



# 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: Ostereierbaum (Easter Egg Tree) and Springtime Plant Exchange

Date and Time: Friday, April 4, 2025, 5 p.m.

Place: Seaman's Lodge, Pioneer Park, Nevada City

What is it? Decorating an Easter Egg Tree is a German tradition that dates back hundreds of years. Indoors, we will use some branches, perhaps from manzanita, as our tree, and we'll decorate hollow eggs, add ribbons as hangers, and create a pretty display such as shown here. Materials will be provided; bring your talent and artistic flair!



Part 2: The Springtime Plant Exchange. Yes, spring is here! Bring potted [or un-potted] plants, even cuttings or seeds, to trade with your friends! This is an opportunity to enhance the variety of your garden (or your window sill) with specimens you probably never would have bought for yourself and to exchange information about how to care for the plants. The Club will provide a few small pots, some potting soil, and a community trowel.



As usual, we are all encouraged to bring desserts and appetizers to share with the other lucky people who come to the meeting.

At the March 7 meeting, the Club membership approved the increase in yearly dues from \$30 to \$40 per year, retroactive to the first of 2025. Please send in payment for a yearly total of \$40 for 2025 to GCGAC, P.O. Box 571, Grass Valley, CA 95945. For most of us, this means sending in ten bucks to keep our membership intact. Thank you!

## Notes from the Board

Dear GCGAC Members, the previous Board of Directors after three years of service to the Club has retired and a new one elected last month. The first duty of the new Board is to once again thank the previous Board for a job well done.

Participation in last years monthly meetings and events was disappointing for the club members that put in considerable time and effort to plan and pull off the events, so it is important that you support the Club's monthly general activities as well as the specialty sub groups [Language , Hiking, and Dance groups]. The new Board met to plan the 2025/2026 calendar and we will be doing the traditional big events like the annual picnic and the Christmas dinner but have come up with some new and hopefully interesting events for the year. We will publish the full calendar in next months newsletter once all the dates are finalized.

At the March General Meeting, the Club members voted to increase the annual dues from \$30 to \$40 per member to cover the increasing expenses such as rental of the Lodge, required insurance, and Club supplies. Since you have already paid the \$30 please send the added \$10 for this year as soon as possible.

We are looking forward to another successful and enjoyable year and to growing the Club membership to keep the Club afloat.



The New Board of Directors: Linda Shaffer, vice-president; Ron Shaffer, president; Karen Herrmann, program director; LouAnn Schwartz, treasurer. Renate Hettrich, secretary, was 3000 miles away during this meeting so not in the photo. Paul Trethewey at right is included in the photo because he helps out 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 is group-reading a new book, *Dunkel Nacht* by Kirsten Boie. 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 April 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 dancer group** is up to 5 couples and now is the time to join if you're interested! We're teaching some beginning dances and reviewing older ones. Practices are on hiatus at the moment. We will start up again as soon as we find a day/time that everyone can practice. Please contact Kristina Wetherbee, (916) 955-2878, for more information.



# HAPPY WANDERERS' HIKING GROUP



Pictures from the almost Shirland Canal Trail. We ended up starting on the road that starts at Gate 144-China Bar-Cardiac Trail Peak, next to parking lot. We did some of the Cardiac Bypass loop, ended up at the river, it was a beautiful day. We saw some waterfalls along the way. We took the Cardiac bypass loop back up, wasn't too bad, and offered some shade. We connected with the Shirland Canal Trail close to the top, there are a lot of trails here to explore. Was a beautiful and fun day. We ended up hiking about 4 miles total.



In the photo above, back row: Linda Terrel, Ron Shaffer, Jeanne Rodriguez, Kirsten Hebert, Agnes Walker; front row: Guest hiker, Patricia, Kathleen Kelly, Sharon Hollis. In photo at left, Sharon with her two doggies.



The Map

A black and white illustration of a hand with the index finger pointing to the right.

# Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...

## This Month:

- Apr-01: Board of Directors' Meeting, see p. 7
  - Apr-04: Club Meeting at Seaman's Lodge: Springtime Plant Exchange and Ostereierbaum, see p. 1
  - Apr-10: Possible Happy Wanderer's event.
  - Apr-14: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3
  - Apr-24: Possible Happy Wanderer's event.
  - Apr-28: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3
- Happy Wanderers might go hiking as weather permits. Check for email messages.

## Tentative Plans for 2025:

- May: German Chef's Demonstration
- June: Picnic at Condon Park
- July: Fourth of July Parade (try again!)
- September: Oktoberfest
- November: Advent wreathmaking
- December: Holiday Dinner

More plans in the works!!



