



# 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, May 3 Talent Show at Seaman's Lodge

The theme for our May 3 Membership Meeting at Seaman's Lodge will be **Talent Show**. Doors open at 4:30 for setup. Anyone willing and able is invited to help with setup. Doors open at 5:30. We already have several performers willing to entertain us for the evening. It isn't necessary to sign up beforehand but would be helpful. Call or text/email Rebecca at 916-710-0033; [rebecca.claus1@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.claus1@gmail.com) to verify. Audience will be judging for prizes. Membership please bring appetizers or dessert; open bar available.

You're asking: Plate Spinning? Will there be plate spinning at our talent show? Well, probably not, but did you know that the world's foremost plate spinner was a German named Wolfgang Bartschelly? Here he is, spinning 32 genuine, breakable porcelain plates in an act he performed all over the world, including in the US with the Greatest Show on Earth -- Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus in 1962. (Notice how the porcelain theme ties in with our previous newsletter's article about Meissen Porcelain!) Bartschelly also was known for balancing an enormous stack of drinking glasses and trays as shown in this YouTube video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FT\\_jlplQwC8&t=333s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FT_jlplQwC8&t=333s)



The caption says "Die größte Schau der Welt mit echtem Porzellan", which means "The Greatest Show on Earth with genuine porcelain."

## Notes from the Board

Board Notes for May 2024

The Board is pleased to announce Rebecca Claus as our Program Director. In accordance with the By-Laws, Rebecca was appointed to the position by the Board and the appointment was ratified by a vote of the membership. Thank you for stepping up, Rebecca!

Plans are underway for the annual Picnic. This year, it will be held on Saturday, June 1st at the Barbecue Pavilion in Condon Park. Mark your calendars!

The Club will march in the Fourth of July parade to be held in Nevada City this year. Save the date! More information to come as soon as the sponsors release their plans.

Respectively,  
Mike Silence  
President

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## Unsere Leute

### New Members:

**Randy and Christine Weber** are transplants from Southern California since 2016 and are enjoying everything about Grass Valley (except the ticks and pollen)! Randy keeps himself busy with beer making and tasting and Chris likes red wine, art and gardening. Both are enjoying hiking with members of the club.



Repeat of last month's call for help: Speaking of **TALENT, The 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.

## 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 105 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 May 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 GROUP, Latest Report



Here is the report for Thursday April 11

Ten intrepid hikers met at the Rood Center in Nevada City. We headed north on highway 49, then west on the Marysville Highway to the boat launch of Bullards Bar reservoir. The area is called Dark Day, but as there was no eclipse, our day was quite bright. We set out along the coastline to the northeast. What we thought would be a six mile jaunt turned into an eight mile trek, but the terrain is basically flat and everyone was good humored. There were a few wildflowers, bleeding hearts and dogwood blossoms, as well as some cute little yellow lilies. On the return trip we lunched on a little peninsula that offered both sun and shade and spent a few moments reflecting on all the great hikes Fred and Karen have led us on. We eventually made our way back to the cars, tired, but happy. A few of us stopped at the gas station in North San Juan for ice cream, Yum



Bullards Bar Reservoir -- Just look at all that beautiful WATER!



Those intrepid hikers at Bullards Bar Reservoir. [Photos from Sue Vogt]



# Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...

## This Month:

- May-3: Club Meeting: Talent Show! See p.1.
- May-6: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3
- May-7: Board of Directors' Meeting, see p. 7
- May-9: Happy Wanderer's Hike
- May-14: Alpine Dance Practice at Kristina's see p. 3
- May-20: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3
- May-23: Possible Happy Wanderer's Hike, TBA
- May-28: Alpine Dance Practice at Kristina's see p. 3

## Tentative Plans for 2024:

- June-1: Summer picnic
- July 4: Fourth of July Parade
- Sept-21: Oktoberfest party at Seaman's Lodge



Summer Picnic will be here at Condon Park in Grass Valley. We might not need those EZ-Up's.



## May Birthdays

May 22	Joseph Nanut
May 25	David (Mike) Silence
May 26	Erica Meier
May 26	Gayle Nanut
May 28	Gery Denzler
May 31	Amber Lee Newman

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



## Gute Besserung

Karen Herrmann

Many Club members are asking, "How is Karen?" We are happy to report **good news!** The robotic surgery successfully removed the tumors, and the doctor is reported as saying Karen's future looks good. At the time of this writing, Karen's daughter, Gitte, plans to take Karen home to recuperate on April 21. Yea!





