



# 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)

## Here Comes Oktoberfest!



Yes! The Gold Country German-American Club's Oktoberfest is **just around the corner!** We'll have authentic food, authentic music from the Papa Oom-Pah-Pah Band (shown below), authentic folk dancing by our own Alpine Dancers, sing-alongs, a little ceremony, a contest, raffle prizes, a multi-media presentation, and, oh yeah, did we mention **beer**? Dirndls and Lederhosen optional: Wear 'em if you got 'em!

We want to fill the Seaman's Lodge with revelers, like we did before the pandemic. The event is private, for Club members *and their guests*. We want this to be fun, affordable, and *crowded*, so **BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY!!** Tickets will cost a mere \$10.00 for Members and guests, kids get in for **free!**



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

Date and Time: **Saturday, September 24, 2022.**  
Setup at 3; Doors open at 4; Dinner at 5:30.

*Wir werden alle tanzen, essen, singen, und trinken!*

Please **RSVP** to Renate Hettrich (see below) so we can plan accordingly.

As usual, we need HELP putting on this event, and this is the perfect opportunity for our NEW MEMBERS to pitch in. "Many hands make light work!" This is a really fun event, so first, show up! And second, volunteer to do something!

Renate Hettrich is keeper of the roster for Oktoberfest jobs and food items. We need donations of German potato salad, sauerkraut and, as always, appetizers and desserts. We also need kitchen help for making pretzels!

Contact Renate at: [rhettich@gmail.com](mailto:rhettich@gmail.com) or telephone 650-207-3681

## Notes from the Board

One of our founding members, Theresa Arth, was laid to rest at a graveside service in Saint Patrick's Catholic Cemetery on August 12th. It was good to see the German-American Club well represented among the mourners.

After the vacations of summer, club activities ramp up in September. Our annual Oktoberfest celebration will take place Saturday, September 24th at Seaman's Lodge. Help will certainly be needed for decorating the lodge before and take-down after the party. The call will likely go out for help in preparing the food. Please check the newsletter and watch your email for more information, especially a request for an RSVP. An accurate attendance count is needed to order an adequate amount of food.

Mike Silence

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Theresa and Stefan Arth

### **Auf Wiedersehen, Theresa Arth!**

Theresa Arth passed away peacefully at the age of 95 on August 1, 2022. She will always be remembered as a loving mother, grandmother, great grandmother, friend, and longtime member of the Grass Valley community.

Theresa was born to Albert and Regina Baranek on May 22, 1927, in the German settlement of Lovas, Yugoslavia. At the age of 5 years, Theresa was orphaned, separated from her siblings, and sent to live as an only child of foster parents in another town.

In 1947 she met the love of her life, Stefan Arth, in a post WWII refugee camp in Austria. At the young age of 19 they were married at the camp and embarked on a marital journey that lasted 72 years. In 1952 Theresa and Stefan immigrated to Cleveland, Ohio and shortly afterwards moved to Los Angeles where they became US citizens and made their home in the San Fernando Valley.

While Stefan excelled in the painting trade, Theresa raised their three daughters. She learned the art of dressmaking and tailoring in her early years, and when her daughters were older, she worked in the alterations and dressmaking business.

In 1985 Theresa and Stefan built their dream home in Grass Valley, California. There they quickly became part of the Grass Valley Community and The Gold Country German American Club where they performed German Folk dancing, enjoyed member activities, and served as club officers for over 25 years.

Theresa also opened Theresa's Alterations on Hwy 174 in Colfax. At this time, she also began nurturing her creative side by taking up both oil and watercolor painting, as well as folk art tole painting some of which was awarded and featured at the annual Grass Valley County Fair.

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## HAPPY WANDERERS' HIKING GROUP

July 28 found a group of 12 of us gathering near Sugar Bowl. We had a guest with us. She has been involved in search and rescue, so we were happy to have her along.

We headed north up the Pacific Crest Trail, off and on. Off to our right was Donner Lake and to the north Hwy 80, which we unfortunately could hear.

If one kept going on the PCT it would intersect with 80, but at a secret rock we made a u turn and headed up and over a knoll and reached Azalea Lake.

It is beautiful, but we continued past it and stopped at Lake Flora where we had a leisurely lunch and some folks swam in the refreshing water

We then continued south up and over another knoll. Here is where the trail gets sketchy: there are probably 14 ways to get down the hill back to the trailhead and about 4 different opinions on which trail to take.

Lots of granite slabs make the options indistinct. But happily, everyone ended up at the tavern where a good time was had by all.

No hike on August 11, grandchildren were being taken to the fair!

Upcoming hike September 25, led by Karen Herrmann, Rubicon Trail along west side of Lake Tahoe.

If you have not been receiving the hiking announcements, and you want to, please contact [susan.vogt@comcast.net](mailto:susan.vogt@comcast.net) to be added to the list

Sue



Above: Hiker with a hat taking a dip in Flora Lake. Photo: Karen Herrmann. Use the photo at left to figure out [who's in the lake!](#)

Left: Karen H., Sue V., Barbara P, Tom M, Lou Ann, Karen C, Sharon, Paulette, Ron, Agnes, Kathleen. Photo by Alan Cary.

