



# Gold Country German American Club



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

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

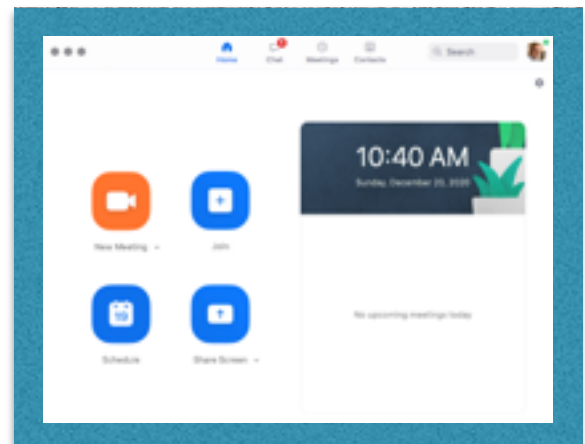
[www.goldcountrygermanamericanclub.org](http://www.goldcountrygermanamericanclub.org)

## Recognize this Screen? Sure you do!

If you don't recognize a Zoom screen, you haven't been socializing for the last 12 months. Our Zoom meeting is

**Friday, March 5, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Remember** that we are going to conduct our annual general membership meeting in March via Zoom. We had a **practice session** during the Board meeting on February 10. Did you check in? 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. See Ron Shaffer's "Notes from the Board" for more information about the General Meeting.



Who are these people, making tracks in the snow? For a list of names, see page 5.

Photo by Elany Prusa. It's the spectacular overlook above Lake Spaulding and Bear Valley.

## Notes from the Board

Dear GCGAC Members, it is that time of year for our annual General Meeting. This meeting will have to be via Zoom this year, and it will occur on March 5, at 6:30pm. At this meeting, the Board of Directors will present the current state of the Club including the Calendar for 2021, the membership status, the Club's financial status, and other relevant Club business. After the State-of-the-Club presentation, there will be a presentation from each current officer position as to their status for the upcoming year as well as a statement from any member who would like to become an officer for any position on the Board. All positions are available to any member to pitch for. Since we cannot determine a way for a vote to occur during a Zoom meeting, I will be sending out a "ballot" email the following day for everyone to mark and return with your vote. After the vote count, I will send out an "election result" email to each of you.

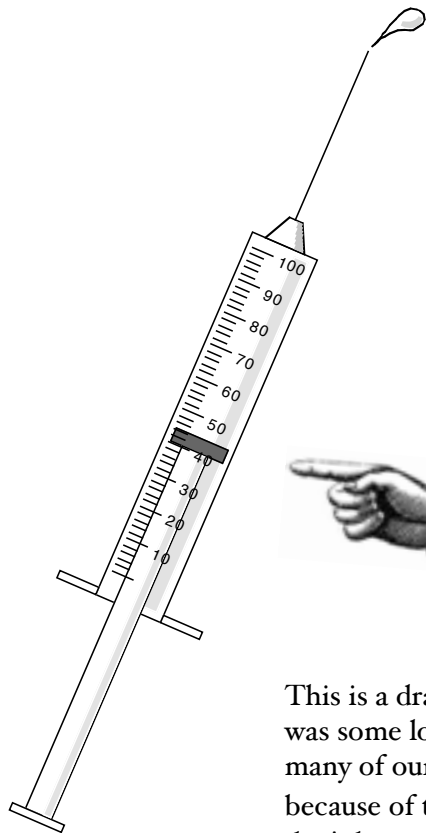
If anyone is interested in becoming a Club officer [President, Vice- President, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership, or Program Director. Also committee positions such as Hiking coordinator, Language class coordinator, Publicity coordinator, Property manager, or Publicity coordinator] please email me prior to the March 5 meeting so I can schedule for your presentation to the Club.

It is essential that all members participate in this General Meeting so that we comply with the Club By-laws to fulfill this annual business meeting. I will send out the Zoom invite on March 1<sup>st</sup> so that it does not get lost in your email [don't forget to check your Junk file]. See you all on Zoom!



### **Angela Merkel Retires as Chancellor of Germany**

How many American politicians are you aware of who have a doctorate in quantum chemistry? Well, here's a German one who does -- Angela Merkel! In 2005, she was the first woman to take the job of leading Germany. In the years since then, she has presided over Germany's successful outcome after the 2008 financial crisis and the Eurozone debt crisis, and set an example for how to treat refugees from Syria and Africa -- an example that makes the US look like an uncaring, passive observer by comparison. Merkel led 80 million Germans with quiet dignity and integrity. She did not abuse her position for personal gain; she did not denigrate her opponents, predecessors, or successors. She lived, spoke, and dressed modestly -- what you would expect from a scientist. When she announced her resignation at the conference of the Christian Democratic Union party, delegates there gave her a 6-minute long standing ovation.



