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East Sacramento News

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German Christmas market draws many vendors, guests to East Sacramento

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German Christmas market draws many vendors, guests to East Sacramento

By Lance Armstrong
vcneditor@gmail.com

After a two-year absence due to COVID-19 restrictions, a German holiday tradition returned to the Sacramento Turn Verein on Dec. 3 and 4, as this 168-year-old German club held its Christkindlmarkt event.

Christkindlmarkt is a German word that is translated as Christ child market.

Although held indoors at this local German club's East Sacramento headquarters, the event is traditionally an outdoor attraction in many towns in Germany and Austria.

The most famous German Christmas markets are held in Nürnberg, Dresden and Stuttgart, making them popular tourist stops. Each year, the Nürnberg and Dresden markets draw about 2 million visitors, and the Stuttgart market attracts more than 3 million visitors.

The local Turn Verein's Christkindlmarkt featured a variety of attractions, including arts, crafts, ornaments, cookies, cakes and German wines for sale, Christmas music, and opportunities to meet volunteers dressed as St. Nickolaus and Christkind, or Christ child.

This German market, which was first held 23 years ago at the Sacramento Turn Verein building at 34th and J streets, was a fundraiser for various Sacramento area charities.

Erika Gaspar, vice president of the Sacramento Turn Verein's Actives section, which presented the event, described the ambience of this Turn Verein's Christkindlmarkt.

"I think there's a magic here and there's a good will and a cheer that is recreated when you step into this place," she said.

Gaspar added that after two years of having this Christkindmarkt canceled due to the pandemic, many people were extra excited to attend this event.

"I just feel like people are so ready to get out and be back and be out and experience community and magic and wonder," she said. "And they found that here."

Greeting attendees near the entrance of the event on Dec. 3 was Pocket resident Ken Smarkel, who was playing the role of St. Nikolaus, and Land Park resident Adaleiz Ore, who was portraying the Christkind, who is depicted as a blonde, female, gift-bearing angel. Alexa Ore replaced her sister in the role of Christkind at this event on Dec. 4.

Smarkel shared brief details about St. Nikolaus.

"St. Nikolaus was a bishop in Turkey, under the Roman church, and he became the symbol of Christmas for a long time in Germany," he said. "And when Martin Luther came along, he wasn't happy with a church member representing Christmas. So, he introduced the Christkind."

Sacramento resident Irina Dychenko, who spent the earliest years of her life living in Ukraine, mentioned that she was impressed with this local German market.

"(The event) reminded me of Germany, when I went to visit Germany during the holidays there," she said. "They have a lot of (holiday-themed markets in Germany), in Italy, around all of Europe, (where one can) can come and shop, try some food, (meet) the natives. So, when I

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Photos by Lance Armstrong
Kristen Bowen, right, a longtime vendor at the Sacramento Turn Verein's Christkindlmarkt, and her good friend, Ute Lyon, show off stuffed Christmas characters at the event.



Elk Grove resident and German immigrant Rosemarie Davis works on a knitting project in her vendor's booth.

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Cover by: Lance Armstrong

German:

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saw that (this Turn Verein had a German Christmas market), I was like, 'Oh, I need to come here.'"

At that point during her shopping experience at the Turn Verein, Dychenko had purchased German wine and was en route to buy a bag of sugar-coated almonds.

Kristen Bowen, a longtime vendor at the Sacramento Turn Verein's Christkindlmarkt, told this paper that one of her favorite things to see at the event is the reaction of the children to the market.

"We love to see the kids and the families, and the little guys come around and their eyes light up when they see all the goodies around here," she said. "So, we enjoy it very much."

While knitting in her vendor's booth, Elk Grove resident Rosemarie Davis proudly told this paper that all of the items in her booth were handmade items.

"I started out with another partner and I just had a few items, and then over the years grew and grew," she said. "And I have included some antique items that are my family's and nobody wants to use it. And I'm going, 'Maybe somebody out there would like to have it.'"

