

About our Speakers ...

Lloyd Bockstruck received his M.A. in Modern European history from Southern Illinois University and an MLS from the University of Illinois in Urbana. He also has a certificate from the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University. He has authored the genealogical column 'Family Tree in the *Dallas Morning News* since 1991. He is a Fellow of the National Genealogical Society and was named Outstanding Alumnus of the Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research. He is the recipient of the Filby Prize for Genealogical Librarianship and the Northeast Texas Library Systems Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Elke Hedstrom grew up in Wolfenbüttel, Niedersachsen, Germany after her family was forced to leave East Prussia at the end of World War II. She emigrated to the US in 1964, and she has lived in Garland, Texas for the last 28 years of her life. For many years, Elke has been helping Americans finding their German roots using the vast amount of experience in German Genealogy, having worked on her own family history for the last 20 years. She is familiar with all types of German records, and is an expert in reading old German (Gothic) handwritings and Fraktur printing. Elke received her Bachelor's degree in Education and History from the *Pädagogische Hochschule* in Braunschweig, Germany, a PhD. in German Language and Literature from the University of Kansas in Lawrence, and her MLS from the University of North Texas in Denton.

Elizabeth 'Liz' Nitschke Hicks is a 4th generation Texan, descending from early German settlers of Comal, Travis, and Austin counties. She is the genealogy editor for the German-Texan Heritage Society, and Angel Chair for Clayton Library Friends, where she also served as President and Membership Chair. Genealogical articles authored by her include 'The Southern Claims Commission', "Georgia Salt Rolls", "Yellow Book of Funeral Directors", and "Bodies in Transit." Liz was the genealogist for the family histories 'Jean Schneider, a Fisher-Miller Colonist and his Descendants' and "Hicks-Lawrence Genealogy." Liz serves on the GTHS Board of Directors.

Alvin Fuhrman is CEO of Nortex Communications in the north Texas town of Muenster and a driving force behind plans for Germanfest Park, which will hold the annual festival of the same name. Germanfest just celebrated 36 years and continues to grow. It is estimated that some 30,000 attend the 3-day event in the small town of just over 1,500 inhabitants. The park, scheduled to be finished by late 2012, is expected to have space for the festival pavilion, carnival rides, an amphitheater, and a parking lot for 1,800 cars! Muenster was founded in 1889 by German Catholic settlers Carl and Emil Flusche.

Ed Owens is a native of Hillsboro, Texas, but grew up in northeast Oklahoma. He attended Oklahoma Military Academy for two years, and graduated from the Dallas Art Institute with a degree in graphic design. He spent 28 years at the *Dallas Morning News* before coming to the Dallas Historical Society as an Archival Assistant. Although trained as an artist, Ed always had a passion for history, Texas history in particular. He has written several articles about Dallas history and also produces an on-line comic strip called "Cows and Stuff."

Traute H. Malhotra, a Real Estate Broker & Mediator, is based in Dallas and has been the Director of the German American Chamber of Commerce – North Texas Chapter since 2004. Born and raised in Germany, she came to the US in 1984. Traute is married and has a 24 year old son and a 17 year old daughter. Traute is very active in the local German community, is on the board of the Dallas Goethe Center and the Texas German Day Council. She is the founder of The German Blog.

Dr. Tillmann Hein received his medical training from the *Freie Universität* in Berlin and did his anesthesiology residency in both Germany and Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas. Dr. Hein currently serves as chairman of the Texas German Day Council and is past president of the Dallas Goethe Center. Last year he won the German Sports Medal and competed in a pentathlon.

Gisela de Marco, originally from Frankfurt, moved to Philadelphia as a typical 'war-bride'. After putting her husband through college, he did likewise, and she received a Master's degree from UTD. The de Marcos lived in many parts of the world due to her husband's employment, but finally settled in Dallas. Six children and 15 grandchildren later, Gisela had the opportunity to start the German Saturday School for the Dallas Goethe Center. This small event in Dallas coincided with the very big event in Europe, the German Reunification. In 1998, Gisela was honored to become the recipient of the German American Friendship Award.

Based on information available at time of printing