time for socializing.

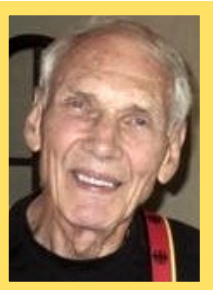
Our 13<sup>th</sup> Germanfest will start on Friday, April 29 and continue on Saturday, the 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, May 1. The Germanfest Committee, co-chaired by Leon Boggs and Carol Wright, has been hard at work to put together a family-friendly program with great entertainment and delicious food. The Great Hall will be beautifully decorated, and the front lawn will provide the space for more children and family activities, weather permitting. As every year, we do not charge admission, and our prices for food, drinks and German imports are very reasonable. Please volunteer if you can and help us spread the word.

April will also have a full schedule of regular club events: Stammtisch on April 1, Youth Movie Night on the 21<sup>st</sup>, Weinkellerabend on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, weekly Folkdancer, Blaskapelle and Choir practices, and last but not least - Handarbeitsgruppe. The Handarbeit ladies have been working on another beautiful quilt for the Germanfest raffle. They are meeting on Tuesdays, 10 AM to 2 PM in the Office Duplex.

Except for the General Membership Meeting and Germanfest, April could be considered a typical month at the German American Society. When you add the Arts Association's cultural events, language classes, German movie nights and Konversationsrunde, we offer a lot of year-around cultural activities for our membership and the community in our facilities.

Tell your friends about us! Guests are always welcome.

— Arnold



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

Activity is increasing for the month of April. We have three rentals, voting will take place here on April fifth, and the last week of April, we will be getting ready for Germanfest.

Our neighbor, the Arthritis Clinic, has rented an additional ten spaces of our parking lot.

Elizabeth Alpert, our office manager, has had several inquiries about renting our building, and she has already booked a rental for 2017.

Elizabeth is handling the duties of our office very effectively. She is enjoying putting her skills to work for the betterment of our society and we are all delighted to have her with us.

— Harold



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

“Oh come all ye members”! To the membership meeting on April 24, 2016 at 3:00pm at the GAST House. It’s the time when you need to choose who will lead the German American Society of

Tulsa (GAST) and GAST ARTS (GASAA) organizations during the next year(s). The By-Laws state that no officer shall hold the same office for more than five consecutive years. This means that my term as president of the German American Society of Tulsa ARTS Association is up as of May 31, 2016. The old adage ‘time flies when you are having fun’ certainly applies to my stint at the helm of GASAA as its president.

One of the most important function of this position is to act as a linchpin to GAST from which it is separated only by tax laws – membership and mission are identical, directors, secretary and treasurer are shared but 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-presidents are unique to GAST and GASAA. A chairman and an Cultural and Educational Committee is appointed by the ARTS President to aid in carrying out the stated mission to “promote and preserve the German language, culture, traditions and customs through educational activities and social events for the enrichment of its members and the community”.

The activities list therefor would include: Language Courses for adults and children, Speakers bureau, Participation in Global Fests and KIDS World (educational); Concerts and speakers (cultural;) German Day, Volkstrauertag, Advent Service (special holidays); Movie nights and participation in GAST activities (Social) and Fundraising such as Raffles, Garage Sale and Solicitation.

The how, when, what and who (chair-person) of these activities is being hammered out by the C&E committee which always keeps the ‘contingency approach’ in mind i.e.’ there is no ONE best way’- but considering the environment or circumstances and by open discussion a good solution can be achieved. Apropos discussion-communication is a very important part of any organization and in particular if the participants are not in daily contact such as would be in a work environment. The information technology has certainly facilitated staying in touch via e mail but regular face to face meetings are preferred as they are usually more productive and enhance human relations. In a nut shell

here are some of the desirable qualities needed for the next ARTS President: Good Human Relationship -never forget you are dealing with volunteers -, clear communicator, planner, compromiser, negotiator, decision maker and willing to delegate i.e. don’t be a micro-manager- and as per the GASAA By-Laws- conversant in German.

During the past five years I truly have appreciated the dedication and good will of the C&E committee and chair-persons: Arnold Bieber (Chair), Barbara Conrad (holidays and Garage sale), Ruth Obermark (language classes), Jutta Tankersley (advisory), Charles Meyers (1<sup>st</sup> VP), Mary Jane Mueller (hostess), Erwin Jerchau (Movie Nights), Fred Rother (who left us for cooler Michigan), Dan Dennehy (2<sup>nd</sup> VP).

Our participation at the Tulsa Community College ‘Global Fest’ was well received.

The recent Garage Sale under the chairmanship of Barbara Conrad and all her helpers was again very successful. To all the helpers and donors “Vielen vielen Dank”.

Gertrud

NewsLetter  
**DEADLINE**

April 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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# Annual MEMBERSHIP Meeting

April 24 at 3pm

The Annual GAST Membership Meeting will be held in the Great Hall at 3pm on Sunday, the 27th of April. This meeting is held once a year for the purpose of electing the succeeding Officers and Directors for the German American Society of Tulsa and the German American Society Arts Association. A quorum of members is necessary, and GAST needs your participation and your vote at the meeting. Every member should plan on attending whose dues are paid.

At the same time, there are several open positions that need to be filled for officers and directors for the two corporations. If you would like to serve on the Board or if you would like to recommend one or more individuals to serve, please contact one of the current officers or the GAST Office.

## News from Germany

### GERMAN CHANCELLOR REELS FROM RECENT ELECTION LOSSES

Angela Merkel was stunned by a series of election losses on Sunday, March 13, that could easily be one of the most serious challenges she has faced to her power since her election as German Chancellor in 2005. The elections held were held on what the German press dubbed "Super Sunday" in regional parliaments in three of the country's federal states: those in Baden-Württemberg, Rhineland-Palatinate, and Saxony-Anhalt.

