



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

Important Club Meeting Friday, March 7:

In addition to the usual fun, food, drink, and merriment, we are holding our yearly election of officers. For that purpose, we need to have a quorum to vote for the new Board of Directors and vote on a dues increase. Please attend!

Your vote matters. -->

Place: Seaman's Lodge in Nevada City.

Schedule:

5:00 p.m. Set-up. Your help is appreciated!

6:00 p.m. Meeting -- Election for 2025

6:30 p.m. Pizza, beer, appetizers and refreshments, socializing, dancing. Bring dancing shoes!

Please also bring appetizers or desserts to go with the pizza!



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL --

(MARCH 2025 -- FINAL NOTICE!)

January 1, 2025 begins the club membership year. Thank you for your support during 2024. We look forward to your renewal as a member in 2025 for enjoyment of meetings, events, and activities. If you attend events that are no cost for members, but a charge for guests, you can benefit more than a 100% return on your dues investment. The renewal period is January and February, and dues are delinquent March 1, 2025. However, we'll accept last minute dues payment at the March 7 meeting.

Please help the Membership Director save time and club expenses by mailing your check to "GCGAC" soon. Thank you! Send to:

Gold Country German-American Club
P.O. Box 571

Notes from the Board

The Annual General Membership meeting on March 7th marks the most important event on the club calendar. This year is of particular importance. The Board of Directors will see a major change since four of the five 2004 elected club officers are not running for re-election. There is also a vote by the membership on whether to raise the annual club dues to \$40.00 per person, retroactive to January 1, 2025. There must be a quorum of members in good standing to conduct this business. Your participation is critical.

The 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

On the ballot, a line below each office will be provided for write-in candidates.

Respectfully,
Mike Silence

Photos from our Fasching Party



Bob Foster and guest Janet won first prize.



Strange Crayolas are Kris, Rudy, Karen, Tom, and Paul



Karen Herrmann, resident hippie from the '70's! "Peace, man!"
Rev. Christian Schweter and Sue Vogt judged the competition.

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 March 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



Sue Vogt's report of the hike of 23 January 2025:

We started at the confluence of the middle and north forks of the American River. After a quick stop at the ranger shack, we headed up Stagecoach Road which eventually levels out and runs parallel to the river. Views of the canyon were amazing. Then we took off on the manzanita trail which is scary for about a hundred feet. We ended up at the ranger station where some of us purchased parking passes. If you are over 65 you can get a pass for 20 dollars that allows you to park at any state park on days that are not weekends or holidays. Then we crossed hwy 49 and headed down steeply to the river. At the river the table I had reserved was ready, so we dined on our sandwiches and enjoyed the majesty of our surroundings. We wandered back to our cars, passing Calcutta Falls and crossing over the No Hands Bridge. A great time was had by all.

At right is a photo from the 23 January hike, described above, showing in the red plaid shirt one of our new members, Andy Spaulding, on his first outing with the Happy Wanderers. A short introductory bio for Andy is on page 6. Others in the photo (taken by Paulette Bergquist) are Agnes Walker, Jeannie Rodriguez, Ron Shaffer, Sue Vogt, and Leslie Lambeth.



Here's Sue's description of the hike of 20 February 2025:

Leaving Grass Valley at 0900, four intrepid hikers headed south on Hwy 49 to Hidden Falls Regional Park in Auburn CA. This park has a huge parking lot, free most week days, a fee is required on weekends and holidays.

We descended on a gravel road to Deadman Creek, crossed a sturdy bridge, then along the trail to the hidden falls which are just before the confluence of Deadman Creek and Coon Creek. The water was rushing wonderfully and some artists had out their watercolors and sketch pads. We trekked up Coon Creek to the Seven Pools Vista lunch spot. Following strict club guidelines, we waited until after 11:30 to begin to enjoy our meals. The trails are named after all sorts of furry or feathered creatures, we saw vultures, turkeys, and a lone squirrel. Birds and frogs were heard in great abundance.

We headed back to the cars along the Poppy Trail, no poppies blooming yet.

We rated this hike 9/10.

Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...

This Month:

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

Tentative Plans for 2025:

- April: Frühling Plant Exchange
- May: Maifest
- July: Fourth of July Parade (try again)



March Birthdays

- | | |
|--------|-----------------|
| Mar 10 | Karen Herrmann |
| Mar 11 | Mark Schilleman |
| Mar 11 | LouAnn Schwartz |
| Mar 11 | Randy Weber |
| Mar 20 | Sabine Schweter |
| Mar 21 | Rebecca Claus |
| Mar 25 | Thomas Spol |

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

Gute Besserung



Susanne Bader --
broke her wrist while
feeding the
hummingbirds!

Unsere Leute

A message from outgoing Activities Director **Rebecca Claus:**

After being program director for this past year, I found it a rewarding experience; other than the fact that I was trying to do it remotely, and felt like I was missing out by not being able to attend the events that I had planned. There are soooo many good ideas for our Club meetings. And I wish more of the members would put forth their suggestions as well. After all, the idea is to have meetings that make everyone feel happy and involved. Having others participating in the planning can be as much fun as people make it. Make it a party! Have planning meetings with a glass of wine and lots of laughs and let the ideas flow!!



Here's the introductory biographical info from **Andy Spaulding:**

"I am originally from Boston and recently returned to California, having lived 17 years in San Francisco before spending my last 16 years in Australia. I am newly retired from the fields of child and family therapy, clinical supervision, and non-profit management, and I am thrilled to have found a group of like minded hikers to help acquaint me with the many wonders of the Grass Valley area."



Linda Shaffer, painting a Fasching mask at our recent Fasching Party on 7 February.



Subject: Candy of Germanic Origin
Milk chocolate was invented in 1899. Toblerone chocolate bars in their distinctive triangular shape, made in Bern, Switzerland, were among the first milk chocolate bars offered for sale anywhere, and were the only chocolate bars to receive

a patent for their manufacturing process. At that time, Albert Einstein was working as a clerk in the Swiss patent office and might have been involved in the patenting (although his specialty was not chocolate). Toblerone for many years was featured in duty-free shops at international airports, attempting to appeal to travelers' sense of luxury and indulgence. They might be duty-free there, but the bars can be purchased from time to time at our local Grocery Outlet at a considerable discount.

Teutonic Technology: Peter Schuttler Wagons

It wasn't exactly high technology by today's standards, but for its day, the Prairie Schooners built by German-American Peter Schuttler were innovative and had an impact on American history. Peter Schuttler was born in Wachenheim, Germany, in 1812. He immigrated to America in 1834 and established a wagon-building business in Chicago in 1843. Schuttler's wagons were lighter in weight, had a shorter turning radius, and were nimbler than the

Conestoga wagons of the day. They were better suited to the rough and sometimes treacherous terrain of the Oregon Trail and needed fewer draft animals to pull them. Because of the popularity of his wagons among westward-bound pioneers, Schuttler and his artisans sold thousands of wagons, and Schuttler himself became a millionaire in the 1850's (when that meant something!).



The wagons were called Prairie Schooners because their white covers looked like sails. The wagon pictured at left is without a cover, but illustrates the craftsmanship. The wagons were made of selected hardwoods, constructed by skilled wainwrights and wheelwrights and carefully sealed and painted. Schuttler died in 1865 and his son, Peter Jr., took over the business, which remained successful until the advent of the automobile.

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, March 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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