

January / February 2017

## President's Message

Our general membership/shareholder meeting was well attended. The music by the Madrigal Singers that followed was enjoyed by everyone.

We leave 2016 and enter 2017 in a healthy financial situation with money in the bank and the income side looks healthy because our commercial space is leased at increased and increasing price levels.

Our human assets, the board members and our appointed volunteers, are worth their weight in gold. Like gold, they remain durable and pliable and have shown strength and consistency day in, day out, weekly and for the year that cannot be diluted. The amount of caring and dedication they have shown our Verein has to be witnessed in person: come, see, hear them, help them, and support them, because volunteering is a thankless job most of the time.

We have four tenant groups that Germania is working with. Three hidden at Aiello, with whom Reinhard Wolf and Heinz Wegener interface and have under control, and Ludwig's, with whom Hermann Rehmeyer works.

Regarding membership, we have some new faces to welcome; some

familiar faces to greet; some to remember. We will continue to promote for new members.

Repairs and maintenance are efficiently and expertly addressed by our volunteers. Remember what I said about worth their weight in gold with no question

Our calendar for 2017 is filling up; in 2016 Hildegard Wehner and team and the Grotheers contributed greatly.

Laura Frazer and Martina Keim have been elected as directors to the board. Leaving the board are Reinhard Wolf and Claudia Weller who served the Germania well, and Dennis Mueller who has been an excellent vice-president, and we are very grateful to them for giving their time.

Have a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

*Albert Zimmermann*



## 2017 Calendar (preliminary)

### JANUARY

- 6 Membership Meeting

### FEBRUARY

- 3 Membership Meeting
- 4 Carnival - Faschingsball

### MARCH

- 3 Membership Meeting
- 11 Spring/Fling Dance
- 25/26 Schützenfest

### APRIL

- 1 Dance Group - Nachmittags-Tanz
- 7 Membership Meeting

### MAY

- 5 Membership Meeting
- 7 Choir Spring Concert

### JUNE

- 2 Membership Meeting
- 4 Picnic Vasona Park

**JULY** - No club functions.

### AUGUST

- 4 Membership Meeting

### SEPTEMBER

- 1 Membership Meeting
- 10 Wiener Café

### OCTOBER

- 6 Membership Meeting

### NOVEMBER

- 3 Membership Meeting

### DECEMBER

- 2 Membership Meeting with Christmas Luncheon
- 9 Choir Christmas Concert

## Upcoming Events

### Carnival-Faschingsball

**DATE:** Saturday, February 4, 2017

**TIME:** Doors open at 12 noon. Music will start at 1 P.M. Coffee and Cake during afternoon

**ADMISSION:** \$15 per person

**TICKETS:** For information and reservation call Burgie Vorrath 650.592.9665, Hedi Loens 408.446.4140, or Klara Kahlen 408.374.2373.

### Spring/Fling Dance

Mark your calendar for the Spring/Fling Dance on **SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2017** where you can dance to 80's music! Stay tuned for more information.

### Schützenfest

Mark your calendar for the Schützenfest on **SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017!** Stay tuned for more information.

# Department News

## Choir

A festively decorated Germania Hall was filled with cheerful guests for our annual Christmas Concert on December 11. The crowd enjoyed our program of German Christmas music as well as our new, uproarious version of *Baby, It's Cold Outside* sung in German! Especially appreciated were solos by soprano Karen Buck and tenor Don Neely.

After our holiday break the thirty-five singers of your Germania Choir will begin work preparing some new pieces for our Spring Concert in May (details to follow).

Our first big event will be on **FEBRUARY 25**, when we travel by luxury bus to the annual Singers' Commerce, hosted this year by the Heimatchor Stockton, who expects to greet some seven German choirs from around Northern California. In fact, the Pacific Singing Society has specifically asked us to reprise our wonderfully soaring and beautiful version of the Blue Danube Waltz, a piece which seems to mesmerize audiences wherever we sing it.

