



# 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)

## Important Club Meeting Friday, March 1:

In addition to the usual fun, food, drink, and merriment, we are holding our yearly election of officers. For that purpose, we need to have a quorum of at least 18 members to vote for the new Board of Directors. Please attend! Your vote matters. -->



### Schedule:

5:00 p.m. Seamans Lodge doors open; Set-up. Your help is appreciated!

6:00 p.m. Meeting -- Election of Officers for 2024

Followed by socializing, dancing, what have you!

Please bring appetizers or desserts!

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL -- \$30 FOR THE YEAR 2024

(MARCH 2024 -- FINAL NOTICE!)

January 1, 2024 begins the club membership year. Thank you for your support during 2023. We look forward to your renewal as a member in 2024 for enjoyment of meetings, events, and activities. If you attend events that are no cost for members, but a charge for guests, you can benefit more than a 100% return on your dues investment. The renewal period is January and February, and dues are delinquent March 1, 2024. (per club By-Laws: "... If dues are not paid by March first, membership privileges will be discontinued.")

**Please help the Membership Director save time and club expenses by mailing your check to "GCGAC" soon, for \$30 per person. Thank you! Send to:**

Gold Country German-American Club

P.O. Box 571

Grass Valley, CA 95945

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## Notes from the Board

Board Notes for March 2024

The annual general membership meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 1st, at Seaman's Lodge. As required in the By-Laws, the election of club officers for 2024 will be held at this meeting. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. The business part of the meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. A quorum of the membership is required to conduct club business. Please make a special effort to attend.

Respectfully,  
Mike Silence  
President

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## Unsere Leute -- New Member Bob Foster

Bob Foster writes:



I am a retired attorney. My undergraduate school was Stanford University, and I went to law school at Hastings College of the Law, in San Francisco. During my legal practice, I practiced law, first in Idaho, then in Montana, and finally in Stockton, California, where I tried mostly Civil lawsuits.

After living in Stockton for a number of years, I then moved to Sacramento. After living in the Sacramento area for some time, I retired and moved to Grass Valley. I have been in Grass Valley a little over two years now and enjoy the Grass Valley area a great deal. I am particularly interested in music and art. I attend concerts in the Nevada County area, and often attend art openings.

My interest in German came about from the time that I was stationed in Europe. I spent almost 3 years in Germany. During that time, I attended a German language school in Oberammergau, which is the center for the Oberammergau passion plays.

I am delighted to be a member of the German American club, and look forward to getting acquainted, meetings, and possibly even some of the hikes. Thank you to all the members for extending your hospitality to me. This is indeed a lively and friendly group.



Photos illustrating our lively and friendly nature.

## 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 March 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 in early April, but we're putting in some practices in February and March, because we like to dance and get together. We now have 4 couples in the dance group but 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. Please contact Kristina Wetherbee, (916) 955-2878, for more information.



### Photos from Fasching



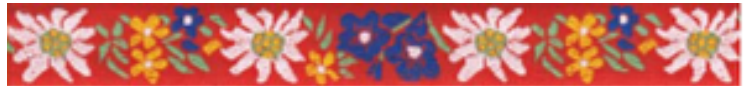
Arts and Crafts Department:  
Fasching masks ready to be painted.



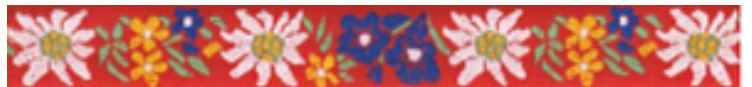
Mask painting results: Who was that Masked Man!? It's Rudy, mit Hut und ohne Hut!



Dennis Naumann sampling the Glühwein brewed by John and Renate Hettrich.



Feuerzangenbowle at Fasching! Fire water, indeed.



# Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...

## This Month:

- March-1: Regular Club Meeting, see p. 1
- March-4: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 5
- March-7: Possible Happy Wanderer's Hike, TBA
- March 12: Board of Directors' Meeting, see p. 7
- March-18: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 5
- March-21: Possible Happy Wanderer's Hike, TBA

## Tentative Plans for 2024:

Nothing for April at Seaman's Lodge, but we might do a Stammtisch like we did last year. Stay tuned.



