



EXCELSIOR GERMAN CENTER

1699 Excelsior Avenue
Oakland CA 94602
Tel: 510.530.4013
www.excelsiorcenter.org

Piedmont, December 23, 2024

Board of Directors

President
Petra Specht

Vice President
Petra Kübler

Secretary
Hannelore Avalos

Treasurer
Karl Pfeiffer

Members
Marlene Feuerstraeter
Nancy Grabow
Thomas Kronemeyer
Hilde Lorentz
Anthony J. Schaller



East Bay Weihnachtsmarkt, December 7, 2024 in the Altenheim

Dear EGC members,

What a year 2024 has been! In the last days I wanted to write to you one more time, talk a bit about our last event of this year, the East Bay Weihnachtsmarkt, and give you an outlook for the first months of 2025. I am sure that the event committee will produce an overview of most EGC events 2025 which will be distributed then at the upcoming spring membership meeting.

But first to our Weihnachtsmarkt: In the two years we have organized it at the Altenheim, with the Bay Area Kinderstube (BAKS), the East Bay German International School (EBGIS) and the Deutscher Musikverein of SF (DMV) we have seen it grow quite a bit. This year we had about 100 volunteers involved, over half of them from the two schools, but a significant number also came from our own membership. I am sincerely grateful for all the help we got from you, in early December and throughout the whole year. **We could not have done it without you!**

The live music, from the DMV, the various EBGIS children's groups and the Oakland Turnverein was a highlight for all, and although there are certainly still areas where we can (and will) improve our Christmas market has already grown into an event which is anticipated by many and will certainly bring us much needed attention in the general German community of the Bay Area, but also in our East Bay neighborhood.

Upcoming now is the **New Year's concert**, as always on **January 1st, at 2pm**, in the beautiful Community Hall of the Altenheim. If you want to attend, please contact Hannelore (hanneray@att.net or call 510-483-2573). Members only pay \$25, general admission is \$30. A few helpers to distribute the snacks or pour the "bubbly" after the concert are welcome.

Our **Spring membership meeting will be on Sunday, March 2nd, at 2pm.** With this letter you will also find the first notification letter from our new nomination committee. For the final location of the meeting (either Prior Hall or the Community Hall of the Altenheim) stay tuned, we will notify you ASAP. As in every spring meeting we will have board member elections in addition to reporting on general board members' and committees' business, so please mark your calendars and try to attend.

Last, certainly not least, our **135th anniversary** will be celebrated with a dinner event on **March 22nd**. More information to come in early 2025 from the event committee.

For the upcoming New Year I wish you peace, health and happiness and that we may enjoy many more events in our larger German American community together. I feel blessed having your permission to speak on behalf of our organization which has so many active volunteers in our German American community. Below, I copied a newer poem to the end of the year, for those of you who speak German.

Frohe Weihnachten, Happy Hannukah, Merry Christmas,



(Petra Specht, president of the Excelsior German Center at the Altenheim)
psspecht@sbcglobal.net 510-652-3911

Man müsste ... (von *Klaus-Gunther Häuseler*)

Meist ruhen zur Weihnacht die Alltagssorgen.
Der Mensch hält inne, blickt mit Andacht zurück.
Bevor er, wie oft schon am Neujahrsmorgen,
mit guten Vorsätzen erneut jagt nach Glück.

Man müsste Klavier spielen können,
wird zum Wunschziel erklärt ganz spontan.
Nur keiner gewinnt je ein Rennen,
das er bloß mit „Man müsste ...“ ersann.

Man müsste sich öfter bewegen
und so ein paar Kilos abschwitzen.
Doch gilt es, den Hintern zu heben,
statt stets vor der Glotze zu sitzen.

Man müsste mal großzügig spenden,
An „Brot für die Welt“ oder so.
Denn lediglich daran zu denken,
Stillt keinesfalls Hunger. Nirgendwo!

Man müsste versuchen auf Erden,
Für alle Zeit Frieden zu schaffen.
Nur daraus wird kaum etwas werden,
solange nicht schweigen die Waffen.

Man müsste doch glücklicher leben,
könnte vielerorts Freude machen,
würde die Dinge man endlich angehen,
statt im Modus „Man müsste ...“ zu lassen?