January would be the best time to stop in at one of our practices to see whether you might wish to join us. We welcome all singers regardless of age, gender, or level of singing (or German language) proficiency. Our weekly two-hour practices are held **EVERY TUESDAY EVENING AT 7:30 PM** in Germania Hall, starting again on January 10. You can get more information about joining the choir from Edith 408.379.6540 or me 408.997.3309.

**William "Woody" Woodcock**

## Carnival

**H**ello to all our Carnival friends. Our **COSTUME BALL** will be on **FEBRUARY 4**. See the Upcoming Events section on the first page for details. We are looking forward to a full house with lots of fun. Please come and join us.

If you wish you can wear your favorite costume. As always there will be a prize for the best costume of the day.

**Alaaf and Helau, Klaus Vorrath**

## Language

Come and join our "Stammtisch" if you want to practice your German. We meet **EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY** at Hardy's in Sunnyvale **BETWEEN 7:30 AND 8:00 P.M.** For more info call me at 408.210.9491.

**Albert Zimmermann**

## Kaffeeklatsch

Our group had a wonderful Christmas luncheon. We enjoyed each other's friendship with Glühwein donated by Anna Hoegel, and a delicious lunch catered by Ludwig's. Some of our friends entertained us with Christmas poems.

Please join our group **EVERY 2ND TUESDAY** of the month when we meet in the clubroom upstairs.

Happy New Year to all of you!

**Edith Meyer**



## Historical Society of Germania

**T**he Historical Society's primary project continues to be the publishing of a 350-page book titled "Germania San Jose: The Early German Heritage in Silicon Valley". This colorful coffee-table style book features numerous historical photos from the bustling period of South Bay development beginning roughly in the mid-1800's.

Our team is providing overall management of the project including completion of the manuscript and guiding the upcoming printing and distribution effort. We have also performed best and worst-case financial projections and presented them to potential organizational partners who we hope can assist us in the financial administration of the project due to legal restrictions on our non-profit status. In short, we do all the work, including record-keeping, but are seeking an outside organization to merely provide a banking depot.

The post-editing proofing of the Part 2 of the three-part book is complete, while Part 3 is undergoing final editing. Part 2 is the largest section, containing dozens and dozens of fascinating biographies of our noteworthy local German pioneers. Our team's detailed project schedule predicts printing by mid-year, in time for Christmas of next year.

Anyone who is interested in joining us in our mission to promote the history of German-speaking immigration in the South Bay can call me at 408.997.3309 for more information. Meetings are announced whenever they are needed to support important project events.

**William "Woody" Woodcock**

## Birthdays

### January

Margaret Bubert  
Samuel Dougherty  
Walter Harding  
Rozsa Harding  
Hertha Hoche  
Anna Hoegel  
Helga Hoffmann  
Erwin Hoffmann  
Kurt Janszen  
Jutta Kiel  
Hans Muskat  
Jamie Seif  
Joyce Williams  
Albert Zimmermann



### February

Brigitte Andermatt  
Michael Brookman  
Frank Busch  
Stacey Cler  
Monia Dournaee  
Rick Ehler  
Barbara Figone  
Carina Frazer  
Margrit Gipner  
Wilhelm Grotheer  
Don Haderle  
Hans Halberstadt  
Brigitte Heinze  
Helga E. Hoffmann  
Thomas Holford  
Anatoli Keller  
Ingrid Lang  
Helmut Lippert  
Hedi Loens  
Ludwig Meyer  
Henry Muth  
Ursula Scheelke  
Josef Schwarzl  
Elizabeth Stamp  
Brooke Sylvester  
Barbara Tuma  
Burgie Vorrath  
Anne Wipfler  
Blanca Zimmermann

