

Tulsa - Celle - Partnership Newsletter



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Please send an E-mail to taronger@windstream.net if you would like to have your name removed from our newsletter mailing list, or if you know someone who wants be added to the list. Thank you.

Membership Updates

We are pleased to welcome new member Katie Sloan, and we thank the following members for renewing their memberships: Stanley and Barbara Conrad, Mieke Epps, Dorothea Heit, Lindsay Klacko, Franklin and Kay Miller, MaryJane Mueller, Harold and Doris Wicks, Don and Carol Wright.

Upcoming Membership Events

Celle Runde Monthly Meeting

Date: Saturday March 3rd, 2012
Time: 10:00 AM to 12 noon
Place: Barbara Taron's home
Event Chair: Barbara Taron (918-355-2370)

The Celle Runde group will hold its monthly meeting on Saturday March 3rd, at Barbara Taron's home.

As usual, the group will discuss German topics of general interest in a relaxed atmosphere while enjoying cookies and a cup of coffee.

Please call 918-355-2370 for directions. Attendance is free, and guests are welcome.

International Women's Day Celebration

Date: Saturday March 10th, 2012
Time: 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Place: GAST Center

Gary and Tanya Copper have asked us to let you know that an International Women's Day Celebration party will take place at the GAST Center on Saturday, March 10th, from 6PM to 10PM.

There will be music, dancing, live performances, and European foods. The entrance fee will be \$30 per person, and the proceeds will be donated to the Tulsa Global Alliance. Please call 918-249-8355 for reservations.

Dinner at the Foundations Restaurant

Date: Tuesday March 13th, 2012
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: 3717 South Sheridan Ave. (the restaurant is on the East side of Sheridan Ave.)
Event Chair: Gerald Taron

The Foundations restaurant has agreed to hold a private dining event for Partnership members and their guests at 7:00 PM, on March 13th. The restaurant is staffed by members of the Platt College Culinary School, the food is excellent and the dinner is expected to be a memorable experience. Their excellent three course dinner menu is priced at \$17. This is probably less than half of what such a dinner would cost in a restaurant offering the same culinary experience. Tip, Taxes, and drinks are extra.

Please Call Gerald Taron at 918-355-2370, or E-mail him at taronger@windstream.net to make your reservation. As usual, service will be greatly improved if you give us your order ahead of time. We will order from the following menu:

1st- Amuse Bouche

2nd- Choice of Butter Poached Shrimp, Seared Greens from our Garden, Crispy Apple Smoked Bacon, Corriander Hollandaise, or Grilled Quail with Tarragon Infused Cous Cous, Roasted Bell Pepper Confit.

3rd- Salad of Roasted Organic Beets, Arugula, Artisan California Goat Cheese, White Truffle Green Apple, or Platt Lettuce's , Fresh White Asparagus, Oil Cured Olives, Smoked Salmon, Champagne Vinaigrette

4th- Intermezzo

5th- Choice of Braised Free Range Chicken, or Rack of Lamb, Dijon Demi Glace, or Grilled Halibut - All with Melting Potatoes, Truffled Rissoto, Creamed Spinach

6th- Choice of Triple Vanilla Crème Brulee, or Chocolate and Fresh Berry Mousse.

Wine Tasting Outing

Date: Saturday April 14th, 2012
Time: 1:30 PM
Place: Ganderway Vineyards, 8304 North, 100th West Avenue, Skiatook
Event Chair: Kelley Fitter

Good news, Kelley Fitter has made arrangements with Mike at the Ganderway Vineyards in Skiatook, for a TCP wine tasting outing on Saturday April 14th, at 1:30 PM. Due to space limitations the Vinery has limited our group to 36 people.

The Vinery will offer a late lunch for between \$8 and \$12 plus tax and gratuity. We will have a choice of two options: (1) an open-face beef sandwich with mashed potatoes, green beans, and a side salad or (2) a chicken salad sandwich (Mike said that these are quite large sandwiches and very filling).

For the drinks during lunch, we will be able to order a large (5 oz) tasting of one of Mike's wines for \$4 or a 5oz glass of grape juice for \$2 (or water, tea, etc...). [They do not charge for tastings in the tasting room.](#)

You can get more information about the vinery on its website www.ganderway.com . The website also has a map and directions.

