



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

Christmas Party on Friday, Dec. 3

CHRISTMAS -PARTY

Friday December the 3rd 2021 at Seaman's Lodge

Doors open at 4:00 pm - dinner will be served app. 6 pm.

The "Happy Wanderers" are hosting the Christmas party, and on the menu this year will be ham with scalloped potatoes, green beans or peas, apple-sauce and rolls. Beverages will be available as usual.



We need to know how many people are coming, so **Please RSVP before November the 26th** to indicate the number of people in your party (members & guests).

E-mail: herrmann@colfaxnet.com or call Fred'n'Karen Herrmann 530 615-6766

We have maximum 80 seatings available, so make sure you RSVP to avoid disappointment. Guests are welcome. We will be having Santa visiting, so if you are bringing a child, please also bring a wrapped present with the child's name on it.

The **Hannebrink Duo** will provide us with wonderful music for our enjoyment, and some of the former 'Germania Voices' will lead us in singing our favorite Christmas Carols. Also, Susanne Bader's Beginning German class is planning something to entertain us. We like to keep alive some of the traditions of our homeland, when Christmas was a time for reflection, for family and celebration.

Mark your calendar and if possible, please bring your favorite cake or cookies to share for dessert. You are encouraged to bring your own festive dishes and utensils; we do have paper plates, though.

This is a free event for members. Guests pay \$15.- Children are free

Let's have a wonderful Christmas Party!

The "Happy Wanderers"

Notes from the Board

Dear Members, The Board wishes all of you a safe and happy holiday season, and we hope to see all of you at the Christmas party.

We still need to replace Dave as Secretary as soon as possible. We need someone to volunteer for this position immediately. If you are interested in joining the Board as Secretary please email me at shaffam@outlook.com.



GOTTESDIENST ZUR WEIHNACHTSZEIT

(Christmastime Church Service)
Sunday, December 19, 2021
4:00 p.m.

Here's an event you should not miss at **Peace Lutheran Church**, 828 West Main Street, in Grass Valley: It's an Advent (pre-Christmas) service entirely in German! Reverend Christian Schwetter, also known as **Pastor Christian**, will be conducting the service in his native tongue, *Deutsch*! AND, members of our own GCGAC German language classes will be reading the Christmas Story in German -- AND, our own **Paul Trethewey** and **Linda Snyder** will perform instrumental music -- AND the words to German Christmas songs will be printed in the programs -- AND there'll be Kaffee und Kuchen afterward. Even if you don't understand a word of German, you will remember and recognize the Christmas Story and the melodies! It promises to be a sweetly inspirational event! Mark your calendar and come to the gathering.

For both this event and the Christmas dinner on December 3, we expect attendees to use common sense in safeguarding the public health. Even if you are vaccinated, wear a mask when necessary as a courtesy to others, especially when singing, and maintain social distance when you can. Carry a face mask and your shot record with you, "just in case."





HAPPY WANDERERS' HIKING GROUP

The Happy Wanderers have been exploring the lower elevations the last few weeks. October 28 found us at Hidden Falls Regional Park outside of Auburn. The park boasts over 30 miles of trails, of which we covered 9! We hadn't meant to go so far, but our legs got carried away and took us along. Good job, hikers!

November 11 found us exploring the Forest Hill Divide Trail. This is outside the other side of Auburn. After crossing the Forest Hill bridge we drove seven miles up the road to the "east" parking lot. We did a bit of the north side of the trail which looks into the canyon of the North fork of the American river, then a bit bigger bit of the south side of the trail which looks into the canyon of the middle fork of the American river. Unfortunately we didn't see much of either river, but we were on top of the world.



The fourth Thursday of November happens to collide directly with Thanksgiving, so we will not be hiking that day, we will be eating turkey and pumpkin pie. However, I encourage you to walk off some of those calories by going down to Bridgeport and checking out the bridge which is now open after ten years of repair and millions of dollars spent. The first builders completed it in one summer. That's progress!

Mark your calendars for December 9 and 23, weather permitting we will be kicking up some dirt. -- Susan Vogt

Volksmarsch Badges. In the early days of the "Happy Wanderers" when GCGAC was founded, there was some interest in participating in the world-wide hiking organization called the **International Federation for Popular Sports**, also known as **Volksmarsch**, which laid out specific hiking trails with maps and formal checkpoints, and provided certificates, pins, and patches such as shown above as incentives for hikers. Yeah, "We don't need no stinking badges!" -- our hikes are much less formal! That being stated, custom embroidered patches can be ordered on line for about \$2 apiece in quantities of 50. Here's the club logo. Possibilities for tchotchkes?



Unsere Leute

New Member: Michael Camerlingo



Michael is a career Air Force officer who lives in Penn Valley and is on active duty at Beale AFB, where he pilots Remotely Piloted Aircraft. He's interested in German culture and language in part because his mom immigrated from Austria. Michael minored in German in college, and he is planning to refresh his language skills in Susanne Bader's language class. He's also an avid fisherman (how could you tell?) Please greet him when you see him at the upcoming Christmas Dinner!