## Club Contacts

### Germania Verein

261 North 2nd Street, San Jose, CA 95112  
GermaniaVerein@aol.com ▶ 408.275.9308  
www.germaniaverein.org

### Board of Directors

**PRESIDENT** Albert Zimmerman ▶ 408.281.8949  
**VICE PRESIDENT** Dennis Mueller ▶ 408.246.4644  
**SECRETARY** Ute Nelson ▶ 408.241.2926  
**TREASURER** Chris Rehmeier ▶ 408.249.3047

### Directors

Laura Frazer ▶ 408.529.4377  
Martina Keim ▶ 408.250.5560  
Tricia Nelson ▶ 408.529.8295  
Carl Schmidt ▶ 408.718.5413

### Departments

**CHOIR** Melissa Guerrero ▶ 831.905.0508  
**CARNIVAL** Georg Breitling ▶ 408.448.5084  
**DANCE** Stephen Goth ▶ 415.572.6490  
**KAFFEEKLATSCH** Edith Meyer ▶ 408.379.6540  
**LANGUAGE** Albert Zimmermann ▶ 408.281.8949  
**SHOOTING** Georg Breitling ▶ 408.448.5084  
**SKAT** Klaus Glimski ▶ 408.269.5091

### Committees

**AIELLO** Reinhard Wolf ▶ 408.847.3920  
**BAR** Marianne/Wilhelm Grotheer ▶ 408.253.5218  
**FESTIVITIES** Hildegard Wehner ▶ 408.246.4644  
**MEMBERSHIP** Ute Nelson ▶ 408.241.2926  
**PURCHASING** Open Position  
**REFRESHMENTS** Hildegard Wehner ▶  
408.246.4644  
**RENOVATIONS** Edmund Loens ▶ 408.446.4140  
**RESTAURANT LIAISON** Hermann Rehmeier ▶  
408.249.3047  
**SUNSHINE** Jutta Kiel ▶ 408.241.4132

### Newsletter

**EDITOR** Susanne Ivarson ▶ 707.292.5470  
nachrichten@germaniaverein.org

### German Pioneers

Learn about our German ancestors who have contributed to this area since 1841. Visit [www.germanamericanpioneers.org](http://www.germanamericanpioneers.org) or contact Maria Brand at 408.270.4888.

**Germania**  
The German-American  
Club of San Jose **Verein**

## Department News

### Schützen

In 2017 the **SCHÜTZENFEST** will be held on **MARCH 25**. At that time the Schützen club will also be celebrating their 25th Anniversary.

Our regular meetings and target shooting are usually on the **LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH**. The meetings start at **10:30 AM**. Shooting will be after the potluck lunch. Guests are welcome to attend and try out their shooting skills.

All the best for everyone for a happy the New Year.

*Gut Schuß, Werner Springer*

### Skat

**W**e need new players to join the fun! Anyone interested in the German card game, Skat, is welcome to join, experienced or not. We meet **EVERY THIRD THURSDAY AT 7:30PM** upstairs and hope to see you there.

*Gut Blatt, Klaus Glimski*

### Dance Group

The dance group's November and December meetings went smoothly and were well attended once again. James Zimmerman coached the group through various dances such as polkas, marches, landlers, plattlers, etc. Our meetings/dances are always on the **LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH AT 8 PM**.

Our next event will be the **NACHMITTAG-TANZ ON SATURDAY, APRIL 1ST 2017**. More information will be in our next newsletter.

Since it's never too soon to start planning, please join us at Squaw Valley USA on **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23** for the **SQUAW VALLEY OKTOBERFEST** from **2:00-6:00PM**.

*Stephen Goth*



## Committee News

### Sunshine

It was so nice to see so many of our Germania Family members at our December functions, visiting with each other, sharing laughter and joy, remembering good and some sad times. We are so grateful to all the members who made these events possible for the rest of us to enjoy.

The New Year is fast approaching and I would like to share this recipe with my Germania Family:

Appetizer: Hearts of Love.  
Entree: Casserole of Happiness  
Dessert: Cherished Friendship

*Happy New Year!*

*Jutta Kiel*

### Membership

**W**elcome to our new members **LINDA PFAHL, BROOKE SILVESTER, NATHAN YODER, JOE GONZALEZ, AND CHRISTOPHER KOHLER**.

Thank you for joining our club. We are looking forward to seeing you at our events.

