



# 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)

**Next Meeting:** The next Club general membership meeting will be on Friday, February 7, 2025, 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at Seaman's Lodge. The theme for the meeting will be **Fasching**. See page 2 for more details.

## Einen guten Rutsch ins neue Jahr!



Here is another intrepid ski-jumper, headed down the slope, gathering speed to set a new world's jump distance record. This is Ryoyu Kobayashi, a Japanese olympic medalist, on a specially-built ski jump run, about to fly in the air 291 meters until touching down. Hey, if he can do that, we can all slide into the new year and support the Gold Country German-American Club! Einen guten Rutsch, indeed!

## Important Reminder: Club Dues

2025 Dues are due and payable on January 1 and past due on March 1, 2025. Please mail your check for \$30 made out to GCGAC to P.O. Box 571, Grass Valley, CA 95945, or pay in person at our next membership meeting in February. Your prompt attention would be greatly appreciated.

## Notes from the Board

Candidates are still needed for 2025 club officers. Nominations for all five elected offices are open: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Program Director. We had some responses at the Christmas Party, but more candidates are needed for a robust election. You can nominate yourself! Nominations may be submitted to Mike Silence at [silenced@alumni.csusb.edu](mailto:silenced@alumni.csusb.edu) no later than February 9, 2025.

As a reminder, the 2025 dues will remain at \$30.00 pending the result of the vote on the proposed increase at the March General Membership Meeting.

Respectfully,  
Mike Silence  
President

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## **Fasching Costume Party**

Friday, February 7, 2025

For this party, everyone is asked to dress in a Fasching costume. There will be prizes for best Single costume and best Couples costume! If you have a Clown costume in your closet, you can wear that!

To add something new and different this year, we would request that some members (as many as want to) join us in Nevada City on the main street where we will walk up and down to show off costumes; maybe stop for a drink and encourage other pedestrians to inquire about our event and hopefully get some interested people in the Club. We will make up some simple signs to be worn on backs with our info on them and can also hand out leaflets. (Killing two birds with one stone?).

Then on the the Seaman's Lodge Clubhouse for fun and Gemütlichkeit!



## 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 January 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



Our fabulous **Christmas Dinner** was organized by our Happy Wanderers.



Jeannie Rodriguez and Agnes Walker decorating the tree.



Chow line: The food was warm and wonderful! So were the people!



Ben and Patsy Hannebrink provided music for the occasion. See them, way in back by the stage?



Here's Nicholas Wetherbee with his namesake, St. Nicholas!

# Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...

## This Month:

- Jan-03: Stammtisch at 1849 Brewing. See this page.
  - Jan-07: Board of Directors' Meeting, see p. 7
  - Jan-09: Possible Happy Wanderer's event.
  - Jan-13: Intermediate Language Class at Karen Clark's, see p. 3
  - Jan-14: Alpine Dance Practice at Kristina's see p. 3
  - Jan-23: Possible Happy Wanderer's event.
  - Jan-27: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3
  - Jan-28: Alpine Dance Practice at Kristina's see p. 3
- Happy Wanderers might go snowshoeing or hiking as weather permits. Check for email messages.

## Tentative Plans for 2025:

- February: Fasching Costume Party
- March: General Membership Meeting and Election



## January Birthdays

No member birthdays in January!



## Gute Besserung

Alle sind gesund und munter.

On Friday, January 3, 2025, at 5 p.m., we're having a "Stammtisch" gathering at the 1849 Brewing Company, 468 Sutton Way, Grass Valley. The plan is to try their beer (They offer three varieties that are claimed to have German origins), share some pizza or other appetizers, and play a game or two of pool on their coin-op pool table(s).



at...



## Unsere Leute

### Martin Vogt Obituary

June 4, 1949 – October 23, 2024

Martin died suddenly on October 23 at home. He was born in the old Jones Hospital in Grass Valley Ca in 1949 to William and Elaine Vogt. He was the second of five: older brother Bill, younger brothers Nick and Ernie and little sister Nola completed the family. He grew up on a ranch on Pleasant Valley Road and had many happy memories of working the land with his family, irrigating pastures, mowing hay and raising cattle. On summer days family and friends would pile on to the hay wagon and head down to Deer Creek for a picnic.