Austrian-American Hollywood Film Composer Erich Wolfgang Korngold



Erich Korngold was an important and influential composer of film scores for 16 Hollywood movies. He received Oscars for his scores for *Anthony Adverse* (1936) and *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938). Erich was a child prodigy, born in 1897 to a Jewish family in Brunn, Austria-Hungary (now the Czech Republic). He composed his first ballet at age 11 and his first orchestral score at age 14. Gustav Mahler called Korngold a "musical genius." He composed and conducted several works in Vienna. Unfortunately, in the 1930's, Austria was annexed by the Nazis and his family home in Vienna was confiscated. He moved to the US, just in time to escape persecution, in 1938. Working on *Robin Hood* for Warner Brothers probably saved his life. He stayed in America until World War 2 ended, and he became a naturalized US citizen. Influential? Yes. John Williams, the composer of the *Star Wars* (and many other) film scores, cited Erich Korngold as his inspiration.

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.

A Beginning level class meets on second and fourth Mondays of the month under the direction of Susanne Bader at her cozy house in Grass Valley.

As of this date, the class is "full."

The Intermediate Class is taught by Erica Meier. The class is underway reading a German murder mystery novel, *Blutige Affäre* by Dörte Jensen, and studying some mind-bending German grammar. Intermediate students assemble in person at various class members' homes, now that members have become vaccinated.

For more information, call Erica at (619) 335-6499

Conversational German Group

Greetings! The Conversational German Class will meet Wednesday, Dec. 8, at 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. at 10078 Grinding Rock Dr. Grass Valley. Call me if interested to join the group at 530-913-1836. See you at 2 p.m. December 8 -- Christa.

Here's **Mike Silence**, Vice President of the GCGAC and also an active member of the Intermediate German Language class, displaying a map that he obtained while on his recent visit to Germany. The map is of particular interest to the members of the language class, because it shows places and villages referred to in one of the class's translation assignments, "Wahres und Legendäres," which is a collection of anecdotes and short stories written during the time of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. The pre-Germany locations in the stories are not readily found on typical modern maps. Some villages have changed their names as the national boundaries shifted. The special new map adds an element of forensics to the translation assignment.



Upcoming Events



This Month:

December 3, 2021: Holiday Dinner, see p. 1
 December 6, 2021: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 5.
 December 8, 2021: Conversational German, see p. 5.
 December 8, 2021: Board of Directors' Meeting, see p. 7
 December 9, 2021: Possible Happy Wanderer's Hike TBA.
 December 13, 2021: Beginning Language Class, see p. 5.
 December 20, 2021: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 5.
 December 23, 2021: Possible Happy Wanderer's Hike TBA.
 December 27, 2021: Beginning Language Class, see p. 5.

Tentative Plans for 2022:

What unfinished business will the new year bring?

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 19	Margaret Novak
December 23	Anneliese Frankel



Gute Besserung

Fantastisch das
 keiner krank ist 🤖

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

BIONTECH



Speaking of Gute Besserung, our old Pfriends, Pfizer and BioNtech are in the news, again. The latest is that they have developed an antiviral pill called Paxlovid that is claimed to reduce the risk of hospitalization and death by 89 percent in people at high risk of severe illness from covid. It is, to coin a phrase, the "morning after pill" for the unvaccinated. Unfortunately, it is somewhat experimental and still awaiting approval from the FDA for use in this country. Pfizer has asked for special emergency authorization similar to what it received for its vaccine. Other drug companies such as Merck have also applied for authorization of their own antiviral pills and might actually beat Pfizer to market, this time. If approved, Paxlovid would complete the three-pronged defense against covid that includes physical barriers (e.g, masking), vaccine, and treatment for the infected.

Kartoffelpuffer and Latke -- What's the difference?

They're both a form of potato pancakes, made from grated potatoes, onions, and eggs -- deep fried, and enjoyed with applesauce, as shown at right. Neither existed before the potato had been accepted in Europe as suitable for human consumption, in the late 18th century. (Previously, potatoes were considered livestock fodder.) In the early agrarian days in what is now Germany, farmers would typically fatten their geese for slaughter in early December, and use the rendered goose fat to fry these pancakes. Because of the timing, Latkes became associated with Jewish Hanukkah (which this year happens from November 28 until December 6). Devout Jews also relate the oil in which the Latkes are fried with the oil



referenced in the Miracle of the Oil in ancient scriptures (even though that was probably olive oil, and there were no Hebrew potatoes). Kartoffelpuffer (same pancakes) were associated with Lutheran and Catholic Christmas. So, if you would like to make some Kartoffelpuffer or Latkes, and if you strive for authenticity, you could try to find a large quantity of goose grease in which to fry them. If you make them early this December, you can celebrate Hanukkah. Make them in later December and celebrate Christmas! Have them under both names and honor both holidays!

GCGAC Board of Directors

Officers (Elected -- 5 votes):

President: Ron Shaffer	323-797-6656
Vice President: Mike Silence	530-477-6659
Secretary: Open Position	your number here
Treasurer: Lou Ann Schwartz	432-0690
Program: John Hettrich	(650) 207-3681

Directors (Appointed):

Membership: Susan Vogt	432-0594
Dance: Kristina Wetherbee	432-9941
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 8, 2021, 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

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

Newsletter printed at: Walker's Office Supplies, 791 Maltman Drive., Grass Valley, CA 95945 530-273-2283



Gold Country German-American Club is a Member of the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA®
719 Sixth St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20001

"Representing Americans of German Speaking Heritage"

Ph: 866-868-8422 (toll free) email: info@gahmusa.org web: www.gahmusa.org

First Class Mail
Please Forward



Gold Country German-American Club
P.O. Box 571
Grass Valley, CA 95945