



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

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.



Fasching Costume Party

For this party, wear a Fasching costume or whatever Fasching attire you might have, including the mask you might have made at our Fasching event last year. If you have a Clown costume in your closet (and who doesn't?), you can wear that! There will be prizes for best Single costume and best Couples costume!

There is a plan afoot to dress up in costume prior to the meeting and walk the sidewalks of Nevada City to raise a few eyebrows, publicize our Club, and maybe get some onlookers interested in joining. We'll carry signs and fliers. Then, on the the Seaman's Lodge Clubhouse for fun and Gemütlichkeit!

At the Lodge, the Hettrichs will have a few blank paper masks and water-based paints for you to take the arts and crafts approach to Fasching: Let your creative juices flow, and paint your own mask as Rudy Darling did, last year, at right. We also are planning to sing a musical variation of the German children's song, "Drei Chinesen mit dem Kontrabass", applied to "Barbarasrhabarberbar." Interested? Well, if rhubarb pie is involved, yes!



Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share with your friends!

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

The current slate of candidates for 2025 club officers is:

President: Ron Schaffer

Vice President: Linda Schafer

Secretary: Renate Hettrich

Treasurer: Lou Ann Schwartz

Program Director: Karen Herrmann

More candidates are needed for a robust election. You can nominate yourself! Nominations may be submitted to Mike Silence at 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

"So," you're asking, "how did that *Stammtisch* event go that we held at 1849 Brewing Company last January 3?" Answer: It was a peck of good fun, and if you didn't come, you missed out! There are no photos as proof, but we sampled the wares of the brewery, ate some fattening appetizers, and played a few games of pool ("8-Ball" and "Cutthroat"). Tom Dyer was the acknowledged pool champion. Some competitors were still learning how to hold the pool cue. We started at 5 p.m. and nursed our beers until 7 p.m., when the live rock band drove us away with their deafening music.



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 February 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



The hiking season got off to a great start this year. Fifteen of us plus two guests headed down hwy 49 to the Auburn State Recreation Area. We wandered around some trails for a while until we ended up at the American River at Tamaroo Bar, which was our intended destination. The opportunity to gaze at multitudes of river rock is amazing. We ate lunch a bit earlier than is strictly allowed by German Club Rules, but since the officers were outnumbered, we ate anyway. Hikes will be on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, weather permitting.

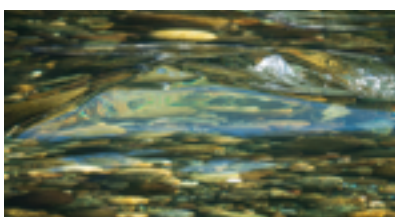
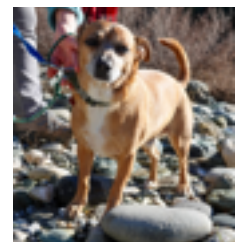
-- Sue Vogt



A good turnout: 15 hikers here (the two guests abandoned us midway) if you include Sharon Hollis, who shot the photo. Some of Sharon's other photos are below:



Lunch on the rocks!
Karen and Kirsten; Sue,
Kris, and Paul; and
Buddy!



Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...

This Month:

- Feb-04: Board of Directors' Meeting, see p. 7
 - Feb-07: Club Meeting at Seaman's Lodge: Fasching
 - Feb-10: Intermediate Language Class at Paul's, see p. 3
 - Feb-11 Alpine Dance Practice at Kristina's see p. 3
 - Feb-13: Possible Happy Wanderer's event.
 - Feb-24: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3
 - Feb-25: Alpine Dance Practice at Kristina's see p. 3
 - Feb-27: Possible Happy Wanderer's event.
- Happy Wanderers might go snowshoeing or hiking as weather permits. Check for email messages.

Tentative Plans for 2025:

March: General Membership Meeting and Election



February Birthdays

Feb 1	Phillip Missimore
Feb 6	Rudy Darling
Feb 7	Marc Wetherbee
Feb 9	Tom Stone
Feb 10	Joan Hardy
Feb 26	Donald Novak
Feb 28	Christa Benson

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.

Unsere Leute



We are sorry to report that **Anneliese Grasshof**, a long time member of our club, passed away on January 8, 2025 at age 87. She was an avid hiker, and is shown in the photo at left during a hike to Roller Pass/Donner Peak in 2007. She was in the Alpine Dancers folk dance group, too, and she also made by hand beautiful get well cards for ailing GCGAC members. She was a good friend to many of us, and she will be missed. Auf wiedersehen, Anneliese!



In Germany, folks call their country **Deutschland**. Why don't their neighboring countries honor that choice of name? As can be seen on the map, the French call Deutschland "Allemagne." Countries in eastern Europe use variations of "Nemecko." Scandinavians come fairly close with "Tyksland," but the Finlanders say "Saksa." The English and Russian speakers say "Germany." The Finnish Saksa derives from the Saxon tribe, and the French derives from the Allamani tribe. These tribal encounters took place centuries ago, but the names have endured.



Teutonic Technology: Puma Athletic Shoes

In 1919, the Dassler brothers of Herzogenaurach, Germany founded a shoe company, the *Gebrüder Dassler Schuhfabrik*. The brothers were named Adolf and Rudolph. Within a few years, their specialty spiked running shoes became popular with athletes not only in Germany but throughout the world. In fact, Jesse Owens wore Gebrüder Dassler spiked shoes when he won four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics in 1936. Perhaps Hitler and the Master Race crowd took some comfort



in that the non-Aryan winner wore German shoes. In the years after WW2, the company grew, and in 1948, the two brothers parted ways and became bitter rivals in the athletic shoe business. Brother Adolf, nicknamed "Adi," formed the company now called Adidas (for "Adi Dassler"), and Rudolf called his new company "PUMA," after the graceful mountain lion. An early successful product from Puma were soccer shoes with novel removable stud-spikes. These "football boots" were worn by World Cup champions; Pelé wore Puma boots. Puma track shoes were worn by many world record-setting athletes in the 1950's and '60's. The company pursued the ideas and the endorsements of athletes. Puma made specialty shoes for tennis (think Serena Williams), for basketball, and even a fireproof version for Formula 1 auto racing. Puma has continued to focus on making specialty shoes for athletes; Competitor Adidas also produced athletic shoes but branched into fashion footwear that harkens less to athleticism. Both family-owned companies went public in the 1990's. Adolph and Rudolph Dassler never reconciled their differences. They are both buried in the same cemetery in Herzogenaurach, in graves as far apart from each other as possible.

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, February 4, 2025, 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



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



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