



Gold Country German American Club



P. O. Box 571, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Promoting German Culture and Stronger German-American Ties in Northern California

www.goldcountrygermanamericanclub.org

Next Meeting:

Combined Oktoberfest and German-American Day

Folks, we know that German-American Day was declared by President Reagan as October 6 (right), but this year we're combining that occasion with our Oktoberfest on **September 28**. So, for German-American Day "in Advance," we'll sing the two national anthems, present the flags, and call attention to some Americans of German ancestry who made our country what it is today. Then, on with the festivities!



We'll have authentic food, authentic music from the Papa Oom-Pah-Pah Band, dancing, sing-alongs, raffle prizes, a multi-media presentation, and beer! A contingent of The **Alpine Dancers** will be giving a demonstration of Austrian/German folk dancing!

PLEASE RSVP to Renate Hettrich, rhetttrich@gmail.com! We need to know how much food to buy!

We want to fill the Seaman's Lodge with revelers, like we did last year. The event is private, for Club members *and their guests*. We want this to be fun, affordable, and *crowded*, so **BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY!!** Tickets will cost a mere \$10.00 for guests, but Members and their kids get in for **free** this year!

Place: Seaman's Lodge, Pioneer Park, Nevada City, CA

Date and Time: **Saturday, September 28**, 2018. Doors open at 4; dinner - 6:30.



There will be fresh soft pretzels!

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

September 28: GCGAC Oktoberfest/German American Day

This is it, the big day has arrived! For the first time, Oktoberfest and German American Day are combined – *double the fun*. Guests, family, kids are all welcome (for a small fee). **** Please RSVP** so we know how many sausages to order. **

30-Year Anniversary of Berlin Wall Fall will be the theme of our club meeting on **November 8**.

There are several things planned including a video of the 10th anniversary, mementos such as pieces of the wall and photos of GCGAC members and activities from years past.

Short **Treasurer's Report**: as of August 31 our club assets follow. If you want to see more detail, contact Paulette.

Fidelity Investment (Q2 2019 statement)	\$5,205.14
Chase Checking	\$9,632.86
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>\$14,838.00</u>

The next Board of Directors meeting will be Wednesday, Oct/9, at Bret Harte in Grass Valley. Board meetings are open to all members. Not required, but we would like to see you there.

Your Board would like to receive feedback from you – questions, comments, suggestions, criticism, complements, etc. Send an email to any board member.

President Bob Scheetz	bobscheetz@gmail.com
Vice President Kris Wetherbee	mkwetherbee@juno.com
Program Director John Hettrich	jhettrich@gmail.com
Treasurer Paulette Berquist	chiliette@gmail.com
Secretary Dave Moss	modavek@aol.com
Membership Sue Vogt	susan.vogt@comcast.net



Movie Recommendation: If you haven't seen the 2015 movie *The Big Short*, you really should, because **Deutsche Bank** plays a role in the story. *The Big Short* is a dramatization of the housing crisis and financial collapse of 2008. Through such financial vehicles as credit default swaps, Deutsche Bank suffered large losses during the collapse. Now, approximately ten years later, Deutsche Bank seems to be putting their house in order by closing all of their equity trading operations on Wall Street, retreating from most markets in Asia, and focusing instead on markets back home in Germany and elsewhere in Europe. Their announcement to do so last June came on the heels of a controversy regarding their being Donald Trump's largest lender and being subpoenaed by two House committees for Trump's tax records. In *The Big Short*, Deutsche Bank was portrayed as greedy and got its just due. Now, it looks like they just want out. See the movie, *The Big Short*. *[Opinion of the newsletter editor only...]*



Activities

German Language Classes

Interested in learning German? There is **only one** (as indicated by Herr Erhobenem Zeigefinger at right) place in Nevada County to take classes, and that is RIGHT HERE at the Gold Country German-American Club!

Classes are FREE with club membership.



The Beginning level class is under the direction of Rebecca Claus; Intermediate level is taught by Erica Meier. These two classes assemble at various class members' homes. For more information, call Rebecca at (916) 710-0033.

