



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



Rose Monday Carnival Parade in Köln, Germany, February 2020.

We're sorry to announce that there will be no Rose Monday Carnival Parade this year (2021) in Köln, because the coronavirus caseload in Germany has taken a dramatic turn for the worse. At the beginning of the pandemic last February, the caseload was light and the parade was held in spite of the rain, as can be seen by the clear plastic raincoats worn over the participants' costumes. One wonders how the parade floats featuring papier-mâché effigies of political figures fared in the rain. Did they melt?

BioNTech/Pfizer

and the New Strain of COVID-19

By now you have heard that there is already a new mutation or strain of COVID-19 that spreads more quickly than the original, although it causes no worse symptoms than the original. It is projected to be in the USA by March. Is the Pfizer vaccine effective against the new strain? Current research is saying that it is. There is no evidence to show that the new strain will be resistant to Pfizer's (or Moderna's) vaccines. Get your shots!



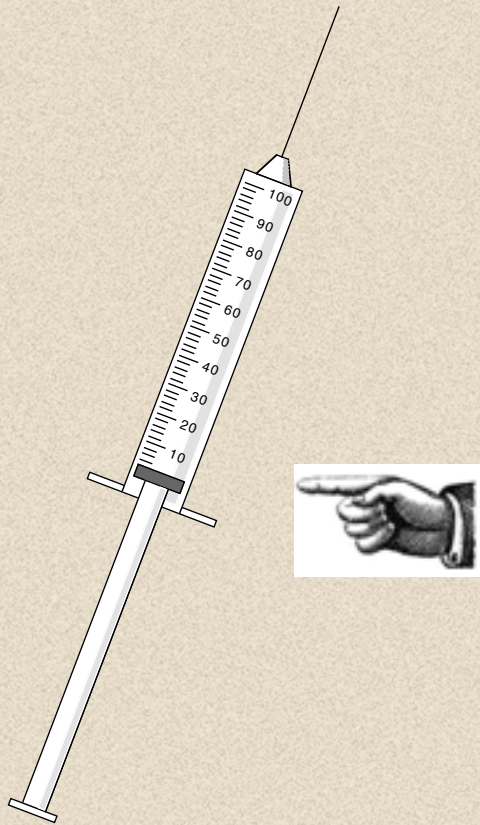
NOTES FROM THE BOARD

Dearest GCGAC Members, as We start out this new year, few things have changed in regard to the Club. We still cannot meet together face to face, nor resume our regular group activities as normal; so for now we continue on with “virtual” meetings and activities. As I mentioned last month, will hold the Annual General Meeting in March via ZOOM. The Board has decided that we should all practice for the March meeting by having everyone join in on the February Board Meeting to be held on February 10 at 4:00pm. At that event, we can see how having 80+ participants goes, and work out any bugs so as to have a successful March meeting. I will be sending out the ZOOM invitation to everyone the first week of February with instructions on how to participate for anyone not yet familiar with ZOOM. Take care and stay healthy [may you be vaccinated soon !].

Ron Shaffer

A small but dedicated group of Happy Wanderers (Sue Vogt, Paulette Berquist, Elany Prusa, Kathleen Kelly, and Agnes Walker) hiked the Buttermilk Trail at the Yuba River on the morning of New Year's Eve. Elany shot some photos and has this to say about the tree shown at right: "The Osage Orange tree's wood is used for bows and woodwind instruments, tool handles and waterfowl game calls and has twice the heat and hardness as white oak - plus the Red Breasted Sapsuckers (a type of woodpecker) like its sap!" Elany's photo of the Yuba below is called "Elongated Jade."





Let's keep track of how many Club members have received a covid-19 immunization!

If you get your shot(s), please report the event to Paul the Newsletter Editor. He will respect your privacy, but he would like to publish a TALLY of HOW MANY of us are among the Ranks of the Vaccinated!

Sound like fun?

So far, as of the date of this writing, two

GCGAC members out of a total of about 100 members have received their covid-19 vaccinations! Hey, folks, IT'S A START! We'll be publishing this graphic of a hypodermic syringe, showing the plunger going a little farther along its way with each passing month, to track our progress toward gathering as a group again. This might go faster than you currently imagine.

Siegfried Fischbacher Dies at 82

Club member and FaceBook maven **Kristina Wetherbee** posing in 2018 with Siegfried Fischbacher, co-star of the famous Siegfried and Roy show in Las Vegas. Unfortunately, Siegfried passed away from cancer on January 14, only eight months after his long time partner, Roy Horn, died of covid-19. Fischbacher said last June, "Today, the world has lost one of its greats of magic, but I have lost my best friend." So, Siegfried suffered from cancer but may have died of a broken heart.

