



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: May 6 "Casino Night"

Our GCGAC Language Learners are sponsoring the next meeting, and as in 2019, we'll all pretend that Seaman's Lodge is the Kurhaus Casino in Baden-Baden, shown below:



You might remember that Casino Night in 2019 was a smashing success, and many members looked forward to attending the Casino Night planned for 2020, but we all know what happened with the "uninvited guest," aka Coronavirus Pandemic, and those two "lost years." So NOW is finally the time for the reprise, **The Return of Casino Night at Baden-Baden West!** Doors open at 5 p.m., festivities begin at 6:00 p.m.

As in the past, the Language Group will present an entertaining and educational slide show at the beginning of the meeting. Then, we'll play Blackjack, Poker, Roulette, and Craps, using pretend money -- we'll issue an equal number of chips to each attendee at the beginning of Casino Night. Top point winners at the end of the event will be awarded prizes and accolades of praise.

Here is what we expect of you: (1) Dress up! We want a classy clientele in our casino, like the well-dressed players in the casino ads. (2) Please bring appetizers or desserts -- aim for "regional" to Baden-Württemberg, if possible. (3) Show up! Even if you don't do (1) or (2). This will be fun!

Viel Glück und viel Spaß!

Friday, May 6, 2022, 6:00 p.m.
Seaman's Lodge, Nevada City, CA

Notes from the Board

I am pleased to report that Fred and Karen Herrmann have, again, generously offered to host the Club's spring picnic. This year's picnic will be held on Saturday, June 4th.

Chrysan Silence volunteered to take over as Club Historian, and has been formally appointed to the position by the Board.

The intermediate German Language Group is nearing completion of a year-long project translating a collection of stories from Margaret Novak's Donau-Schwäbisch family history. The Language Group is also hosting Casino Night at the May 6th club meeting.

Respectfully,
Mike Silence

On the Germanic Medical Front:

PHAGOMED Acquired by BIONTECH

Who are they, and what do they have to do with the Gold Country German-American Club, you ask?



Well...

The August 2018 issue of this newsletter reported on Pfizer as a company founded by a German-American and that Pfizer Pharmaceuticals was doing good, socially responsible deeds.

Our July, 2020 issue (You saw it here, first!) reported about PhagoMed Biopharma GmbH of Vienna, Austria, who were developing phage therapy to treat bacterial infections against which antibiotics have become ineffective. Watch this TED talk about Phagomed's phage therapy lysins given by Phagomed president Alexander Belcredi: https://www.ted.com/talks/alexander_belcredi_how_a_long_forgotten_virus_could_help_us_solve_the_antibiotics_crisis#t-24175

Our August, 2020 issue reported that Pfizer was partnering with BioNTech to develop and distribute a covid vaccine. We know the recent history: In December, 2020, it was announced that the vaccines were 90% effective. BioNTech was founded by Ugur Sahin and Özlem Türeci, two Turkish-German research scientists, and one would expect that they, and BioNTech, have become wealthy. So, what have they bought with this new wealth?

Fast forward to 09 November 2021. BioNTech bought/acquired PhagoMed GmbH! Do they *know* something? <https://amr-conference.com/news/biontech-acquires-vienna-based-start-up-phagomed/>

It all comes together, folks! One could say the common thread is the GCGAC newsletter. Maybe?



HAPPY WANDERERS' HIKING GROUP

March 24 found a fairly large group of hikers ambling along a path on the edge of Bullard's Bar Lake. We stopped for lunch along the way, then completed our hike and celebrated an important birthday for Karen Herrmann.

She brought two of her fabulous homemade pies which went pleasantly with tea, coffee, and a few adult beverages. We had to sing to her three times because people kept being uncorralable. Think of kittens.

We had a guest with a dog who provided us with an opportunity to use the new tick puller.

Our next hike, which would have been April 14, got rained out, bad news, good news.

Stay tuned for April 28, when we know the snow level and the temperature, we will plan the next outing.

Sue Vogt



Group photo taken by guest hiker Sharon Hollis.

Other photos by Elany Prusa.



Unsere Leute -- and the GAHM



At our most recent club meeting on April 8, 2022, **Mr. Ulrich (Uli) Pelz** from the Sacramento Turn Verein and also representing the German-American Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C., addressed our gathering to announce the selection of former California Governor Jerry Brown as the distinguished German-American (DGA) of the year. DGAs are selected first by their German (including Austrian and Swiss) heritage, and secondly by their achievements and/or prominence. They include individuals in the business, academic, or political community. A list of previous honorees can be found at the website gahmusa.org. To honor Gov. Brown, the DGA, there will be a gala black-tie dinner on Sept. 17, 2022 at the Sutter Club in Sacramento.

The selection of a distinguished German-American (DGA) is a significant part of the fund raising effort for the German-American Heritage Museum. To this end, the tickets for the black-tie dinner will sell for \$250 and up. The funds are needed to support the German-American Heritage Museum in Washington, D.C., as well as several cultural programs. The DGA galas provide for only a fraction of the revenues needed to support the total activities of the German-American Heritage Foundation. The Foundation also has three employees.

Members of the German-American Heritage Museum (GAHM) pay \$250; non-members pay \$300. The price includes a hosted bar. Students pay \$150. We encourage participants to become members of the GAHM. Associate members (non-voting) pay an annual fee of \$50. If interested parties become members now, they could benefit from the reduced price. Check the website gahmusa.org. You don't need to be of German ancestry. If you enjoy German culture, you can also support the mission of the GAHM.

