



Founded 1978

German-Texan Heritage Society

Promoting Awareness and Preservation of the German Cultural Heritage of Texas

2011 Annual Fund Drive
If we don't preserve our heritage, who will?

Summer
2011

We just LOVE having strong supporters like you!

Dear GTHS Members:

Our shared mission is to keep the German-Texans, their history and their contributions, active in the public eye. To do so, our Society offers language classes, genealogy support, festivals, history, meetings, and so much more. Dues cover only a small part of our expenses and your donations are necessary to allow us to keep producing these excellent programs. We literally can't do it without you!

You can make your donation extra special by doing so in someone's honor or in memory of a loved one. It is a great gift that helps us remember someone who is gone; it keeps their spirit alive in the work we do at the Society.

We count on you, our members, to keep the fires burning at the German-Texan Heritage Society (figuratively) or pay the electric bill (literally). This correspondence is designed to share with you the various funds you can support. Without you and our dedicated volunteers we could not carry on. We hope we can count on you!

Donate to the Fund(s) that Appeal to You



Mary Whigham
GTHS President

Mary Whigham, as GTHS President, serves as our "cheerleader-in-chief" by always encouraging us to carry out the GTHS mission of "promoting the awareness and preservation of the German cultural heritage of Texas". You all see evidence of her excellent work as Editor of the GTHS *Journal* which is funded in part by your donations and dues.

One of the ways you can help to carry out our mission is by donating to any or all of six different funds, all of which help in a specific area of awareness and preservation. After membership dues, our revenue comes from donations, grants, program activities, special events and facility rentals. We are most grateful to those of you who are able to give "something extra". In 2011, please help us to increase the number of families who donate as well as to increase the amount of the average donation.

GTHS Office Staff Works for Preservation

Jean Warneke, Executive Director, has made fundraising and marketing through grants and facility rentals a signature issue. Already, in 2011 we have been granted almost \$20,000 from the Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau Historical Preservation Committee for preservation projects at the German Free School such as restoring wrought iron railings, windows and screens and painting doors.

Also in 2011, she has generated almost \$5,000 in facility rentals and we are on track to earn \$7,500 or more this year. Jean and the GTHS office staff are part-time employees who get an amazing amount of work done for GTHS and these efforts are all devoted to carrying out our mission. The staff salaries and office operations are partially funded by your donations to the Operating Fund and dues.



Jean Warneke,
Executive Director

General Operating Fund



Charles "Chuck"
Kalteyer, Chair,
Operating Fund

This key fund supports our overall operations as a supplement to membership dues. In 2010, you donated over \$18,000 and in 2011 we hope to increase this figure to \$20,000. Your contributions to this "general" fund support those seldom seen "behind the scenes" expenses, without which we could not carry out our mission.

Administrative expenses such as salaries, office supplies and equipment, telephone, computers and electronics, copier costs, insurance, accountant services, licenses and permits, postage, and website hosting are all necessities for continuing successful operation. We hope you will give generously to support the efforts of your headquarters office.

Chuck Kalteyer was the originator of the Operating Fund Drive in the 1990's and continues today to support GTHS, asking that we all consider giving "that something extra" when we can!

Lot 505 Event Space Development Fund



In the 1990's, GTHS purchased the vacant lot next to the German Free School on 10th Street in Austin. This lot was partially developed soon after with the addition of a parking lot. In 2009, Charles Locklin, Chair GFS Guild Committee, saw the potential in developing Lot 505, calling it "a diamond in the rough". In 2010 the GTHS Board of Directors



January 2010—Before



June 2011—After

allocated \$10,000 to build an event stage and to purchase tables and chairs for our annual celebrations of Maifest and Oktoberfest. This investment has nearly paid for itself in one year with income from our festivals and rentals.

Much more needs to be done to develop this outdoor event space. Since it is not an historic lot, we do not qualify for preservation grants and thus we need designated donations to proceed with development. Major projects remaining include steps from the street, fencing, landscaping, and lighting.



Charles Locklin,
Chair, GFS Guild
Committee



Oktoberfest 2010

German Free School and Gardens Fund

Our historic headquarters and gardens need regular repair and maintenance. GTHS programs and classes entail usage costs such as insurance, utilities, housekeeping, lawn and garden services, and general repairs and maintenance. Overall, we have the same costs that any homeowner has albeit on a larger scale. This year our gardens have been rejuvenated with German-Texan and native Texan plants. For restoration, we have received several preservation grants and our future requests will include restoration of limestone, wood supports and trim.

Trenckmann Library Fund



The Charles Trenckmann Memorial Library is housed in the historic German Free School building. Collection priorities are German-Texan history and genealogy, including family histories, German-Texan books, and related German books and newspapers, microfiche and microfilm. The library also houses the Pioneer Library collection, which includes books brought to Texas by German immigrants through the year 1920 as

well as important books of the time which were printed in German in the United States.

The collection includes historical German and German-Texan furniture, papers and memorabilia such as wedding dresses, Judge Schutze's silver gavel and other items reflective of our German-Texan heritage.



Used Book Sale on GFS lawn

Funds for the Library are raised through your donations and used book sales and grants. They are used to purchase display cases and archival supplies to preserve our collections.

Statewide Outreach Fund

Program Director Melanie Schmidt-Dumont continues to expand our German language program beyond Austin, where we have a long history teaching adult and children's classes. We now offer adult classes in Brenham, Bryan, and Round Rock and children's classes in San Antonio. Your donations allow us to offer additional classes and genealogy seminars throughout the state.



Round Rock German students celebrate end of another great class
Photo by Carol Donovan

Student Scholarship Fund

Each year the German-Texan Heritage Society presents cash awards to the top winners of the essay section of the Texas State German Contest. These students are often invited to present their papers at the next GTHS Annual Meeting.

In 2011 we are adding a program to award a scholarship to a college student who will study in a German-speaking country. Your donations will help us to encourage students to embrace the German language, history and culture in Texas.



Teacher Leslie
Decker and winner.
Katelyn Kuhl,
Taylor High School