



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 = Advent Wreath Making!

November 21, 2025: 5 p.m.

Seaman's Lodge

Festive Advent Wreath Class!

Dear Members,

Get into the holiday spirit at our November meeting with a fun Advent Wreath making class!

We have supplies for 15 participants. If you'd like to join in and craft a beautiful wreath, please reserve your spot by emailing Linda Shaffer at shaffam@outlook.com.

A small \$5.00 contribution is requested from participants to help cover supplies. We'll provide everything you need: a floral foam ring, candle holders, candles, greenery, ribbon, dried fruit, and pinecones.

Helpful to Bring: If you have scissors or a hot glue gun, please bring them along!

Even if you aren't making a wreath, please join us for some hot cider and socializing at this pre-holiday event. We'd love to see you!



Notes from the Board

Dear GCGAC Members, Casino was another fun success with a great attendance and great prizes. Our next event will be the Advent Wreath making event put on by Linda Shaffer. Although this event is primarily a craft event there will many of us there not making wreaths and just having a social time together. Hope to see all of you there.

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.

It was again brought to the Board's attention that there are still members who have not paid the additional \$10 dues that the Club voted for. As you know, everything is getting more expensive day by day and our treasury really needs those funds. So please send the dues if you owe them.

Thanks



The Heberts' Trip to **Oktoberfest**

Jeff and I went to Oktoberfest in Munich on Monday, September 22. We didn't want to go on opening day or the weekend because we heard it was so busy then. It was our first time there, and we had a great time. More than 50-60% of people had trachten clothing on. There were multiple big tents from German breweries-Lowenbrau, Paulaner, Spaten and more. The big tents were so much fun with the bands and the atmosphere with all the people. We ate and drank in the Lowenbrau tent. We had pretzels, sauerkraut, sausages and of course Fest beer. Oktoberfest is on the Theresienwiese-a large fairground. There are rides, games, lots of food stalls and big and small beer tents. We had a great time!!

Kirsten Hebert



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. We're just starting to group-read our next book, *Momo* by Michael Ende. Now would be an excellent 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 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 dancer group is up to 4 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 October ninth the happy hikers hoped to spy some aspens in their golden glory. We saw one or two, but the majority were holding onto their chlorophyll.

We started by going counter clockwise around the meadow at the beginning of the hike, which could have been a mistake, because we had to cross the stream on logs and if someone had slipped at the front end of the journey there would have been complaining about wet feet all day. But everyone stayed above water and we continued to the east end of the loop which leads one up to the Rock Lakes. A lovely flat bit wanders through a small aspen grove followed by climbing up, up, up. An old dirt road led us up more gently past Lower Rock Lake (which can barely be seen from the trail), on up to Upper Rock Lake where we had lunch at high noon. The water level in this lake was low, so it was not quite as scenic as it might have been, but we were grateful for the rest. Then we trooped back down to Lower Rock Lake which is very lovely, and had we brought our tents and food, we would have stayed there overnight! The weather and company was as close to perfect as one can expect on this planet, as is the case most of the time. Only this day was a tiny bit more perfect.

Sue



Hike to Loney Meadows and
Rock Lakes, October 8.
Photos by Marc Wetherbee



Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...

This Month:

Nov-03: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3
Nov-11: Armistice Day Board of Directors' meeting, see p. 7
Nov-17: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3
Nov-21: Advent Wreath-Making See p. 1

Plans for 2025 & 2026:

December 5, 2025: Holiday Dinner
January 9, 2026: Chili Cook-off
February 6: Fasching
March 13: Annual General Meeting

More plans in the works!!



November Birthdays

Nov-12	Jessie Emanuel
Nov-19	Sharon Hollis
Nov-23	Agnes Walker

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



Gute Besserung

Niemand?



Last month, our Casino Night was themed around the Baden-Baden Kurhaus Casino. Well, speaking of "Kurhaus" and "Gute Besserung," in November the city of Baden-Baden will host "Medical Week," Europe's largest medical congress dedicated to complementary and alternative medicine, which is the term for medical products and practices that are not part of standard medical care. Expected attendance is 4,000. If you're into alternative medicine, attend Kongresshaus Baden-Baden Betriebsgesellschaft mbH, Baden-Baden, Germany. After the trade show, you can go to one of Baden-Baden's famous bath houses and dip yourself in the curative waters.

Our Casino Night



Tom dealing while wearing his lucky hat.



Paul with his 2004 iMac



Galloping dominoes, Marc is Croupier



In blackjack, a tie goes to the dealer (Erica)



Rudy the Tarbender

Teutonic Technology -- Fruehauf Trailers



highway. Years ago, it seemed that almost every large trailer had a Fruehauf logo on the left rear where passing motorists would see it. The Fruehauf trailer company was founded by August Fruehauf, a second-generation German-American, in 1918. Fruehauf is



Does this logo look familiar? Maybe you noticed it when you overtook a semi-tractor-trailer rig on the

credited with the invention of the "semi" trailer, one that has a set of rear wheels, but no front wheels. Instead, the weight of the front end of the trailer is born by the towing vehicle ("tractor"), such as in the photo at left of a 1914 early version of Fruehauf's semi-trailer being towed by a Model T Ford. Fruehauf is also credited with the "fifth wheel" trailer hitch, hydraulic lift gates to aid in loading and unloading, dual wheels to distribute load and prevent roadway damage, the refrigerated semi trailer, electrically-operated trailer brakes, cargo

shipping containers, and several incremental improvements on the hitch and trailer suspension.

August ("Gus") Fruehauf was the son of German immigrants Charles and Sophia Frueauf, who immigrated to the Detroit area in the mid-19th century. Gus inherited old world metal smithing skills and a strong German work ethic from his father.



August C. Fruehauf

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: VACANT	
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 11, 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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