

Member activities

Members-Only Parties
Volkstänzer (Folk Dancing)
Die GAST Sanger (Choir)
Blaskapelle (Band)
Weinkellerabend (Informal gathering)
Stammtisch (Men’s discussion group)
Konversationsrunde (German language conversation)
Handarbeitsgruppe (Needle work group)
German-language movie series
Children’s Activities

Community Involvement

German Language Classes
German-American Day Celebration
Community Concerts and Lectures
German-Language Advent Service

Fundraisers

Oktoberfest
Germanfest
Christkindlmarkt (Christmas market)
Garage Sale
Rental of GAST Center for weddings/parties

Proceeds from our fundraisers benefit
the cultural, musical, youth programs and activities of the
German–American Society of Tulsa.

Contact us at 918-744-6997 or gast@tulsacoxmail.com
Stay Informed via FB: German-American Society of Tulsa
and our website: www.gastulsa.org



The German-American Society of Tulsa

Guidelines for Members



The GAST Center

**1429 Terrace Drive
Tulsa, OK 74104
On 15th Street, one block west of Lewis**

*Willkommen***to the German-American Society Family**

We are excited you have decided to join us! We look forward to celebrating parties and events with you. Moreover, we hope you will choose to participate in the many activities, classes and committees that we feature on an on-going basis.

This booklet is designed to give you an overview of our organization and some hints on how to take advantage of our facilities and activities.

Upon arrival at your first party, the members who sponsored your membership, or an officer of the German-American Society of Tulsa (GAST) will act as your host and guide. If these persons are not available as you check in, please ask the members at the desk to introduce you to the president or a member of the board.

If at any time during your initial months as a member you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, we encourage you to contact the GAST president. Membership input and participation is vital for an organization to meet the needs of its members and to function smoothly and effectively.

Our acronym is GAST, which also happens to be a German word, meaning: guest. Accordingly, we have lovingly dubbed our German-American Center: "Gast-haus".

Mission of GAST: 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.

We want you to feel welcome!

Effective 12/31/2016

**Hints, Tips and other good info**

- ♥ Come early to parties to secure a seat at your favorite table.
- ♥ GAST serves, but cannot charge for drinks. Place your donations into the Glass Boot at the Bar to help defray the cost of our fine selection of liquid refreshments—F.Y.I., the boot is not a receptacle for tips—our pubmeisters are fellow members.
- ♥ Bringing your own drinks to the party is not appropriate!
- ♥ If you wish to sit with friends, make arrangements to arrive at about the same time. Try sitting at different tables with empty chairs to make new friends. Empty chairs at tables means: come join us!
- ♥ If the snack plate on your table is empty, go to the bar and ask for a free refill.
- ♥ Before leaving the party, return your glasses to the bar and place any disposables into the trash cans.
- ♥ Occasionally, you might wish to remain at the party till the end to help clean up.
- ♥ Any items you wish to donate to the raffles that we hold at most parties, will be gratefully accepted—no "white elephants" please. Bring your items to be donated to the GAST office prior to the party or call the office for pickup. We apply the income from the raffles to special Arts Association events.
- ♥ All donations made to the Arts Association are tax deductible.
- ♥ Meals are served buffet style. All tables are numbered. The president calls table numbers to the serving line in random order to avoid congestion.
- ♥ Dress code can be office-casual, except for special occasion like: Christmas Party, New Years party, Anniversary Party, etc., where pearls and ties are always appropriate.
- ♥ Remember! People usually try to sit with their friends. Try to meet as many members as possible to make your own circle of friends.
- ♥ Dancing is a key element at most of our parties. If you don't know how, our Folkdancers often feature free lessons; you may wish to take advantage of it.
- ♥ Have fun!



The GAST Center

Story

In 1991, GAST purchased the Second Church of Christ Scientist building located at 15th and Terrace Dr. The gothic-style mini-cathedral was built in 1929 and was purchased to provide a permanent structure for the many and varied activities of the organization. Immediately after the building was purchased, renovations were started, which included leveling the floor in the Great Hall and installing new heat and air equipment. The organization continues to make improvements as funds are available. The building serves as the home of our membership and is called "The German-American Society Center" aka 'GAST Center'.

