



# 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)

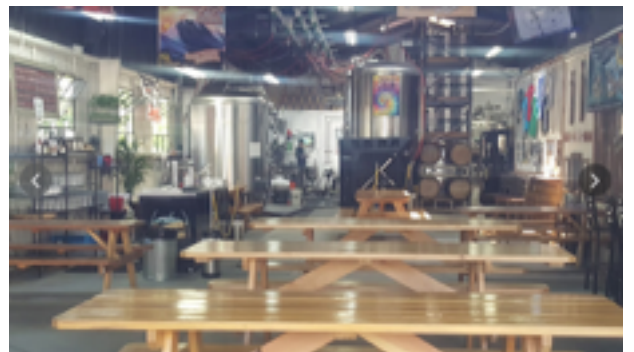
## Next Meeting: Friday, April 5 Stammtisch at Grass Valley Brewing!

The April German-American Club meeting will not be held at the Seaman's Lodge but rather at the Grass Valley Brewing Company, 141 East Main Street, Grass Valley. This will be our second *Stammtisch* gathering. (See below for a detailed description of a *Stammtisch*). We will meet at 5:00pm. The brewery serves food. You can buy what you like if it's on their menu.

Last year's *Stammtisch*, at Ribald Brewery, we had a great time and played cards provided by the proprietors. This year, we need to bring our own games. Do you have an Uno game? How about a German board game like *Die Siedler von Catan*, Germany's game of the year in 1995?



Grass Valley  
Brewing,  
outside (left) and  
inside (right).  
Lange Tische für  
Stammtisch!



What's a **Stammtisch**? The word means "Regulars' Table," typically a large table reserved for regular customers of a restaurant, bar, or beer hall in Germany. The *Stammtisch* is marked with an ornate tabletop sign as shown at left. Historically, high social status community members such as mayors, doctors, teachers, and rich landowners were the only people allowed to sit at the *Stammtisch*, but in recent times, the purpose has shifted to general social interaction, community, shared interests, and card games. We in the GCGAC plan to set up a *Stammtisch* at Grass Valley Brewing and hold our club meeting there instead of Seaman's Lodge. Does anybody know how to play the card game, *Skat*? How about *Uno*?

## Notes from the Board

Board Notes for April 2024

As some of you already know, an unfortunate chain of events has left the club without a Program Director. The Board is working with a member who has expressed a willingness to fill the position. The club By-Laws permit the Board to appoint a person to the office. An election by the membership is required to confirm the appointment. An announcement will be made when all the necessary arrangements are complete.

The Board has decided the club will have an entry in the Fourth of July parade this year. This is an even numbered year, so the parade will be in Nevada City. More information to come as soon as the sponsors release their plans.

Respectively,  
Mike Silence  
President



Our Illustrious Board of Directors: Treasurer Lou Ann Schwartz, Vice President Kristina Wetherbee, President Mike Silence, and Secretary Chrysan Silence. [Photo by Karen Herrmann]

## 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 100 pages into another German murder mystery novel, *Blutiger Verrat* by Dörte Jensen; It's always a good 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 April 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 dancers** are up and running! (Well, dancing, actually.) 😊 Practices officially start on April 9, but we're putting in some practice in March, too, because we like to dance and get together. We now have 5 couples in the dance group and now is the time to join if you're interested! We're teaching some beginning dances and reviewing older ones. Practices are usually Tuesday evenings, about every other week. See "Upcoming Events" on page 5. Please contact Kristina Wetherbee, (916) 955-2878, for more information.

**The Alpine Dancers** need the help of someone who can **sew** and has a sewing machine, maybe even like this classic Elna "Grasshopper!" We have **new members** in the dance group, we have costumes in storage at Dennis Naumann's place, but we need some of the costumes (2 Dirndls and 3 guys' outfits) to be **altered or tailored to the new dancers**. Please put on a thimble and help! Contact Kristina Wetherbee for more information, (916) 955-2878.



An ELNA "Grasshopper" Sewing Machine from the 1950's, made in Switzerland.

Kristina reports that the costumes have already been thoughtfully designed so that they are easy to alter, but safety pins alone won't do the job.



**Hans Zimmer** is a German-American film score composer and music producer. He was born in 1957 in Frankfurt, Germany and spent his childhood in Königstein-Falkenstein. As a musician, he was mainly self-taught, and over the years has gained notoriety for combining traditional orchestral arrangements with electronic music sounds or sounds recorded on location. His first animated film score was Disney's *The Lion King*, in 1994, for which authentic native choirs and drums were recorded in South Africa and integrated into Zimmer's orchestration. *The Lion King* won an academy award for best original score, plus two Grammy awards and a Golden Globe. The Broadway musical adaptation of *The Lion King* with Zimmer's music became the highest grossing Broadway show of all time in 2012. Hans Zimmer is not a one trick pony, though. He has scored dozens of films including *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Dune*. He has also produced sounds for BMW to use in their electric vehicles to warn pedestrians that a car is coming.

**„Man wird zu schnell alt und zu spät g'scheit.“**

# Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...