But the ongoing refugee crisis in Europe, for which the Chancellor has taken a position not entirely in harmony with popular sentiment in Germany, meant that the votes in the three parliaments were seen as a virtual referendum on Mrs Merkel's controversial "open-door" refugee policy.

The results could seriously undermine and weaken the German chancellor as she tries to persuade other EU leaders, perhaps particularly Britain's David Cameron, to agree to a deal with Turkey to resolve the migrant crisis.



Mrs Merkel's Christian Democrat party (CDU) was defeated in its stronghold of Baden-Württemberg for the first time in more than 50 years, according to exit polls. In the western state of Rhineland-Palatinate, it saw a lead of 10 per cent in the polls evaporate in just four months. Most damaging of all for Mrs Merkel, the Alternative for Germany (*Alternative für Deutschland* or AfD) a right-wing populist and Eurosceptic political party founded in 2013, stormed to its best election results ever on a campaign that focused almost exclusively on an opposition, anti-migrant message.

Even in the East German state of Saxony-Anhalt, where the CDU managed to hold its tenuous grip on first place, celebrations were muted as the AfD secured a shocking second place with 24 per cent of the vote, *die Linke* coming in third with the *Social Democratic Party of Germany* 4th, losing half its strength to the AfD.

The AfD won seats in all three state parliaments and emerged from the night as a political force Mrs. Merkel can no longer afford to ignore.

*Das Echo staff*



# Germanfest



**Friday - Apr 29 10:00am - 9:00pm**  
**Saturday - Apr 30 10:00am - 9:00pm**  
**Sunday - May 1 Noon - 5:00pm**

The annual Germanfest celebration will again this year be held at the GAST Center from Friday, April 29 through Sunday, May 1. The Festival offers a huge variety of authentic German food items, including imported items, and collectibles and other items for sale. There is also great German style entertainment and music. The Festival features the annual crowing of the Maikönigin, the May Queen, on Saturday morning.

And again this year the GAST Handarbeitsgruppe has created a one-of-a-kind quilt that will be raffled off during the festival. Raffle tickets available for \$1 each and are tax deductible.



For entertainment, the **GAST Volkstänzer** will perform during the festival, as will the **GAST Blaskapelle. Sepp & Heinz**, seen at left, always a popular act, will appear on a rotating schedule along with **Das ist Lustig**, at right at Germanfest 2015, the German band from Houston back by popular demand performing traditional German and Alpine music with a big dose of energy and fun.

**There are any number of new items at this year's Germanfest:**



- New *Hauptgericht* on the menu: **Brat-Kraut Strudel** – Flaky strudel crust stuffed with a savory mixture of bratwurst and sauerkraut. Served warm with a pickle spear.
- New Food Booth: **Giant soft pretzels** – served warm with GAST's German mustard. Perfect with a glass of good German beer, which Joe Rohr (*below left*) and his volunteers will be on hand to provide!



- New Activities for the kids: Angela Novak is in charge of the children's activities this year and she is planning lots of fun, new activities for the kiddos.
- New Entertainment: German **Schuhplattler Dance Group** from Ft. Bliss, TX - David Lawrence is working on finalizing the arrangements, but soon we will be able to announce the most exciting thing that's happened at GermanFest in years. The Schuhplattlers will perform 3 one-hour shows on Saturday. Go to the group's website,

*schuhplattler.us*, for more information on this exciting dance group. More details to follow!



# 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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Now Playing at the Erwin Jerchau

## GAST Theater

April 4, starting at 6:30 PM

### Musikalische Bon Bon's

With Hansi Hinterseer, Sigrid & Marina, Andreas Gabalier, Helene Fischer, Stefanie Hertel, Stefan Mross, Die Variolets, and many more

Starting at 7:30 PM

### Mein süßes Geheimnis

Starring Friedrich von Thun, Gila von Werterhausen, Hans Peter Korff, Sanne Schnapf and Johann von Beulow.

Angela Novak's

## Youth Kinoabend

Monday, April 21, starting at 6:30 PM

### Ant Man

Starring Paul Rudd and Michael Douglas

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

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

## Who Am I?

A German born revolutionary, American statesman and reformer, and Union Army General in the American Civil War. He was also an accomplished journalist, newspaper editor and orator, who in 1869, became the first German-American elected to the United States Senate. He was U.S. Minister to Spain, and at one time, Secretary of the Interior. His wife, Margarethe, was instrumental in establishing the kindergarten system in the United States. During his later years, he was perhaps the most prominent independent in American politics, noted for his lofty principles, avoidance of political partisanship, and his strong moral conscience. Many streets, schools, and parks in the U.S. are named after him, including one in New York City.

*Reply to davidalanforbes@gmail.com*



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# Das Deutsche Echo

April 2016

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Issue 4

*The Voice of the German-American Community*

## **Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde**

The Konversationsrunde met on March 13, 2016 at 3:00pm at the GAST Office. Linus Groeger, a Quality Control Specialist and relative newcomer to this country, spoke about the major changes on the social, educational, political and economic front in Germany. He engaged in a lively question and answer period with Konversationsrunde participants as to the changes that have occurred in Germany in recent years as well as his own impressions of life in Oklahoma.

On April 10, 2016 the Konversationsrunde will meet at 3:00 pm at the GAST Office at 3:00pm for informal chats with Uschi Mueller's friend Mali who has spent the last ten years in Germany.

**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, April 1, 2016 – 6:30 PM  
in the GAST Weinkeller.**

**Hope to see you there.**

**Zum Wohl,**

**– Joe Rohr, Chair**

## **New Members**

There were no new Memberships added at the most recent meeting of the GAST Board of Directors:

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