His early years of education took place in what at the time was a one room schoolhouse: Pleasant Valley School. He graduated from Nevada Union High School in 1967.

During his schooling and beyond, wrestling was a great passion, he went to Sierra College in Rocklin and Chabot College in Hayward, then completed college at Seattle Pacific College (now University), wrestling in between injuries.

He married Susan in 1975 in Grass Valley at Grace Lutheran Church in a snowstorm. They were married for 49 years.

After working a few construction jobs, Martin began a 30 year career at Nevada Union High School, teaching Ag, Industrial Arts, and Health. He coached wrestling at the high school and helped start the kid wrestling club.

Two children were born to Martin and Susan, Birken in 1979, and April in 1983. They also went to Pleasant Valley School and Nevada Union High School!

Birken married Leah in 2008 and Martin got to enjoy six lively grandchildren, Pauline, Elizabeth, Birken Jr., Fred, Catherine, and Martha. They reside in Nevada City. April lives in South Lake Tahoe. He loved his kids, DIL, and grandkids so much, always bragging about how clever they all were.

Martin had always been interested in gardening, but upon retirement it became a passion. He loved thinking of new ways to use old equipment and put his welding machine in the shop to good use. There were always new cover crops to plant, new ways to till, unique ways to make rows. And he loved selling his extra produce at the top of the driveway and chatting with his customers.

He was an eternal optimist with an attitude of "Everything has a solution". These solutions might take many days and often until well after midnight.

He was preceded in death by his brother Ernie.





## Teutonic Technology: Happich Simichrome Polish



Ask any motorcycle rider what polish he/she uses for making the aluminum parts on the bike look like chrome, and the answer will be "Simichrome." Happich Simichrome Polish has had that distinction and cult status since 1950. It is simply what one uses to polish one's Harley-Davidson.

Happich GmbH was founded in 1924 in Wuppertal, Germany. Their Simichrome Polish is only a tiny part of their product portfolio; the company is quite diverse. They are known primarily as the leading supplier of products for vehicle interiors including BMW and Mercedes-Benz; a system and component supplier for mechanical and plant engineering; and a manufacturer of acoustic products for sound and thermal insulation for buildings and vehicles. Over the years, the company has had to adapt to many changes, but it remains one of a few family-owned large businesses in Germany. Simichrome polish works on silver, brass, copper, aluminum, and other non-ferrous metals and Plexiglas. The polish can also act as an authenticity detector for Bakelite. When a small amount of Simichrome is rubbed into real Bakelite, the polish changes color from pink to yellow -- a litmus test! You might find that useful some day. Also, traces of the polish can be removed from the metal surface using corn starch. More useful information...

### GCGAC Board of Directors

#### Officers (Elected -- 5 votes):

President: Mike Silence	(909) 496-6468
Vice President: Kristina Wetherbee	(916) 955-2878
Secretary: Chrysan Silence	(909) 496-8776
Treasurer: Lou Ann Schwartz	(530) 432-0690
Program: Rebecca Claus	(916) 710-0033

#### Directors (Appointed):

Membership: Susan Vogt	(530) 432-0594
Dance: Kristina Wetherbee	(916) 955-2878
Happy Wanderers: VACANT	
Newsletter: Paul Trethewey	(530) 265-0763
Publicity: VACANT	
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 :

**Tuesday, January 7, 2024, 6:30 p.m.**

by

**Zoom Conference Call**

### GCGAC Committee Chairs (appointed, non-voting)

Refreshments: Volunteers	
Get Well & Sunshine:	
Christel Denzler	(916) 409-5413
Kaffee & Kuchen: VACANT	
Inter-Club Liaison: VACANT	
Webmaster: Paul Trethewey	(530) 265-0763
Property: Dennis Naumann	(530) 477-1622
Historian: Chrysan Silence	(909) 496-8776
Facebook: Kristina Wetherbee	(916) 955-2878

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)



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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