



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: Saturday, June 7 Summer Picnic



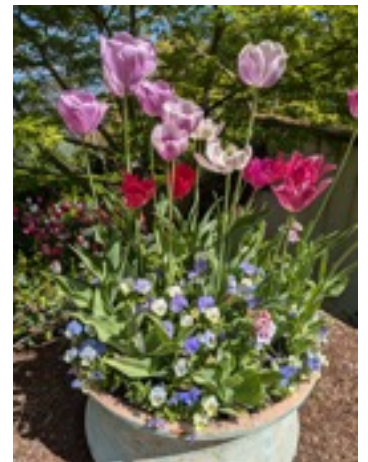
Our annual **Summer Picnic** will be held on June 7 at Condon Park in Grass Valley. Setup (please come and help) will begin at 11 am. Brats and water to be provided by the Club. President Ron Shaffer sent out a **sign-up sheet** to organize what individual members will bring to share at the picnic, such as Sauerkraut, red cabbage, and potato salad. Traditional German foods are most appreciated at this event. Please sign up for something! BYOB! Music will be provided by Hank Stoffel's son, Curt, with both American and German sing-alongs. Games, music, and Gemütlichkeit will be enjoyed by members and guests. Dress in layers, the weather might change. FOR THE VOLUNTEER WORK THAT GOES INTO THESE EVENTS OFFERED AT YOUR CLUB, YOUR APPRECIATION CAN BE SHOWN BY YOUR ATTENDANCE!

Notes from the Board

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Dear GCGAC Members, the May Club meeting was a total success according to all those who attended, and we had a very good attendance [28 members !]. Coming up in June is our annual picnic and we hope to see another good turn out for that event.

From our last Board meeting the Club is in good condition financially and we are even seeing new members joining our ranks. Which brings me to a new need the Club has, which is replacing our retiring Membership Committee Chairperson. This is an important role we need filled and consists of handling the existing membership stats as well as handling new memberships by providing the forms and processing them through the Board. It is not a difficult job but an important one. If you can help out and join the Club management please contact Ron Shaffer. Also, we are now editing the final Membership list for 2025/2026 which is all the Members who have paid their dues for the year. If you have not yet completed the \$40 dues assessment, please do so immediately. Thanks and see you at the picnic !



Tulips at Ananda. See Sue Vogt's description on page 4. Photos like these challenge the color gamut of Sue's camera! Too bad we can't smell them, too.

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, *Dunkelnacht* 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 June 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



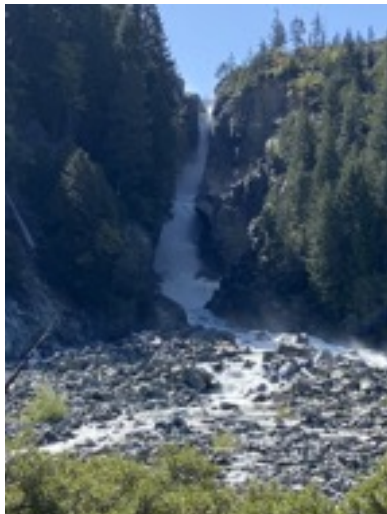
On 24 April we tiptoed through the tulips at Ananda village in North San Juan. It was a most delightful day among literally thousands of tulips. Many of the tulip beds had an understory of forget-me-nots, truly a magical blend. A few peonies had opened, as well as dogwood, I recommend this event for almost everyone, if you are planning for next year you have to book ahead online for a specific day and time, but they are not too fussy if you are a bit early or late. We lunched at the picnic grounds near their cute little store. Meals can be purchased there.

On 08 May we hiked from the Emerald Pools (which were hidden beneath a torrential river flow) up to Lake Spaulding. This trail goes up, up, up before leveling off and heading to the lake. As usual, the view was magnificent, the weather perfect, the company delightful. I found a few shooting stars blooming way up there.

Next hikes are 22 May, 12 June and 26 June. Mark your calendars!

Sue

Photos from the Emerald Pools hike, from Kirsten Hebert:



Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...

