



# 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 = Holiday Dinner

### *CHRISTMAS PARTY*

**Friday December the 5th at Seaman's Lodge**

**Doors open at 4:00 pm - dinner will be served app. 5:30**

The "Happy Wanderers" are hosting the Christmas party, and on the menu this year will be Pork roast, scalloped potatoes, red cabbage, green salad and apple-sauce. Beverages will be available as usual.



Make sure to **RSVP** and indicate the number of people in your party (members & guests) so we know approximately how many people we need to cook for.

Please call or text Karen Herrmann (530) 615-6766 Email: [herrmann@colfaxnet.com](mailto:herrmann@colfaxnet.com)

We will be having Santa or St. Nicolas visiting if you are bringing a child - and if so please bring a wrapped present with the child's name on it.

The **Hannebrink Duo** will again provide us with wonderful music for our enjoyment, and we hope you will all join in singing our favorite Christmas carols both German and English.

We like to keep alive some of the traditions, when Christmas was a time for reflection, for family, and celebration.

Mark your calendar and if possible bring your favorite appetizer, cake, or cookies to share. You are encouraged to bring your own festive dishes and utensils; paper plates will be available, too.

This is a free event for members. Guests pay \$10.- Children are free

-- The "Happy Wanderers"

## Notes from the Board

Dear GCGAC Members, Here we are at December again and getting ready for Our annual Weihnachten dinner. Hope everyone can join us for the favorite Club get together. At our last Board meeting, we decided to combine the planned January chili cookoff event with the February Fasching event on February 6<sup>th</sup>. So there will not be a meeting in January. If we don't see you at the dinner, the Board wishes everyone a happy Christmas.

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

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## About Lebkuchengewürz

One of Germany's most popular and beloved Christmas treats is Lebkuchen. The authenticity of these gingerbread cookies relies heavily on the mixture of spices (gewürz) used. Here is a formula for making your own authentic Lebkuchengewürz:

All ingredients are ground and mixed as shown at right:

- 2.5 TBsp cinnamon
- 2.0 tsp cloves
- 0.5 tsp allspice
- 0.5 tsp coriander
- 0.5 tsp cardamom
- 0.5 tsp ginger
- 0.5 tsp star anise
- 0.25 tsp mace
- 0.25 tsp nutmeg



## 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 December 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



The Happy Wanderers had a great turnout for the last hike of the season! We met at Fuller Lake at the club where Alan Cary is a member. Thanks, Alan, it's a great spot. From the lake we headed north on Bowman Road, in a bit we veered to the west on Clyde Mountain Trail. We were not exactly sure where the top of the mountain was, but we achieved a great view of the South Yuba River canyon. We returned to the lodge at noon and prepared our feast. Thanks everyone for the yummy repast.

The hiking group is hosting the holiday dinner on Friday December 5th at the Seaman's Lodge, hope to see you all there.

Next hike Thursday January 8 2026, although there may be an impromptu hike in December, weather permitting.

Sue



Happy Wanderers at Clyde Mountain Trail overlooking South Yuba River Canyon



Here's Paulette Bergquist at the shore of Fuller Lake, peacefully knitting some sox while most of the crew hiked to Clyde Mountain Trail.



It was a great pot luck! Thanks to Alan Cary for use of the facilities, and thanks to Teneya Harve for those neat cookies made with her hand made acorn flour!



# Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...

## **This Month:**

Dec-05: Club Holiday Dinner at Seaman's Lodge, see p.1  
 Dec-08: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3  
 Dec-22: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3  
 Happy Wanderer's hikes will be announced ad hoc.

## **Plans for 2026:**

February 6: Chili Cook-Off and Fasching  
 March 13: Annual General Meeting  
 June 6: Annual Summer Picnic  
 July 4: Independence Day Parade

More plans in the works!!



## **December Birthdays**

Dec-3	Larry White
Dec-13	Kathleen Kelly
Dec-14	Bill Johnston
Dec-15	Christian Schweter
Dec-23	Anneliese Frankel

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



## **Gute Besserung**

Rudy Darling

All over Germany, there are Christmas Markets like this one in Nuremberg:



## **Christkindlmarkt in Sacramento**

On December 6 & 7, the Sacramento Turn Verein will hold its Annual Christkindlmarkt. benefiting multiple charities in the Sacramento area. Christmas Music, Arts, Crafts, Ornaments, Cookies and Cakes for sale, Nurnberg sausage dinner, Gluhwein, Authentic Saint Nicklaus. More information at:

<https://sacramentoturnverein.com/events/>

## Our Advent Wreath-Making Party



Linda Shaffer brought the materials and put together a fun event.



John Hettrich and Jeff Hebert were  
Sobriety Monitors.



Sabine Schweter gave an entertaining and educational introductory talk on the history and significance of Advent Wreaths.

## Teutonic Technology -- Hansgrohe Dog Shower

**Hansgrohe** is a German plumbing materials and sanitary fittings manufacturer based in Schiltach, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. Founded in 1901 by Hans Grohe, the Hansgrohe company is one of the world's largest manufacturers of shower heads, hand showers, and high-styled faucets for kitchen and bathroom. They patented the kitchen faucet with a pull-out hand sprayer in common use today. Among their product offerings is a specialized hand-held shower for dogs, as shown at right.



Features of the Hansgrohe Dog Shower: Each of the "bristles" in the brush is a hollow water squirter by which the dog groomer can penetrate long fur to the dog's skin beneath. A switch on the sprayer converts the full spray to a smaller spray for cleaning the dog's legs. A third switch position diverts the water to a single outlet for gently cleaning dirty paws. The sprayer switch can be operated with one hand, presumably while the owner's other hand is holding the dog in place in the bathtub. The Hansgrohe web site shows several photos of dogs, happily being bathed, unrestrained, even though every self respecting dog's primary instinct is to jump out of the bath and to shake vigorously, flinging dog bathwater on to its owner and the walls of the bathroom. Is there something about the Hansgrohe Dog Shower that prevents that behavior?

### **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, January 13, 2026, 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](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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