## March Birthdays

March 10	Karen Herrmann
March 11	Mark Schilleman
March 11	LouAnn Schwartz
March 20	Sabine Schweter
March 21	Rebecca Claus
March 25	Thomas Spol

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



Happy Wanderers on the January 25 hike near Cronan Ranch. Full description next page.



## Gute Besserung

Karen Herrmann



Down and then back up again!





## HAPPY WANDERERS' HIKING GROUP

### The Happy Wanderers March On

Thursday January 25 presented itself as gloomily cloudy at our gathering spot in Grass Valley, but our intrepid group felt the promise of future blue skies. Turns out we were rewarded handsomely.

We started hiking at 10:00 am from the main Cronan Ranch parking lot which is off of highway 49 south of Cool. Included in the group were Jeanne, Kathleen, Paulette, Agnes, Leslie, Ron, and Sue.

We made this into a loop tour, with a jog to a scenic overlook. Heading south along the Down and Up trail we spotted tons of mushrooms in the green fields. Agnes suggested climbing up a hill for a grand view, and what a view it was! To the east and south we viewed the snow capped Sierra, to the west and north hills swathed in new growth. Puffy white clouds graced the brilliant blue sky. Under the grand oak trees we found the delicious miner's lettuce, speckled with morning dew drops. Quite yummy. We returned to the main trail which eventually (after going down and up) led us to the shores of the American River, which flowed mightily in its quest to reach the sea. This is where we lunched and rested for a spell. Heading north and uphill, away from the river, we viewed a weathered wooden building that had once been part of a movie set. Finally we took the trail through the valley east to return to our vehicles. This valley is wide and open, and again we saw large blooms of mushrooms. We encountered several hiking, biking, and equestrian groups. A good time was had by all. The hike was about 6 miles and would be rated as moderate.



Our hike on Feb 08 was short but delightful. The day was colder than the forecast had led us to anticipate. We met at the Penn Gate at Empire Mine State Park and quickly started hiking at 0900. We did the Osborn Hill Loop which leads you up, up, up. The woods were enchanting, lightly layered with yesterday's snow. The picnic table at the top was also covered with snow, no stopping here for a leisurely snack. On the return down the hill we discovered that we were craving a bowl of hot soup so we motored down to El Favorito Taqueria near the fairgrounds where we lingered over Pozole, tacos and burritos.

Paulette snapped some photos on the trail: included are Agnes, Ron, Kathryn, Jeannie, Kathleen, Sue, Buddy and Fauna.

No selfies of Paulette.

Sue

# Waldorf Education -- German Origins



Perhaps you or someone you know has had a child who attended a **Waldorf** School. The photo above shows kids at the Waldorf-based Yuba River Charter School in our very own Grass Valley. Did you know that the Waldorf schools were founded in **Stuttgart, Germany**, in 1919 and since that time have become the largest independent school movement in the world? Based on the holistic educational philosophy of **Rudolf Steiner**, focusing on the development of early students' artistic, intellectual, and practical skills, and imagination and creativity above strict academics. Steiner had esoteric ideas about reincarnation, karma, and the existence of spiritual beings. Some of those ideas play a role in the Waldorf curriculum. Academic instruction is presented through artistic work, dance, drama, music, gardening, and crafts. The curriculum in English-speaking countries also typically includes the learning of *two* foreign languages from complementary language families, such as **German** and Spanish. Some Waldorf teachings have been criticized as contrary to mainstream scientific knowledge, but Waldorf students typically score higher on standardized tests than students from public schools. This might be attributed to younger Waldorf students' spending more time engaged in creative activities and less time on social media, computers, or watching television than students in public schools. Technologically-oriented parents say that younger students don't need computers and technology, but benefit from the creative aspects of Waldorf education. You can't argue with success.

### **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, March 12, 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: 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](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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