



## A Note from our Board Chair

Dear Friends of the Germanic-American Institute,

First, sending healthy thoughts to our entire community as we weather the storm of COVID-19 and the impact on our daily lives. As a group of people with a connection to the global community, I believe we have a unique perspective on our current situation.

I for one am lucky enough to have friends and family in Europe and it is so heartwarming to see the amazing stories of humanity—from joyful singing from balconies in Italy to communities in Spain giving their healthcare workers a standing ovation as they go home for the night. Closer to home, the outpouring of community spirit in our neighborhoods is equally heartwarming. I believe that we show our true selves when times are tough; and I am personally heartened by the outpouring of humanity all over the world.

For an organization like ours, this pandemic brings a need for immediate problem-solving related to all of our offerings, but also has far-reaching implications. We have always taken a long-range and fiscally conservative approach to our planning, but even the best-laid plans could not contemplate the effects of a global pandemic.

I am overwhelmed with gratitude for our incredible leadership and staff at the GAI. Despite the uncertainty of what lies ahead, they are acting rationally, making nimble but informed decisions, solving problems with intelligence and creativity, and exhibiting a level of humor and grace under pressure that is an inspiration. And through it all—with pressing issues presenting themselves daily—they always make time to think about how they can be helping our community. What an honor it is to serve an organization with so much heart. I am so confident that we will emerge from this unprecedented time stronger than ever.

But of course, our GAI community goes well beyond the staff. It's all of you too—our treasured members, students, and partners. We are so lucky to have you as part of our organization and you are our greatest resource. And we want to hear from you! If you have time, will you send us a note?

*We'd love to hear*

- How are you doing generally?
- Is there anything the GAI could be doing to help support you personally?
- What would you love to see the GAI do to continue to connect with our membership and community during a time of social distancing?

You can drop a note into the mail to the GAI or email me directly at [dhoffmann@gai-mn.org](mailto:dhoffmann@gai-mn.org).

Wishing all in our community health and peace,

*Danika*

Danika Hoffmann, GAI board chair

