

September / October 2017

President's Message

With great sadness and sense of loss I want to let you know that Ute Nelson, our long time Germania Secretary and member of the board, passed away on August 19, 2017. We already feel the great void that she has left in our organization and we are regrouping to bring all of her duties back under control. While she has left a void, she also led us on a path of her life that gave of her time unselfishly, her opinion openly and her kindness with no strings attached. It is a model that we can all learn from as we strive to follow on the same path of camaraderie, friendship, and social giving. Thank you Ute for a life well lived.

My final year as president is almost over and I feel good about the direction the club is taking. I can see that in the coming years we have some interested and motivated members to keep things new and vibrant.

Our **OCTOBERFEST GENERAL MEETING** in October will start with a different twist: Beer and Wurst upstairs before the general meeting, **STARTING AT 7PM AND THE BUSINESS STARTS AT 8PM**. Come mingle with the board for the Oktoberfest hour. Beer is reasonably priced and Wurst is complimentary.

I have heard there is interest in forming new Abteilungen such as a Cooking Group and a Strummers Ensemble. The Verein is interested in promoting Ballroom Dance lessons in our Hall with more info to come about all these new ventures. We could have seen this coming four or five years ago and now it has ARRIVED! This is all exciting news.

At the Wiener Cafe we honored the following long time members:

50 years membership honored at Wiener Cafe:

- ▶ Reinhard and Marlen Meier
- ▶ Edith Davenport

25 years membership honored at Wiener Cafe:

- ▶ Albert and Arlette Zimmermann
- ▶ Allen and Monica Dournaee
- ▶ Caroline Wolf

Thank you to Marianne and Wilhelm for their many years of service setting up the bar and purchasing drinks and bar supplies. Tricia Nelson has volunteered to continue in 2018.

In addition to appointing a secretary to the board due to the vacancy left by Ute Nelson, we are preparing for November elections and accepting

nominations from now through the end of the November general meeting. We will be publicizing the election committee and the open board positions more in the coming weeks.

Our December meeting will elect some new board members for 2017. At the December membership meeting, we will combine a Saturday morning meeting with an afternoon Christmas event so plan to RSVP and come from **11AM TO 6PM ON DECEMBER 2**. On the next day, Ludwig's will have a Christmas Market in the Hall filled with local artisans, BBQ, and food in the Biergarten to ring in the holiday season so plan on spending the entire weekend at Germania.

I look forward to seeing you at the **GERMAN HERITAGE SOCCER NIGHT ON OCTOBER 22**. Tickets with tshirt are \$30. Call or email me at albertzimmer@yahoo.com. There are still many events that will bring us together as a community in the coming months.

Regards, Albert Zimmermann

Upcoming Events

Oktoberfest Membership Meeting

The October Membership Meeting we be a small Oktoberfest where we can enjoy our Würstchen und Brot together with beer. Join us on **OCTOBER 6 AT 7PM** at the room upstairs. Please bring your own "Stein" or glass/cup (we are also trying to eliminate trash). The **MEMBERSHIP MEETING** will start at **8PM** as usual.

General Membership Meeting and Christmas Luncheon

The December meeting will be combined with a Christmas Luncheon **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 AT 10:30AM**. Lunch will be served free to members. Entertainment by The Madrigals Acapella Choir. If a non-member spouse or house guest attends, the cost is \$15. **RSVP BY NOVEMBER 28** and give your check (made out to Germania) to Marianne or Hildegard, or mail it to the club. **YOU MUST RSVP TO ATTEND**. Call Marianne Grotheer at 408.253.5218 or Hildegard Wehner at 408.246.4644.

2017 Calendar

OCTOBER

6 Membership Meeting

NOVEMBER

3 Membership Meeting

DECEMBER

2 Membership Meeting
with Christmas Luncheon

9 Choir Christmas Concert

Department News

Choir

After our summer vacation break we are again getting organized to start our regular rehearsals. The highlight during our break was as every year our picnic at the beautiful residence of Nora and Chuck Elderton. With good food, entertainment and lively conversations we enjoyed a lovely day in the sun. The choir has again been invited to sing a few songs at the upcoming Germania Wiener Café. We just had our first rehearsal for this event practicing a few of our popular waltzes.

Officially our regular weekly rehearsals will start on **SEPTEMBER 12 AT 7:30PM**. Although Christmas is still long off, but for us it is time to start practicing for our popular **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**, held on **DECEMBER 9**.

