



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

Next Meeting:

Friday, May 9

5:30 p.m.

Seaman's

Lodge, Nevada City



Note:

Second Friday
in May!



A Taste of Germany: Live Cooking Demonstration

Ein Hauch von Deutschland: Live-Kochvorführung

Please join us as our member/cooks demonstrate some of their favorite German recipes. You will have an opportunity to observe and *taste* (yum!). We have four willing cooks who will prepare delectables for you. If you also would like to demonstrate how to make your favorite German dish, please contact Linda Shaffer (714-315-5754) to coordinate and prepare. Bring your appetites! It should be fun.

At the March 7 meeting, the Club membership approved the increase in yearly dues from \$30 to \$40 per year, retroactive to the first of 2025. Please send in payment for a yearly total of \$40 for 2025 to GCGAC, P.O. Box 571, Grass Valley, CA 95945. For most of us, this means sending in ten bucks to keep our membership intact. Thank you!

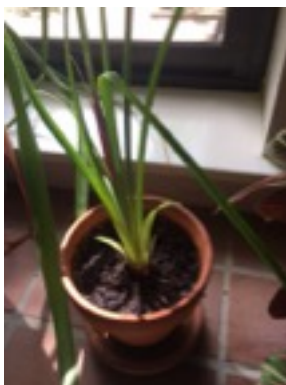
Notes from the Board

Dear GCGAC Members, we have now finalized our calendar for our current season. We have made an effort to come up with some new and hopefully interesting activities for each monthly Club meeting. From the response received concerning the April meeting [all positive!] we are encouraging all members to join us each month. Also, please be sure that you have submitted the total \$40 for dues that the Membership has approved for this season.

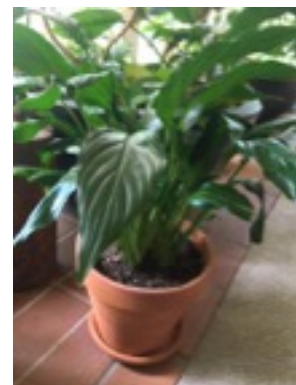
-- Ron Shaffer, President



Our April meeting was the Plant Exchange and the Osterieierbaum egg-decorating. On the left is the plant exchange table before the trading action took place; Middle photo is the egg decorating table, where you could practically feel the artistic vibe; Finally, on the right is our Osterieierbaum, our Easter egg tree. Good times!!



Here are a couple of plant treasures that Paul took from the exchange, re-potted in their new home. Try to keep them alive and happy, Paul!



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 group-reading a new book, *Dunkel Nacht* by Kirsten Boie. We're at the halfway point; jump in, 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 dancer group is up to 5 couples and now is the time to join if you're interested! We're teaching some beginning dances and reviewing older ones. Practices are on hiatus at the moment. We will start up again as soon as we find a day/time that everyone can practice. Please contact Kristina Wetherbee, (916) 955-2878, for more information.

HAPPY WANDERERS' HIKING GROUP

After meeting in the tiny hamlet of North San Juan, seven Happy Wanderers and a guest traveled up hwy 49 to Marysville road, over the dam of Bullard's Bar Reservoir and onto the parking lot of the trailhead to the Yuba Rim Trail.



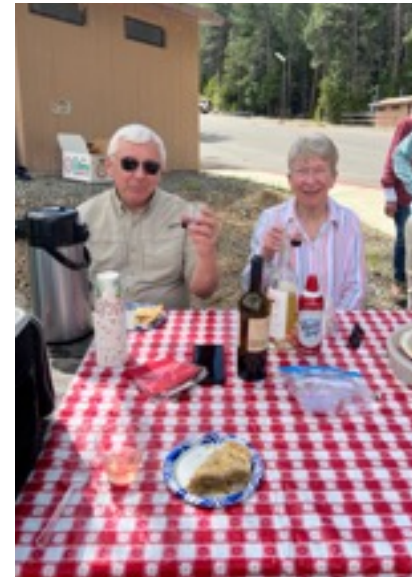
From here we headed out on the well marked path, wandering through mostly wooded land for 2.5 miles to an enchanting rock outcropping overlooking a huge canyon. From the right spot one is supposed to be able to see the confluence of the middle and north forks of the Yuba River. We saw one of these rivers, not sure which, and enjoyed our lunch while perched on our aerie. Although a bit cool at the beginning of the hike, we soon warmed up and shed a few outer garments. We noticed a few drops of rain while heading out, but none while eating and a few again on the return trip. NOAA had predicted rain at 2 pm, which is exactly when we returned to our vehicles and the clouds did not disappoint. Some of us stopped for hot chocolate on the way back home.

This is a fabulous hike, dogwoods are just beginning to bloom along with redbud and a few other wildflowers along the way.

Sue



Happy Wanderers at Bullard's Bar Reservoir on April 10.