Conversational German Group

The German Conversational Class will meet October 8 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Christel Hermansen's, 150 Sutton Way, Apt 32. Hope to see you there! PLEASE call her if you are coming 530-274-2715. If anyone would like to join the class, give Christa a call at 530-913-1836. New members are welcome!

Upcoming Events

This Month:

- October 3, 2019: Happy Wanderer's Hike, Point Mariah, see p. 5.
- October 7, 2019: Beginning Language Class at TBD, see p.3.
- October 8, 2019: Conversational German at Christel Hermansen's, see p. 3.
- October 9, 2019: Board of Directors Meeting at Bret Harte Inn. See p. 7.
- October 10, 2019: Happy Wanderer's Hike, Devil's Peak, see p. 5.
- October 17, 2019: Happy Wanderer's Hike, "Open," see p. 5.
- October 21, 2019: Beginning/Intermediate Language Class at Robert Gosselin's, see p.3.
- October 24, 2019: Happy Wanderer's Hike, Fuller Lake, see p. 5.



Coming soon, keep an eye out for...

November 8 -- Movie Night: "Fall of the Wall"

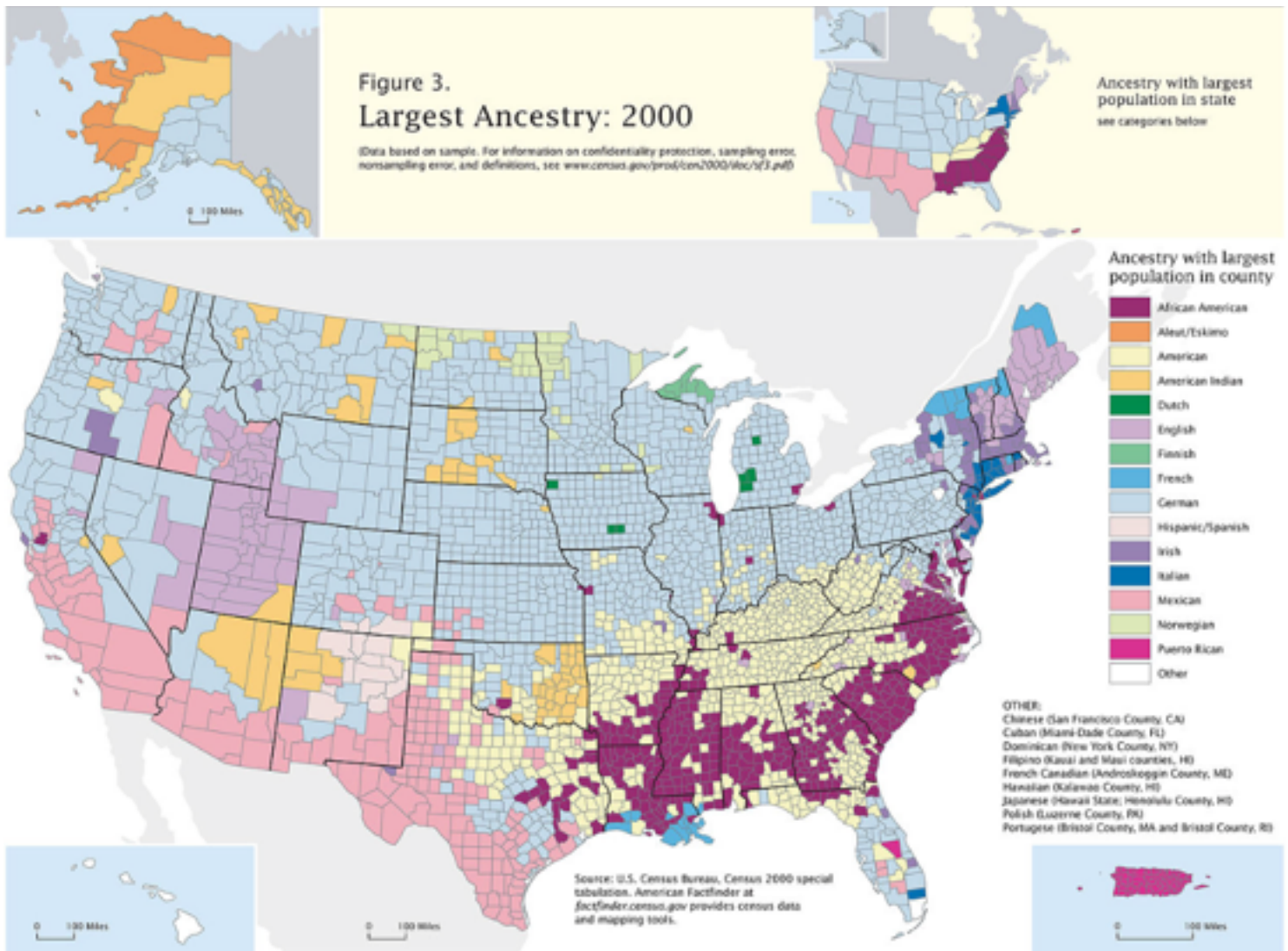
December 6 -- Annual Christmas Holiday Party

