



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

Good News: Free Dues!



For those of you who paid dues at the beginning of 2020 and didn't really derive many (or any) of the expected benefits of club membership during the coronavirus crisis, your dues and your membership are being carried over into 2021. Think of your 2020 dues as money in the bank. That's what it is.

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

Dear Members,

As you are all aware, the pandemic has not let up. The Board has cancelled any further group activities for this year. We are very disappointed that we cannot have our annual Christmas dinner which is probably a first for the Club. We are proceeding with submitting a calendar for the 2021 season to reserve the Lodge for our future activities, let's hope for a quick return to getting together early next year.

The Board has decided that since we had no activities this past year and thereby few expenses, the Club is going to apply the 2020 dues to 2021. Therefore, you do not need to pay additional dues for next year.

Happy Holidays to all.

More Good News: and

Come Through!

In August of 2018, this newsletter drew your attention to Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, founded by a German-American, Charles Pfizer, for its Corporate Social Responsibility achievements. In August of 2020 we reported that Pfizer and partner BioNTech were fast tracking a vaccine for covid-19. By now, you have already heard that Pfizer and BioNTech announced the results of phase 3 human trials in which their vaccine was shown to be better than 90% effective. Availability of the vaccine for us in the general population is "just around the corner," but that corner is still many months away. Keep the faith, folks! We're seeing the light at the end of the pandemic tunnel.

The heroes of this breakthrough are BioNTech's founding members and principal research scientists, the husband and wife team of **Ugur Sahin** and **Özlem Türeci**. They founded the company in 2008 in Mainz, Germany. Their original goal was to develop cures for cancer, using immunotherapy and modifying the body's "T" cells to target cancer-specific antigens. Although they were not completely successful in their cancer cure, they were able to bring their experience to bear in the battle against covid-19 and to develop a vaccine of stunning efficacy.



Ugur Sahin Özlem Türeci

Many of us in the German-American Club are first or second generation immigrants to the USA, and so the following should strike a chord with us: Sahin and Türeci are immigrants, too -- from Turkey to Germany. It is no secret that many native Germans, including members of the far-right Alternative for Germany Party, feel some antagonism toward Turkish immigrants. The Turks don't assimilate quickly, they dress differently (don't wear Lederhosen), eat different food, and they usually aren't Catholics or Lutherans. Germany's immigration policies in the past encouraged poor and uneducated Turks to take menial jobs in German factories and farms, so a rather unflattering stereotype developed. Ugur Sahin and Özlem Türeci are breaking that stereotype in grand style. They're very well educated, and by all reports, modest and congenial research workaholics who ride bicycles to the office, and who may end up saving the collective bacon of the very people who harbor such resentment against their ethnic group. Ironic?

"That's funny, you don't look Turkish!"

How's the Club's storage container coming along?

The New Box Van Door Overhaul: Dennis Naumann, our Property Committee Chairman, is making steady progress. The job should be done in the next weeks such that we can have a moving day from the Old Trailer Storage.

The door overhaul is proving to be a much bigger job than imagined. This is not an ordinary garage door. Parts have been difficult to obtain, causing frustrating delays and a protracted work schedule. A crucial spring to counterbalance the heavy door finally arrived last month from North Shore Commercial Door (NCSD) after a long wait.

Dennis has worked around NCSD's reluctance to deal with and ship to other than commercial door companies. He has improvised where needed, building a new door from plywood panels, and he reports having used "scores of bolts for bearings and hinges." The plan was to install the shelving before the rains come. Dennis hopes we can have a moving and sorting day from the old trailer at some point in November.



How's the Club's Facebook page coming along?



Kristina Wetherbee writes: Our Facebook page is coming along great. We have had a few people posting their German photos and ideas. We've been posting several fun language sites and have been sharing lots of amusing posts as well. Kathrin, from her Biergarten, has been sharing some interesting things as well, so some of those are on our page as well. We'll also be continuing with our Saturday night quiz of "Do you know what/who this is?", which has been getting comments folks in Germany, as well as in our own hometown. You can find us here at:

<https://www.facebook.com/www.goldcountrygermanamericanclub.org>



Here is a link to a truly fine public service announcement regarding covid-19 from the *Bundesregierung's Zusammen gegen Corona* (German federal government's 'Together against Corona') campaign in Germany.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4azb_VCu9o

Don't worry, it has English subtitles!

