



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

Einen guten Rutsch ins 2026!

Here are a couple of fun seekers having a good Rutsch on European-style sleds that appear to feature a rather high center of gravity. You can join them in spirit by having a happy new year 2026, or you could join them in reality by traveling to the Kuhberg sledding hill and lifts in Saig bei Lenzkirch, in the southwest corner of Germany, near Switzerland. They have a ski lift, a 200 meter sled run, and a restaurant at the ski lift with which to bolster yourself in between runs. Admission to the slopes is free! Unfortunately, at the time of this writing, Kuhberg reports no snow! Global warming?



Since Lenzkirch is so near to Switzerland, you should be able to get a cup of authentic Swiss hot cocoa, made with Swiss dark or milk chocolate, whole milk, heavy cream, vanilla, salt and maybe some extra sugar. Not Nestlé's "Quik" nor powdered "Swiss Miss" -- The Real Deal! Such a cup of cocoa is likely to be costly, because the harvest of cacao beans in countries where they grow has been adversely affected by extreme weather. You have seen the effect this has had on the price of chocolate bars. Grab some *real* cocoa before it becomes impossibly expensive! (Should we invest in cocoa futures? No.)

Important Reminder: Club Dues

2026 Dues are due and payable on January 1 and past due on March 1, 2026. Please mail your check for **\$40** made out to GCGAC to P.O. Box 571, Grass Valley, CA 95945, or pay in person at our next membership meeting in February. Your prompt attention would be greatly appreciated.

Notes from the Board

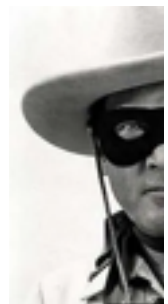
Dear GCGAC Members, Happy New Year !

The BOD hopes You all had a wonderful Christmas. We are Looking forward to seeing all of you at Our next Club meeting in February [Chili cookoff / Fasching party].

Thanks

Ron Shaffer, President

As Ron wrote above, our next fun event is a **combined chili cook-off** (with cornbread, salad, and other good stuff) **and Fasching**. Chili invokes images of the Old West. For Fasching, many people wear masks. Put those together and you get... "Who was that masked man? The Lone Ranger!" Anyway, we can make this work! Our previous cook-off in 2018 included an element of competition, i.e., who made the best chili, and there were various criteria by which the winner was adjudicated by popular vote. Let's do it again!



Christmas Dinner chow line in 2025.



"Western Night" i.e., the chili cook-off, chow line in 2018. Note the similarities.

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 group-reading 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 January 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



A short note from Sue Vogt: Hikes resume in January, 2026. January 8th and 22nd are hiking dates.

I would like to add a Monday for those who can't make Thursdays. Maybe folks could email me to see if there is interest.

Thanks, Sue

Many club members asked for the recipe for the **Persimmon Pudding** that was served at the Christmas dinner on December 5, so here it is:

Zutaten (Ingredients):

Ripe Persimmons, enough to make 2-1/2 cups of persimmon pulp

1/4 cup melted butter

1 cup heavy cream

1 cup buttermilk

2 eggs

1/2 tsp vanilla

1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour

1 tsp. baking soda

2-1/2 tsp baking powder

1/2 tsp salt

1 tsp cinnamon

1 c. brown sugar

1/2 c. white sugar



Zubereitung (preparation):

Combine all dry ingredients in a bowl. In another larger bowl, combine half-and-half with eggs; beat until smooth. Gradually add the flour mixture to the liquid, alternating with the persimmon pulp in several additions, mixing well after each addition. Add the melted butter. Transfer the batter to a greased baking dish. Bake in a 300°F oven for 1 hour or until a toothpick inserted into the pudding comes out clean. Cool before serving with Schlagsahne (whipped cream).

Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...

This Month:

There is no regular club meeting in January. Hunker down and stay warm!

Jan-05: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3

Jan-19: 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!!



January Birthdays

Im lustvollen Monat April wurde keine der Mitglieder schwanger.

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



Gute Besserung

Niemand? Sehr gut.

An authentic St. Nicholas (Mike Balow, thank you!) with Kristina Wetherbee.



The town of **Leavenworth**, in the Cascade Mountains of Washington, is a re-creation of a village in the Bavarian Alps, and the folks there capitalize on the German theme. It has earned the name of "Christmas Town" because all during December, they hold German-themed Holiday festivities,

twinkling lights, carolers, musical plays, a reindeer farm, sledding, hot cocoa, and a special train. This past December, however, "atmospheric river" rain storms in the Pacific Northwest made 49 miles of US Highway 2, leading to Leavenworth, impassable due to flooding, mud slides, and downed trees. Leider!



Our Christmas Holiday Party



Our beloved President, Ron Shaffer, delivered this fluffy Christmas tree.



Linda Terrell and Leslie Lambeth comprised the tree decorating committee. Nice work!



We were so lucky to have Patsy and Ben Hannebrink providing Christmas music and accompaniment to the carolers.



Unser bekannter Chor: Dennis Naumann, Karen Clark, Paul Trethewey, Larry White, Karen Herrmann, Renate Hettrich, Barbara Heger, and Kris Wetherbee. Wir haben deutsche Weihnachtslieder gesungen. In vierstimmiger Harmonie, fast.

German-American Brewer Adolphus Busch

St. Louis, Missouri was a favored destination for German immigrants in the nineteenth century. In 1857, at the age of 18, Adolphus Busch arrived in St. Louis from his homeland in Kastel, Mainz, Germany. His father had been a vendor of winery and brewery supplies, and St. Louis was full of German immigrants with a demand for beer, so ultimately, Adolphus Busch operated a brewery there named Anheuser-Busch. Busch was an astute businessman who expanded the brewery's customer base by shipping pasteurized beer in ice-cooled rail cars such as that shown below to Texas and California. The national brand he adopted and promoted was Budweiser, "The King of Beers." Up until Prohibition in the USA, the business was fabulously successful, with Busch vertically integrating the company to own rail lines, ice-manufacturing plants, bottle makers, and hops farms. Busch was also a generous philanthropist who donated \$100,000 (equivalent of \$3.5 million

today) to the City of San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake. He donated

\$350,000 (\$12.2 million today) to Harvard University to endow a Germanic museum. Beloved by the people of St. Louis, when he died, his funeral procession spanned 20 miles, had 25 trucks to carry flowers to the cemetery, and a 250-piece band to provide music. An estimated 100,000 mourners lined the streets for this procession.



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



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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