## This Month:

- March-26: Alpine Dance Practice at Kristina's see p. 3
- April-1: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3
- April-2: Board of Directors' Meeting, see p. 7
- April-5: Stammtisch at GV Brewing, see p. 1
- April-9: Alpine Dance Practice at Kristina's see p. 3
- April-11: Possible Happy Wanderer's Hike, TBA
- April-15: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3
- April-23: Alpine Dance Practice at Kristina's see p. 3
- April-25: Possible Happy Wanderer's Hike, TBA

## April Birthdays

- |          |                |
|----------|----------------|
| April 14 | Aeron Davis    |
| April 17 | Elinor Barnes  |
| April 19 | Ronald Shaffer |
| April 26 | James Huber    |
| April 26 | Linda Terrell  |
| April 26 | Paul Trethewey |

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

## Tentative Plans for 2024:

- May 3: Meeting at Seaman's Lodge, some fun event TBD
- June early: Summer picnic
- July 4: Fourth of July Parade
- Sept-21: Oktoberfest party at Seaman's Lodge



## Gute Besserung

Karen Herrmann



Our Summer Picnic will be outdoors, as picnics usually are, and regardless of where we hold the event, we will probably need some "EZ-UP®"-style canopies to make shade. If you have one of those and are willing to bring it, please email Mike Silence at [silenced@alumni.csusb.edu](mailto:silenced@alumni.csusb.edu), so we can plan ahead.





## HAPPY WANDERERS' HIKING GROUP

On February 22 we went to the Olmstead Loop area near the town of Cool. Avoiding puddles proved somewhat unsuccessful, but we did locate the old homestead with thousands of daffodils. We hiked to a trail down and westward hoping to find a view of the river, and we were rewarded. A great lunch pot was enjoyed. On the way there and back we saw a largish metal tub that held spring water. None of the members could be convinced to strip down and soak in the tub. I suspect we would have been fighting over it if we were there in July!

On March 7 we carpooled down to the Spenceville wildlife area and trekked to Fairy Falls which were tumbling with watery majesty. We lunched there then followed the creek back to our cars. Poppies are making their debut.

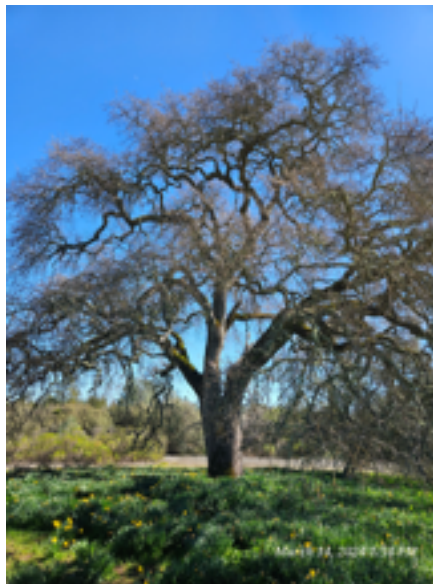
March 14, back to the Olmstead for further exploration, armed with a new paper map of the area. It is interesting how the map, produced by the state park people, does not jive exactly with the Alltrails map. But we managed to find our way back to the cars.

Next hike, March 28, back to the Olmstead area to explore more trails, weather depending.

Sue



Paulette Berquist getting her dog, Buddy, a drink from the largish metal tub of spring water.



What a beautiful old tree at Olmstead Loop!



Christine Weber (new member!) and Leslie Lambeth at Fairy Falls

[Photos by Christine Weber]

## Meissen Porcelain

Porcelain is a very special form of ceramic material: Very hard, vitreous, strong, pure white, and in the hands of an artist, beautiful. In the centuries before 1700 the only manufacturers of porcelain were in China, and the composition and manufacturing processes were a trade secret. Porcelain was highly prized and imported to Europe by the Dutch East India Company at great expense. European ceramists had tried and failed to duplicate the Chinese formula, until in 1708, German alchemist Johann Friedrich Böttger, in his quest to turn base metals into gold, discovered the secret of making hard-paste porcelain. The monarch of the day, Augustus II the Strong, eventually overcame his disappointment with Böttger's gold-producing failures and instead set him up with a ceramics lab and factory in Meissen, Germany to produce what later became known as "white gold," i.e. porcelain.

The Meissen factory flourished to present day and made porcelain figurines such as shown at right and also tableware sets. Until there was a more even distribution of wealth in the mid-1800's, the only people who could afford to buy Meissen porcelain were the nobility. Following World War II, the Meissen factory, in eastern Germany near Dresden, was taken over by Russia and then the German Democratic Republic as a "people-owned company" that became one of the few profitable enterprises that earned foreign currency for the GDR. After German reunification in 1990, the company ownership was restored to the State of Saxony.

Do you have any Meissen figurines in your collection of knick-knacks? Check the labels. They might be worth a lot.



### 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: TBD	

**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, April 2, 2024, 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: Hank Stoffel	(530) 269-3137
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](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”

Ph: 866-868-8422 (toll free) email: [info@gahmusa.org](mailto:info@gahmusa.org) web: [www.gahmusa.org](http://www.gahmusa.org)



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

*First Class Mail*  
*Please Forward*