



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

Einen Guten Rutsch ins Neue Jahr!

Yes, a good slide into the new year to all of us! Here, for inspiration, is a photo of the German 4-man bobsled team at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, launching their sled in what was to become a gold medal-winning run. A second German team took the silver medal. It shows what can be done with a good team of Germans and a purposefully-designed and skillfully-made vehicle painted in the right colors: Schwartz, Rot, und Gold! The German winter olympics teams won almost every event that involved *Rutschen* (sliding) on various forms of frozen water.



There are many traditional activities during the twelve days of *Raubnächte* surrounding the winter solstice and New Year's Eve (*Silvester*) in Germany. Some of these traditions date back to Teutonic times, but there is a modern tradition that has been enjoyed in German households every New Year's Eve since 1972. It is the viewing of a short British comedy sketch, filmed in 1963, named *Dinner for One*. The show is virtually unknown outside of Germany, but it holds the *Guinness* record for being the most frequently repeated TV show in history. To see this charming and hilarious skit yourself, go to this YouTube site:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2v8C9xYiu_I



Dinner for One is watched by millions of Germans every New Year's Eve. Photo: DPA



Notes from the Board

The Club By-Laws revision is ready for distribution to the membership. As stated before, membership vote will be held at the annual March General Membership meeting. To conform with the notification requirements in the current By-Laws, the revision will be sent on January 25, 2023. Delivery will be by the means you normally receive the Club's monthly newsletter.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mike Silence



Patsy and Ben Hannebrink accompanying the impromptu GCGAC Weihnachts-Chor on December 2.



Pastor Christian Schweter conducted an all-German Advent service at Peace Lutheran Church on December 18. Many of the Club's language class members participated in this ceremony by reading passages of the Christmas story from the German Bible. Pastor Christian's wife, Sabine, snapped this photo, coached the readers, and ensured proper "microphone etiquette." Danke, Sabine!



Dear wanderers, some lost, some not:

Just because the days are shorter and colder does not mean you need to stay indoors! Don't let those hiking shoes remain idle under the bed. Time to get out and fill up those lungs with fresh air.

We will begin meeting again in January on the second and fourth Thursdays, meanwhile grab a friend and explore a trail you have not yet traversed. There must be at least 100 miles in the American River Canyon, and no snow to contend with. There is also the Hidden Falls Park in Auburn. Or get on All Trails and find something new to you.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

Sue

The Happy Wanderers sponsored our annual Christmas Dinner again this year. Happy Wanderer Tom Maher played the role of Santa Claus. The beard is real!



Santa visiting with Elany Prusa, Kathryn Schönsee-Finn, Fred and Karen Herrmann, and Paulette Berquist. Photos by Elany. Photo of Elany by Karen.



The German Language Class held their Christmas dinner at Kristina Wetherbee's house the Monday night after the Advent service. After a sumptuous dinner, the group had a "white elephant" gift exchange, and here they are displaying the treasures they received. Photo by Nick Wetherbee. Shown are Chrysan Silence, Michael Camerlingo, Kristina Wetherbee, Mike Silence, Karen Clark, James Huber, Susanne Bader, Paul Trethewey, Erica Meier, and Linda Snyder. Paul is displaying a book titled "Swear in German Like a Pro." All of the language learners were keenly interested in the contents of that book, strictly from an educational linguistic standpoint, of course.

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 embarking on another German murder mystery novel, *Blutiger Verrat* by Dörte Jensen; Now would be an excellent time to jump on board, if you're interested! The study of mind-bending German grammar is ongoing; and the class is finishing up the translation of *Wahres und Legendäres*.

Intermediate class sessions take place in person at various class members' homes.

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

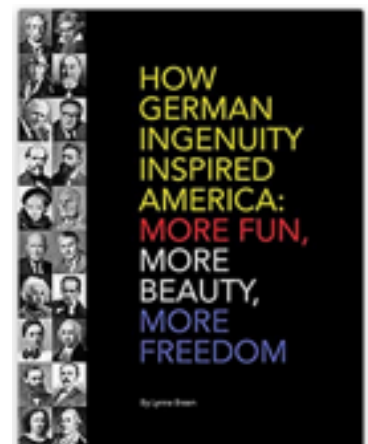
Conversational German Group

Servus! The Conversational German Class is taking January 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, our Oktoberfest, holiday parties, friends, anything she might use. Also,

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

Remember that the German Ingenuity book by Lynne Breen shown here is still available at a special price from the German-American Heritage Foundation if we can assemble an order of ten copies. So far, we have about five takers. Refer to email sent on November 25.



Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...

This Month:

Jan-2: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 5
 Jan-10: Board of Directors' meeting, see p. 7
 Jan-16: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 5
 January hiking, snowshoeing, or skiing to be announced on ad hoc basis.

Tentative Plans for 2023:

February = Fasching!
 March = General meeting, election of officers



January Birthdays

January 7	Jamie Hogan
January 13	Phillip Takacs
January 24	Hildegard Kramer
January 25	Hank Stoffel
January 28	Helene Suess

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

Gute Besserung



Christa Benson



Sacramento Turn Verein
Alpentänzer Schuhplattler

The Turn Verein's counterpart to our own Alpine Dancers will hold an open house on January 19, 2023, from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the Turn Verein, 3349 J St, Sacramento, CA 95816.



Did you know...

The origin for the word "**Flak**", colloquially meaning "strong criticism," actually was an abbreviation for the German anti-aircraft gun used in World War 2, which was ""**Flugabwehrkanone**" (i.e., "air defense cannon").

Who are these masked people? And what are they making?



Photo by John Muff.

They are GCGAC members Paul Trethewey and Mary Jean Muff, making Norwegian Lefse in the Muffs' kitchen! The masks serve two purposes: To keep the flour dust out of one's nostrils, and to minimize the possible spread of covid, flu, or RSV -- important if you're planning a family gathering! Paul and Mary Jean both have Norwegian ancestry, so this report is a tip of the hat to our club's counterparts in the local Sons of Norway.

Lefses are very thin crêpes made from potatoes, flour, butter, cream, and sugar. They're a Christmas treat often eaten with (even yet more) butter and cinnamon-sugar, or sometimes with the notorious dried-and-then-reconstituted codfish called Lutefisk. (Lutefisk is an acquired taste, in the same way as Limburger cheese is an acquired taste.) In the early days of the GCGAC, there were collaborative events with the Sons of Norway. Maybe we could do that again, Ja Hej?

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, January 10, 2023, 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



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



Gold Country German-American Club
P.O. Box 571
Graff Valley, CA 95945

First Class Mail
Please Forward