



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: Friday, November 3, 2023.



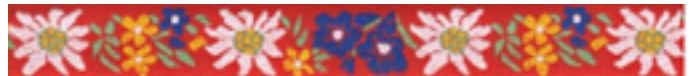
Three B's Night: Bier, Brezeln, und Bratwurst

Our Intermediate German Language Class will make a special presentation to the Club on November 3, featuring four (or more) beer brands that attendees will judge (blind) and vote for a favorite. The Class will also present a short tutorial about German beer, pass around specimens of beer ingredients from our local home brew shop, and offer home made soft pretzels (**Bretzeln**) and **Bratwurst** in between the **Bier** sampling rounds. Members are encouraged to bring guests. To defray

expenses, the Club will charge \$5 for members and \$10 for guests. A free beer sampling glass is included in the price. Wine will also be available for members who prefer wine.



Three "B's" Night: Friday, November 3, 2023. 6 p.m.
Seaman's Lodge, Nevada City, CA
Mark your calendar!



Notes from the Board

Board Notes for October 2023

The main topic was planning for the Oktoberfest celebration on Saturday, September 23rd at Seaman's Lodge. We will have live music thanks to our own Paul Trethewey and his friends. Fred and Karen Herrmann are leading the set-up, beginning at 2:30 p.m. Help with set-up and take-down is needed and greatly appreciated.

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 10th at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom conference. Any club member wanting to attend may email me at silenced@alumni.csusb.edu to be added to the October invitation list.

Respectfully,
Mike Silence
President

The Three "B's" of German Classical Music: The Fourth "B": Mendelssohn



Bach



Beethoven



Brahms



Felix Mendelssohn's full name was Jakob Ludwig Felix Mendelssohn **Bartholdy**, with a "B". He was the descendant of a prominent Jewish German banking family. However, his father renounced the Jewish faith and Felix was baptized into the Christian religion at age 7. At that time, the more Christian-sounding surname, Bartholdy, was tacked on to his Jewish surname, Mendelssohn. However, Felix used the name Mendelssohn in his professional life to honor his family heritage.

Felix Mendelssohn was a child prodigy. At age 9, he performed his first public concert. From age 13 to 15, he wrote and performed thirteen string symphonies for small ensemble, and in 1824 at age 15 he wrote his first symphony for full orchestra. Among his more familiar compositions are the "Wedding March" and "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing." It's interesting to note that the exquisite Baroque music of J. S. Bach had fallen into relative obscurity and even disfavor at the time Mendelssohn was born. Mendelssohn unearthed and revived many of Bach's forgotten masterpieces, including the *St. Matthew Passion*, which Mendelssohn conducted (full orchestra and double chorus) at age 20. So, if it had not been for Mendelssohn's re-popularization of Bach's music, one of the three "B's" of German classical music might not be there.

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 about 50 pages into 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; 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 October 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.

Also,

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



German Tongue-Twister

from Rudy Darling

Heut kommt der Hans zu mir,
Freut sich die Lies.
Ob er aber über Oberamergau,
Oder aber über Unteramergau,
Oder aber überhaupt nicht kommt,
Ist nicht gewiss.

Translation:

Today Hans is going to visit me,
Lies is looking forward to it.
But if he arrives via Oberamergau,
or if he arrives via Unteramergau,
or if he arrives at all,
is not certain.

New Club Member: Helga White

Helga White is a bankruptcy attorney in Auburn, California and a resident of the small Gold Rush town for more than fifty years. She was born in Schlesien, Germany and fled with her family in January, 1945, just hours ahead of the 1st Belarusian Front, the major Russian offensive that went on to invade Berlin. She was raised in a tiny spa town in Westfalia where she left school at age fourteen to work full time, eventually moving to London alone to learn English, and then Belgium, where she met her American husband. She came to Auburn with him in 1967, and returned to school when her two daughters were five and three years old, graduating from McGeorge School of Law 6th in her class. Helga is a backpacker, mountain climber, swimmer, and world traveler. She has summited Mt. Shasta four times, successfully swam from Alcatraz Island to San Francisco in freezing, shark-infested waters three times, and her next European adventure will take her to Glasgow, Scotland in 2024, where her grandson's pipe and drums band will be competing in the World Championships.



Herzliche Willkommen, Helga!



Saturday, October 7, 2023

Hosted by St Joseph Council Knights of Columbus

- Doors open at 4:30 PM
- Music and Dancing by the Alpentanzer Schuhplattler
- Authentic German Food and Desserts (hosted)
- German-Style Draft Beer and Drinks (non host)



St Joseph Family Center
280 Oak Tree Lane
Lincoln, CA

Raffle Prizes: \$500, \$400, \$300

This event will sell out quickly. Order tickets now!!!



If you're not getting enough Oktoberfest in your life, to the left is an announcement for a fun event in **Lincoln**, California. GCGAC members Gery and Christal Denzler recommend this Oktoberfest, and their son, Paul, is one of its organizers. Tickets are \$40 for adults, \$10 for kids under 13.

For more information, call Arnie Knipp at (925) 787-5613.

Also, according to Dennis Naumann, there is an Oktoberfest on Saturday, 30 September, at **Palisades Tahoe** (formerly known as Squaw Valley). This one features the Joe Smiell Bavarian Band and the Alpentanz Kapelle Band, plus two Schuhplattler dance troupes, and family friendly events. For more details, see the web site below:

<https://www.palisadestahoe.com/events-and-activities/events-calendar/oktoberfest>

Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...

