



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

We are living in interesting times. In Las Vegas, Nevada, the gambling casinos are being shut down. Similarly, in Baden-Württemberg, Germany, the famous **Kurhaus** Casino at Baden-Baden is closed until April 19 (and maybe beyond) on account of the corona virus epidemic. So, it should come as no surprise that we in the Gold Country German-American Club are postponing our Casino Night Extravaganza. The event was originally scheduled for April, but we are cancelling the April club meeting and postponing Casino Night until at least May, maybe later, depending on how public health issues play out. Hope springs eternal! So, as things stand right now...

**Next Meeting: Friday, May 8, 2020, at
Seaman's Lodge:
Casino Night!**



This will be a repeat of last year's Casino Night, which some folks missed and wished they had another chance at attending. We'll be publishing more details in next month's newsletter, but in general, you show up, dressed up, and we give everybody an equal number of chips; we have a slide show about Baden-Baden and a brief review of the rules, and then let the games begin! Whoever ends up the least poor at the end wins.



Interesting times, continued: Just because you're socially distanced doesn't mean you're socially isolated. Yes, the hikes have been curtailed, and the language classes are dealing with how to get together to practice -- at a distance. Let's take advantage of the situation as well as we can! There are internet tools for meetings, and we can stay in touch and take care of each other. We will make our way through this, and in the end, we will all give each other a great big hug (social distance = o)!

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

Dear GCGAC Members,

The Board met [by conference call] on March 18 and we unanimously agreed that our club should proceed with taking all precautions to help mitigate the spread of this difficult new virus. Therefore, we cancelled the April club meeting and, for now, postponed the Casino Night activity to the May meeting. The Language Club has also indefinitely cancelled their face to face meetings. The Hiking Club has also postponed all group hikes indefinitely.

As this pandemic proceeds, we will closely monitor the reliable sources directing the public on best practices to mitigate this health danger, and as soon as it is once again safe to congregate as a group we will notify all that our club and the various groups are once again functioning as usual.

This latest Board meeting was the hand-off by our past President, Bob Scheetz, to the new President Ron Shaffer. We all want to once again thank Bob for his great leadership for the last four years. We also want to thank the rest of the board members who have reupped for another year of service to keep the club functioning. Probably the most difficult board position is the chair of the Programs Committee, who is once again John Hettrich. John gets help from both the Language group and the Hiking group who take responsibility for the Casino night, the annual picnic, and the Christmas party. John needs volunteers to provide new and interesting programs for the other monthly meetings that currently do not have specific programs identified. Programs that address German heritage are particularly desired. Please help by calling John to volunteer.

All who were at the Annual Meeting were given the new Budget which was approved at that meeting.

Seven new members have been approved to join the club and they will be introduced to all at the next club meeting. This brings the current club membership to 82.

The Board hopes you are all well and protected from this current health threat and we are looking forward to resuming our normal club activities in May if the situation allows.

Activities



German Language Classes

Interested in learning German? There is **only one** (as indicated by Herr Erhobenem Zeigefinger at left) 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 currently under the direction of Susanne Bader and Renate Hettrich; Intermediate level is taught by Erica Meier. Normally, these two classes assemble at various class members' homes, but during this time of corona virus risk, we are postponing in-person meetings. Maybe we could meet by internet conference calling -- distance learning! For more information, call Erica at (619) 335-6499

Conversational German Group

Normally, the German Conversational Class would meet Tuesday, April 14 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Christa Benson's, but some other arrangements will be made. If anyone would like to join the class, give Christa a call at 530-913-1836. New members are welcome!

Our Renowned Hiking Group

The Happy Wanderers contingent of the Gold Country German-American Club is well known among Nevada County's avid hikers. For the cost of yearly dues, you get camaraderie, healthful aerobic exercise, beautiful scenery, and skillful guidance of a wide variety of trails in the Sierra Nevada Foothills, every Thursday during the hiking season. In this photo, we see some social distancing -- maintaining a 6-foot interval, at least for some of the hikers, and for the dog on the leash -- to guard against the spread of the corona virus. Please see announcement on page 5 from Carol Yoder.



Upcoming Events

This Month:

- April 2, 2020: Beginning/Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3.
- April 14, 2020: Conversational German, see p. 3.
- April 15, 2020: Board of Directors Meeting at Bret Harte Inn. See p. 7.
- April 16, 2020: Beginning/Intermediate Language Class, see p.3.



Coming soon, keep an eye out for...

May 8 -- Language Class Extravaganza -- "Casino Night" If you missed last year, you have another chance!

