



# 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 Event: Thursday, July 4 Fourth of July Parade!



Date: Thursday, July 4, 2024

Place: Broad Street, Nevada City

Time: Parade starts at 11 a.m., BUT for participants, we need to be there early. Our representative must check in at Broad Street "Y" before 10 a.m. Our Chalet parade float must be in the staging area between 9 and 10 a.m.

The pandemic may have broken our rhythm for the annual parade but we're back! We'll do initial cleanup on the float at the Rood Center parking lot at 8:30, drive her over to the staging area at 9; install flags and flowers. Bring something to drink and a sun hat to keep cool. Good news: The parade itself is fairly short and mostly downhill!

### The General Plan for Nevada City 4th of July Parade in Photos (from 2018):

1



2



3



4



1. Meet at Rood Center to prepare float for parade. 8:30 a.m.
2. and 3. March in parade: Be in staging area at no later than 10:00 a.m.; Parade starts at 11:00 a.m.
4. After parade, celebrate your successes! Beer, hot dogs, apple pie. American food!

## Notes from the Board

Mike Silence is presently unavailable, so in his absence, we will report this:

Fourth of July Parade: We are confirmed by the Nevada City Chamber of Commerce to have a place in the parade, near the front of the procession. Our parade float (the "Chalet") has been taken out of storage at John and Mary Jean Muff's barn, and is currently at Dennis Naumann's property where we plan to clean it and confirm its roadworthiness. It will be towed to the Rood Center on the morning of the parade for decorating. Please participate in preparing the float and in marching in the parade! It's publicity for the Club and sometimes attracts new members.

Please read the obituary on page 6 for Hans Otto Stoffel. We knew him as "Hank."

Paul Trethewey for Mike Silence

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## Photos from Our Summer Picnic



The picnic shelter at Condon Park was a great place to have our picnic! Plenty of shade, seating, and above at the grill are our Weisswurst Chefs, Kristina, James, and Sabine. At right, the Alpine Dancers strutted their stuff. No photos of the water balloon toss; recall the balloons were quite sturdy.



## 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 110 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 July 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.) 😊 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.





## HAPPY WANDERERS' HIKING



On May 23 our hiking group traveled from the Emerald Pools (a raging torrent that day) to Lake Spaulding.

This trail wanders up a moderately steep canyon through mixed woodlands. When it levels off, one could keep going up to Fuller Lake, or like us, under a giant penstock and to an over view of the Spaulding. On the way down I had planned for a period of silence, but the roar of the water and the whopping of the helicopters drowned out any hope of quiet. PG&E was, and still is, working on repairing the flumes and power houses on the other side of the canyon. This is a lovely hike, take your time and enjoy the plants of the forest.

June 20, first day of summer, yipee!

A small but cheerful group drove to the Loney Meadow trailhead. We walked along one side of the meadow, then up, up, up, to Upper Rock Lake. We had high hopes of locating the missing horse, Sparky, but instead we were treated to the sight of a bear cub running across our path and up into the trees. We later on the path found a large pile of very fresh bear scat, very exciting. Both the upper and lower Rock Lakes are very lovely, one would be hard pressed to choose a favorite. On the way back down we met 37 backpackers, 27 young men and 10 leaders, we were glad to get out of there. The aspen trees near the meadow are spectacular any time of year, check them out!

I want to mention an interesting organization, The Friends of Sierra Rock Art. This group helps in monitoring the various petroglyphs in Nevada and Placer counties, documenting them over the years and trying to educate the public of the importance of preserving these ancient markings of past people. As a member of this organization you promise to not share details of the locations with others, so as to lessen the load of traffic to these areas. Check out the website!

Sue



Lake Spaulding, 23May2024



Kathleen, Sharon, Ron, Kirsten at Lower Rock Lake,  
20Jun2024

# Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...

## This Month:

July-2 Board of Directors' Meeting, see p. 7  
 July-4: Club Event! 4th of July Parade, See p. 1.  
 July-8: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3  
 July-9: Alpine Dance Practice at Kristina's see p. 3  
 July-11: Happy Wanderer's Hike, see p. 4.  
 July-22: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3  
 July-23: Alpine Dance Practice at Kristina's see p. 3  
 July-25: Happy Wanderer's Hike, see p. 4.

## Tentative Plans for 2024:

Sept-21: Oktoberfest party at Seaman's Lodge  
 Dec-6: Christmas Holiday Dinner at Seaman's Lodge  
 We ought to plan something for August and November!



## July Birthdays

July 15 Susan Vogt  
 July 21 Dennis Schuetzle

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



## Gute Besserung

Alle sind gesund und munter.



Repeat of last month's call for help: **Alpine Dancers** need the help of someone who has a talent for **sewing**. 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.

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 Otto Stoffel Obituary

Hans Otto Stoffel passed away at his home on June 5th, 2024. Hans was born January 25, 1940 in Patterson, New Jersey. His parents Otto and Martha Stoffel were born in Wuppertal, Germany.

When Hans was 17, he enlisted in the Air Force. After completing his service, he was hired by Trans World Airlines. He was an engineer, copilot, and finally flew as an international captain. Hans flew for Trans World Airlines for 34 years.



Hans met the love of his life, Dora Koster in New York. Hans and Dora had two sons, Curt and Eric. They were married for sixty years.

When Hans was in the Air Force, he was stationed in Frankfurt, Germany. He was able to connect to relatives who lived in Wuppertal, Germany. After retiring from flying, Hans began to research his German heritage. He joined several German-American organizations. Some of which were Excelsior German Center of Oakland, Gold Country German-American Club of Grass Valley, and the German-American heritage Foundations in Washington D.C., of which he was regional vice president. Hans also spent many years at the Sacramento Turn Verein where he loved being a member of the library.

Hans was preceded in death by his sisters, Doris Ludvigsen and Ruth Bello. He is survived by his sisters, Nancy D'Arcy and Ingel Sell, as well as several nephews, nieces and cousins.

A celebration of life will be held at The Ridge Golf Course and Events Center on August 31st at 1:30 to 4:30 pm. The address is 2020 Golf Course Road, Auburn, CA 95602. Hors D'oeuvres and beverages will be served. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to Sacramento Turn Verein. Sent to: STV-GACC-Library located at 3349 J St Sacramento, CA 95816.

## Unsere Leute

Hank Stoffel was an airplane pilot and he was fond of German-American technological history. He was the first to tell me [ed.] of **Gustave Weisskopf**, the immigrant from Germany who probably flew a heavier-than-air, manned, self-propelled airplane on August 14, 1901, in Bridgeport, Connecticut, pre-dating the Wright brothers' Kitty Hawk flight by two years. There were eye witnesses to Weisskopf's event, but no photographs of the plane in flight. (Nobody had a Kodak?!) The Wrights had photos to prove their flight. The result is that the Smithsonian Institution displays the Wright Flyer, but only devotes a small plaque acknowledging that Weisskopf might have been first to fly. At right is shown Weisskopf's flying machine on the ground in 1901.



### 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, July 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®  
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"Representing Americans of German Speaking Heritage"

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