This Month:

- October-2: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 5
- October-10: Board of Directors' Meeting
- October-12: Happy Wanderer's Hike, TBA
- October-16: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 5
- October-26: Happy Wanderer's Hike, TBA

Tentative Plans for 2023:

- November 3 = Language Class's "Bier, Bretzel, und Bratwurst Abend"
- December 1 = Christmas Holiday Dinner



September Birthdays

October 4	Linda Snyder
October 6	Alan Cary
October 19	Kristina Wetherbee
October 24	Renate Hettrich
October 25	Kathryn Schoensee Finn
October 28	Leslie Lambeth
October 30	Dennis Brunnenmeyer
October 30	Chrysan Silence

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



Our **Alpine Dancers** are back, and will be performing at both the GCGAC Oktoberfest on September 23 and at the Lake Wildwood Yacht Club's Oktoberfest on October 7 at the Lake Wildwood Club House.



Gute Besserung

Bis jetzt sind noch Alle gesund 👍

Another German Tongue-Twister from Rudy Darling:

"In Ulm, und um Ulm, und um Ulm herum." ("In Ulm, and around Ulm and all around Ulm").

Ulm is in Baden-Württemberg on the Danube River and is known for having the world's tallest cathedral. Rudy saw it from a distance from a train and it was indeed inspiring.



Ulm Cathedral



HAPPY WANDERERS' HIKING GROUP

Hiking report!

On Thursday August 24 we drove to Barker Pass and hiked along the PCT. Where is Barker Pass you ask?

It is a pass in the Sierra Nevada just west of Lake Tahoe. It is 7.7 miles from hwy 89, the turnoff is a bit south of the Sunnyside Restaurant.

One could continue to drive a four wheel drive vehicle in a westerly direction and end up somewhere near Lake Folsom perhaps. Or maybe somewhere else? We don't know because we parked at the trailhead and hiked north on the Pacific Crest Trail. There were still wildflowers blooming as our trail wandered through forests and open meadowed hillsides. There was a grand overlook to view Lake Tahoe and some magnificent rock formations. We came upon some delightful water gardens. Did you know that there is a Sierra Larkspur that grows over six feet tall? If you get a chance, I would recommend you go to this area before the snow flies, the road is good and you could see a lot just from the parking area. There is an outhouse used by through hikers, not always in the best of shape.



Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, September 5,6,7 was the annual Lakes Basin Campout. Fred and Karen came up in their rig as did Ron and Linda. Paulette and Sue and Jeannie camped in their cars. Tom and Kathryn came up for the day hiking. Some of us hiked to the Bear Lakes and two hearty souls hiked all the way around Long Lake on Wednesday. Thursday found four of us hiking to the top of the Buttes. Although we started out on our trek at the same time as thirty teenagers from Truckee, we are pleased to announce that we made it to the top 20 minutes before they did! Others of our group enjoyed a leisurely morning at the campground or at Sand Pond.



Sue

Teutonic Technology from Years Ago: Preßstoff

In Germany during World War 2, genuine leather was in short supply and therefore rationed. So, the crafty Germans reached into their own history book to use a 19th-century synthetic "ersatz" leather material called "Preßstoff" for such items as pistol holsters as shown at right, binoculars cases, equipment belts, straps, camera cases -- almost any application that would ordinarily be filled by leather. However, in applications that required lots of flexure or were subjected to moisture, such as footwear, Preßstoff was not a good substitute for real leather, because it was made from layers of specially treated paper pulp. Unfortunately, the layers would delaminate and disintegrate when wet. If its limitations were understood, Preßstoff could be made into realistic looking fake leather items. It also had the advantage of being bio-degradable.



Today, there are modern synthetic leathers based on petroleum and plastics that outperform Preßstoff except that most of them are far from biodegradable. The plastic parts of modern synthetic leather will last for thousands of years or break down into diabolical microscopic plastic particles that can be ingested by living creatures. A notable exception is a new synthetic leather called MIRUM®, which was developed by the American company Natural Fiber Welding, who are collaborating with BMW of Germany (ostensibly to make automobile upholstery?). MIRUM® is made from natural rubber, plant-based oils, clay, cork, natural pigments, and minerals. It contains no plastic, no phthalates, and no polyester. Its manufacturing process uses a small fraction of the resources needed for plastic-based synthetic leather, and produces none of the polluting waste products from conventional leather tanning, and at end of life it returns to the earth 100%, so says Natural Fiber Welding. Suggestion to Natural Fiber Welding: Lederhosen!

GCGAC Board of Directors

Officers (Elected -- 5 votes):

President: Mike Silence	(909) 496-6468
Vice President: Kristina Wetherbee	(916) 955-2878
Secretary: Ron Shaffer	(714) 315-5754
Treasurer: Lou Ann Schwartz	(530) 432-0690
Program: John Hettrich	(650) 207-3681

Directors (Appointed):

Membership: Susan Vogt	(530) 432-0594
Dance: Kristina Wetherbee	(916) 955-2878
Happy Wanderers: TBD	
Newsletter: Paul Trethewey	(530) 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, October 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	(530) 269-3137
Webmaster: Paul Trethewey	(530) 265-0763
Property: Dennis Naumann	(530) 477-1622
Historian: Chrysan Silence	(909) 496-8776
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



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