Tentative Plans for the Year:

Be ready to spring into action if and when the opportunity arises!

- June 6, 2020: Summer Picnic at Herrmann's
- July 4, 2020: Independence Day Parade
- August: Open
- September/October: Oktoberfest and German-American Day
- November: Open
- December: Christmas Dinner

April Birthdays

April 3	Arnette McClure
April 7	Mary Mahoney
April 14	Aeron Davis
April 17	Elinor Barnes
April 19	Ronald Shaffer
April 26	Paul Trethewey
April 29	Trish Ballantyne

Gute Besserung



Fred Herrmann
Christa Benson
Dave Emanuel

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

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

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 WANDERER'S APRIL ANNOUNCEMENT



Dear Happy Wanderers,

In light of the rapidly-changing events and escalating restrictions surrounding the coronavirus crisis, we are suspending our hikes for the foreseeable future.

At this time, Governor Newsom has asked those who are 65 and older to practice self-isolation (i.e. staying home). Hiking is one thing we can still do for exercise, but for now it should be a solitary pursuit or with those who live in the same household.

May we all be back on the trail together in the near future. You will hear from us once the crisis has passed. In the meantime, please stay well.



This plague will pass, and we'll hike together again! Keep the faith, and keep in shape!

Unsere Leute

Along with Erich Korngold and Alfred Newman, **Max Steiner** was an early composer of music for Hollywood movies, and has earned the name, "The father of film music." Steiner immigrated to America from his native Austria in 1929 at the age of 41. He arrived in Hollywood at the advent of "talkies," i.e., movies with sound tracks. In his career at RKO Pictures and Warner Brothers, he composed over 300 film scores; his work was nominated for Academy Awards 24 times, and won three times. Among his best known compositions is the score for *Gone With The Wind* with its familiar *Tara* theme. When the film was released in 1939, it was the longest film score ever composed, nearly 3 hours. Steiner completed this monumental work in only three months. Later in his career, in 1959, Max Steiner composed the film score for the movie *A Summer Place*, and the love theme to that movie was recorded first by Hugo Winterhalter and then covered by Percy Faith, whose orchestral recording was the number one hit on the *Billboard* Hot 100 chart for nine weeks in 1960. Max Steiner's music was what so many teenagers "slow danced" to in 1960 -- and at that time, Max Steiner himself was 81 years old.

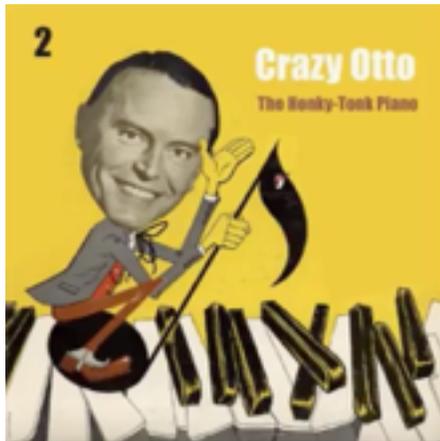


Max Steiner at the Piano

... and speaking of **slow dancing in the 60's**, below are a few photos from our Pizza Night and Sock Hop. There was dancing at all tempos, but not a lot of us did the Jitterbug. Consider this: Since our sock hop on March 6, and in these days of social distancing, "touch dancing" with multiple partners is now *verboten!*



... and speaking of Germanic pianists **Who was "The Crazy Otto"?**



Fritz Schulz-Reichel in Germany



Johnny Maddox in America

Fritz Schulz-Reichel was a German jazz and ragtime pianist who became known for the unusual technique of playing the melody with his left hand and its accompaniment with his right hand. To capitalize on this novelty, in 1953, he adopted the stage name, "Schräger Otto," where "Schräger" means "slanted," or "askew." In 1955, American ragtime pianist **Johnny Maddox** recorded a medley of Schulz-Reichel's tunes and named the medley "The Crazy Otto," which became an instrumental hit in America. Since that time, Maddox also adopted the moniker, "The Crazy Otto." So, there were two Crazy Ottos. It was the music business. Not fair!

GCGAC Board of Directors

Officers (Elected -- 5 votes):

President: Ron Shaffer	323-797-6656
Vice President: Mike Silence	530-477-6659
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: Carol Yoder	530-210-0215
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, April 15, 2020, 4:00 p.m. at
Bret Harte Inn, Grass Valley, CA, or by
Zoom Conference Call**

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
Facebook Intermediary: Elany Prusa	530-432-8736

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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