



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 Event =



So many Club members take summer vacations that it is fruitless to schedule a *major* Club activity this August. Our next big event will be in September -- our annual **Oktoberfest**, which is scheduled for 20 September 2025 at Seamans Lodge. As in the past, there will be authentic food, drink, music, dancing, and merriment. Mark your calendar!

Notes from the Board

Dear GCGAC Members, hope you are all having a wonderful summer. Our next event will be our annual Oktoberfest in September. Hope to see all of you there.

Welcome to Tenaya Harve, our newest GCGAC member.

The Club still needs someone to replace 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..

About Heidelbergmann Lodge and Dennis Naumann

The Heidelbergmann Lodge is a large Alpine-like chalet located between Soda Springs and the Sugar Bowl Ski Resort, about an hour's drive from Grass Valley. The lodge was built in 1947 by members of the Nature Friends Club of San Francisco (*die Naturfreunde*), which could be described as a "European Alpine Club from German-speaking Countries." Dennis Naumann is a beloved member of our own GCGAC, and is also a member of the Nature Friends Club. Dennis has a long family history with Nature Friends. His grandfather, father, and mother were Nature Friends members long ago, and when his family relocated to Nevada County, Dennis's mom and dad also became charter members of the GCGAC. There's the connection! Since that time, Dennis and a handful of Nature Friends volunteer craftsmen from the bay area have taken on the responsibility of maintaining and repairing the Heidelbergmann Lodge mostly as a labor of love, motivated largely by heritage, family, and a sense of community. The following is a message from Dennis, describing some repairs and plans for the Heidelbergmann Lodge. Note also that Dennis is inviting any members of the Gold Country German-American Club to take advantage of his status as a long-time Nature Friends member to use the Heidelbergmann Lodge as his guest.



Dear GCGAC Members,

The Naturfreunde and Heidelbergmann Lodge are having a Renaissance. This may be of interest to our German Club as many members were also members of Die Naturfreunde.

A deceased married couple who loved Die Naturfreunde gave \$600,000 each to Muir Woods Club and Heidelbergmann Lodge from their trust. Coincidentally, several very talented professional engineers, architects, and trades craftsmen members have returned to the home of their youth. These variables -- craft, talent, and financial resources -- are allowing important improvement projects to move forward.

At Heidelbergmann, we are designing and getting bids for the 75-year-old roof to be replaced in 2026. This year we purchased an 85 foot high lift / high reach crane that can access 360 around the building. We will have the building walnut-shell blasted in order to re-coat and seal the exterior. In recent weeks, members installed propane stoves into one of the two diesel fired cook stoves. The third major project will be the installation of a sprinkler system for interior and exterior fire protection.

The Muir Woods club has had great financial resources because of dues increase and high income fests, but the Heidelbergmann Lodge has operated on a very tight budget for decades.

Do consider attending. You need only put my name down as a sponsor if you wish to stay for a night or more.

Berg Frei = Free in the Mountains,

Dennis August Naumann

Some photos of work in progress on Heidelbergmann are on page 5.

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 nearly finished group-reading *Dunkelnacht* by Kirsten Boie. Our next book will be *Momo* by Michael Ende. Now would be a good time to join the class! 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 August 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



The hiking group had a grand time on the trail to Point Mariah near Soda Springs. The trail out wanders through mostly wooded areas, with views to the south and east while the return trip goes to the west of a little ridge and over a rocky top before descending back to the woods. Devil's Peak is to the west, Fred and Karen took us there a few years ago.

Coming up, Barker Pass!

Sue



Swingin' Safari!

Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...

This Month:

Aug-04: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3
 Aug-12: Board of Directors' meeting, see p. 7
 Aug-14: Happy Wanderer's hike, see p. 4.
 Aug-25: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3
 Aug-28: Happy Wanderer's hike, see p. 4.

Tentative Plans for 2025:

September: Oktoberfest
 November: Advent wreathmaking
 December: Holiday Dinner

More plans in the works!!

Dennis Naumann's work in progress at Heidelmann Lodge



Cutting a new road



High reach crane for preparing walls



Updated cook stove



August Birthdays

Aug 1	Karen Clark
Aug 2	Paulette Berquist
Aug 2	Lilly Sackl
Aug 6	Bob Foster
Aug 8	Tom Dyer
Aug 14	June Anderson

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



Gute Besserung

Niemand?

Augustin Hadelich, German-American Violinist

Augustin Hadelich is one of the great violinists of our time. He was born on April 4, 1984, and raised in Italy by German parents. He began violin at age 5 and took lessons from violinists traveling near the Hadelich farm in rural Tuscany. He was a child prodigy, a *Wunderkind*, but tragically, in 1999, a fire at the family farm when he was 15 years old left him severely burned on the upper half of his body, hands and face. He was airlifted to Germany for treatment, received reconstructive surgery and many skin grafts, but told he would never perform on the violin again. Augustin proved that prognosis wrong. Instead of ending his musical career, in 2006 he took first place, a gold medal, at the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis, considered "The Olympics of the Violin," a major competition in the violin world. He said of the accident, "[The accident] made me realize very suddenly that music was very important to me, and maybe I should take it more seriously." Indeed. Since that time, he gradually and systematically built his career, starting in smaller orchestras and moving to larger ones.. He attended the Juilliard School of Music in New York, graduated in 2007 with an Artist Diploma, and continued to make New York his home and gain American citizenship in 2014. He's considered German-American.



Augustin Hadelich has performed with virtually every major symphony orchestra in the world. The list includes Los Angeles, New York, Boston, Cleveland, Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, Berlin, Leipzig Gewandhaus, London, Amsterdam, Denmark, Finland, Vienna, Spain, Sydney, Tokyo, Hong Kong, and Seoul. He spends three-quarters of the year on the road. He has recorded several albums. In 2016, he won a Grammy award for Best Classical Instrumental Solo and has been nominated for three other Grammys. He was named "Instrumentalist of the Year" by *Musical America* magazine in 2018 and the *Opus Klassik* (German classical music award) "Instrumentalist of the Year" in 2021.

His violin? It's a c. 1723 Stradivarius, which Hadelich describes as "not ear-shatteringly loud, but it projects very well, and all the registers are very strong." Other violinists say they can recognize Hadelich's tone and style and technique in blind listening tests.

Ach du lieber, Augustin!

Classified Section

Available for free to a good home: Two Dirndls -- one brown, one black, both made in Germany, very nice quality, excellent workmanship, as pictured. Size 8 (European size 40).

Contact Karen Herrmann, (530) 615-6766.



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, August 12, 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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