Exchanges

Celle to Tulsa

We have received a request from Susanne McDowell, our Celle City Hall representative, for a July/August student exchange.

Two young ladies from Celle (they are 16 years old) would like to come to Tulsa for four weeks sometimes between July 1st and August 31st. Their primary interests are to get to know Tulsa, to familiarize themselves with the American language, and to become acquainted with our culture.

Please contact Mark Clemons (VP Education) at mark@markclemons.com, or Barbara Taron at btaron@windstream.net if you are interested in hosting one of these students, or know someone who might be interested in hosting them.

This would be a perfect opportunity for a family with a teenage girl to meet and become friends with someone from Celle.

Tulsa to Celle

You might remember that the Tulsa Beekeepers Association brought honey samples, and a demonstration beehive with a queen bee and a glass window to enhance our bee display at the last Kid's World exhibit. Several of the bee keepers who helped us at that time became interested in learning more about the Celle Bee Institute.

In the meantime, Arnold Bieber (VP Exchanges), and Barbara Taron have met with representatives from the Tulsa Beekeepers' Association to make them aware of the very active programs offered by the Celle Bee Research Institute, and to tell them that the Institute also offers short teaching seminars. In order to facilitate a possible exchange, your Executive Committee has approved the creation of four one time \$250 stipends. These stipends are designed to help up to four Tulsa beekeepers purchase airline tickets to participate in a seminar designed for them by the Celle Bee Research Institute. A small group of Tulsa area beekeepers is now looking forward to going to Celle in late May and another small group is considering making the trip in late summer or early fall.

We hope that this exchange will open new possibilities between the two sister cities. The following link will give you more information about the Celle Bee Research Institute :

<http://www.celle.travel/index.php?id=314&type=98&uid>

School Exchanges

We have been trying very hard to start a school exchange program between our two cities for a longtime. However, due to the decline of German programs in our local schools, we have not been able to get a local school interested in starting an exchange.

In addition, there are several educational tour companies which pay the teachers' ticket when the teachers travel overseas with as few as ten students. During these trips the students also get a chance to visit several European countries in as little as ten days.

In order to offer an incentive to Tulsa area teachers, the Executive Committee has voted to increase the 2012/2013 teacher stipend from \$500 to \$1000. The Partnership offers only one teacher stipend per school year, and to be eligible a teacher must take a group of five or more German language students to Celle, and participate in five days of classes while in Celle.

Please contact Mark Clemons (VP Education) if you know a teacher who might be interested in participating in this challenging program.

2012/2013 Executive Committee Election

Message from Barbara Taron

I have very much enjoyed being the Partnership's President over the last three years. However, TGA by-laws require that Sister Cities Presidents do not serve more than three consecutive terms. I will complete my third term on May 31st of this year, and although I will remain very involved in the Partnership, I am not eligible to run as president for the year 2012/2013. However, Gerald will continue to publish the newsletter and maintain the web site, if asked to do so by the new President.

I thank Mieke Epps for volunteering to chair the 2012/2013 Nominating Committee, and Ginny Rorh for volunteering to serve as a committee member. Mieke is still looking for one more person to complete the committee. The annual election meeting will take place in early June. Location to be announced.

We have a vibrant organization, with many members volunteering to help and support our activities, and I would like to ask each one of you to consider running as the next President of the Partnership. As President you will get to know many interesting people. Just as I was, you will be strongly supported by past members of the Executive Committee if you need help or have any questions.

Planning a trip to Europe

Planning information

Airlines : The airlines usually start raising their spring and summer fares around mid March. Regardless of when a trip is booked, fares for trips starting after the first of June will generally be much higher than fares for trips starting in May. Do not forget to check airlines consolidators before booking a flight, they sometimes have very good deals (<http://www.airlineconsolidator.com/> - <http://www.economytravel.com/>)

Visa : Most Northern European countries do not require a visa. However, if you plan on travelling to Belarus, or to Russia you will need to apply for a visa. The current lead time for obtaining a US passport is four to six weeks.