It is with sadness to report the passing of our members Irma Kletke, Pedro Guzman and Frieda Sonksen. Frieda was a long-time member of Germania and also Ehrenmitglied. Our sincerest condolences to their families.

*Ute Nelson*

## In Memoriam

Irma Kletke  
Pedro Guzman  
Frieda Sonksen



# Department Meetings

## Carnival

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 10A.M.

## Choir

Every Tuesday at 7:30P.M.

## Dance Group

Last Friday of the month at 8P.M.

## Hiking

No hikes scheduled presently.

## Historical Society

Details coming soon.

## Kaffeeklatsch

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 12P.M.

## Language Group

Stammtisch meets every other Wednesday.  
Call for additional event dates.

## Skat

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:30P.M.

## Schützen

Meetings are on the same day as the target shooting which is the last Sunday of the month at 11A.M.

**Germania**  
The German-American  
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Germania Verein, Inc.  
261 North 2nd Street  
San Jose, CA 95112  
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# What is Fasching?

## And How Is Fasching / Karneval Celebrated in Germany?

**FASCHING, KARNEVAL, FASTNACHT** all refer to the pre-Lent season, also referred to as the Fifth Season, in German speaking countries. Think of this time as the German version of Mardi Gras! The celebrations date back hundreds of years, rooted in both Catholic and Early-Germanic traditions.

It is a time of feasting and frivolity, of parades and parties, of masks and costumes. It is a time of really cutting loose before the austerity of Lent. And it is a way to chase away winter demons.

### FASCHING OFFICIALLY BEGINS IN MANY REGIONS ON NOVEMBER 11, AT 11 MINUTES AFTER 11 AM.

Why is November 11 so important? After the French Revolution, the French under Napoleon took over part of the Rhineland. Their motto – "Egalität, Legalität, Fraternität" (Equality, Liberty, Fraternity). Take the first letter of each word E, L, F and you have elf, the number 11.