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,

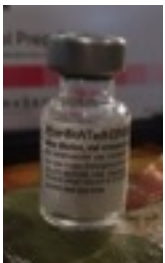
**Forty-four** GCGAC members out of a total of about 100 members have received their covid-19 vaccinations. The plunger is nearly halfway through the hypo! Each month, we'll show the plunger making its way a little farther along to track our progress toward **gathering as a group** again.

This is a dramatic increase since last month's total of two. Yes, acknowledged, there was some low hanging fruit this month: The GCGAC's age distribution means that many of our members qualified for placement near the front of the vaccination line because of their age. *Manchmal hat man eben keine Wahl.* "Sometimes, you just don't have a choice!" You take the vaccine when you can get it.

## "COVID Arm"

As more and more of our club membership get vaccinated, we now have an affliction less serious than the covid disease to focus on: "Covid arm." The formal medical name for the condition is "delayed subcutaneous hypersensitivity," which refers to a swelling near the vaccination site, about a week after the shot was injected.

The arm gets a hard, reddish, sometimes itchy and sensitive place. It happens more often in women than men. Normally, the swelling goes away in a few days, and the itch can be relieved with an antihistamine such as Benadryl. It is also said that this reaction happens more often with the Moderna vaccine than the Pfizer vaccine (shown at left). Yet another reason to love the Germans!





## 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, March 2, 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!



The Beginning/Intermediate language group is reading a German "Krimi" (Crime mystery) titled *Blutiger Wahn* - a few pages at a time during the pandemic, and we're nearly finished! Shown are Paul Trethewey trying not to move his lips when he reads, Linda Snyder discovering who dunnit, Robert Gosselin showing his marked-up text and his German-French LaRousse dictionary, James Huber (what's wrong with this picture?) and Mike Silence reading the "couldn't put it down," really exciting part. We have fun!

## Winter Hiking, Up the Hill!

As Carol Yoder wrote last month, we live in an area where we can enjoy hiking all year 'round. In keeping with pandemic safety guidelines, our hikers have been going out in very small groups, such as these groups of Wanderers who went snow shoeing near the Omega Rest Stop up Highway 20 and the Plantation Point Overlook near Bear Valley and Lake Spaulding.



Paulette Berquist and Tom and Kathleen Kelly took each others' photos.



Elany Prusa shot this CUTE photo of hikers on snow shoes and skis: Shown are Karen Clark, Vanessa Smith, Tom Dyer, Brenda Gillarde, and Elany's friend, Sharanjoy.

# Upcoming Events

## This Month:

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

March 2, 2021: Conversational German, see p. 4.

March 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 so see your smile.

Oktoberfest? Maybe in late September.



## Gute Besserung

Theresa Arth

Look at what they are doing to our bridge!



This photo from Karen Herrmann taken during a hike at South Yuba River State Park shows the Bridgeport covered bridge, uncovered, undergoing an extensive restoration. Kristina Wetherbee's husband, Marc, works as a State Parks Peace Officer. The Wetherbees live in the caretaker's cottage a stone's throw from the bridge and the noisy work being done there. So, by extension, this is *our* bridge! (See the connection?)



## March Birthdays

March 5	Sue Wilson
March 10	Karen Herrmann
March 11	Steve Knebl
March 11	Mark Schilleman
March 11	LouAnn Schwartz
March 21	Rebecca Claus
March 25	Thomas Spol
March 26	Judie Schuetzle

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



## Electric VW Microbus!

The pre-1968 Volkswagen Bus went by many names: Type 2, Transporter, VW Van, 23-window Bus, Microbus, and in Germany, "Bulli." These vehicles have become scarce, and today, a classic 23-window Microbus in restored condition can fetch over \$100k. A German company, eClassics, has done a "concept" model VW Bus shown at right, except that instead of its original, woefully-inadequate 36 horsepower VW sedan motor, this bus has been retrofitted with a modern, 80 horsepower, all-electric drive train and several other conveniences: LED headlights, updated suspension, new gauges, leather upholstery, modern stereo, GPS navigation, effective brakes, and actual rustproofing. Top speed is about 80 mph and range is about 135 miles. The battery bank under the bus's belly pan and the conventional drive axles reduce the once-ample ground clearance of the original bus, but it lowers the center of gravity, making the new bus less top-heavy, especially in a cross wind. *[As me how I know! -- ed]*

eClassics' stock in trade is not the concept microbus, but rather a modernized, electrically-propelled VW Beetle, which they call the "e-Käfer." (*Käfer* in German means "Beetle.") It has similar luxurious upgrades, plus its top speed is 93 mph with a 155 mile range.

<https://www.e-classics.eu/de/>



Price? They're not telling on the web site!

### 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, April 14, 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](http://www.goldcountrygermanamericanclub.org)

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"Representing Americans of German Speaking Heritage"

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