

# German-American Club

"Zu jeder Zeit, an jedem Ort, sei frei das Lied und frei das Wort"

"In every hour, across every sea, let song and speech be free"

Spring Quarter

2019



#100027476

## Fasching

March 23, 2019

**Wear a costume! Win a prize! Play some games!**

***Carnival! Carnival! Carnival!***

**Enjoy the classic German food by Erika's Catering!**

BEEF ROULADEN, MASHED POTATOES

GREEN BEAN ALMONDINE

CUCUMBER SALAD w/DILL

ARTISAN BREADS & BUTTER

APPLE CAKE

- **Call early for reservations: Club number (831-420-2084), Doris Williamson (831-722-4476)**
- **Entrance and meal: \$20/member, \$25/nonmember**
- **Door opens at 6:00, dinner served at 6:30 (for evening socials)**
- **Buffet style, tableware provided**

# April Sunday Brunch

April 14, 2019

11:00-2:00

Enjoy our Sunday together!  
Please bring your appetite!



Menu by ERIKA:

**CREPE BAR**

Crepes

Fresh fruit

Array of Fillings & Toppings

Special Drink

Orange Juice, Coffee, Tea



May 18, 2019



MENU BY ERIKA'S CATERING:

**Paprika Chicken**

**Spaetzle, Vegetable Medley**

**Mixed Baby Greens w/Dried Cranberries & Apple**

**Artisan Breads & Butter**

**German Chocolate Cake**

And why not wear some May flowers in your hair?

**President: Traude Boisvert (429-5904)**

**Secretary: Desiree Popkin (319-6198)**

**Membership: Doris Williamson (722-4476)**

**Hall Manager: Rick Gubash (952-240-9527)**

**Newsletter: Dennis Reader (728-1988)**

**Vice-President: Desiree Popkin (319-6198)**

**Treasurer: Nancy Gubash (651-402-1694)**

**Trustees:**

**Kim Schultz (336-4562)**

## *Botschaft des Präsidenten/President's Message*

Dear Members and Friends . . .

Once again I wish to thank all of you who have supported the club by attending the monthly club functions. Special thanks to the members of the executive board who continuously give of their time and talents in many different ways for the good of the club, preparing interesting social activities, for example. Feel free to share any ideas you may have for future events.

Besides the usual fantastic menus, we have planned some fun entertainment for the next three socials (see previous pages). We hope to welcome you there, and if possible bring a friend and perhaps future club member.

Good health and peace to everyone.

*Traude Boisvert*

## *Kurzberichte/Board Briefs*

The club's executive board holds its business meetings at 7:30 pm in the club hall. These meetings normally take place on the last Monday of each month and are open to all members. Some selected board actions:

- ✓ **A special election was held after the regular board meeting in December 2018. See the top of this page for a list of the current 2019 club officials.**
- ✓ **2019 membership renewals are now past due. The amount is \$25.00 per person.**
- ✓ **Approval was given to purchase new interior lights, as well as new dining tables.**
- ✓ **From sales made at the club's Christmas Bakery Event, a \$100.00 check was donated to the Second Harvest program.**



## Vorschau/Preview

### Summer Break

**Mar. 23: Fasching. Doors open @ 6:00.**

**Mar. 25: Business meeting. 7:30 @ club hall.  
All members welcome.**

**Apr. 14: Sunday brunch. Club hall @ 11:00 am.**

**Apr. 29: Business meeting.**

**May 18: May Fest. Doors open at 6:00.**

**May 20: Business meeting.**

**June 15: no event**

**June 24: Business meeting.**

**July 29: Business meeting.**

**Aug. 26: Business meeting.**

**Sept. 21: September event.**

**Sept. 30: Business meeting.**

**Oct. 19: October event.**

**Oct. 28: Business meeting.**

**Nov. 16: November event.**

**Nov. 25: Business meeting.**

**Dec. 14: Holiday Celebration.**

**Dec. 16: Business meeting.**

## Info Ecke/Info Corner



**The next newsletter appears in September. For information in the interim, contact any board member.**

## Kinderbücher

Interested in having a child or young person experience a book in German? Our club's library has, for public use, a selection that covers all ages. They are available for loan. For more information contact: Dennis Reader at 728-1988.