GAST Center Available for Rent

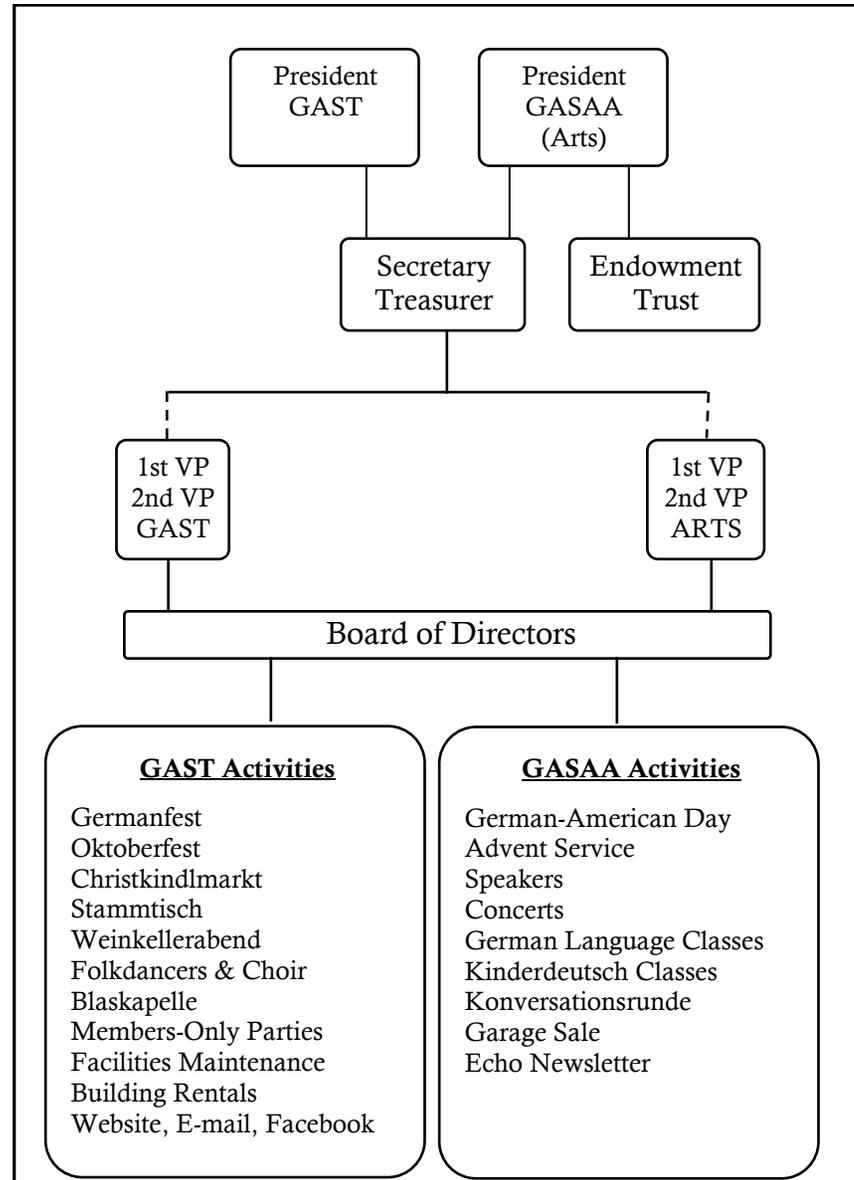
To offset the cost of operating the building, the GAST Center is leased for non-member events. Located in the heart of Midtown Tulsa, the beautifully restored former church is a beautiful and unique venue for Weddings, Receptions, Birthday parties, Anniversaries and Christmas parties. The grand hall seats up to 200 people and features vaulted ceilings, exposed beams, stained glass windows and wood floors. A catering kitchen with loading area and private parking lot with security are also included. Members may be eligible for discounts in renting the GAST Center for personal use depending on length of membership. Please contact the GAST office for availability and tours: 918-744-6997 or gast@tulsacoxmail.com.

GAST Office

In addition to the GAST Center, the organization owns a duplex building located north of the GAST Center parking lot. The north unit of the duplex is rented for additional revenue. The south unit serves as an office for the organization. The office has a storage room, kitchen and a meeting room for various committees and other groups of the Society. A part-time employee manages the office. The office hours are posted on the front door of the office and are available on the GAST website: www.gastulsa.org.



Organization Chart



Each organization is responsible for the activities as shown in this chart. The whole organization is collectively known as GAST.



The German-American Society

German-American Society of Tulsa (GAST) was informally formed in 1979 when a group of native-born Germans decided to host the first-ever Oktoberfest in Tulsa. The festival was a huge success and well-received by the community. Soon afterwards, the group began informal organization activities.

GAST was officially formed as a 501(c)(4) social organization on January 24, 1980. Since then, GAST has become one of the most active ethnic groups in Tulsa and in Oklahoma.

Later that year a folkdancing group and a choir were formed. Performances at festivals, parties, schools, churches, and retirement centers have made them renowned in the Tulsa area.

Today, Tulsa's Oktoberfest is a function of *Oktoberfest, Inc*, which is managed by Tulsa's River Parks Authority. The festival has continued to grow and change over the years and is now one of the top 10 Oktoberfests in the U.S. Our members continue the great tradition of our founders by hosting a food booth at the festival every year and taking pride in serving authentic German food to the community.

GAST's income is primarily generated from food sales during three festivals each year: Germanfest, Oktoberfest and Christkindlmarkt. These popular events not only serve as fundraisers for the organization, they also give our members opportunities to work together and experience the fun and fellowship that these unique activities provide.

Organizations like ours function best if members volunteer their time to help us grow and thrive. Our leadership is always interested in your ideas for the organization. We urge you to find your area of interest—and join in the fun!

Contact us:

Phone: 918-744-6997

Email: gastulsa@coxmail.com

Stay Informed:

Website: www.gastulsa.org

Facebook: German-American Society of Tulsa



The German-American Society Arts Association

German-American Society Arts Association (GASAA) was formed in 1981 as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. GASAA income is primarily generated from individual donations and proceeds from an annual garage sale. An Endowment Trust was established in 2000 under GASAA to ensure the long-term viability of the organization.

In 1983, a German-language conversation group, was started to encourage use of the German language and to foster the cultural interests of our members. In 1985, a German-language movie series debuted and continues today with strong attendance.

The propagation and study of the German language and culture is one of GASAA's main objectives. To support this objective, German-language classes are offered to members and the general public. Ten-week courses are offered twice a year with students ranging from beginner to advanced. GASAA also hosts an annual high school essay contest based on current German issues.

Over the years, GASAA has sponsored various speakers and artistic programs, to which the public is invited, including: columnists and correspondents from various German newspapers and the broadcast media, representatives from the German Consul General's office, the Goethe Institute, and the German Information Office. We continue to present ongoing events for our members and often for the general public every year such as: Advent service, German-American Day and musical presentations. We also feature an English-language speaker's bureau that provides speakers to talk on German customs and issues in schools and other interested organizations.

We hope that you will join one of the committees that make these events successful.