Having grown up in Germany, Davis mentioned that she is naturally drawn to this Turn Verein's Christkindlmarkt. But she also stressed her pride in having become a Sacramento resident in 1962.

"I feel like a (Sacramento) native," she said.

Another vendor, Tom Martens, spoke about his hand-carved wood art pieces.

"I'm a repurposer of wood," he said. "And so, the (wood-carved) reindeer here, the wood is over 100 years old, harvested from my house down on 22nd Street," he said. "And the other projects are also from other projects. So, nothing has been purchased. It's just leftovers from cabinetmakers, from my project or something else."

Fair Oaks resident Hati Meier-King, owner of Oracle Oak Fine Arts and Crafts, described the items that were for sale in her booth.

"I have art prints and greeting cards, (which) are prints of different sizes of my

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Richard Hanson and Ginger Herte are pictured at the Sacramento German Genealogical Society's booth on Dec. 3.



The event included youth vendors, who operated the sugar-coated almonds booth.

'Winter Wonderland' at Fairytale Town
Dec. 17-18, 1 to 7 p.m.

Celebrate the holiday season at Fairytale Town with holiday lights, festive décor and vendors, snow, Santa, arts and crafts and more at Fairytale Town's Winter Wonderland event.

This fun-filled, family celebration is set for Dec. 17-18. Fairytale Town will be open special hours for the event from 1 to 7 p.m.

For more information, call (916) 808-5233 or write to mail.fairytaletown.org.

Holiday ballets
Dec. 17, 7 p.m.
Dec. 18, 2 p.m.

Sac Civic Ballet Company and Deane Dance Center will present two holiday, one-act ballets, "Christmas Angels," and a narrated version of "The Nutcracker" on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 18 at 2 p.m.

Tickets for these shows are $20 for adults and $15 for children, students and seniors. They can be purchased at the door or through the website, www.DeaneDanceCenter.com.

For additional information, call (916) 453-0226.

Special breakfast with Santa
Dec. 18, 8:30 to 11 a.m.
Santa will arrive at 8:30 a.m.

Pictures with Santa will be available at the lodge for $25 by digital download. Printed 4-inch by 6-inch photographs will be available for $5 each.

Menu: Pancakes, biscuits and gravy, sausage, bacon, scrambled eggs and cinnamon rolls.

Cost: Adults, $15, and children 12 and younger, free.

Due to the popularity of this event, the standard breakfast will not be served.

New Year's Eve Celebration
Dec. 31, 5:30 p.m. to midnight

Music by the Midnight Players and DJ at the lodge.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Prime rib dinner at 7 p.m.

Dance the night away with a balloon drop at midnight.

The cost for this event is $75 per person.

Call for tickets at (916) 422-6666.

CBS Neighborhood Concert Series
Jan. 8, March 12, 4 to 5 p.m.

Congregation Beth Shalom is offering concerts for all ages. Michael Neumann, artistic director emeritus of the Sacramento Youth Symphony and music director emeritus of the Folsom Lake Symphony is the host of this series.

Come and see world-class musicians perform live works from Mozart, Philip Glass, opera and Broadway.

Neumann will be facilitating a question-and-answer session after each performance, and a reception will be held after the performances with refreshments.