# Cookie Bake

December 9, 2018



**This afternoon of  
cookie baking and  
tasting was not only  
fun, but raised some  
dollars for a good  
cause as well.**





# Christmas Social

December 15, 2018

The Ariose Choir both impressed and delighted us with their professional performance of Christmas music.





# Movie Show

January 20, 2019

7



**This big Movie Event had everything: a good mood, a good (bilingual) movie, even free popcorn and a tasty little meal.**



**(Left) One of these women is expecting. You guess.**

**(Right) Yes, the real "big" news on this day was the presence of Desiree Popkin. So she deserves a picture all by herself. Her own special event was on February 23, with the arrival of son Sander.**

**Congratulations to Desiree and Cameron and the new family.**





**Usually we learn history only from the printed page, or worse, from what films and television choose to show us. When we are lucky, however, there can be an opportunity to hear directly from those who lived important history. These eyewitnesses speak to a truth that is unfiltered by later reporting and later motives. It is pure personal experience and once lost by the passage of time disappears forever.**

**A few of these personal stories were told on this evening, basically concerning the effects of WWII on their lives. Our German-American Club of Santa Cruz, over the years since 1945, has collected among its members a number of men and women from Europe pushed here by the effects of that war. The causes behind their dramatic move thousands of miles from Europe to America vary with the individual, but each had to do with the new world created by the defeat of Germany and its allies.**

**In the immediate years following the war's end, at least twelve million Germans and "ethnic Germans" were forced from their homelands. It is estimated that about a million of them died during the process, the majority being women and children. These refugees came from far points on the European map: East Prussia, Pomerania, Silesia, Sudetenland (Czech Republic), Hungary, Romania, Yugoslavia, etc., all German territory or German settlements for up to eight centuries, today incorporated into other nations. While historians calculate that this transfer of people is the largest "ethnic cleansing" ever known, these facts are generally unknown by the public.**

## **Five Stories**



**Ines Marshall's family came from Silesia (today Poland) but as a young child she ended up in Berlin, in the western sector of that divided city, surrounded by what would become East Germany. Among her most vivid childhood memories is the period 1948-49, when Russia blockaded Berlin from the outside world and, in effect, attempted to drive out its former western allies by cutting off food, heating coal, and all economic activity. The threat was deadly serious to the German citizens. What followed was the remarkable Berlin Airlift, and the details of this daring and dangerous rescue are as important to Ines today as they were back then.**

**Fifty years after the airlift (1998-99), while here in our club, Ines found a special way to say "thank you" to the USA and its pilots for the commitment to Berlin. An earlier article in this newsletter reports on this thank-you event at the Watsonville airport. Ask for a copy of the article, if interested.**



**Traude Boisvert grew up in Austria as a teenager and young woman during the period, 1938-45, when Austria became part of the German Reich, called the Ostmark. As she expresses it, "For seven years I was a German." These war years were a politically and historically critical time, finally bringing air-raid shelters and bombing raids to Austria itself.**

**The Russian military, followed by the American, eventually occupied the land. In a story that is familiar to our German-American Club, Traude would meet and marry a U.S. serviceman. (Traude tells her story in an earlier newsletter article, which is also available.)**



**Betty Maugeri was born in Yugoslavia (from the region now known as Serbia) in an ethnic German community. As the war neared its end and the Yugoslav partisan fighters made life impossible for these German towns, Betty and her siblings with their mother and grandmother fled by train toward Germany. (During 1945-46 the Tito government executed thousands of these German families.)**

**Traveling northward through the countryside the train stopped to allow the refugees, packed into freight cars, to exit for a bathroom break, and the mother with two siblings could not return in time to catch the departing train. This left Betty, herself a young girl, with her even younger sister and their severely diabetic grandmother to continue alone to a refugee camp in Pomerania (then part of Germany, today Polish). It would be many months before Betty heard word about her mother. At the camp, Betty's grandmother became blind from lack of any diabetes medication, and then died from malnutrition. There were many deaths there. For what Betty witnessed at the camp, ask her in person.**



## Story Telling

February 16, 2019



**Martha Neumann, a long-time club member who will turn 100 years old in November 2019, could not be with us on this evening. An extensive newsletter story of her life is also available.**