Our choir has been quite successful entertaining the audiences over the years. But lately we saw a reduction of mainly male singers in our ranks. Some of our best singers retired from singing for personal or health reasons. We wish them good health and a good retirement. Now we are looking for new voices to carry on entertaining our audiences with traditional and also classical songs. All that is required is enjoyment making music. We always have fun.

Our weekly two-hour practices are held **EVERY TUESDAY EVENING AT 7:30 PM** in Germania Hall (sometimes upstairs). You can get more information about the choir from Edith Meyer 408.379.6540 or from me 408.255.2118

Manfred Trogisch

Dance Group

Please join us for more fun at our historic dance hall on **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, NOVEMBER 17, AND DECEMBER 15 AT 8:00PM**. If you're interested, you may view, review, practice on your own etc. via our channel on YouTube; search: "GVTA1" via the magnifying glass icon on the YouTube home page and enjoy.

Stay tuned for our meeting times, rehearsal information, and events. You may also reach us at 415.572.6490 or at germaniatanzgruppe@gmail.com.

Auf gehts! Stephen Goth

Carnival

Our group is on recess until next season in November. Stay tuned for more information about our **KARNEVAL TANZ AND KOSTÜM PARTY ON JANUARY 27, 2018**. Save the date and plan to attend!

Alaaf and Helau, Klaus Vorrath

Skat

We have had increased membership recently, but we are still looking for players who want to play this German card game. Anyone, experienced or not, is welcome to join. We are meeting on the **THIRD TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 7:30PM** upstairs and hope to see you there.

Gut Blatt, Klaus Glimski

Historical Society of Germania

Here I am, three years after I first announced the publishing of my book about the Germania Verein and the contributions of German American pioneers in Santa Clara Valley, now known the world over as Silicon Valley. Three years ago, I believed that the book was practically ready for printing.

Being inexperienced in this field and not knowing whom to turn to for help, I involved the expertise of an active member of the San Jose Historical Society, April Halberstadt. She was highly recommended, and I was thrilled to have her on board. She is, what I was told, very knowledgeable, efficient, and enthusiastic about Santa Clara County history. She is also very busy, being involved in the Historical Society, the Santa Clara Pioneers, the Museum, and the Preservation Action Counsel. All these organizations have worked to preserve and restore some of our pioneer homes, such as the Pfister block, Letitcia building, Greeninger house, James Lick Mansion, (formerly Lueck), Brohaska house, Frank house and others.

All the pictures that I had copied out of books, magazines, calendars and newspapers, cannot be used. We need digitized pictures, which can only be found in the archives. All of this takes time.

I felt I owed everyone an explanation for the delay, which is the reason for this note to you. It will get done, and you will be happy with the result.

"Was lange wert wird endlich gut." Look at the Symphony Hall in Hamburg.

Maria Brand

Schützen

Michael Brookman hosted the King party in August. Looking ahead, expect further announcements about Christmas on December 17, Grünkohl Dance on January 28, and the Schützenfest in 2018.

Gut Schuß, Werner Springer

Birthdays

September

Else Allmendinger
Ruth Angst
Christa Benson
Ilse Boldt
Helga Cihlar
Allan Dournaee
Elisabeth H. Felix
Irmgard Funk
Renee Hendriksz
H. Klara Kahlen
Guenter Knoop
Viola Kuchlenz
Mathilde Lucht
Irene Marahrens
Stephen Nelson
Ute Nelson
Susan Torngren
Heinz Wegener
Claudia Weller
Shakuntala Agarwal
Russell Kriegel
Andrea Feiner
Elizabeth Baur
Lothar P. de Temple
Mary Keller
Joe R. Gonzalez
Christopher Kohler
Tanif Stephenson



October

Robert Busse
Nora Elderton
Gerald W. Hunt
Aurel Keck
Herbert Knoesel
Ursula Knox
Dennis Mueller
Werner Neumaier
Rita Osman
Martin H. Schimm
John Herbert Wehner
Andrea Werle
Hugo Werle
Herbert Wolf
Peter Henry Zakel
Joseph Pfahnl

Club Contacts

Germania Verein

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Newsletter

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German Pioneers

Learn about our German ancestors who have contributed to this area since 1841. Visit www.germanamericanpioneers.org or contact Maria Brand at 408.270.4888.