## HAPPY WANDERERS' HIKING GROUP

The hiking group explored several more trails at the Olmstead Area on Thursday, 28 March.

Jeannie, Agnes, Kathleen, Sue and guest Ellen started the hike near beautiful downtown Cool.

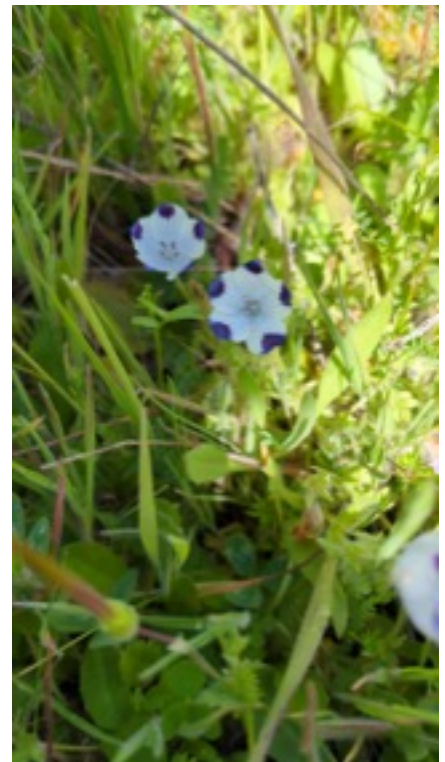
We headed north on the Olmstead Loop Trail, then shifted over to a bit of the Western States Trail. We stopped for a moment at the beautiful Paige Harper Spring with a drinking area for horses set up with bricks. This first part of the trail is on the north slope of the hill and parts of it were just above Hwy 49. We crossed over an enchanting set of waterfalls and were treated to many maidenhair ferns growing with reckless abandon and a few shooting stars with stems quite long and the blossoms larger than the ones we see at Bridgeport. One of the main reasons we chose this route was because we had spied on the map a trail called "Pig Farm" and declared this to be our destination. We had been going gradually downhill through the wooded side of the trip; the Pig Farm trail wanted us to regain the lost elevation very quickly. Or in our case very slowly. 0.6 miles later we were at the top end of Training Hill and in a bit we came upon a lovely bench built by a local boy scout troop which is where we had lunch at 1300. The rest of the hike, now south and east to complete the loop, was through grassy rolling hills, resplendent with green grass and a smattering of wildflowers, including the sweet "five spot" *nemophila maculate*, a member of the borage family.

On our return drive to Grass Valley, we stopped at the Van Howd Studio in Auburn near the airport. It is filled with his lovely paintings and bronze sculptures, mostly of North American and African animals and people. His lovely wife spoke of their travels and work, she showed us the workroom where her husband was working on an elephant, larger than life, which would eventually be relocated to its home in Tanzania. Well worth the visit, open from 10 - 4 weekdays.

Susan Vogt



"Five Spot" *nemophila maculate*, at right:



# Teutonic Technology: Removing Microplastics from Our Water



About 450 million tons of plastic are produced every year, and ten to fourteen million tons of that plastic ends up in the ocean where it breaks into smaller and smaller particles that don't bio-degrade. Microscopic plastic particles ultimately find their way into our food chain, and they aren't good for us. The size of the particles is too small to be trapped by conventional water filters. However, a German company, Wasser 3.0, has developed a method of removing microplastics, if not from the ocean, at least from our drinking water. The method consists of three phases: (1) A fluorescent dye that makes (only) the microplastics visible. This is essential because it allows the progress of the cleaning process to be observable in such facilities as water treatment plants. (2) A gel material that causes the microplastics to clump together. This is added to the water while it is swirling in an induced whirlpool. The combination of the gel and the centrifugal force of the whirlpool cause the larger agglomerates to rise to the surface of the water where they can be skimmed off. (3) Disposal and re-purposing of the skimmed microplastics. This important third step ensures that the microplastics do not find their way again into the water supply.

To filter the entire ocean would be an impossibly monumental task. Instead, Wasser 3.0 is focusing their efforts on adding their system to municipal waste water treatment systems where the infrastructure already exists for water purification. A drop in the ocean, of course, but better than nothing at all.

### 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, May 7, 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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