**Martha was born in Silesia (Oberschlesien, then Germany, now Poland) and experienced as an adult the full tragedy of life and loss of home that can only happen when national boundaries are swept away. She married in 1943 and her husband, at the relatively older age of 36, was drafted into the German army. He would be sent to France shortly before the Normandy invasion and become captured. They did not see one another again until October 1946. Several of Martha's brothers died on the battlefield. As the Russian forces advanced westward, she and other family members fled with horses and wagon. An older brother who stayed behind was murdered, and in another incident a sister-in-law and 14 of her family and relatives, all in one room, all women and children, were killed.**

**After the war, returning to Silesia, the situation was risky to the extreme, and Martha with a niece make their way to a refugee camp in Germany. However to build an economic future in post-war Germany was a bleak prospect, with the result that Martha, reunited with her husband, decided to emigrate to the country of their former enemy, the USA, ironically being sponsored by an employer who had used her husband as a prisoner-of-war worker. So went the long journey from Silesia to Santa Cruz, California.**

---



**Else Wilson was another club member scheduled to speak during our Story Telling, but sadly, passed away shortly before that evening. As often happens, we wait too long to tell and hear our stories. Else did write down a lengthy record of her life, titled "Else's Memories," and gave a copy to the club's newsletter editor, and for doing this we thank her, and the document serves as a memorial to her. As Else herself declares at the start of her manuscript:**

**"Take this account as a gift to you, my sons and your children, to give you insight into years of happiness when we lived 'at home' (from the time of my birth to the year 1945 when we were forced to leave due to the outcome of World War II) . . . followed by . . . weeks on the open road, fleeing from the Red Army."**





**(Else Wilson, continued)**

**"Home" for Else had been the Sudetenland, an area along the southeastern German border, settled and developed over many centuries by ethnic Germans, who now comprised up to 90% of the population. The region became politically part of Moravia in more recent times, and then of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. At the end of WWI, with the defeat of Austria and Germany, the victorious parties pieced together an artificial nation called Czechoslovakia, and against major recommendations (except from the US) placed the Sudetenland inside its boundaries.**

**A promise was made by the new Czechoslovakian government that Sudeten Germans would have "autonomy," keeping their own language with job protections. In fact, the opposite of the promise happened, with severe discrimination following, which in turn created the resentments that Nazi Germany would put to good use. The tragedy was, that in 1938 when the British prime minister Neville Chamberlain came to Munich and in a famous/infamous "appeasement" agreed to Germany's annexation of the Sudetenland, this action was historically the right decision, but now too late to prevent a second world war.**

**When that second world war did come, at its end the Sudeten Germans suffered the same fate as ethnic Germans elsewhere, with three million of them expelled under conditions so brutal that the details are suppressed even today. (In a curious side note, Czechoslovakia as a "Protectorate" of occupying Germany had been spared the scale of destruction such as happened in Poland. It is the only European country whose financial standard of living rose during the course of the war.)**

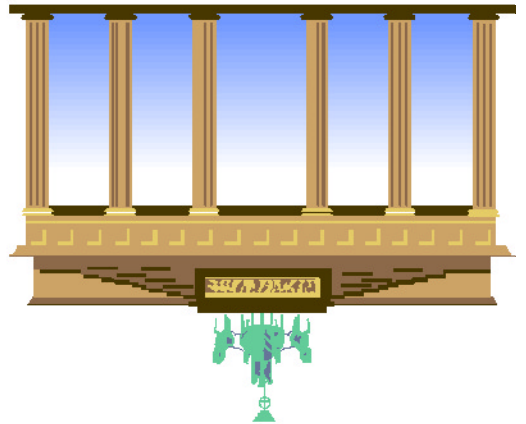
**As a young woman Else Wilson lived a personal life in the middle of unfriendly historical events, managing to keep alive those private everyday hopes that are human to us all. And surviving a path inconceivable to her as a child, Else joined us here in our land, far away from a lost Sudetenland, and we will remember her presence and company fondly.**

## German-American Club

230 Plymouth Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Mail:

P.O. Box 503  
Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0503



since the 1860s preserving German  
and European traditions  
in our community

*Membership Open to All*



See the newsletter in color at:

[www.germanamericclubasantacruz.com](http://www.germanamericclubasantacruz.com)

First Class Mail