



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

Einen Guten Rutsch ins Neue Jahr!



This *Rutsch* is off the side of a cliff! Modern Technology will keep the brave pilot aloft -- and technology will keep us flying, too! -- the **technology of vaccines** in the battle against our Unwelcome Guest, Coronavirus. Trust the science! Get your *Impfstoff* (vaccine) when it becomes available!

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

Dearest GCGAC Members,

The Board wishes each of you Fröhliche Wiehnachten und frohes neues Jahr ! We did it ! We all survived the most bizarre and frustrating year of our lives, and so has the GCGAC. Our Club spirit lives on and now we face 2021. We all want this pandemic to be done, but we also know that time is still some way off, even with the vaccine. The Board is proceeding with the new year as though we will be able to resume face to face meetings sometime during the year and we have contracted to retain our monthly get together at Seamans Lodge with the option to cancel each month we cannot meet. We are also preparing for the annual General Meeting in March where we will present the "State of the Club" report and elect the Board for 2021. Anyone interested in taking a position on the Board [including President] needs to send their name and desired position to Paul Trethewey by January 15 to be put on the ballot which will be published in the February newsletter. The General Meeting in March will be a Zoom meeting, so prepare your computer to join in. At the meeting, each candidate on the ballot can say a few words on his/her behalf, but the actual voting will be by email the following days.

Stay well and have wonderful holidays. Let's all keep our fingers crossed that we may be able to have our first 2020/2021 get together at our annual picnic in June.

Ron Shaffer

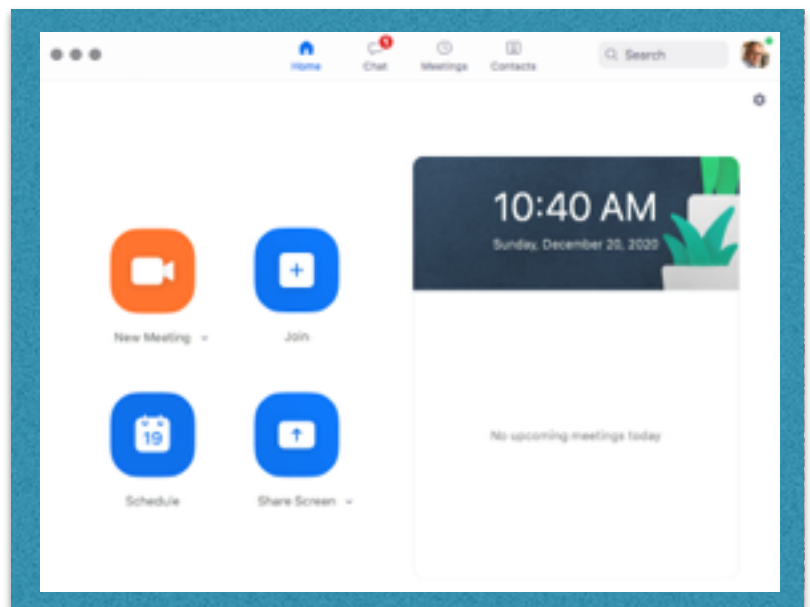
Recognize this computer image?

Of course you do! It's a **ZOOM** screen!

We GCGAC members are going to conduct our annual March membership meeting via ZOOM. (In case you are among the folks who have not yet used Zoom, we will have a "practice run" in February. It's easy and fun! We'll help you get started.)



In addition to the social aspects of seeing each others' faces all together on the computer screen, we'll be nominating our club officers for the coming year. **Mike Silence** has already volunteered to continue as Vice President (Thank you, Mike!), so other folks, please consider filling one of the other board positions to give the current office holders a break! Spread the wealth, spread the responsibility!



Adventskranz -- German Advent Wreath

Here is an authentic Adventskranz from club members Christel and Gery Denzler. The four candles celebrate Advent, the four weeks before Christmas. Each week, one additional candle is lit. The photo shows one week to go.



The candles also symbolize newer and brighter times ahead. Isn't that perfect for 2021?