# Rhine River Falls Below Critical Water Level



California isn't the only place in the world experiencing drought. There are recent reports of drought in places where one might ordinarily expect to have cooler temperatures because of their northern latitudes, and in the case of Europe, moisture from the Atlantic gulf stream. However, instability in the gulf stream has caused drought throughout Europe, including Germany, and the effect is dramatic on the Rhine River. The Rhine is a crucial artery for German commerce. In some places today, the river is only inches deep, which means that barges and ships can no longer pass. Ordinarily, vessels on the Rhine transport fuel to coal-fired power plants. These plants have taken on extra importance because of the shortage

of natural gas from Russia due to the war in Ukraine. Now the coal must be transported another way -- by smaller boats, less heavily loaded barges, or by truck. For lack of fuel, the Uniper electrical utility has warned of production cuts. European river cruises for tourists continue to operate, but the pilots of those cruise vessels must pay particular attention to navigating around the rocks in the river bottom. Even at normal levels, the Rhine is treacherous, as evidenced by the song "Die Lorelei". To return to normal, the Rhine region will need two to three weeks of steady, heavy rain. That will not happen any time soon.

[Theresa Arth, continued from page 2...]

In 1995 Theresa retired from her alterations business to focus more on her growing family of grandchildren and her art. At this time, she also learned the art of basket weaving, using needles from the Grass Valley pine trees that she so cherished. These also were featured at the Grass Valley County fair.

Theresa, along with her husband Stefan, loved entertaining at their home, and Grandma/Omi always made sure that holidays were extra special for her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Theresa is survived by her daughters, Brigitte, Monika and Barbara, sons-in-law Mike and CJ, granddaughters Maya, Cortney and Stefanie, grand-sons-in-law Ryan, Aaron and Enzo, great grandsons Dylan, Kobe and Max and great granddaughters Charlie and Emma.

Theresa was laid to rest next to her beloved husband at St. Patrick's Catholic Cemetery in Grass Valley.



Club president Mike Silence showing some of Theresa Arth's artwork at a recent language class meeting.

## 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 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, September 14, 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. -- Christa.

**Kristina Wetherbee** needs **photos** to paste on the club's Facebook page! Please contact her with any GCGAC-related photos such as recent hikes, our summer picnic, friends, anything she might use. Also,

We are still looking for a place where we could **practice** German folk **dancing** twice per month.

**Christel and Gery Denzler** are still members of the club, but they have relocated to Sun City Lincoln. The new place is a lot less work to take care of than their 4+ acres in Meadow Vista, and as an added bonus, they have a fire hydrant right next to the house! Actual hydrant shown here:



If you can't come to **our Oktoberfest**, here are some others:

Sunday, September 25th from 4 - 9 at Kathrins Biergarten in Rocklin with the Gruber Band playing. Saturday October 15, 4 - 9 at Odd Fellows Hall in Georgetown with Papa Oom Pah Pah. Saturday, October 29th from 5 - 9 at St Joseph's Church on Oak Tree Lane in Lincoln. Alpentaenzer performing. Maybe you could go to all four!

# Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...

## This Month:

- Sept-5: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 5
- Sept-13: German Conversation Group at Christa's, see p. 5
- Sept-14: Board of Directors' meeting, see p. 7
- Sept-19: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 5.
- Sept-24: OKTOBERFEST, see p.1.
- September hiking to be announced on ad hoc basis.

## Tentative Plans for 2022:

October 5, GAHF Gala. see below



## September Birthdays

- September 17 Laurenz Dehondt
- September 21 John Muff
- September 22 Margot Schulze
- September 26 Michael Camerlingo
- September 30 Dave Costa

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



Note the date change!



## Gute Besserung



Fred Herrmann



*Save the Date*

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 5, 2022

LUNCHEON WITH MINISTER-PRESIDENT WINFRIED KRETSCHMANN, BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG, GERMANY

HONORING GOVERNOR JERRY BROWN

AS DISTINGUISHED GERMAN-AMERICAN OF THE YEAR 2022 FOR HIS ENVIRONMENTAL WORK & HIS PROMOTION OF GERMAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP

CALIFORNIA MUSEUM COURTYARD SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

INFO@GAHFUSA.ORG | 209.467.5000  
WWW.GAHFUSA.ORG

# Teutonic Technology -- The AutoGyro Cavalon from Germany



Above: Anybody who has read Popular Mechanics should recognize this ad for the Bensen Gyrocopter, seemingly a flying lawn chair, that appeared in every issue. The Cavalon is similar but much more sophisticated.



**AutoGyro GmbH** is a German aircraft manufacturer based in Hildesheim, Germany. They make the only production gyroplane that is approved by the US Federal Aviation Authority. The Cavalon is an enclosed-cabin, two-place, aerodynamically clean fuselage loaded with modern flight instruments and leather seats. The top rotor auto-rotates when the plane moves forward. Although there are no fixed wings and they seem risky, gyroplanes are actually quite safe. Price? About \$136,000, ready to fly, turn key. Pilots say they're really fun. Do it!

### GCGAC Board of Directors

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

President: Mike Silence	530-477-6659
Vice President: Kristina Wetherbee	(916) 955-2878
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, September 13, 2022, 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: TBD	
Inter-Club Liaison: Hank Stoffel	269-3137
Webmaster: Paul Trethewey	265-0763
Property: Dennis Naumann	477-1622
Historian: Chrysan Silence	530-477-6659
Facebook Team: Kristina Wetherbee	916-955-2878
& 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](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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