

March / April 2018

President's Message

Our Germania Verein was founded in 1856. Our founders, and their successors, learned that both organisms and organizations survive and thrive by being able to adapt to the changes in their environments; if not, they well understood they could become extinct. Our Verein, beginning in the wake of the Gold Rush, helped chart the growth of San Jose from a small but major agriculture-based city, the hub of "Valley of Heart's Delight" to the third largest city in California, (eclipsing San Francisco, Oakland and Sacramento), and becoming the hub of the world's technology community, Silicon Valley. During that time, as a community, we experienced the waxing and waning of the immigration of German speaking peoples; two world wars which significantly suppressed German language, culture and identity; assimilation of members and their descendants into the larger community; greater opportunities for travel and entertainment. Many German associations, clubs, organizations, and sports teams, in the Bay Area and elsewhere, lost their ability to adapt to change, then their relevance, and finally their membership. One by one they shuttered their doors. Yet, we adapted and thrived.

Today, we have a challenge. Over the past few years we have attracted some exceptional new members with extraordinary talents, essential to our future growth and development. Unfortunately, in too many cases we have lost them and often dismissed their departure with little reflection. The reasons for the losses are many and varied, and they must be understood before they can be effectively addressed. From my 20+ years leading and managing membership organizations it's clear to me the principle reason why members choose to leave or stay: their experience. Experiences, of course, are based on perceptions, not objective facts. A small sampling of reasons for leaving include perceptions of: resistance to change, dismissal of new ideas, dominant personalities, focus on process, adherence to unwritten norms, continual re-visiting of previously "settled" issues, relocation, and work conflicts. Most of these issues are under our control. However, I will be asking the leadership of each of our departments to evaluate and share their experiences in recruiting and retaining members, including reasons why they leave and why they stay. Our goal will be the more effective recruitment, induction and retention

of new members. Our founders did that and we can do nothing less.

On a related note, I recall several conversations with members about how they met their future spouse at a Germania event, usually a dance. At that time, many members were single, recent immigrants from a German speaking territory, and the Germania Verein was an ideal place to meet others sharing a common language, culture, and immigrant experience. Today, there are many young single and married couples in Silicon Valley on temporary assignment. They are expats with the plan of returning to their "homes" after their assignment. Some who are eligible may elect to settle here. Regardless of their longer term plans, I would like to see our Germania Verein offer them what we once offered others: the opportunity to meet and connect with others sharing the same language, culture and similar dreams. There is an opportunity for our Germania Verein to reestablish itself as a home away from home, a resource center for the extended German speaking community. We are reaching out to the German-speaking expat community to do just that.

Fröhliche Ostern! **Carl Schmidt, President**

Upcoming Events

March Membership Meeting Change!

The March meeting will be on **FRIDAY, MARCH 9, AT 8PM.**

Spring Dance Party

DATE: Saturday, March 24, 2018

TIME: Doors open 8 P.M.

INFORMATION: For more info contact Martina Keim at 408.250.5560 or martinakeimo13@gmail.com.

Schützenfest

DATE: Saturday, April 14, 2018

TIME: Doors open at noon, Lunch served at 1 P.M.

ADMISSION: \$40 per person

ENTERTAINMENT: Bill Blythe Band

TICKETS: Tickets are available from any Schützen member. Make checks to Germania Schützen Verein.

2018 Calendar

MARCH

- 9 Membership Meeting
- 24 Spring Dance Party

APRIL

- 6 Membership Meeting

JUNE

- 1 Membership Meeting
- 10 Vasona Picnic

AUGUST

- 3 Membership Meeting
- 12 Vienna Cafe

Department News

Choir

The month of January and February are always a busy time for the choir. The Pacific Singing Society has its yearly Sanger Kommers. This year this event will take place on the **THIRD OF MARCH IN ANAHEIM** hosted by the Phoenix Club. We have been busy practicing our program for this event. Because our pianist Peter Zackel is not available to accompany us, this time we will sing "a capella". This will be a great challenge for us.

Early in the morning on Friday we will board our bus at the Germania Hall for the long ride to Anaheim. The festivities will take place the next day. There will be nine choirs entertaining the guests. We all are looking forward to a wonderful event with music, good food, dancing, and meeting many old friends from the greater Bay Area and from the South.