Ulrich Pelz is a friend of club members Dennis Schuetzle and Hank Stoffel. Dennis recommended Gov. Brown as the DGA, and Dennis is presently trying to invite former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to the event.



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 has changed its direction. It now meets once per month under the direction of Susanne Bader at Kristina Wetherbee's house in Grass Valley to watch German movies, sing a few German songs, and learn some new words.

The Intermediate Class is taught by Erica Meier. The class is underway reading a German murder mystery novel, *Blutige Affäre* by Dörte Jensen, and studying some mind-bending German grammar. Intermediate students assemble in person at various class members' homes, now that the coronavirus risk appears to have subsided.

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

Conversational German Group

Greetings! The Conversational German Class will meet Wednesday, May 11, at 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. at 10078 Grinding Rock Dr. Grass Valley. Call me if interested to join the group at 530-913-1836. See you at 2 p.m. May 11 -- Christa.



The **GCGAC Summer Picnic** will be at Fred and Karen Herrmann's on June 4. **Plan ahead** and don't miss this! It's a pot luck: The club will provide pork loins and sausages, and attendees should bring salads, appetizers, desserts, and their own beverages. Don't forget chairs, sun screen, sunglasses, and hats. There is shade (see photo) but it's outdoors in June! More info next issue.

Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...

This Month:

- May-2: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 5
- May-6: Club Meeting: Casino Night, see p. 1
- May-9: Beginning Language Class at Kristina's, see p. 5
- May-10: Board of Directors' meeting, see p. 7
- May-16: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 5.
- May hiking to be announced on ad hoc basis.

Tentative Plans for 2022:

Summer Picnic June 4!

Kristina Wetherbee needs **photos** to paste on the club's Facebook page! Please contact her with any GCGAC-related photos she might use. Also,
We are still looking for a place where we could **practice** German folk **dancing** twice per month.



May Birthdays

May 22	Theresa Arth
May 22	Joseph Nanut
May 25	David (Mike) Silence
May 26	Erica Meier
May 26	Gayle Nanut
May 28	Gery Denzler
May 31	Amber Lee Newman

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

Gute Besserung



Gery Denzler
Christel Denzler

Get a second booster: Variants of covid-19 are still out there, and the immunity from the original vaccinations reportedly wears off after a few months.

[https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/omicron-stealth-covid-variant-ba2-now-dominant-globally-2022-03-29/#:~:text=March%2029%20\(Reuters\)%20%2D%20A,wave%20in%20the%20United%20States](https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/omicron-stealth-covid-variant-ba2-now-dominant-globally-2022-03-29/#:~:text=March%2029%20(Reuters)%20%2D%20A,wave%20in%20the%20United%20States)

Be healthy!

Rudolph Wurlitzer and the Wurlitzer Company

The Rudolph Wurlitzer Company was founded in Cincinnati in 1853 by German immigrant (Franz) Rudolph Wurlitzer. The company began by importing musical instruments from Germany for resale in the United States and enjoyed initial success providing band instruments to the U.S. military. In 1880, the company began manufacturing pianos and expanded their product line to include band organs, orchestrions, player pianos and massive pipe organs popular in theaters during the days of silent movies. By the 1920's the company stenciled its name on saxophones made by Buescher and Martin. They also sold accordions and violins.



Wurlitzer became known for entry level pianos. During the 1960s, they manufactured Spinnet, Console, Studio and Grand Pianos. Horizontal integration: Wurlitzer also acquired several other companies that made a variety of loosely related products, including kitchen appliances, carnival rides, player piano rolls, and radios.

As technology evolved, Wurlitzer began producing electric pianos, electronic organs and jukeboxes, and it eventually became better known for jukeboxes than for musical instruments. Shown at left is a Wurlitzer juke box from 1946, with dazzling lights and a fascinating record selector and player mechanism you could put into operation for a nickel and see it work through the glass. Manufacturing of Wurlitzer juke boxes is now done at the company's headquarters in Hullhorst, Germany.

GCGAC Board of Directors

Officers (Elected -- 5 votes):

President: Mike Silence	530-477-6659
Vice President: Kristina Wetherbee	(916) 955-2878
909-496-6468	
Secretary: Linda Shaffer	714-315-5754
Mary Jean Muff	273-8170
Treasurer: Lou Ann Schwartz	432-0690
Program: John Hettrich	(650) 207-3681

Directors (Appointed):

Membership: Susan Vogt	432-0594
Dance: Kristina Wetherbee	(916) 955-2878
Happy Wanderers: TBD	
Newsletter: Paul Trethewey	265-0763
Publicity: to be filled	
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, May 10, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

by
Zoom Conference Call

GCGAC Committee Chairs (appointed, non-voting)

Refreshments: Volunteers	
Get Well & Sunshine:	
Christel Denzler	878-0504
Kaffee & Kuchen: TBD	
Inter-Club Liaison: Hank Stoffel	269-3137
Webmaster: Paul Trethewey	265-0763
Property: Dennis Naumann	477-1622
Historian: Kristina Wetherbee	(916) 955-2878
Facebook Team: Kristina (above)	
& Elany Prusa	530-432-8736

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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