



### CALENDAR

Check the GAI website for upcoming online events

### ADULT LANGUAGE CLASSES

Current language classes are being taught online in live video format during the GAI closure. Registration is open for these classes:

Deutsch@home! (online only)  
START Beginner Classes  
Spring Spezial

### FOR KIDS AND TEENS

Summer camps registration is open

## How is the Germanic-American Institute weathering the COVID-19 crisis?

Dear friends,

You are likely wondering how the charities and non-profits you engage with, including the GAI, will survive a shutdown and massive economic downturn. With cautious optimism, I can say that the GAI is in a strong position to not just survive, but be back in full operational mode as soon as we are permitted to do so.

As executive director for the past 14 years, I have had the privilege to hear stories of our ups and downs from members who have been part of the community for over 60 years. Each story reinforced for me that the GAI has been built on an incredible legacy of strength, generosity, and a healthy dose of German thriftiness. The importance of saving is built into our DNA, and we have tirelessly monitored our spending and expenses to build up financial reserves for times exactly like those we now face.

We also roll up our sleeves and tackle whatever job is to be done, from those founding members who in 1965 hauled coal out of the Haus cellar to turn it into the Rathskeller, to the current volunteers who haul tables upstairs, pour beer, and rake the lawn. Our entire teaching staff, including the Kinderstube preschool, pivoted overnight to continue to offer our classes in a fully electronic format. And during this crisis, our board of directors tirelessly strategizes on how we can continue to keep our staff employed while meeting all of our financial obligations. Apparently hard work is built into our DNA as well.

I am so proud to be part of the GAI legacy, as is each one of you as member, student, volunteer, or donor. As Germany and the U.S. are "stronger *zusammen*," so is the GAI community. Thank you for your continued support.



P.S.: Please call the office at 651.222.7027 and leave a message if you have questions or concerns. We will get back to you!



## HONORING HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY



Host Mindy Ratner interviews Robert Fisch and Lucy Smith as part of *Kaddish: Reflections on the Holocaust in Music and Words*. Photos courtesy of MPR.

**To honor Holocaust Remembrance Day, or “Yom Hashoah” on April 21, the GAI is offering special online programming to the community that will be available throughout the month.**

### **Kaddish: Reflections on the Holocaust in Music and Words, by MPR Classical Music host Mindy Ratner**

*Available online at [gai-mn.org/Kaddish](http://gai-mn.org/Kaddish)*

Mindy Ratner has gathered a collection of conversations with some of those touched directly by the Holocaust and those conversations form the basis of *Kaddish: Reflections on the Holocaust in Music and Words*. Mindy’s guests include Theodore Bikel—actor, singer, social activist and master storyteller—who came to the Twin Cities in June 2013, and longtime radio professional Martin Goldsmith, plus members of our local community with stories and insights to share.

Weaving together the conversations are musical selections ranging from Maurice Ravel’s “Kaddish” from *Two Hebrew Melodies* to Lukas Foss’ “Elegy for Anne Frank” to Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco’s “Melancholia.”

Listen and view photos from the stories and interviews at [gai-mn.org/Kaddish](http://gai-mn.org/Kaddish).

*Mindy Ratner is a host and producer on the Classical Music Service of Minnesota Public Radio, where she is heard on weekends. Her spare time is devoted to international travel; folk, ballroom and contradancing; singing in the Minnesota Chorale; her two cats, and trying to stay ahead of the weeds in her garden.*

### **Hier & There podcasts**

*Listen at [gai-mn.org/podcast](http://gai-mn.org/podcast)*

GAI podcast host and language instructor Günther Michael Jahn recently interviewed MPR Classical Music host Mindy Ratner about her *Kaddish: Reflections on the Holocaust in Music and Words* program. Later in April, look for a new interview with author, Holocaust survivor, and friend of GAI, Fred Amram. For further listening, the Hier & There podcast catalog now boasts 28 episodes!



Mindy Ratner



Fred Amram

“The GAI’s commitment to programming of this nature is something I find quite inspiring, demonstrating that the terrible events and consequences of the Holocaust are not forgotten, and can be approached in a dignified and respectful fashion.”

—Mindy Ratner



**NEW ONLINE: Join us for Deutsch@home!**

Registration is open | Classes begin in April

The GAI is offering a new series of online-only classes beginning in April.

Read a German *Krimi* (who-dun-it), practice conversation, or discuss articles from *Deutsch Perfekt*. For Advanced Beginner to Intermediate levels.

Register at [gai-mn.org/Deutsch@home](http://gai-mn.org/Deutsch@home)



**START your German language learning journey here**

Designed for adult students with little to no German skills to students who have completed up to 9 months of German study. You'll get a solid foundation with our fun, immersion-style curriculum.

Register at [gai-mn.org/START-Beginner](http://gai-mn.org/START-Beginner)



**Our language classes will put a "spring" in your step**

Spring Spezial includes an 18 week class for advanced beginners and for advanced students, an *Oberstufe Leistungskurs* for poetry lovers: *Von Goethe, Grass, und Grönemeyer—Gedichte*.

Register at [gai-mn.org/Spring-Spezial](http://gai-mn.org/Spring-Spezial)

**COVID-19 accommodations for language classes**

All current language classes are being taught online in live video format during the GAI closure. Most classes will return to the Haus when the GAI reopens.

**Discounts and payment plans**

We want you to continue your language studies! To help those who may be dealing with income reductions, the GAI is offering special discounts, payment plans, and scholarships for START and Spring Spezial classes. For more information, contact Language Services at [language@gai-mn.org](mailto:language@gai-mn.org) or leave a message at 651.222.2979.

**GAI events update**

All April and May events have been cancelled, postponed, or moved online. Look for an update on June events including Deutsche Tage in the May newsletter.



**SUMMER CAMPS!**

Kids explore themes including the environment, STEM, cooking and baking, and arts & crafts, while learning some German.

For ages 5 to 13.

[gai-mn.org/Summer-Camp-2020](http://gai-mn.org/Summer-Camp-2020)



**INTERVIEWS**

Host Günther Michael Jahn interviews MPR Classical Music host Mindy Ratner and writer and Holocaust survivor Fred Amram in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Listen at [gai-mn.org/Podcast](http://gai-mn.org/Podcast)



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301 Summit Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55102  
gai-mn.org

**GAI Office**

Staff offices located on 2nd floor of the Haus  
Phone: 651.222.7027 | Fax: 651.222.6295  
office@gai-mn.org

**Language Services**

Phone: 651.222.2979 | language@gai-mn.org

**Kinderstube German Immersion Preschool**

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

**Connect with us!**

Facebook: @GAIMN  
Instagram: @GAIhaus  
Twitter: @GAIMN

**Kinderstube German Immersion Preschool Goes Online**

Our Kinderstube German Immersion Preschool recently had to close in response to public health guidelines for school closures during the COVID-19 outbreak, but our amazing team quickly brought Kinderstube home to our families and students. Every morning, Kinderstube families wake up to an email message with printable materials and videos from their teachers to continue learning and discovery *auf Deutsch* at home. With art, songs, stories, nature, and even baking activities, our youngest learners are keeping busy with their teachers and friends virtually. We can't wait to see everyone back at school soon!

*Kinderstube is still accepting enrollment for Summer and Fall 2020. Please visit [kinderstubepreschool.org](http://kinderstubepreschool.org) for more information.*



*Evy (Minneapolis Kinderstube student) follows along with a counting activity video her teacher Frau Johanna prepared.*

