



*New Year's Eve fireworks light up the sky over Cologne, Germany, looking over the Rhine River towards the cathedral and center of the city.*

## New Year's Traditions in Germany

You may have heard the expression, "*guten Rutsch ins neue Jahr*", which literally translates to "have a good slide." Here are a few traditions that Germans enjoy to laugh, blast, or toast in the new year.

### Offer lucky charms

Don't be surprised if someone gives you a *Glückspilz* (lucky mushroom), ladybugs, four-leaf clovers and or a little pig. This means that they wish you good luck in the new year. (The word *Glückspilz* is also used to refer to a lucky person.)

### Prepare a big bowl of *Bowle*

*Bowle* is a German word for punch. For many Germans, this is a must-have party drink on New Year's Eve, typically combining fruits, alcohol and juice. (Caution if trying another holiday drink, *Feuerzangenbowle* (fire-tongs punch, at right), a hot mulled wine that is set on fire.

### Laugh with the cult classic *Dinner for One*

In 1963, a British sketch, *Dinner for One*, was broadcast for the first time on German TV—and has been aired on December 31 for many years, becoming the most frequently repeated TV program ever. In the sketch, an aristocrat woman celebrates her 90th birthday; her butler, covering for her absent guests, drinks too much wine, repeating "the same procedure as every year."

### Listen to the chancellor's New Year's speech

Angela Merkel has held many already: The chancellor's New Year's speech to the nation has been broadcast on December 31 since 1969. The speech can sound very similar from year to year—sometimes more literally than others. In 1986, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's address from 1985 was re-aired instead of the new one, allegedly "by mistake."

### Start the New Year with a bang

In Germany, consumer fireworks can be legally sold the last three days of the year, to be lit on the big night. Traditionally, loud noises were believed to drive out evil spirits.

Source: *DW.com*

## EVENTS

DECEMBER 23–JANUARY 3

GAI closed

Check out events you may have missed on the GAI's Youtube channel [www.bit.ly/2X2xq5n](http://www.bit.ly/2X2xq5n)

The GAI year in review—by podcast! Find current and past episodes of *Hier & There* at [www.gai-mn.org/podcast](http://www.gai-mn.org/podcast)

## WINTER CLASSES

ADULTS

JANUARY 11

Winter Session begins

KIDS

FEBRUARY 6

Winter *Samstagsschule* begins

Summer camps registration opens in January



# Why I give... ANNUAL FUND 2021



I give to the GAI because GAI classes provide the most entertaining and enjoyable path for learning the German Language.

*Maiken Givot, GAI member and volunteer*



It is a pleasure to meet other students with a similar interest while supporting our excellent local native German-speaking instructors.

*Brad Givot, GAI member and language student*



I give to the GAI for the fantastic German language resources, and a strong mission of education and cultural exploration. The GAI is a valuable resource for connecting people and communities.

*Gary Shipp, GAI Board Vice Chair*



We appreciate the many facets of German culture, language, and modern life that the GAI nourishes through its wide range of programs. We are proud to belong to the Legacy Society and to support the Annual Fund.

*Dr. Paul and Joyce Riedesel, GAI Legacy Society members*

## How to donate

You can donate to the Annual Fund online at [gai-mn.org/AnnualFund](http://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!

### What is the GAI Legacy Society?

GAI Legacy Society members donate or pledge a minimum of \$5,000, or have remembered the GAI in their estate plan. Donors may choose to allocate their gift to specific funds, including Haus & Grounds, Education, Operation and Cultural Programming, and Endowment.

For more information about the GAI Legacy Society, please contact Krista Ostrom at [kostrom@gai-mn.org](mailto:kostrom@gai-mn.org) or call the GAI office at 651.222.7027.



## German Genealogy RESOURCES

### GGG Library at Concordia University

The German Genealogy Society (GGG) library collection, which is housed at Concordia University in St. Paul, has more than 2500 books and periodicals relating to German genealogy. It is a non-lending library, so items may only be used on site. Contact the library at [www.library.csp.edu/home](http://www.library.csp.edu/home) for hours or call 651.641.8237 before your visit. More information at [www.bit.ly/3apyiZi](http://www.bit.ly/3apyiZi)

### Free Genealogy research webinars

The Germanic Genealogy Society is offering free monthly webinars about research and other topics. On Thursday, January 14, Kim Ashford will talk about doing research online. Find more information at [ggsmn.org](http://ggsmn.org).

### International Conference

The International German Genealogy Partnership (IGGP) 2021 conference will be holding a virtual conference this July. With the goal of uniting German genealogy researchers worldwide, the IGGP facilitates German genealogy research globally as the internationally recognized federation of German genealogy organizations. Find more information about the 2021 conference at [www.igpp.org](http://www.igpp.org).





# START 1-2-3

## German for Beginners

### RESOLVE TO LEARN GERMAN IN 2021

#### START—Beginner German classes

It's easy to get started in German. Our immersion-style START 1-2-3 beginner classes will put you on the road to a solid foundation in German. All classes are online and begin the week of January 11. *More information and registration at [gai-mn.org/winter2021](http://gai-mn.org/winter2021)*

#### Intermediate and advanced classes

No worries about snow days—you won't miss a moment with our online classes. 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](http://gai-mn.org/winter2021)*

LANGUAGE PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES



## Samstagsschule

German Classes for Kids and 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](http://gai-mn.org/kids)*



### HIER & THERE

Podcast topic: Help Wanted in Germany

### 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](mailto:jgruetzman@gai-mn.org).

Germany is hiring  
What would it take to apply for a job in Germany? Host Günther interviews Michaelle Nintcheu of the Make it in Germany portal, a source of information from the German government about job opportunities in Germany. Topics include the labor market, looking for employment in Germany, the visa process, and more. Listen at [gai-mn.org/Podcast](http://gai-mn.org/Podcast)



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**Language Services**

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**Kinderstube German Immersion Preschool**

Director's phone: 651.353.5147 | preschool@gai-mn.org  
kinderstubepreschool.org

**Connect with us!**

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### GAI's Kinderstube offers distance learning



**Kinderstube**  
GERMAN IMMERSION PRESCHOOL

The GAI's Kinderstube German Immersion Preschool has started offering a distance-learning program for currently enrolled families who prefer this format during the pandemic. Students have daily virtual check-ins with teachers and friends, and keep busy with fun German-learning activities at home!

Sadie, a member of the Kinderstube *Sterngruppe* (star group) distance learners, shows her sink or float experiment. She had fun with this science activity at home after watching online content created by Herr Vincent! Sadie's mom says, "Sadie was surprised when her orange floated even after she peeled it!"

For more information contact [kinderstubeadmin@gai-mn.org](mailto:kinderstubeadmin@gai-mn.org)