



Holiday Sing-Along with John Hoffacker

Online event | Friday, December 18 | 6 PM

Everyone has a favorite holiday tradition, meal, or beverage, and most of us also have favorite carols to mark the season. You can brush up on your German favorites at our online Holiday Sing-Along. Led by Minnesänger Director John Hoffacker from the grand piano at the GAI Haus, this event will lift your spirits and exercise your lungs! Bring a festive beverage or a plate of cookies and sing along to holiday favorites including *Leise rieselt der Schnee*, *Es werd scho glei dumpa*, and *Alle Jahre wieder*. Song sheets will be available on the GAI website.

After registration, we will send you a Zoom link which will be live at 6 p.m. on Friday, December 18. Register at gai-mn.org/Singalong



A short history of German nutcrackers

Nutcracker figures originated in late 17th century Germany, particularly the Erzgebirge. Decorative nutcracker dolls began being popularized outside of Europe after the Second World War, when American soldiers stationed in Germany came home to the United States with German nutcrackers as souvenirs.

Further popularization came from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* ballet, an adaptation of E. T. A. Hoffmann's story *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*, which features a toy soldier nutcracker as the main character. The ballet became a holiday tradition and helped make nutcrackers a Christmas decoration and a seasonal icon across Western culture.



EVENTS

DECEMBER 18
Online Event | 6 PM
Holiday Sing-Along with
John Hoffacker

DECEMBER 23–JANUARY 3
GAI closed

WINTER CLASSES

ADULTS
DECEMBER 1
Winter Session registration opens

JANUARY 11
Winter Session begins

KIDS
DECEMBER 1
Samstagsschule registration opens

FEBRUARY 6
Winter Samstagsschule begins



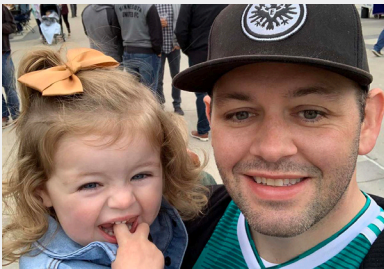
Give yourself or a friend the gift of language learning in 2021! More information about our adult classes at gai-mn.org/winter2021.

Why I give... ANNUAL FUND 2021



I give to the GAI because while I can't always go to the German-speaking world, having a connection to language-learning and cultural events brings the feeling of the German-speaking world to me.

Scott Bentrup, Board Member



I give to the GAI in order to help continue the world-class educational opportunities, authentic cultural events, and the global stewardship they provide in our community. Through these efforts, they help make our community and the world a better place!

Miles Eakins, Board Member



I give to the GAI because I strongly believe in our mission to connect people to a broader world through German language and culture. Learning German opened the world to me and changed my life, and it is so rewarding to help the GAI offer these opportunities to future generations.

Erin Hart, GAI Director of Communications and Development



I give to the GAI because I believe in the value of learning a second (or third or fourth!) language in one's lifetime. The GAI does a phenomenal job of making the German language accessible to everyone from preschool age children to school-age kids to adults of all ages. At a time when many high schools and universities are cutting German from their language-learning options, the GAI is here for all who want to learn this beautiful and fun language.

Krista Ostrom, GAI Development Coordinator



I give to the GAI, because I believe so strongly in its ability to bring people together to enjoy, learn and celebrate German language, culture and programming. It's a cultural jewel that is so deserving of my generosity for the many ways it has enriched my life. There truly is no other place like it.

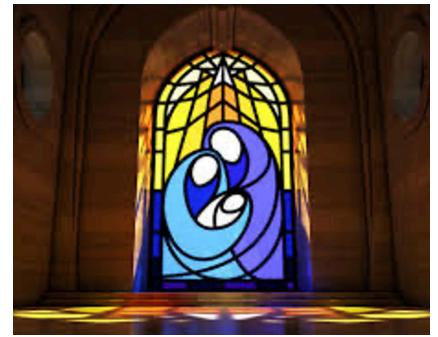
Nancy Zinter, Advisory Board Member

How to donate

You can donate to the Annual Fund online at gai-mn.org/AnnualFund or mail your contribution to the GAI.

Employer Matching Gifts

Many companies and organizations offer matching programs—3M offers matching for employees and retirees. Check with your employer this year and double your impact!

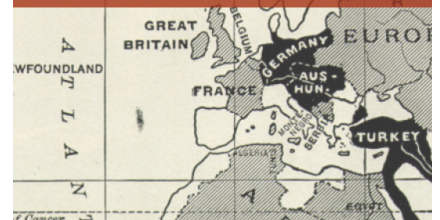


PARTNER EVENTS

Online: *Adventsgottesdienst* German Ecumenical Service

This annual tradition at St. Paul's United Church of Christ includes hymns, liturgy, readings, special music, and a short sermon *auf Deutsch*. This year the service has been prerecorded and is available on St. Paul's church website during the Advent season.
spucconsummit.org

TRANSATLANTIC CHAPTERS: An Exploration of German-American Connections



The Transatlantic Chapters series available online

The *Stars and Stripes over the Rhine* exhibit will be moving on, but the *Transatlantic Chapters* series of talks and the *Stars and Stripes Over the Rhine* film are available on GAI's YouTube channel for those who missed them.
gai-mn.org/chapters

WINTER SESSION

German language classes

WE LOVE BEGINNERS

START—Beginner German classes begin January 11, 2021

Treat yourself or a friend to the gift of language learning in 2021. Held online, our immersion-style START 1-2-3 beginner classes will put you on the road to a solid foundation in German.

More information and registration at gai-mn.org/winter2021

Intermediate and advanced classes

Expand your language and cultural horizons this January! Build your speaking, reading, writing, listening comprehension, and grammar skills with our fun and interactive classes, taught by experienced instructors via Zoom.

More information and registration at gai-mn.org/winter2021

Samstagsschule

German Classes for Kids



Samstagsschule

German Classes for Teens



FUN AND LANGUAGE LEARNING FOR KIDS AND TEENS

Online Samstagsschule—Saturday School begins February 6, 2021

GAI's creative and experienced language instructors make Samstagsschule a fun and interactive way to learn German. Online classes for ages 4 through 18 will return in February. Beginning to advanced levels are offered for all ages.

More information and registration at gai-mn.org/kids

HAUS & GROUNDS

Saturday work sessions on hold

Because of the recent increase in COVID-19 and with outside work completed, we have decided to pause our regular Saturday work sessions. Instead of scheduled work sessions, we will contact individuals as needed for specific projects. If you would like to be on the "call list", contact Jim Gruetzman at jgruetzman@gai-mn.org.

LANGUAGE PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES



Join the Hier & There podcast team for another voice from Germany today. Our host Günther leads a conversation with Julia Hart, an independent theater director and educator living in Hamburg. Julia recently directed a play at the Lichthof Theater in Hamburg about the U.S. elections, receiving media attention across northern Germany. She also discusses life as an American "expat", the theater scene in Germany during COVID, and more! Listen at gai-mn.org/Podcast



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Wishing you and yours
all the best during
the holidays



Frohe Weihnachten