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. We have met by internet conference calling -- distance learning via "Zoom"! For more information, call Erica at (619) 335-6499

Conversational German Group

Normally, the German Conversational Class would meet Tuesday, December 8, 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!



Happy Wanderers -- Hiking!

Very small hiking groups. Here is Agnes Walker taking a short *Pause* (German word for "pause") on a hike to Fairy Falls. Susan Vogt took the photo. So there were at least two hikers in this group...

Some of our folks went **birdwatching** at Graylodge Wildlife Refuge this fall (in small groups, naturally!). Elany Prusa took some beautiful photos, one of which we'll include in this month's newsletter. (See page 6).

Upcoming Events

This Month:

December 7, 2020: Beginning/Intermediate Language Class, see p.4.
 December 8, 2020: Conversational German, see p. 4.
 December 9, 2020. Board of Director's Meeting, see p.7.
 December 21, 2020: Beginning/Intermediate Language Class, see p.4.



Coming soon, keep an eye
out for...

Stay tuned, folks!

Tentative Plans for the Year:

Be ready to spring into action if and when the opportunity arises!
 December: Christmas Dinner at home. Stay warm!
 New Year: Watch "Dinner for One" at home.
 After Pandemic is Over: Impfstoff Fest with unabashed touch dancing. No face masks, please! We want so see your smile.

December Birthdays

December 3	Larry White
December 3	Carol Yoder
December 6	Tony Sackl
December 8	Larry Lund
December 13	Kathleen Kelly
December 14	Bill Johnston
December 16	Ron Boies
December 18	Elany Prusa
December 21	Helmut Petereit
December 23	Anneliese Frankel

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



Gute Besserung

Niemand!

Deshalb lächelt der Arzt.

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.

Thanksgiving is called "**Erntedankfest**" in Germany. Although it is not a public holiday in Germany, it is still a popular event this time of the year. Mostly, it is celebrated by the churches and less within families, but the history and the meaning are taught in primary school.



However, if you're an American living in Germany and dreaming of turkey with cornbread stuffing and cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie for dessert, you're not likely to find ingredients for those in German supermarkets. You could substitute a goose for the turkey, *Maisgrieß* for the corn meal, and *Preiselbeeren* (aka lingonberries) for the cranberries. But the Germans don't do pie. Pie? What's that? Answer: It's a vehicle for *Schlagsahne* (whipped cream)! You can find ingredients, but there are no pie plates to make your own!



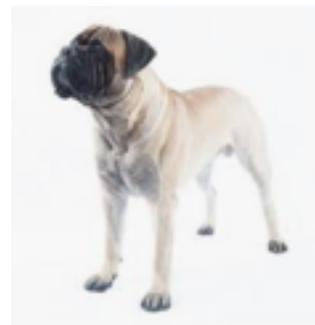
Here's one of Elany Prusa's fine photos at **Graylodge**. She has named it "**The Golden Hour.**" Aren't we lucky to have such a talented photographer in our club?



German Dog Breeds: Boxer



Who would have guessed? Some dog breeds are obviously of German origin: Dachshund, Schnauzer, Weimaraner. But "Boxer"? Yes, the boxer breed was developed in Munich, Germany in 1894 from the now extinct Bullenbeisser, and a similar breed, the bullmastiff, pictured below right, which was developed in the United Kingdom in 1860. It is not clear where the name "boxer" was derived, but Bullenbeissers were sometimes nicknamed "Boxi". Boxers seem similar to bullmastiffs, but the latter are stockier and can weigh up to 130 lbs. Boxers max out at about 70 lbs. -- more manageable; lower food bill; longer lifespan; and boxers can run faster. Both breeds are affectionate and smart. Boxers were used in both World Wars as military dogs, and it was not until after World War 2 that boxers became popular pets. It should be noted, also, that boxers do not drool. Bullmastiffs produce copious quantities of dog slobber.



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	530-913-1836
Intermediate: Erica Meier	619-335-6499
Beginning: Susanne Bader	510-282-0721

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on :

**Wednesday, December 9, 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 Team: Kristina (above) & 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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