



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

Friday December the 6th at Seaman's Lodge

Doors open at 4:00 pm - dinner will be served app. 5:30

The "Happy Wanderers" are hosting the Christmas party, and on the menu this year will be Sliced ham with scalloped potatoes, red cabbage, green salad, sauerkraut, apple-sauce. Beverages will be available as usual.

Make sure to RSVP and indicate the number of people in your party (members & guests), so we know app. how many people we need to cook for.

Please call Karen Herrmann (530) 615-6766

We will be having St. Nicolas visiting, so if you are bringing a child, also bring a wrapped present with the child's name on it.

The *Hannebrink Duo* will again provide us with wonderful music for our enjoyment, and we hope you will all join in singing our favorite Christmas Carols both German and English. 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 hors d'oeuvre, cake or cookies to share. 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 \$10.- Children are free

Let's have a wonderful Christmas Party!

The "*Happy Wanderers*"



Notes from the Board

A review of the club By-Laws, Article IV shows the process by which the club annual dues are established to be: "The Board of Directors will recommend the amount of the dues and submit it for approval to a vote of the general membership."

As a consequence, the dues payable on January 1, 2025 is \$30.00.

The Board of Directors has voted to place a recommendation on the March 2025 Annual Meeting agenda for to increase the annual club dues to \$40.00 per year, retroactive to January 1, 2025. A vote of the membership will be taken at that same March meeting.

At the November membership meeting it was announced that Mike Silence, Kristina Wetherbee, and Chrysan Silence will not seek re-election. Candidates are needed for club President, Vice President, and Secretary. Our Program Director, Rebecca Claus, who lives in Tennessee, has indicated she prefers to have someone in the Grass Valley area take over the office. A candidate is also needed there.

Respectfully,
Mike Silence

It is with sadness that we report the passing away of Martin Vogt on October 23. Martin and wife Susan are shown at right. As most of us know, Susan is the *de facto* leader of the Happy Wanderers, the Club's hiking group. She is at the time of this writing preparing an obituary, which we will publish here when it is available. Condolences to Sue! It was great seeing Martin at the Oktoberfest in September. We will miss him a lot!



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 on hiatus.

The Intermediate Class is taught by Erica Meier. The class has finished reading *Blutiger Verrat* by Dörte Jensen, and has chosen a new book, *Dunkel Nacht* by Kirsten Boie, to read. Now is an excellent time to jump on board, if you're interested! The study of mind-bending German grammar is ongoing; Party food and social lubricant make it easier.

Intermediate class sessions take place in person at various class members' homes.

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

Conversational German Group

Servus! The Conversational German Class is taking December off. Normally they meet from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. at Christa Benson's place on second Wednesday of the month at 10078 Grinding Rock Dr. Grass Valley. If you're interested in German conversation, call Christa at 530-913-1836.

Kristina Wetherbee needs **photos** to paste on the club's Facebook page! Please contact her with any GCGAC-related photos such as recent hikes, holiday parties, friends, anything she might use.

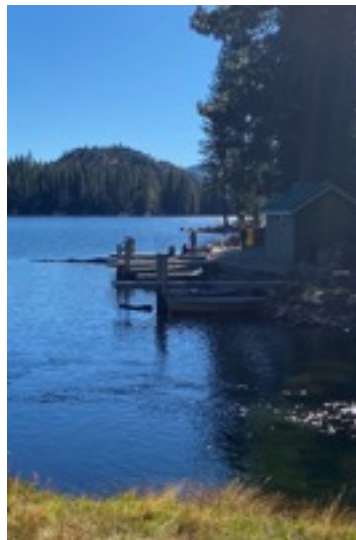
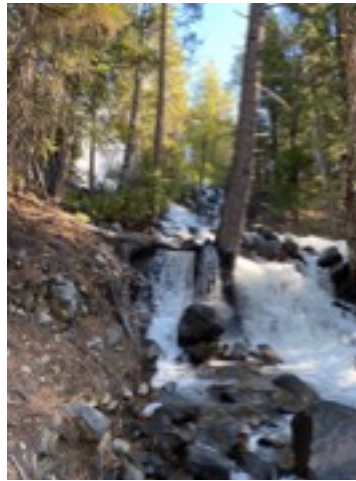