Soon we will again prepare for our **SPRING CONCERT IN MAY**. Our program will feature old and well known music. So, mark your calendar for the 6th of May for this popular event. We hope to see you all there.

For more information about the choir please call Edith Meyer 408.379.6540 or me 408.255.2118.

Mit musikalischem Gruss, Manfred Trogisch

Music Ensemble

Our last meeting on February 3 went very well and we practiced our songs for the spring concert. We have a great Ukulele group and we are still looking for more people to join us with their instruments.

We have revised our practice time to **EVERY OTHER SATURDAY AT 12:30PM** upstairs. Our next meetings will be held March 3, 17, and 31.

Martina (for Sam)

"Where would the world be without music!"

Dance Group

On January 20, Brooke Ahrens, Stephen Goth, Nancy Mast, and James Zimmerman performed at the lovely clubhouse of the German-American Club of Santa Cruz for Winterfest. On **MARCH 9**, we will be performing at the **FAIRWOOD MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL IN SUNNYVALE**.

Our next three rehearsals at our clubhouse will be at **8PM ON FRIDAY: MARCH 30, APRIL 27, AND MAY 18**. For more information on the dance group abteilung, please visit us at: sites.google.com/view/tanzgruppe/home.

Auf gehts! Stephen Goth

Schützen

Members and friends had a great time and enjoyed the Kale dinner on the 28th of January. A big thanks to all that made the event possible and so enjoyable.

The Germania Schützen invite all to our **SCHÜTZENFEST** on **SATURDAY APRIL 14, 2018**. Doors open at noon, lunch at 1:00PM, Bill Blythe will play for our dancing pleasure starting at 2PM. Tickets may be purchased from Schützen members. Donation \$40 per person. Please make checks to: Germania Schützen Verein.

The regular meetings and target shooting are usually on the last Sunday of each month. Board meeting at 10AM, target shooting at 10:30AM, lunch at 12:30PM (bring some to share), and the membership meeting at 1:30PM. Guests are welcome.

Gut Schuß, Werner Springer

Skat

We are still looking for players who want to play this fun 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

Language

The Sprachabteilung will meet on the **FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH** upstairs in the Germania meeting room. Our next meeting is **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7 AT 7:30PM**. Please come and no RSVP required. We will have some German conversation (all ability levels welcome), start with introductions in German, and challenge ourselves with a crossword puzzle ... in German of course! I will share with you details about my recent Oktoberfest visit (the real one) and Salzburg. Tell us about your vacation. We will plan for future meetings.

Beer and soft drinks available for purchase and consumption on the second floor with German Club drink tickets. Alcohol purchased from the restaurant on the first floor must remain on the first floor.

I will bring some snacks to share or bring your own. You can purchase food from the restaurant. Non-members are welcome to "check us out" up to 3 times before applying for membership. We can help you become a member if interested. Please consider \$1.00 per meeting donation to Abteilung.

Albert Zimmermann

Birthdays

March

Swantje Agape
Lore L. Baur
Ingrid Bayne
Maria Brand
Marc Brodeur
Stanley Cheever
Amanda Cuva
Erwin Fritz
Klaus Glimski
Gail Haderle
Elfriede Hull
Undine Krauss
Marlen Meier
Patricia Nelson
Helen Neschen
Loretta Preisser
Sergio Ramirez
Hermann Rehmeyer
Ursula Richter
Gerhard Schlecht
Cecilie Springer
Werner Tams
Manfred Trogisch
Renate Wedel
Kay Weeks
Gaby Werner
Herbert Wipfler
Walter Worth
Nathan Yoder



April

Brooke Ahrens
Hildegard Boehringer
Siegfried Boldt
Evelyn Cheever
Beverly Choate
Hildegard Donner
Gerhard Gipner
Stephen Goth
Guenther Grosser
Melissa Guerrero
Gita Hartzheim
Emil Heyler
Ingrid Kohler
Otto Leidreiter
Edmund Loens
Monika Naslund
Gloria Nyberg
Kathryn Steele Schmidt
William Woodcock

Club Contacts

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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**

Department News

Carnival

Hello to all of our carnival friends. Once again we had a wonderful Karnival dance at Germania Hall. We want to thank all those attended and supported us and we hope all had a good time. We will now retire until the next Karnival season 2018-2019.

