



# EXCELSIOR GERMAN CENTER

Oakland, October 25, 2021

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[www.excelsiorcenter.org](http://www.excelsiorcenter.org)

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Dear EGC members,

Summer came and went fast, partially due to the fact that many of us finally were able to visit our families in Germany again. After our September board meeting, we decided to start in-person events at EGC in early December, and not have an in-person fall meeting just yet. Although more and more in-person events are now being scheduled in the Bay Area, meeting with a large group in a senior home before most of us had a chance to get a booster shot, and with the highly infectious Delta variant still widely spreading seemed too risky. Instead, we will again prepare a written report for you which will be ready to go out by November 14.

Part of the problem also was due to the fact that we were unable to connect with Eden Housing for months, so we could not secure Prior Hall for such an event. There has been an unusually large turnover at Eden Housing, but, finally, the organization seems to stabilize now. For future events which will take place on the Altemheim property, though, only persons which show proof of vaccination will be allowed to attend. For indoor activities mask wearing is also mandatory for now.

Back to the upcoming report: As is common at a fall meeting the report will contain a finance report, the proposed budget for 2022 (and a ballot for approval) as well as reports from our various committees. New EGC members will be approved at the November board meeting (Nov 15), so if you plan to sponsor somebody, please send in the applications now. Application forms can be obtained from any board member.

There are multiple events planned now in our German community: On Sunday, November 14, the annual goose dinner will take place at the restaurant Shelby's in Orinda. You may choose between an in-person dinner or pick up a goose serving to eat at your place, if you want to participate. More information about this "hybrid" event is given on the enclosed flyer. You will need to RSVP, it's first come first serve, so please contact Petra Kubler as soon as possible. This is the 15<sup>th</sup> year a St. Martin's goose dinner is being organized, and Chef Arno Kober always does a wonderful job. So, that's your opportunity to enjoy an authentic German meal which is rare to find in this area.

On November 17, there will be a movie event at the Shattuck movie theater in Berkeley, as part of the Autumn Show of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Berlin and Beyond Film Festival. Three movies will be shown (hopefully Fabian, the new movie after Erich Kaestner's famous book, will be one of them), and we will provide all details as soon as possible. EGC will secure a number of tickets, so please, stay tuned for information of how to claim them. And please, mark

your calendars for the Spring Berlin and Beyond Film Festival 2022 which will take place between March 25 and March 31.

On December 4 we wanted to reserve the Altenheim halls for the annual Christmas Bazaar organized by UGAS-EB. However, as we could only secure those halls recently, there wasn't enough time for the clubs to organize the event. Instead, we decided to have an EGC members' "Advent get together", likely on Sunday, December 5, with Gluehwein, coffee, homemade cookies, German Christmas songs etc. More information will be provided in the upcoming report. This will be our first in-person event for EGC members, and we hope that many of you will join us for an afternoon full of holiday spirit, food, drinks and good company. We will also sell some Christmas items!

A list of events taking place in early 2022 will be included in our upcoming report. (New Year's concert, Karnevals party and more) Also new, OTV now holds their choir practices in the Excelsior building. We welcome the choir and are looking forward to a successful collaboration. EGC's new book club meets on Saturday mornings, also in the multi-purpose room, and with time we want to add more events. The Berkeley Loge resumed their meetings, and UGAS-EB may start theirs in January again. If you want to reserve a room in our Excelsior building for a German cultural event, please contact Hannelore Avalos (hanneray@att.net or call the EGC office phone) to inquire about availability. Please, keep in mind that vaccinations are also required when using the Excelsior building for a group event.

Last, not least, please check out the EGC members' page on our website: [www.excelsiorcenter.org](http://www.excelsiorcenter.org) if you want to know more about what we've been up to. Recent additions include a farewell letter from our former Consul General Uli Suedbeck, and the first event – the raising of the German flag at the SF City Hall – of the new Consul General, Oliver Schramm. We keep videos, photos and letters on that website section which is reserved to EGC members only, and is updated frequently. In case you forgot, the member's page password is "D3utschm4chtSp4ss!" (use all symbols between the ").

Now on to writing the EGC fall report. As always, please let me / us know if you have suggestions or comments of any kind. There is always room for improvement, and we will do our best to accommodate everyone.

Bis hoffentlich bald, Ihre / Eure

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Petra Specht', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

(Petra Specht, on behalf of the Excelsior German Center Board of Directors)