February -- Fasching and Feuerzangenbowle

For **German-American Day**, here is a reprise of the newsletter from October, 2016:

Are you of German ancestry and feeling as though you are all alone? Consider this:

The U.S. Census Bureau's most recent map (from 2000 census) showing which ancestry has the largest population by county and by state is shown below. The light blue areas, such as shown for every county except one in the state of Nebraska, indicate primarily German ancestry. If you look closely, you can see that Nevada County also is primarily of German ancestry. The same is true for Placer County. So, oh German descendant, you are not alone! But the question is, "Why isn't our club larger?"



Our Club receives a weekly newspaper, the "Neue Presse USA" in the German language. Please contact David Moss at modavek@aol.com or 432-2236 to get the newspapers we receive.



Happy Wanderers Hiking Group October Schedule

October the 3rd **POINT MARIAH**

Carol Bader is the leader. This hike is part of The Royal Gorge Cross-Country area. At the middle of this hike (lunch-time) we have a spectacular view into the American River Canyon App.

4000' deep. The hike is app. 6 miles round-trip and rated *medium*. We meet in Colfax and in Nevada City at 8:30 am.

We ALL meet at Soda Springs turnoff app. 9:30 am.

October the 10th **DEVILS PEAK**

We hike to the base of Devils Peak with great views into the headwaters of the American River and beyond. We return the same way. The hike is considered moderate and app. 6 miles long.

We have one mile of good gravel road to the trailhead.

We meet in Colfax and Nevada City at 8:30 am

We all meet at "Rainbow Lodge at 9:15 am

Big Bend exit off I-80

October the 17th **OPEN**

October the 24th **FULLER LAKE** - Year-End-Party w/ potluck lunch

The hike is easy, enjoyable and mostly downhill.

About 5 miles long. Paved road to the trailhead.

We hike through a canyon following the Yuba River. The last half mile is uphill.

We meet in Colfax and in Nevada City at the Government Center at 9:00 am

We all meet at the "Discovery Trail" on Bowman Rd. at app. 10:00 am.

Please bring your favorite dish to share and a drink of your choice. We'll have the rest: (table cloths, plates, utensils, cups, coffee etc. etc)

October the 31st **NO HIKE - HALLOWEEN**

If you are not a regular hiker with the group and would like to hike with us, call Fred 346-7392 first, since the hike might have changed for various reasons

Unsere Leute

October Birthdays

October 6	Alan Cary
October 10	John Post
October 19	Kristina Wetherbee
October 25	Renate Hettrich
October 25	Kathryn Schoensee Finn
October 30	Dennis Brunnenmeyer
October 30	Chrysan Silence

Tune to KNCO Radio AM 830, weekdays at 7:50 a.m. and 5:50 p.m. to hear your birthday greeting from GCGAC!

Gute Besserung

Stefan Arth
Christel Hermansen
Erika Nickerl
Margot Schulze



Please notify Christel Denzler when you are well or when you want to be taken off the Gute Besserung list. Thank you!

