



# 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: Pre-Holiday Season German Bake-Off!

Date: Friday, November 1, 2024. Time: 5 p.m.

Place: Seaman's Lodge, Nevada City

Theme: **STOLLEN or other GERMAN DESSERT  
BAKE-OFF and AUCTION**

Here's an opportunity to practice up for holiday baking by making your favorite German holiday dessert! Stollen -> is suggested, but you can make anything you want, as long as it has some German thematic content. Bring your masterpiece to the meeting along with some background history:

Which part of Germany is known for this recipe? Is there a story behind it? Was it handed down from ancestors? Ingredients used?



At the meeting, we'll auction off the entries to the highest bidders and the proceeds will go to the Club. The entry with the highest bid amount will receive a \$25 gift certificate to the brewery where we plan to have our next Stammtisch.

If you don't bring a dessert for the bake-off, please bring appetizers to share with the other attendees. Guests and general public are welcome at this event.

Note: We need someone to act as a bartender and someone to act as an auctioneer.

## Notes from the Board

Our Oktoberfest celebration went really well. An excellent Ohm-Pa band, featuring our own Paul Trethewey, dancing plus a dance lesson from the Alpine Dancers, and good attendance made for real Gemütlichkeit! Congratulations to Karen Clark for winning the 50/50 raffle.

November's general membership meeting will feature a cake auction as a fund raising event. Stollen and German style cakes are especially encouraged. There will be a prize for the cake achieving the highest bid.

As a reminder, effective January 1, 2025, the annual club dues will increase to \$40.00 per year.

Respectfully,  
Mike Silence

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### **Bleistift** = Pencil. And, so...?



Originally from Austria, the above is a Koh-i-Noor "Hardtmuth", model 1500 pencil in lead hardness "B", painted yellow. There is a story here. The Hardtmuth Company was founded in 1790 by Josef Hartmuth in Vienna, Austria. At that time, the company specialized in ceramics, and in 1802 patented the use of kaolin clay combined with graphite as the "lead" in pencils. The hardness of the lead is controlled by the proportions of kaolin to graphite in the ceramic formula. There were graphite mines in Europe, but the company imported a superior grade of graphite from China during the 1800's. They painted the pencils yellow to indicate the graphite had come from China, and also to give their pencils a recognizable appearance. The yellow model 1500 pencils won prizes at various exhibitions, and at the 1889 World's Fair in Paris were named "Koh-i-Noor" after the world's largest diamond. Other German pencil manufacturers such as Staedtler and Eberhard Faber copied the yellow color. The Koh-i-Noor factory was relocated from Vienna to the Bohemian city of Budweis, which is now part of the Czech Republic. The hardness scale that Koh-i-Noor Hartmuth invented used "B" as in Budweis to signify soft lead, and "H" as in Hartmuth to signify hard lead. "F" was also used, and stood for "Franz", a member of the Hartmuth family, to indicate a medium hardness. The pencil lead hardness scale runs from 9B to 9H with the midpoint being HB, F, or by American standards, a #2 pencil. So, now you know the derivation of such as a 4H pencil. It's Austrian! By the way, "Bleistift" means "Lead pen," even though there is no actual lead metal used. The reference to lead derives from lead writing styli used by the ancient Romans. Graphite pencils work much better and don't poison you.

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## 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 has finished reading *Blutiger Verrat* by Dörte Jensen, and has chosen a new book, *Dunkel Nacht* by Kirsten Boie, to read. Now is 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 November 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.



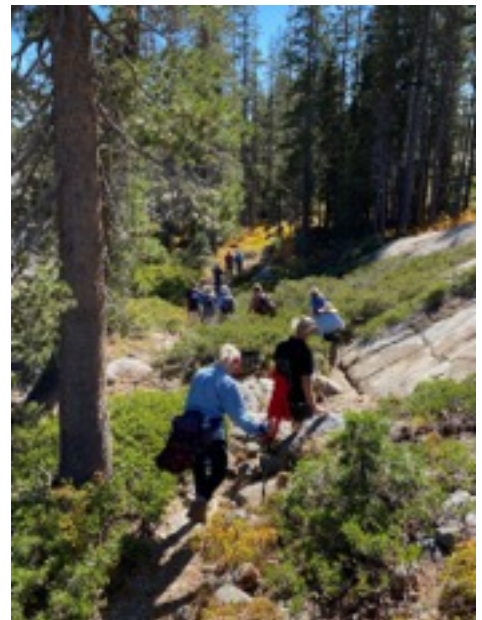
**Our dancers** are up and running! (Well, dancing, actually.) 😊 We now have 5 couples in the dance group and now is the time to join if you're interested! We're teaching some beginning dances and reviewing older ones. Practices are usually Tuesday evenings, about every other week. See "Upcoming Events" on page 5. Please contact Kristina Wetherbee, (916) 955-2878, for more information.