## March Birthdays

- |        |                |
|--------|----------------|
| Apr 14 | Aeron Davis    |
| Apr 19 | Ronald Shaffer |
| Apr 26 | James Huber    |
| Apr 26 | Linda Terrell  |
| Apr 26 | Paul Trethewey |

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

## Gute Besserung



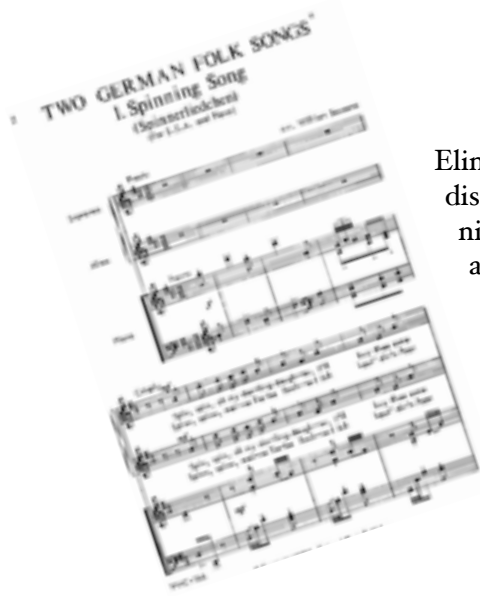
Susanne Bader's broken wrist is on the mend!

**Frühlingsfest in München!** Did you know that Oktoberfest isn't the only festival in Munich? The "Little sister of the Oktoberfest", *Frühlingsfest* (Spring festival), has been held every April since 1965, begun by then Munich mayor Albert Bayerle, to celebrate springtime and to amuse children, but to refrain from beer drinking. Since that time, the beer drinking has resumed. There are carnival rides, midway attractions, special food; and six Munich breweries figure prominently in beer tents as part of the entertainment.





# Unsere Leute



Elinor Barnes has been a Club member for decades, but regrettably decided to discontinue her membership because of old age and inability to attend nighttime club events. She has asked for the courtesy of running this announcement, and we forsake not our own, so here it is:

Elinor is giving away sheet music she has collected over the years. These are several specimens of German folk songs that simply can not be thrown into the trash or given to a thrift store for *them* to throw into the trash. They are free to a good home where they can generate some interest and joy. Call Elinor at (530) 273-0502.



Another scenic photo from the Shirland Canal Trail  
Happy Wanderer, Kirsten Hebert.

Thanks again to our former Board of Directors, shown here: Lou Ann Schwartz, Kristina Wetherbee, Chrysan Silence, Paul Trethewey, and Mike Silence. Our Program Director, Rebecca Claus was not at this meeting because she was 3000 miles away, in Tennessee. (Paul is her "stand-in" for the photo!) Special thanks to Rebecca for a job well done -- from a distance!



## Teutonic Technology: Repairable Appliances!

**Yet another reason** to move to **Germany!** In Germany, and in other countries in the European Union, laws are being enacted to compel manufacturers of consumer goods such as appliances and computer equipment to build repairability into their products. The impetus for this legislation is the environmental disaster that European land fills are being overwhelmed with over 10 million tons of electronic waste *per year*; Germany alone accounts for 2 million tons per year. Electronic waste is particularly noxious, containing toxic materials and flammable lithium-ion batteries. Much of the volume of waste could be mitigated if products were not considered "use once and throw away," i.e., the waste-based economy. Although efforts have been made in the past to make manufacturers responsible for disposal of their products at end-of-life, those have not worked because there is little or no incentive: The profit motive drives the design to be cheap to produce, and in fact short-lived with built-in obsolescence. Examples are smart phones with batteries that can't be replaced; incompatible cable connectors; software upgrades that won't run on old devices; and devices that break when you try to open them for repair. The strategy is to force consumers into shorter and shorter upgrade cycles. In Europe, legislation is underway (as of November 2024) to give citizens the "right to repair" what they've bought. The legislation covers not only design for repairability but also spare parts availability and technical support for repair, maintenance, and upgrade to new technical standards.

The January, 2020 issue of this newsletter told about the Maytag washing machines that were retailed by former GCGAC member Georg Krause here in Grass Valley -- appliances that lasted for 30 or 40 years. By contrast, modern washers last about 5 years before needing major repairs, for which spare parts are often unavailable. Perhaps this scenario will change in the European Union countries like Germany when the new EU rules take effect this month.

### GCGAC Board of Directors

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

President: Ron Shaffer	(323) 797-6656
Vice President: Linda Shaffer	(714) 315-5754
Secretary: Renate Hettrich	(650) 207-3681
Treasurer: Lou Ann Schwartz	(530) 432-0690
Program: Karen Herrmann	(530) 615-6766

#### 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, April 1, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

by

Zoom Conference Call

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

Refreshments: Volunteers	
Get Well & Sunshine: VACANT	
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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