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

Committee News

Sunshine

"Guten Morgen Frau Nelson!" "Guten Morgen Frau Kiel!" Those were the greetings we shared with each other over the phone around 8am almost every day for many years. At the same time we each drank a cup of coffee or tea, Ute nibbling on her favorite "Knaeckebrot", discussing the world news and our plans for the day. Even when on vacation we would talk at least once so that I could get my "Ute Fix".

Ute and I met when her daughters joined the German Saturday School of San Jose. She became a part of the group almost immediately. Her knowledge was uncanny; whenever we needed information, the first response was, "ask Ute". She was a living encyclopedia to all of us. When the board of directors resigned from the German School, the enrollment number was very low. Ute was part of the team that brought the school back to life; she later became the school president.

Ute loved children and brought homemade cupcakes almost every Saturday for the students. What a treat. Children of our Germania Family experienced her generosity on our picnics, when the ice cream cart came by and Ute treated the kids to some ice cream.

I shared wonderful luncheons at Ute's home, especially the stuffed pork loin, which is still on my menu. Her cherry crumb cake has always been a favorite. "Are you at home?" I would call her often when I was in her neighborhood, hoping - and not being disappointed - to be invited for lunch of German bread and cold cuts.

The birthday gifts she chose were always special. It was important to her that you would like her gift. Her generosity is legendary! At one occasion she actually sent a picture of a garden decoration she was considering to another friend for feedback, just to make sure the color would fit my garden before she purchased the gift.

Ute taught me how to use a computer, leaving her old one for me to use. Of course, I had to call her often and have her help me in correcting my mistakes. She was never too busy to help and encourage me.

Ute had a very generous heart! I will miss you, "Frau Nelson"...

What comes from the heart, goes to the heart.

Jutta Kiel

Membership

We are sorry to report that we have lost our long-time members, **CARL CONRAD** and **UTE NELSON**. We will miss them both.

Department News

Kaffeeklatsch

Our next meeting will be held on **OCTOBER 10 AT NOON**. See you there!

Edith Meyer

Language

We meet **EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY** at Hardy's in Sunnyvale. We have round table discussions where we practice our German skills, fluent or not. Please call me at 408.210.9491 for meeting times.

Albert Zimmermann

Strummers Ensemble

We are four Germania members who love to strum our instruments. If you would like to learn to play, or you can already play, the Ukulele, Mandolin, Guitar or any other strumming instrument, you should join us.

We meet **EVERY OTHER TUESDAY AT 6:30PM** upstairs. Please contact Sam Dougherty for more information at samdiii@gmail.com or 510.304.6070.

Breaking News

The city parking lot at 2nd and Devine is closed. We are working on a solution a couple blocks north of Germania to be advised. Thank you to Carl Schmidt for acting so quickly on this project. We continue to have access to the lot at the armory directly in front of Germania at least through the end of the year.

In Memoriam

Carl Conrad
Ute Nelson



Department Meetings

Carnival

Every 2nd 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 2nd Tuesday of the month at 12P.M.

Language Group

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

Skat

Every 3rd Tuesday 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 10A.M.

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

Germania Verein, Inc.
261 North 2nd Street
San Jose, CA 95112
www.germaniaverein.org

Ein Mensch sitzt tatenlos daheim
Und duselt gleich beim fernsehn ein.
Er spürt sein Innerstes bleibt leer,
Er könnte, wenn er wollte, mehr.

Ein anderer gar ist schon verzagt,
Weil Einsamkeit die Seele plagt.
Bevor er seelisch angeknackt
Sucht er den menschlichen Kontakt.

Fühlt jemand ähnliche Beschwerden?
Dem Mensch, dem kann geholfen werden!

Liebt er Musik und singt gern Lieder
Zur eigenen Freude hin und wieder?

Der sei gescheit und sei kein Tor
Willkommen ist er in unserem Chor.

Stets Dienstag abend um halb acht

Wird hier bei uns Musik gemacht,
Und ab und zu, das darf nicht fehlen,
"Ölen" gemütlich wir die Kehlen.

Drum gönn Dir, oh Mensch, eine gute Stunde
Und komm in unseres Chores Runde.

Denn eins ist sicher, daß wir uns freu'n
Im Germania Gesangverein.

Gedicht von Eugen Roth
überarbeitet von Manfred Trogisch,
April 2007



Wiener Cafe ~ August 20, 2017