Early Days of the GCGAC -- memories from Erika Nickerl

The club was founded in 1981 or 1982. Co-founders of the club were Jim Bitzel and Bill Nickerl. Folks interested in starting the club set up a table at the Nevada County Fair. (Obviously, there was good response from the public). In the early days, the relatively new (built in 1979) Nickerl house on Cement Hill Road was the meeting place for everything, and to this day, the Nickerl house is still the club's address of record with the German American Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C. Early board members were Bill and Erika, the Bitzels, Maria Cabellero, and Frida and Fritz Oschbach. The club treasury started out as some cash in a shoe box. At one time, the club membership was as high as 170 members. There was more participation in club activities than today, and a greater number of individuals volunteered to help.

Club activities: Every Monday, there was dance practice, with 25 or 26 dancers on the Nickerls' outdoor deck, which Bill Nickerl re-stained every spring (because of the wear caused by all that dancing?). The dancers performed in places such as Sonoma and Nevada. They performed at old folks' homes, gratis.

There was a weekly women's Kaffee Klatsch that would meet at various members' houses for coffee and cake. Erika worked at Hunt's Bakery in Grass Valley starting at 6 a.m. every day, so she was an experienced baker and often provided the cake. After a while, the gathering was renamed to "Hand Arbeit" -- "working with hands," which included knitting and crocheting -- all while still enjoying the coffee and cake, of course.

-- to be continued, next issue.



The Unimat Lathe: Here is yet another example of Germanic engineering and old world craftsmanship having been offered to American buyers at a bargain price after World War 2 by the folks who lost that war. The Unimat was a miniature metal-turning lathe, sometimes called a watchmaker's lathe, not much larger than a sewing machine. It was manufactured in Austria by Meier and Company from 1953 to 1977, imported and marketed in the US by a company named Emco. It was of interest to hobbyists, such as model railroaders, or anyone engaged in making small brass or aluminum parts for any project. The name "Unimat" was an acronym meaning "Universal Machine Tool", so-called because the lathe could

be re-configured as a vertical mill, a drill press, a grinder, a tiny table saw, wood-turning lathe, jigsaw, or planer. Along with this versatility came limitations. The lathe, for example, could not accommodate stock larger than 1-1/2 inch diameter, and the motor (originally a repurposed sewing machine motor) would bog down or overheat if too ambitious a machining action were attempted. Patience and planning were important virtues of the successful Unimat operator. Although the tool used a "Tinkertoy" system of adding accessories, and although for many young boys, it was their first machine shop tool, the Unimat was not a toy. It was a small, but real, metal turning lathe --

from Austria!



See?

GCGAC Board of Directors

Officers (Elected -- 5 votes):

Acting President: Bob Scheetz (925) 518-8626
 Vice President: Kristina Wetherbee 432-9941
 Secretary: David Moss 432-2236
 Treasurer: Paulette Berquist 913-8976
 Program: John Hettrich (650) 207-3681

Directors (Appointed):

Membership: Susan Vogt 432-0594
 Dance: Dave Moss 432-2236
 Happy Wanderers: Fred & Karen Herrmann 346-7392
 Newsletter: Paul Trethewey 265-0763
 Publicity: to be filled
 German Language:
 Conversational: Christa Benson 272-6095
 Intermediate: Erica Meier 619-335-6499
 Beginning: Rebecca Claus (916) 710-0033

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on :

**Wednesday, October 9, 2019, 4:00 p.m. at
 Bret Harte Inn, Grass Valley, CA**

GCGAC Committee Chairs (appointed, non-voting)

Refreshments: Volunteers
 Get Well & Sunshine:
 Christel Denzler 878-0504
 Annaliese Grasshof (916) 783-5411
 Kaffee & Kuchen: TBD
 Inter-Club Liaison: Hank Stoffel 269-3137
 Webmaster: Paul Trethewey 265-0763
 Property: Dennis Naumann 477-1622
 Historian: Kristina Wetherbee 432-9941

Be sure to check out the official club web page! It has all kinds of interesting stuff, including photo galleries, links, and prior newsletters. It's located at:

www.goldcountrygermanamericanclub.org

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“Representing Americans of German Speaking Heritage”

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First Class Mail



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