



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 Club Meeting: Springtime Plant Exchange!

Date: Friday, April 10, 2026.

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: Seaman's Lodge



Our April Club event is our annual Plant Exchange. Bring cuttings and or potted plants to share or trade. Also include the plant's name, information on the light and water requirements the plant needs, and any tips for successful propagation. The Club will have potting soil and small pots for your use in getting your plant choices home.



Along with the plant exchange, the evening will include socializing time, so bring snacks or deserts to share.

See you there !

IMPORTANT UPDATE REGARDING CLUB DUES: At the March 10 Board meeting, after much deliberation, your newly-elected Board of Directors decided that in order to keep the Club solvent, yearly dues must be increased from \$40 to \$55 per year, retroactive to the first of 2026. **Please send in payment for a yearly total of \$55** for 2026 to GCGAC, P.O. Box 571, Grass Valley, CA 95945. For most of us, this means sending in fifteen bucks to keep our membership intact and to keep the club from going bankrupt in two years. Thank you!

Notes from the Board

Dear Club Members, welcome to the 2026/2027 GCGAC season. The previous season ended at our March Annual Business Meeting where you voted in the new Board of Directors. At that meeting the Members also voted on how to sustain the finances required to keep the Club afloat and what each Member would like for Club events this season. The Board met last week and analyzed those ballots which expressed an overwhelming desire to keep the Club moving forward. Every ballot recognized the need to raise the annual dues as needed and to provide a program similar to last season. Using this data, the Board produced a balanced budget to fund the 2026/2027 calendar of events requested. The dues will be increased to \$55 per year and the Club will charge \$15 each Member and guest for the Oktoberfest dinner and the Christmas dinner. These changes will allow the Club to maintain our current assets while still providing an interesting and entertaining program for all. The Board encourages all of you to promote the Club by bringing in new Members, and is looking forward to seeing all of you at each event. Please provide the added \$15 dues immediately to fund our new budget.



Our new Board of Directors: L-R, John Hettrich, activities director; LouAnn Schwartz, treasurer; Jeff Hebert, president; Ron Shaffer, vice president; Paul Trethewey, secretary.



As outgoing president, Ron Shaffer presented Paul Trethewey and LouAnn Schwartz with Certificates of Appreciation for service to the Club.

Activities

Conversational German -- NEW APPROACH!

Servus! We are taking a new direction in the Conversational German Group! Some Club members have expressed an interest in getting together and chatting in full-immersion German. We'll ask at the next Club meeting who is on board and what time and day works best for all concerned. Then, plan on meeting at Christa Benson's place at 10078 Grinding Rock Dr. Grass Valley. Her schedule is flexible. If you're interested in German conversation, call Christa at 530-913-1836.



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

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 will start up again at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 28, April 11, and April 25, and continue twice per month at Kristina Wetherbee's house. Please contact Kristina Wetherbee, (916) 955-2878, for more information.

HAPPY WANDERERS' HIKING GROUP



On March 12 the Happy Wanderers hopped into their vehicles and headed south on Highway 49 to the Cronan Ranch regional park. It's just a few miles past Cool. There are around 30 miles of trails in this park, we hiked 4 of them at a leisurely pace. This land is mostly open, studded with grand oaks among other species. The grassy hills were that special shade of green that shouts "look now, in a week I will be golden". Our hike led us to the edge of the mighty swift waters of the American River, in a rush to, in a few miles, end up lazily becoming a part of Folsom Lake, wondering what all the hurry was about. We returned to our cars through the valley in the middle and enjoyed briefly listening to an instructor and some students discussing habitat restoration. *Continued on page 7...*



Alan Cary, Karen Herrmann, Tom and Kathleen Kelly, Kirsten Hebert, Paulette Bergquist, and Sharon Hollis taking a break.



Redbud!



Where did all these houseboats come from?

Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...