Siegfried and Roy were both born in Germany, and both became US citizens in 1988. Their act at the Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas combined magical illusions with a wild animal show featuring exotic and rare white tigers and lions. From 1990 until 2003, Siegfried and Roy entertained an estimated 10 million fans.



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, February 5, 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!

When they're wearing masks, you can't tell how happy these Happy Wanderers are.



Tom Stone, Carol Yoder, Fred Herrmann, Alan Cary, Susan Shenelac. Karen Herrmann took the photo.

Winter Hiking at Lower Elevations

We live in an area where we can hike all year 'round. Winter hiking is typically held closer to our community and at slightly lower elevations. Recent January temperatures have been moderate, which motivated two of our members to get back on the trail at Cronan Ranch Regional Park on a beautiful 70° day. Located 4 miles north of Coloma off Hwy 49, Cronan Ranch is a perfect location for a winter hike. Trails were dry, and while enjoying lunch on a perch by the American River, we were entertained by whitewater kayakers as they maneuvered the rapids.

Go and check it out, Happy Wanderers!

Carol



Here are some hiking trails to choose from at this time of year. Your choice will depend on the weather of the day:

- Cronan Ranch (Pilot Hill)
- Stagecoach Trail (Auburn)
- Quarry Trail (Auburn)
- Hidden Falls (Auburn)
- Stevens Trail (Colfax)
- Hirschman's Pond (Nevada City)
- Black Swan Ranch (Smartsville)
- Edward's Crossing (Nevada City)
- Tribute Trail (Nevada City)
- Empire Mine (Grass Valley)
- Fairy Falls (Spenceville)



Upcoming Events

This Month:

February 1, 2021: Beginning/Intermediate Language Class, see p.4.

February 5, 2021: Conversational German, see p. 4.

February 10, 2021: Board of Director's Meeting, see p.7. This will include the Zoom practice session!

February 15, 2021: Beginning/Intermediate Language Class, see p.4.



Tentative Plans for the Year:

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

After Pandemic is Over: Impfstoff Fest with unabashed touch dancing. No face masks, please! We want to see your smile.

Oktoberfest? Maybe in late September.

February Birthdays

February 10	Joan Hardy
February 17	Ron Bailey
February 23	Edgar Davidson
February 27	Kathy Kopf
February 27	Jan Schroeder
February 28	Christa Benson

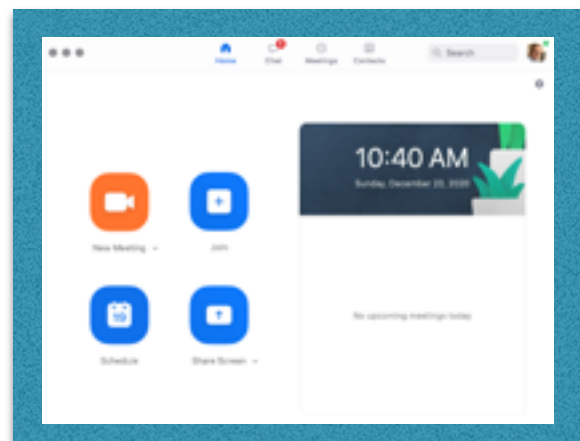
Tune to KNCO Radio AM 830, weekdays at 7:50 a.m. to hear your birthday greeting from GCGAC!



Gute Besserung

Theresa Arth

Remember that we are going to conduct our annual general membership meeting in March via Zoom and we have a **practice session** during the Board meeting on February 10 at 4 p.m. If you need help using Zoom, please contact the person who emailed this newsletter to you for help and advice well ahead of meeting time.





KNOPF IM OHR

Margarete Steiff GmbH

is a plush toy manufacturer based in Giengen, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. The company is known for its top quality, hand made animal plush toys. It was founded in 1880 and achieved popularity during the teddy bear craze that began in 1903 when US

President Theodore ("Teddy") Roosevelt was shown in a political cartoon, rescuing a bear cub. Steiff was essentially the inventor of the stuffed toy teddy bear, and they sold thousands, and over the years expanded their product line to include scores of other species of plush animals. The Steiff trademark for every animal is the "*Knopf im Ohr*", or "Button in the ear" attaching the Steiff label.

The Steiff toy at left is not a teddy bear, but instead a cute little pig. Why, you ask? Answer: Valentine's Day! In Germany, the holiday is geared more toward adults than

children. The symbol that embodies getting down and dirty with physical love is the pig, and depictions of pigs can be found everywhere in Germany during the Valentine season. The most common gift for Valentine's Day is flowers. In fact, sixteen percent of all Germans believe that Valentine's Day is an invention of the flower industry. But, the crowning touch to one's romantic intent is to include a reference to a lusty little pig - perhaps one presenting a box of chocolates, or climbing the ladder to a heart, or just sitting there, looking irresistible and cute, like this one. *Ich liebe dich!*

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, February 10, 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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