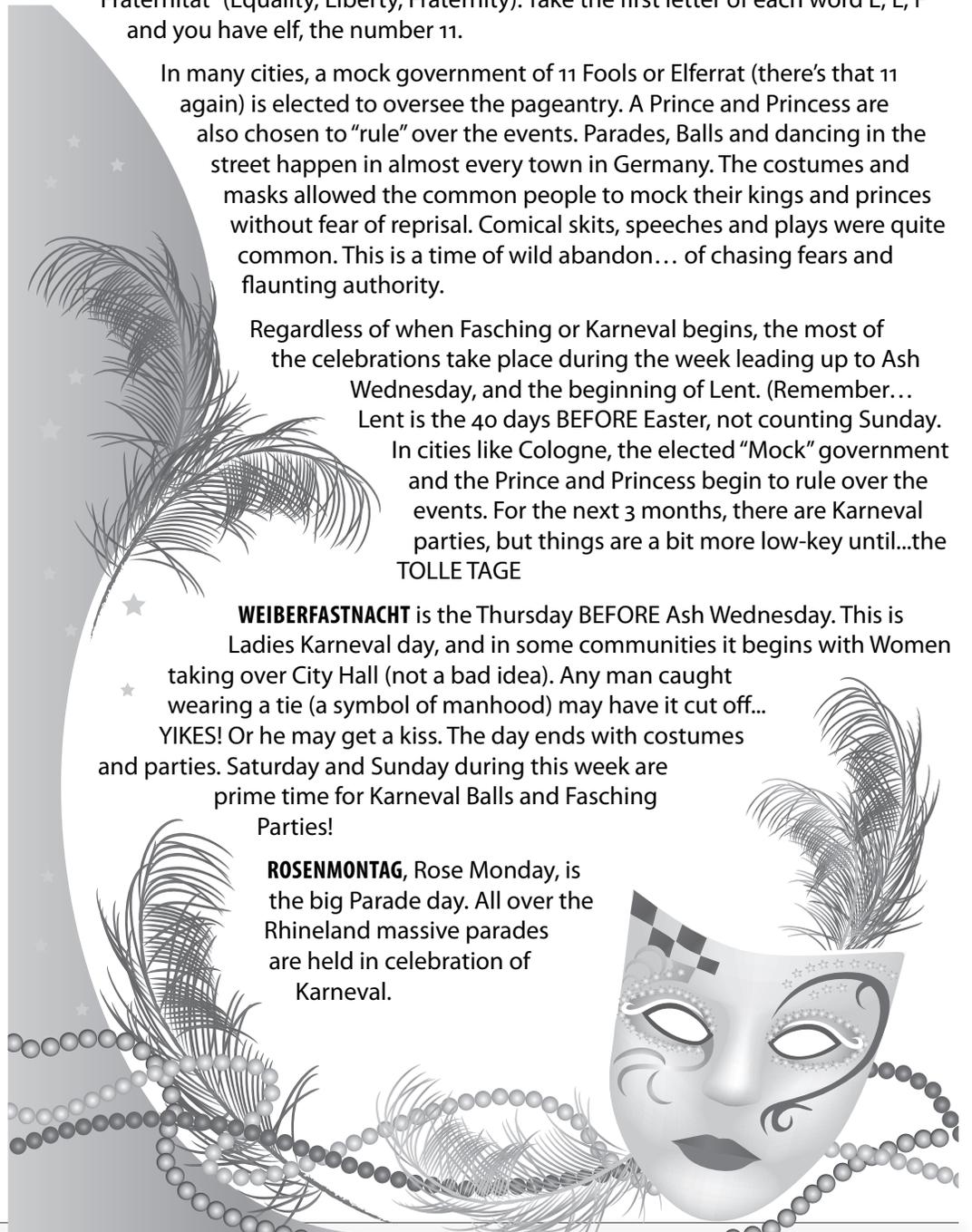
In many cities, a mock government of 11 Fools or Elferrat (there's that 11 again) is elected to oversee the pageantry. A Prince and Princess are also chosen to "rule" over the events. Parades, Balls and dancing in the street happen in almost every town in Germany. The costumes and masks allowed the common people to mock their kings and princes without fear of reprisal. Comical skits, speeches and plays were quite common. This is a time of wild abandon... of chasing fears and flaunting authority.

Regardless of when Fasching or Karneval begins, the most of the celebrations take place during the week leading up to Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of Lent. (Remember... Lent is the 40 days BEFORE Easter, not counting Sunday.

In cities like Cologne, the elected "Mock" government and the Prince and Princess begin to rule over the events. For the next 3 months, there are Karneval parties, but things are a bit more low-key until...the TOLLE TAGE

**WEIBERFASTNACHT** is the Thursday BEFORE Ash Wednesday. This is Ladies Karneval day, and in some communities it begins with Women taking over City Hall (not a bad idea). Any man caught wearing a tie (a symbol of manhood) may have it cut off... YIKES! Or he may get a kiss. The day ends with costumes and parties. Saturday and Sunday during this week are prime time for Karneval Balls and Fasching Parties!

**ROSENMTAG**, Rose Monday, is the big Parade day. All over the Rhineland massive parades are held in celebration of Karneval.



## *Germania Christmas Luncheon ~ December 3, 2016*



*The Mountain View High School Madrigal Singers singing at our Christmas Luncheon, December 3, 2016.*



*Three generations at Germania:  
Klaus Glimski with daughter Barbara  
Tuma and granddaughter Stephanie.*

## *Choir Christmas Concert ~ December 11, 2016*



*Dittmer Bubert – 80th Birthday*

*Kaffeeklatsch Christmas  
Luncheon  
December 13, 2016*