This Month:

- Apr-02: Happy Wanderers Hike, see p. 4
- Apr-06: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3
- Apr-09: Happy Wanderers Hike, see p. 4
- Apr-10: Club General Meeting at Seaman's Lodge:
Plant Exchange and German Games, see p. 1
- Apr-11: Alpine Dancers Practice, see p. 3
- Apr-14: Board of Directors Zoom meeting, see p. 7
- Apr-16: Happy Wanderers Hike, see p. 4
- Apr-20: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3
- Apr-25: Alpine Dancers Practice, see p. 3

Plans for 2026:

- May 8: German Food Demo and Recipe Exchange
- June 6: Annual Summer Picnic, this time at Western Gateway Park
- July 4: Independence Day, We'll have a party that doesn't involve marching in the parade!
- September 19: Oktoberfest!
- October 9: Presentation by the Language Group, TBD
- November 20: Wreath-Making, likely at Shaffers' instead of Seaman's Lodge.
- December 4: Holiday Dinner at Seaman's Lodge.
and for early 2027:
- February 5: Chili Cook-off
- March 5: Annual Membership Meeting.



March Birthdays

- | | |
|--------|----------------|
| Apr-14 | Aeron Davis |
| Apr-19 | Ronald Shaffer |
| Apr-26 | Linda Terrell |
| Apr-26 | Paul Trethewey |

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



Gute Besserung

Niemand? Sehr gut.



Save the Date!

At right, one of several beautiful photos taken by Sharon Hollis during one of our hikes near Bullard's Bar.



Teutonic Technology: The Tefifon



The Tefifon was an audio entertainment device, originally invented in Germany in 1936 by the Tefi company and entrepreneur Karl Daniel as a method to record and play back voice communications for the military. The Tefifon operated similarly to a phonograph, in that a stylus (needle) would track a groove etched into the surface of the storage medium and transform the detected vibrations into electrical signals that could be amplified and

heard. For gramophone-like phonographs, the storage medium was a flat disk with a spiral groove; for the Tefifon, the storage medium was a continuous plastic tape with eight parallel grooves that could be chosen at playback, loaded into a cartridge. In some ways, the Tefifon could be considered the predecessor to the 8-track tape cartridge players that were popular in the early 1970's for car stereos. To play the Tefifon cartridge, the user would manually thread the plastic tape around a capstan, as shown at the left, and launch the device into play mode, at which time the capstan would pull the tape past the stylus at 3-3/4 inches per second, which coincidentally is the same speed as used for magnetic tape. (Did Tefifon establish the speed standard?) At this tape speed, the cartridge could store up to 8 hours of audio playback, and some Tefifon cartridges were used as audio



books. In addition to book formats, the company offered music recordings, but these were limited because most performers of the day had already contracted to record companies making flat disks. The sound quality of the Tefi was said to be better than 78 RPM shellac records, but not as good as 33-1/3 RPM vinyl LP's. A major competitive advantage of the vinyl disk was its ability to be reproduced quickly in a record press. Irrespective of that, the Tefi company continued to manufacture and sell Tefifons in Germany (and in the USA through Western Electric) until 1964. Some Tefis were combined with table radios as shown at right, to form compact German entertainment centers. Tefifons and their playback cartridges are for sale as collector items today on German Ebay (ebay.de) for relatively low prices, i.e. 200 Euros or less. You could become a collector!



Happy Wanderers, continued from page 4:



Karen with lattice-crust pies!

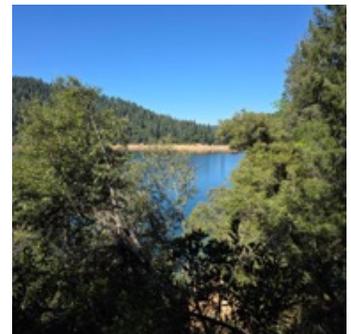
Karen Herrmann chose the Bullards Bar trail for her traditional birthday hike. This trail starts or ends at the Dark Day boat launch and ends or starts at the Vista Point close to the dam: we hiked six miles. Karen treated us all the her famous homemade pies, one blackberry and one rhubarb, mighty good. Other hikers brought various nibbles, thanks to all. We had 13 in our group, the most we have had in a while. Most of this hike was in the shade and the wildflowers were just starting. The lake was a bit low and the contrast of the rusty orange exposed soil and the blue sky and lake was breathtaking.



Star tulip



Snow plant seen at low elevation.



GCGAC Board of Directors

Officers (Elected -- 5 votes):

- President: Jeff Hebert (916) 508-5744
- Vice President: Ron Shaffer (323) 797-6656
- Secretary: Paul Trethewey (530) 265-0763
- Treasurer: Lou Ann Schwartz (530) 432-0690
- Program: John Hettrich (650) 219-6379

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, April 14, 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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