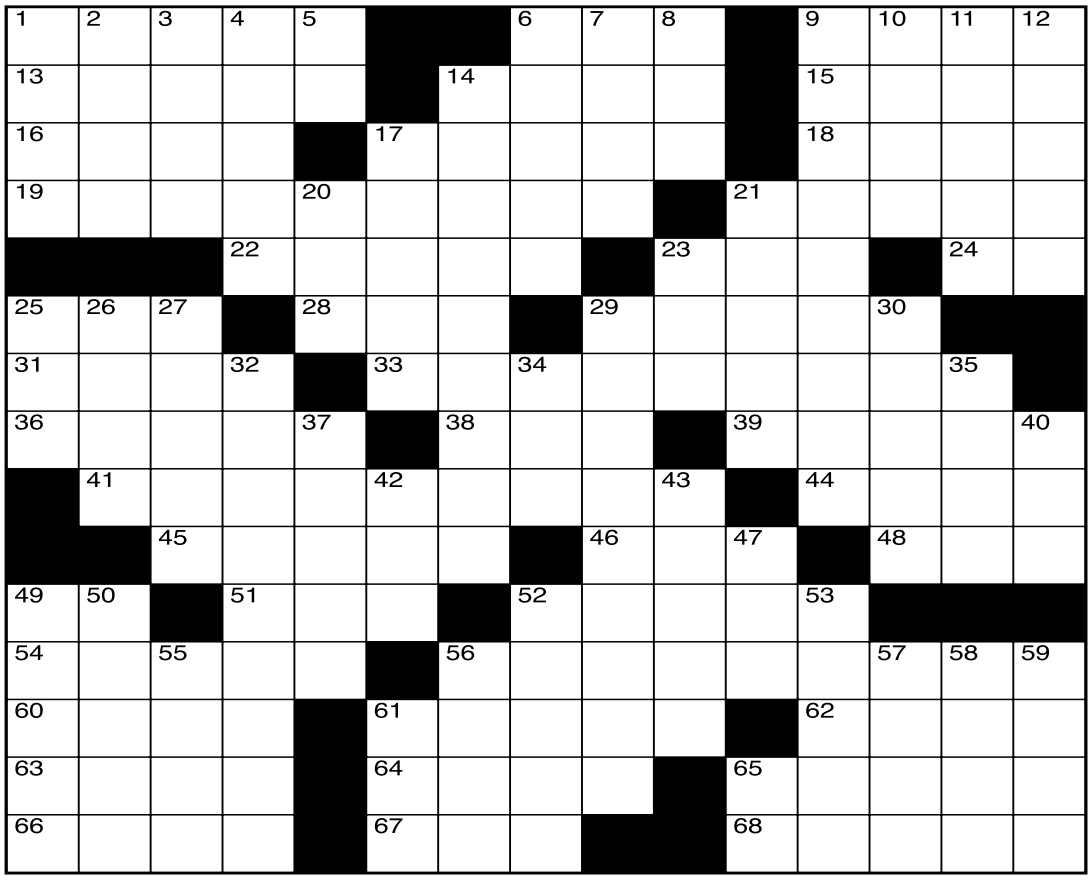
The event will be held at Congregation Beth Shalom at 4746 El Camino Ave. in Carmichael on Jan. 8 and March 12, from 4 to 5 p.m.

Ticket prices are $18 for families, $10 for adults and $5 for students.

Tickets can be purchased through the website, www.cbshalom.org.

For more information, call (916) 485-4478 or write to the email address, lorinalangan@yahoo.com.

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS
1. Take weapons away from
6. Soviet Socialist Republic
9. Most ancient Hindu scriptures
13. Actress Lathan
14. Baseball's strikeout king
15. British codebreaker Turing
16. One who lives by disreputable dealings
17. Tropical American plant
18. Opposite of right
19. Importance
21. Monetary units
22. Lawmen
23. Cool!
24. Affirmative answer
25. Thrust horse power (abbr.)
28. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
29. Muslim nobleman
31. About aviation
33. Scientific instrument
36. Protests strongly
38. Not polished
39. Grab
41. Alias
44. Large wrestler
45. Relative quantities
46. One who is big and awkward
48. Sunscreen rating
49. Atomic #90
51. Mock
52. Whales
54. Peoples
56. A state of being unclothed
60. Ottoman military commanders
61. Gatherer of fallen leaves
62. Norse personification of old age
63. Muslim mystic
64. German river
65. Measuring instrument
66. Have witnessed
67. Disallow
68. Proverb