Our dancers are up and running! (Well, dancing, actually.) 😊 We now have 4 couples in the dance group and now is the time to join if you're interested! We're teaching some beginning dances and reviewing older ones. Practices are usually Tuesday evenings, about every other week. See "Upcoming Events" on page 5. Please contact Kristina Wetherbee, (916) 955-2878, for more information.

HAPPY WANDERERS' HIKING GROUP



Here are some pictures from the hike from the Grass Valley Rifle, Rod and Gun club to a beautiful waterfall, then to Lake Spaulding. On the way back we hiked around Fuller Lake. Pictures are from the gun club where we had a wonderful lunch!! -- Kirsten Hebert



Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...

This Month:

- Dec-02: Intermediate Language Class at Kristina Wetherbee's, see p. 3
 - Dec-03: Board of Directors' Meeting, see p. 7
 - Dec-06: Club Meeting, Holiday Dinner at Seaman's Lodge, see p. 1
 - Dec-10: Alpine Dance Practice at Kristina's see p. 3
 - Dec-16: Intermediate Language Christmas gathering at Mike Sillence's, see p. 3
- Happy Wanderers might go snowshoeing or hiking as weather permits. Check for email messages.

Tentative Plans for 2025:

We're planning a Stammtisch in January at a place to be determined. No meeting at Seaman's Lodge in January, but we're making plans for February (Fasching, maybe?).



December Birthdays

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| Dec 3 | Larry White |
| Dec 13 | Kathleen Kelly |
| Dec 14 | Bill Johnston |
| Dec 15 | Christian Schweter |
| Dec 23 | Margaret Novak |
| Dec 23 | Anneliese Frankel |

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



Gute Besserung

Alle sind gesund und munter.



Alpine Dancers at the Seaman's Lodge performing during the Stollen auction on November 1.

Unsere Leute

Editor's comment: The GCGAC is a wonderful group that deserves your support and participation. Our current set of officers have served long and well, but they need to be relieved. Please consider (and act upon) becoming a board member to help steer the Club in new, bold directions. If we don't have officers, we don't have a club. Positions are listed on page 7. Meanwhile, read this essay/memoire from Linda Shaffer, below. It's good! --Paul



Growing up, my family was active in several club events from Scouts to Parents clubs, etc. Gatherings were held in halls with wood floors, wood walls, and stone fireplaces much like the Seamans Lodge. I have wonderful memories of these gatherings and still have the family serving bowls normally filled with ambrosia or potato salad with masking tape on the bottom inscribed with our family name so no one would mistake it for theirs.

When we moved to Grass Valley seven years ago, our friends; John and Mary Muff, introduced us to the Gold Country German American Club. From the first night, I was transported back to my beloved childhood memories. We were introduced to a group of wonderful people who quickly became our friends. With each month that has gone by since, I have looked forward to these social gatherings in anticipation of seeing the Alpine Dancers perform or Paul's Oom Pah-Pah Band. We share refreshments, latest news, touch our ancestral history, and commune in a manner that seems rare in this time we live in.

Our monthly gatherings are growing smaller and I am reaching out to remind our members that next month we will have our annual Christmas Party. This is a true treat with wonderful food, music, and dancing. I hear Santa even has a new suit to show off. I encourage all of our members to join us for this very festive and joyous celebration. Let's keep this wonderful club strong by our presence and support.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of our board members. These folks volunteer their time to keep the club going and handle all of the administrative duties needed to do so. For those member who have not volunteered to serve on the board, please consider it before the upcoming general meeting next March. We need new faces to help if we want to continue supporting the dancers, language group, and hiking group.

Hope to see you in December.

Linda Shaffer

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



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”

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