Insurance : if you are on Medicare you are not covered while travelling outside the USA, other people should check with their insurance to see if they are covered. Medical and or travel cancellation insurance can be purchased from many insurance companies. The following sites let you compare the coverage offered by different company as well as the cost of each program :

<http://www.insuremytrip.com/> -
<http://www.squaremouth.com/>

Car rental : It is usually cheaper to rent a car before leaving the USA. Some of the companies specializing in European rentals are www.sixt.com/ , www.europcar.com/ , and www.autoeurope.com/ . There are also some lease programs available to people who stay in Europe for three weeks or more (www.renaultusa.com/). You should check with your credit card company to see if it offers free collision coverage for rentals purchased with its credit card. However, be careful as this coverage is usually restricted to rental lasting less than 30 days.

Distances: The following link will enable you to calculate driving times and distances between each city. It also estimates the cost of gas and tolls (if any) <http://www.viamichelin.com/> .

Special driving requirements : Check driver's licence requirements before leaving the USA. A regular USA driver's license is acceptable in most most European countries (Germany, France, Switzerland, Austria, etc.) However an international driver's licence is required in some Eastern European countries (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia Etc.). Be aware that if you travel outside the country where you rented the car, some countries require you to purchase a special road permit before driving on their expressways and roads (Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Switzerland). Failure to purchase the permit will result in an expensive fine if you are stopped by the police.

Trains : European trains ticket prices have increased substantially. Be sure to check if special reduced rates are available for week end travel, family travel, and group travel. If you are going to make several train trips your best choice will be to purchase a rail pass. There are two types of rail passes. The first kind is good within one country, the second kind (Eurailpass) allows you to travel to two or more countries (www.eurail.com/ - www.raileurope.com). The link for the official German train web page is www.bahn.de/

Hotels : Before leaving check travel sites which offer customer reviews of local hotels and apartments. This will help you evaluate the local prices and also give you information about the experiences other travellers have had with each hotel (www.tripadvisor.com/ - www.booking.com/)

Bed and breakfast: In Europe it is very common for a private person to rent a room to vacationers, and it is possible to find some very nice accommodations at a relatively inexpensive price. Guides books describing the accommodations and the prices are usually available from the Automobile Club of each country.

Credit cards: Be aware that most credit card companies will add a surcharge of 3% to every purchase you make while overseas. One of the very few cards not charging the extra fee and giving a favorable exchange rates is Capital One (www.capitalone.com/) .

Telephone : If you use an American cell phone, you will probably be charged very expensive roaming rates will travelling in Europe. The best way to deal with this situation is to purchase an European sim card upon your arrival. Providers such as T- Mobile , and Vodaphone usually sell sim cards with 10 minutes of free calls for about \$30. The cards can be recharged for a very reasonable fee. Be aware that you will still be charged a roaming fee once you leave the country where the sim card was purchased.

Caution - in order to switch sim cards your phone must be unlocked by your phone co. before leaving the USA, and it must have either tri-band or quad-band capability to access European bandwidths. All that you have to do is to remove the US sim card from your phone and replace it with the European one. You should know that by doing this you will also be getting a new European cell phone number.

Dongles are also available from the same companies for people who want secure internet access for their computer. People who are less concerned with security can have free WI-FI access in many hotels.

Electical adapters: if you are taking any kind of electrical appliance or battery charger with you, you will need an electric plug adapter when travelling to Europe. Although many places have outlets which can accommodate American and other foreign style plugs, you should not take any chances and should carry with you an European plug adaptor for your equipment.

Some of the older homes in France will only accept plugs with 4mm round prongs. Most other European outlets will accept a plug with 4.8 mm round prongs. The following company offers a WA9C adaptor that will fit the older French outlets, and a WA9 adaptor that will fit most European outlets excepted those in England, Denmark, and Italy <http://traveloasis.com/power-adaptor.html> (note: the WA9 identification # is irrelevant as different companies use different identification codes for their adaptors)

Remember that most European countries have 220/240 Volts electric wiring, and that you should only bring dual voltage appliances with you.

For continuous **updates on our partnership** and links to the Celle newspaper etc., please visit our website at : www.tulsa-celle-partnership.com

Celle Tourism : click on <http://www.celle.de>

Don't forget to visit the **Tulsa Global Alliance** web site at: www.tulsaglobalalliance.org

Celle German American Club : <http://www.celle-usa.de>