CLUES DOWN
1. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
2. The back side of the neck
3. A type of imine
4. Black bird
5. Partner to "Pa"
6. Puts together in time
7. Lucid
8. Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
9. Demonstrates the truth of
10. Ancient Greek City
11. Nishi language
12. Slang for fidgety
14. Southwestern farmers
17. Metric weight unit
20. Instant replay in soccer
21. Less polished
23. Popular pickup truck model
25. Slang for a cigarette
26. Large pile
27. Solid geometric figure
29. One from the Big Apple
30. Male admirers
32. Balsam is one
34. Local area network
35. Canadian law enforcers
37. Koran chapters
40. Cooperstown, NY museum (abbr.)
42. Certificate (abbr.)
43. An official who carries a mace of office
47. Briefly in fashion
49. Volcanic ash
50. Dutch city
52. Made of wood
53. Legendary golfer
55. Restaurant
56. None
57. Spanish city
58. Stony waste matter
59. Father
61. Confederate soldier
65. The ancient Egyptian sun god

German:

Continued from page 3

original art," she said. "And then I have resin art, which is kind of hard to explain, but (various sized) fish bowls, no actual fish, just resin and paints. And then I also have a bunch of neat items from my aunt (Dorit Lang), who I shared the booth with."

Gus Perez, of Leo Peressi, a business offering alpaca goods, such as jackets, sweaters and scarves, spoke about one of the popular items at his vendor's booth.

"We have a baby alpaca swing coat," he said. "The body of it is baby alpacas, which is the first shearing of the alpaca. And then you have the collar and the cuffs of the coat that are removable, and those are the adult alpaca. So, they produce it for the hair. They don't just euthanize it. So, that's a great coat."

He added that his customers love the soft feel and the colors of this business's alpaca merchandise.

Ronin Richards and a woman who chose to only identify herself as Lindsay were volunteering their knowledge at the Sacramento Historical Fencing Academy's booth.

Lindsay said that people come from throughout the world to participate in this academy's tournaments.

Richard Hanson, who said that he is more Swedish than German, spoke about the Sacrmento German Genealogical Society at that organization's booth.

"This group is a genealogy club that helps its members and the public learn how to do German genealogy research," he said. "So, we're a bit of a specialty group. We specialize in German, but there's a lot of other groups in the Sacramento area that are what I call general purpose ones.

"For example, (there is the) Ruhstaller (club). They all kind of have their own little turf, and Ruhstaller's turf is in eastern Sacramento County. They're broader. So, they don't specialize in a particular area. But they do basically the same thing."



Ronin Richards, of the Sacramento Historical Fencing Academy, poses with a German long sword at the event.

Fe Gallery permanently closes

Fe Galley closed its doors for the final time on Dec. 1.

This announcement was made through the website of this gallery, which operated at 1100 65th St.

Millie Porter, owner of Fe Gallery, noted through the website that the decision to close her business was "not easy."

"It was time for me to move on to the next stage of life," she wrote. "Over the years, I enjoyed the relationships with our talented group of artists and art-loving customers.

"It has been a wonderful experience, and I will take all the beautiful memories with me into retirement. I can't thank our loyal customers and talented artists enough, without whom this journey would not have been possible."

Porter added that she will keep the gallery's website, www.FeGallery.com, active for "the following year."

Puzzle Solutions

U	N	A	R	M	■	■	S	S	R	■	V	E	D	A
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A	G	A	S	■	R	A	K	E	R	■	E	L	L	I
S	U	F	I	■	E	D	E	R	■	R	A	D	A	R
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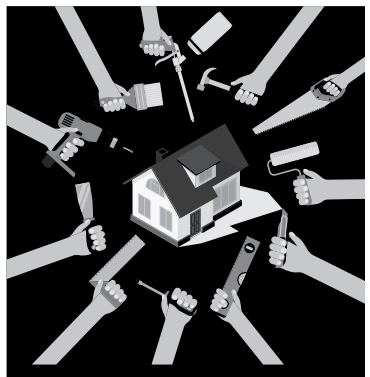
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