



EXCELSIOR GERMAN CENTER

Piedmont, March 17, 2025

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Dear EGC members,

First, our whole-hearted THANK YOU for all who came to our spring membership meeting! We easily met our quorum (about 50 members were present, 48 signed in) and therefore could run the meeting with elections and other votes.

Board of Directors

President
Petra Specht

Vice President
Petra Kübler

Secretary
Hannelore Avalos

Treasurer
Karl Pfeiffer

Members
Robert Daubert
Nancy Grabow
Thomas Kronemeyer
Nakele Rechenauer
Anthony J. Schaller

At our meeting we elected two new board members: Nakele Rechenauer comes in with a strong background in handling internet tasks, and Robert Daubert, our youngest lifetime member, who will take on the supervision on garden and buildings maintenance tasks, in collaboration with Thomas Kronemeyer. Those two are replacing Hilde Lorentz and Marlene Feuerstraeter who both stepped down after decades of service to our organization. We cannot thank them enough for countless hours they spent, in service of the Excelsior German Center.

At the following board meeting on March 15 all officers were re-elected, all unanimously. We are all excited that with our incoming new board members we will be able to tackle more tasks, strengthen our visibility on the internet, revive "Das Buch", get a better oversight on needed maintenance issues throughout the Altenheim property and much more. I will report on our progress frequently.

Next on our agenda, however, are events! This coming Saturday we celebrate our **135th anniversary**, in the beautiful Community Hall of the Altenheim, **starting at 3pm**. We expect approximately 90 guests. At the event, some EGC volunteers will be recognized. We are preparing a few surprises, so stay tuned. Afterwards, we'll have a buffet-style dinner and the band Polkageist West, with our member Thomas Seiter, will play for our entertainment.

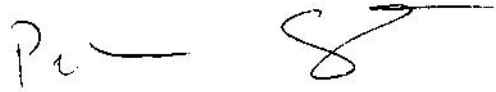
The following week the Goethe Institute is organizing the Berlin and Beyond Film Festival. It will be from March 27 to 29 in San Francisco, and on Sunday, March 30 and Monday, March 31, in **Berkeley** (the East Bay Festival). You can find all about the various movies, plus trailers on their website berlinbeyond.com. EGC is organizing a reception on Sunday, starting at 11.30am, in the restaurant Donato, across from the Rialto Cinema, on 2635 Ashby Ave, followed by the Youth movie "Der Buchspazierer" (1.30pm), then "Zwei zu Eins" (3.45pm). All EGC members are invited to join us at the reception!

Because EGC is a Premiere Sponsor for the Berlin and Beyond Film Festival our members can get free movie tickets. Please, check free ticket availability with Petra Kübler (petrakubler@yahoo.com or 925-586-0685), it's first come first serve. You will need to let her know which movies you would like to see. Tickets will then be available under your name at Will Call, at the respective theaters, in San Francisco or Berkeley. Please, also let her know if you want to come to the reception.

Last, certainly not least, we could not get the Community Hall on April 6 for the **Liedernachmittag**. Therefore, we unfortunately will have to cancel this event. All other dates throughout the year are confirmed with Eden Housing, except for a potential concert of the Gersthofener Blasharmoniker on Labor Day which will have to be moved to another date. For more information about their visit, I will write a separate letter as soon as we have a drafted program schedule available (visit is from Aug. 25 to Sep. 6, 2025).

To our website, excelsiorcenter.org: Some of you may remember that we have a members' site which can only be accessed by using a password. One can find former member letters, some pictures and videos, and soon also the slides from the last membership meeting there. So, please check it out, using excelsiorcenter.org/members-page/. **D3utschm4chtSp4ss!** is our member password. By uploading our membership meeting slides we intend to also give those members who no longer can come to our meetings an opportunity to read what we reported.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you at our upcoming 135th anniversary dinner. Enjoy the coming events and springtime in California, and if you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact any one of us board members.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Petra Specht', with a stylized flourish at the end.

(Petra Specht, president of the Excelsior German Center at the Altenheim)

My contact info: psspecht@sbcglobal.net 510-652-3911