## HAPPY WANDERERS' HIKING GROUP



Back by popular demand was the hike to Loch Leven Lakes on September 26. We drove on a long and dusty trail for several miles, then parked and hiked through the woods and open areas to the first lake. Each lake is so beautiful, that it is hard to choose where to stop. So we stopped for a bit at them all, and made our way up to the High Loch where we lunched on magnificent granite boulders. Then we hiked back to the upper Loch, which is below the High Loch and some folks swam, claiming the water was invigorating. Then back to Middle and Lower Loch and on to Salmon Lake which was full of algae and not a salmon to be seen. What a glorious day, glad we all made it back to the cars. [Continued on p.7]



# Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...

## This Month:

Nov-01: Club Meeting, "German Bake-off" at Seaman's Lodge, see p.1  
Nov-04: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3  
Nov-05: Board of Directors' Meeting, see p. 7  
Nov-12: Alpine Dance Practice at Kristina's see p. 3  
Nov-14: (Maybe) Happy Wanderer's Hike, see p. 4.  
Nov-18: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3  
Nov-26: Alpine Dance Practice at Kristina's see p. 3

## Tentative Plans for 2024:

Dec-6: Christmas Holiday Dinner at Seaman's Lodge

## Tentative Plans for 2025:

We're planning a Stammtisch in January at a place to be determined. No meeting at Seaman's Lodge in January, but we're making plans for February (Fasching, maybe?).



## November Birthdays

November 12	Jessie Emanuel
November 14	Patricia Dodd
November 19	Sharon Hollis

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.



## Unsere Leute



**Richard Fuller** was a long time member of our Club. For several years, he was the editor of this newsletter. He was also the Club's previous Membership Chairman. He and Hank Stoffel personally bought the banner celebrating the Club's thirtieth anniversary, which was carried in the Fourth of July Parade many years. Richard is particularly remembered as a kind person you could approach with your computer problems, and he would solve them. Richard was a valued Club member, and we will miss him. Below is the obituary from Richard's son, Greg:



Richard Howard Bellinger Fuller died September 30, 2024, aged 89 years. Richard was born in Hinsdale, Massachusetts to Everett and Myrtle (née Bellinger) Fuller on August 19, 1935. At the age of eight, he traveled with his mother and four of his six siblings by train to Monterey, CA where his father was supporting the war effort as a civilian army employee overseeing the construction of Fort Ord. After the war, the family settled in Berkeley where Richard attended and graduated from Berkeley High School. While at Berkeley High, he met the love of his life and future wife, Shirley. Richard and Shirley were married for 50 years, until her death in 2005. With Shirley, Richard had two sons, Gregory and Christopher, who survive him, and a grandson, John, who died in 2011.

Richard worked in data processing for Moore Business Forms for over 40 years, in California and then in Texas. He retired from Moore in 1992, and returned to California where he lived in Foresthill and then Auburn until his death. Richard will be buried with Shirley at the Sunset View Cemetery in El Cerrito, California in a private family service to be held at a later date.



## HAPPY WANDERERS' HIKING GROUP, cont.



Kirsten Hebert at the summit!

October 10, wow, we hiked to Mt Lola! Some folks decided to make a shorter hike of it, and some continued on to the top. Not a quick hike, but a beautiful one, we traveled through several plant communities, no sight of the wolverine, sadly. This was an all day event, we left before light and got home after dark. Thanks to our drivers, we couldn't have done it without you.

Proof!



### 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: Rebecca Claus	(916) 710-0033

#### 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, November 5, 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: VACANT

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"

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