This Month:

- Jun-07: Summer Picnic at Condon Park.
- Jun-09: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3
- Jun-10: Board of Directors' Meeting, see p. 7
- Jun-12: Happy Wanderer's hike, see p. 4.
- Jun-23: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3
- Jun-26: Happy Wanderer's hike, see p. 4.

Tentative Plans for 2025:

- July: Fourth of July Parade (try again!)
- September: Oktoberfest
- November: Advent wreathmaking
- December: Holiday Dinner

More plans in the works!!



May Birthdays

Jun 1	Dennis Naumann
Jun 7	David Moss
Jun 12	Susanne Bader
Jun 21	Christel Denzler
Jun 30	Kirsten Hebert
Jun 30	Lynn Knoll

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



This *Bromilead Billbergia Nutans* was adopted at the Club's April 4 Plant Exchange and is now blossoming! Bromileads are monocarpic, meaning they flower once and then the parent plant dies off. So, getting this little flower is a special occasion.

This specimen has some provenance. As reported by Judie Schuetzle, the ancestor is a *Billbergia* taken to a Club Plant Exchange several years ago by Fred Herrmann.



Gute Besserung

Niemand?

German-American in History

Joseph Werner was a German-American automotive engineer who worked for the Ford Company in Dearborn, Michigan, in the late 1920's and early '30's during the era of the Ford Model T. Werner knew about Ford's mass-production techniques, especially the art and science in building engines in volume. In Germany in the mid-1930's, Ferdinand Porsche, inventor of the Volkswagen, recruited (some might say, "poached" or "inveigled") a handful of German-American engineers away from Ford to relocate to Wolfsburg, Germany to help mass-produce the VW equivalent of the US Army Jeep, the Kübelsitzwagen (bucket seat car). The Kübelsitzwagen became known as the Kübelwagen or simply the Kübel and became a favorite light vehicle of the German Wehrmacht. Apparently, Werner's loyalty was to automotive engineering rather than to the Nazi regime. Joseph Werner's team occupied a small portion of the huge Wolfsburg factory. His shop produced the essential engine-transmission assembly. The rest of the factory assembled pieces of the vehicle shipped in from other suppliers. The Porsche factory today operates similarly.



Above is a photo of a Type 82 Kübelwagen from 1939. In 1968, VW introduced Type 181, known in the USA as the "VW Thing," shown at right, which bears a striking resemblance to the old Kübelwagen. Could this be Joseph Werner's lasting legacy?



Of Interest to Happy Wanderers: Mückenschutz!



Have you noticed that the mosquitos are particularly abundant this spring? Whether you're hiking with the Happy Wanderers or working outside in your garden, it's important to protect yourself from mosquitos ("Mückenschutz" is German for "Mosquito protection"). Most of us already know what to do: Protect your skin with long sleeves and long pants, wear mosquito repellent, gloves, and a head net as shown on the left. There's an excellent article on the web describing this in greater detail: <https://alexysabroad.com/repel-mosquitoes-while-hiking/>

If your efforts at protection are unsuccessful and you get bitten anyway, i.e., you have moved from prevention into "damage control," the article describes a nifty device for literally sucking the mosquito toxin out of your skin and stopping the itch. It's trade-named the "Bug Bite Thing." It is a small hand-operated suction pump that you place on the site of the insect bite, apply suction by operating the

handles, and then leave in place for 20 seconds. Testimonials say this potential hickey-maker actually works. It seems that for best results it be deployed as soon as possible after the mosquito has bitten you. If you're interested in making a head net as shown above, the mosquito netting is available locally at Big 5 Sporting Goods for about \$7. You need to supply your own wide-brimmed hat. Mosquitos are attracted to chemicals on your skin and can thereby find you in the dark. It turns out that they are also attracted to the odor of Limburger cheese. Really!? <https://www.cnn.com/2023/05/19/world/mosquito-human-body-odor-malaria-scen> Judge accordingly!



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, June 10, 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"

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