The German Adventskranz was first used by Johann Wichern, a Lutheran theologian and teacher, in 1839 in Hamburg, Germany. Originally, Wichern set up a larger array of candles on a cart wheel, where one candle was lit per day, to indicate to children at an orphanage outside Hamburg when Christmas was coming. Four larger candles in the array signified Sundays. Over the years, evergreen boughs were added to the wheel, forming a wreath, and only the Sunday candles were kept. In 1925, in a brilliant stroke of ecumenism, the Catholic church also adopted the tradition from the Lutherans. By the 1930's, the custom had reached America. Eastern Orthodox families recently adopted an Advent wreath with six candles, and the sequential lighting of candles is reminiscent of the Jewish tradition of the Menorah during Hanukah. We really aren't so different, after all!



Christel writes: "Frohe Weihnachten und ganz besonders ein gesundes Corona freies Neues Jahr.

Gery und Christel"

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, January 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!

There are many traditional activities during the twelve days of *Raubnächte* surrounding the winter solstice and New Year's Eve (*Silvester*) in Germany. Some of these traditions date back to Teutonic times, but there is a modern tradition that has been enjoyed in German households every New Year's Eve since 1972. It is the watching of a short British comedy sketch, filmed in 1963, named *Dinner for One*. The show is virtually unknown outside of Germany, but it holds the *Guinness* record for being the most frequently repeated TV show in history. To see this charming and hilarious skit yourself, go to this YouTube site:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FksV_7ZYbhY



Dinner for One is watched by millions of Germans every New Year's Eve. Photo: DPA



Upcoming Events

This Month:

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

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

January 13, 2021: Board of Director's Meeting, see p.7.

January 18, 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!

New Year's Eve: 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.

Oktoberfest? Maybe in late September. See below:

Reservations at Seaman's Lodge

It is highly unlikely that we will be able to meet in person at Seaman's Lodge until late in 2021 (if the vaccines are successfully deployed). John Hettrich has optimistically reserved the Lodge for **Saturday, September 24**, along with first or second Fridays in several other months, in order to stay active on the County Parks and Recreation calendar and to pounce on the chance to gather as a group as soon as it becomes possible. He plans to cancel reservations on an ad hoc basis as it becomes apparent that neither we nor anyone else can meet at the lodge because of pandemic concerns.

January Birthdays

January 7	Jamie Hogan
January 13	Phillip Takacs
January 24	Hildegard Kramer
January 25	Hank Stoffel
January 28	Daly Petereit
January 28	Helene Suess

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



Gute Besserung

Theresa Arth

Unsere Leute



Cheryl Tiegs, 1978
"Pink Bikini" poster.

Did you know that America's first "Supermodel", **Cheryl Tiegs**, is of 100% German descent? It's true. Perhaps you remember the famous poster on the left, which superseded the iconic Farrah Fawcett-Majors poster. Tiegs appeared four years in a row in the Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue, and she was on the cover of Time, Glamour, Harper's Bazaar, and Vogue magazines. She capitalized on her modeling success with a line of clothing endorsements at Sears. Today, at age 73, she is active in many philanthropic organizations. Cheryl says of herself, "I'm very strong-minded. I'm German, my family is all German, from Minnesota."



Cheryl Tiegs, more recently, but she's probably not 73 in this photo.



And speakin' of fine photos, here's another one of Elany Prusa's from birding at **Graylodge**. She has named it **"Snow Geese Storm."**



The Heckel Bassoon

The bassoon is a somewhat peculiar musical instrument. It has a distinctive, almost whimsical voice, and has been used as a bass woodwind in orchestras for 200 years. It is the voice of the grandfather in "Peter and the Wolf," and the water-toting brooms in Paul Dukas' "The Sorcerer's Apprentice." The body of the bassoon is usually made of hard maple, and the 8-foot long, folded air column inside is conical, similar to saxophone and oboe, and made with great care and precision to achieve the proper timbre. The most renowned manufacturer, the Mercedes-Benz of bassoons, is the Wilhelm Heckel company in Wiesbaden, Germany. The family-owned company was established in 1831 by Johann Adam Heckel, who made technical improvements in the keywork that still bear his name. The demand for these intricate Heckel bassoons is very high. There is an 8-year-long waiting list, and the price for a new Heckel bassoon is upwards of \$50,000, depending on how the instrument is optioned -- and virtually every instrument is custom made for its purchaser. Used Heckels, if you can find one, sell for about \$30k. This is a lot of money for what other orchestra musicians jokingly call "the barking bedpost."

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

GCGAC

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on :

Wednesday, January 13, 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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"Representing Americans of German Speaking Heritage"

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