Belated birthday celebration for
Karen Herrmann --
Wine and Reddi-Whip?

Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...

This Month:

May-08: Happy Wanderers Hike, see p. 4.
May-09: Club Meeting at Seaman's Lodge: German Chef Night! Live Cooking Demo. See p.1.
May-12: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3
May-13: Board of Directors' Meeting, see p. 7
May-19: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3
May-22: Happy Wanderer's hike, see p. 4.

Tentative Plans for 2025:

June: Picnic at Condon Park
July: Fourth of July Parade (try again!)
September: Oktoberfest
November: Advent wreathmaking
December: Holiday Dinner

More plans in the works!!



May Birthdays

May 21	Helga White
May 22	Joseph Nanut
May 23	Barry Unruh
May 25	David (Mike) Silence
May 26	Erica Meier
May 26	Gayle Nanut
May 28	Gery Denzler

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



Gute Besserung

Niemand?



German-American in History



The Weyerhaeuser Lumber Company, whose trademark appears above, was founded by the man whose photo appears at left. The man was **Frederick Weyerhaeuser**, a first-generation German American. He was born in Niederzaulheim, Germany, in 1834 and emigrated to the United States with his family in 1852, when he was 18 years old. At age 26, he partnered with his brother-in-law to purchase a bankrupt lumber mill near his home in Rock Island, Illinois, and through talent and ingenuity brought it back to profitability. In those days, trees cut for lumber were floated down rivers to the lumber mills for processing. If several mills were conducting timber

harvests using the same river, the logs would become mixed. Weyerhaeuser devised a way of identifying trees his company had cut so they weren't pulled out of the river by competing lumber mills. In addition to finding obvious solutions such as this, Frederick Weyerhaeuser was an excellent communicator and organizer of his work force. He supervised everything in person. He learned strategies and principles of business and industrialism and made shrewd strategic decisions to invest in midwestern America's forest land and exploit its resources. In 1872, he became president of the Mississippi River Logging Company. By 1890, he founded the Pine Tree Lumber Company, the first lumber company in Minnesota, and located his business to St. Paul. There he became neighbors and friends with Great Northern Railroad mogul James J. Hill. Weyerhaeuser and 15 partners boldly bought 900,000 acres of timberland in Washington state from the Great Northern Railroad, which ran from St. Paul to Seattle. At this point, he owned more acres of standing timber than any other American. In 1900, the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company was born, and although Frederick Weyerhaeuser remained in St. Paul, the centroid of the company's business moved to the Pacific Northwest. In 1902, the company bought a small wood mill in Everett, Washington [*my home town -- ed*]. That same year, the Yacolt Burn forest fire became the largest forest fire in Washington state's history, which destroyed a substantial amount of the Weyerhaeuser timberland. Hundreds of loggers spent more than a decade salvaging what was once a prime stand of quality fir, cedar, and hemlock. In the years that followed, the Weyerhaeuser Company was instrumental in leading the forest fire protection movement, which prior to that time did not exist. In 1908, the company had 75 forest fire patrolmen who had extinguished 350 fires in Northwest forests. By 1911, the company headquarters was in Tacoma, Washington, next door to the headquarters for the Great Northern Railway. The company was family-run, and remains so today. Frederick Weyerhaeuser died in Pasadena, California, in 1914. In 1978, he was inducted into the U.S. Business Hall of Fame for his contributions to the lumber industry.



The first Weyerhaeuser mill in Everett, Washington

Teutonic Technology: Paper Towel Dispensers?

Another German-American who emigrated to the United States in the 1840's was **Anthony Zellerbach**, who founded the paper company that became known as "Crown Zellerbach," or "Crown Z," or simply, "Z". Among its other accomplishments, the Zellerbach company invented folded paper towels commonly found in public washrooms in dispensers from which pulling a paper towel out from a slot on the bottom leaves the rest of the stack of paper towels inside intact. Very clever! Okay, you need more inventions from Zellerbach? How about... Something we see and use every day:
Molded-pulp egg cartons!



And, down here on the right, there's the "window" envelope, the sweetheart of business forms. It was invented by Zellerbach [well, *somebody* had to invent it!] and was first used in San Francisco by the billing department of our old friend, PG&E, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company.



GCGAC Board of Directors

Officers (Elected -- 5 votes):

President: Ron Shaffer	(323) 797-6656
Vice President: Linda Shaffer	(714) 315-5754
Secretary: Renate Hettrich	(650) 207-3681
Treasurer: Lou Ann Schwartz	(530) 432-0690
Program: Karen Herrmann	(530) 615-6766

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 13, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
by
Zoom Conference Call

GCGAC Committee Chairs (appointed, non-voting)

Refreshments: Volunteers	
Get Well & Sunshine: VACANT	
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



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 web: www.gahmusa.org

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