Alaaf and Helau, Klaus Vorrath

Kaffeeklatsch

1,2,3 im Sauseschritt läuft die Zeit, wir laufen mit. - W. Busch

Our meetings for the next two months are scheduled for **MARCH 10 AND APRIL 14**. Easter is somewhere in between and I hope you all have a lovely Easter holiday. No Easter brunch is planned, but maybe later in May a nice Mother's Day brunch.

I hope to see you all on March 10. Guests are always welcome.

Edith Meyer

Historical Society of Germania

Spring is almost here. I wish I could tell you that the book, "Germania San Jose/The Early German History of Silicon Valley," is ready to go to the printers.

Since I wrote to you last, a Mr. Michael French, who lives in Hawaii and is a direct descendent of Adolph Pfister, provided two family albums for us to use. Adolph Pfister was one of the founders of the Germania Verein. It was at a party in his backyard in Sept. 1865 that it was decided to incorporate the Verein, which was started in 1856. The album has pictures of other early, important members of the Germania, which we want to use.

April Halberstadt, who is the expert in putting the book together, attended the February monthly meeting. She informed the membership, that half of the book is completed.

We have also added statistics of how many German immigrants lived in Santa Clara County in 1852 etc. This all takes time. I know that time is running out. I am very anxious to finish the book.

It is not only up to me. I learned, there is more involved than writing a biography.

Be patient, we will get done.

Thank you, Maria Brand

Committee News

Sunshine

Numerous members of our Germania Familie need special "Sunshine"; the flu season has attacked a lot of our members and we hope that they are on the road of recovery. Some of our members had been hospitalized and are recuperating at home, our special "Sunshine" is also going out to you.

Thank you to our members who called me so that I was able to let our Germania Familie members know we are thinking of them and they are not forgotten.

We are looking forward to Spring with hope of rain and sunshine; getting together in our monthly meetings and club functions to enjoy friendship and laughter.

Truly great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave and impossible to forget.

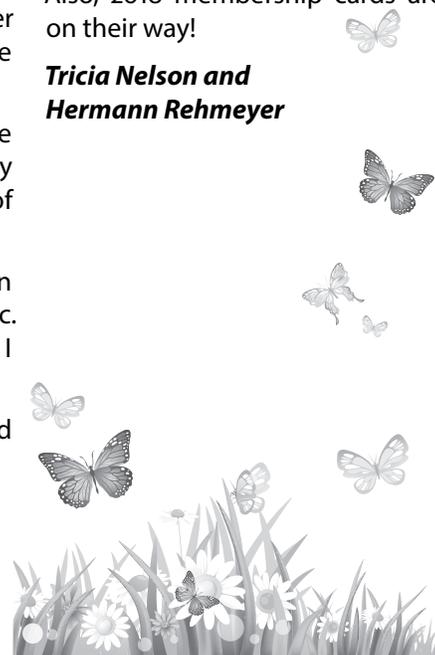
Jutta Kiel

Membership

A friendly reminder that your membership renewals are due! If you are having trouble or need more information, please feel free to reach out to Tricia.

Also, 2018 membership cards are on their way!

Tricia Nelson and Hermann Rehmeier



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 Saturday of the month at 12P.M.

Language Group

First Wednesday of month at 7:30P.M.

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
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www.germaniaverein.org

Frühlingsgedichte

Übern Garten dur die Lüfte
Hört ich Wandervogel ziehn,
Das beduetet Frühlingsdüfte,
Unten fängt's schon an zu blühn.

Jauchzen möcht ich, möchte weinen,
Ist mir's doch, als könnt's nicht sein!
Alte Wunder wieder scheinen
Mit dem Mondesglanz herein.

Und der Mond, die Sterne sagen's,
Und in Träumen rauscht's der Hain,
Und die Nachtigallen schlagen's:
Sie ist deine, sie ist dein!

~Joseph von Eichendorff, 1837

Germania Board of Directors



Front Row: Chris Rehmeyer, Tricia Nelson, Carl Schmidt, Dennis Mueller
Back Row: Laura Frazer, Carina Frazer, Sam Dougherty



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