

GERMANIC AMERICAN INSTITUTE

301

2019 ANNUAL REPORT





OUR VISION

The Germanic-American Institute is the premier institute for language, authentic culture, and heritage of the German-speaking people. It is a gathering place for people of any age to learn the German language, connect with their heritage, engage in art, food and cultural traditions, and deepen their overall understanding of shared global issues.

Message from the Board Chair and Executive Director

Liebe Freunde,

As we wrote this letter last year, 2020 was a little over a year away. Now, the new decade is just a few short months away, and we have made tremendous progress over the course of the past year in setting the GAI's course for the future.

As the Board and leadership team engage with stakeholders, we continue to ask the following three very vital questions.

“How will the future generations meaningfully engage with the GAI? How must our work and mission evolve to serve both the youth and seniors of tomorrow?” And parallel to these questions is the very pragmatic question of, **“How will the GAI remain financially sustainable as expenses continue to climb and revenue streams undergo radical shifts?”**

Throughout the process, our path forward points to the following:

- **The GAI will focus even deeper on our core competency of language education.**

Our language classes continue to set record enrollment numbers every year, making the GAI one of the largest German language centers in the U.S. We now welcome over 200 adults and children to our classes every semester, and both Kinderstube preschool locations are at full enrollment.

How fortunate for the GAI that the core component of our mission also generates a large portion of our operating income! With this, however, comes the shift in how space in the Haus is used. You may have noticed that the dining rooms now serve as classrooms, and we are making alterations to those spaces so that they better function to serve both purposes.

- **Our cultural programming will expand** to include more programs that highlight how the U.S. and Germany can work together to solve shared global issues. Whether it be climate change, waste management, healthcare, or workforce development, much can be gained when our two countries partner to share ideas and resources.

- **We must be cognizant of the current, rich diversity of people** who have a reason to engage at the GAI. How wonderful that people from a variety of ethnic backgrounds are now coming to the GAI to learn German or have a cultural experience that reflects the modern Germany they recently experienced.

We have learned much, and much work remains as we enter the third generational shift for the GAI. But to quote Eberhard Bulach, a beloved member, volunteer, and supporter for over 50 years (and Board Chair in 2000), **“Onwards and Upwards!”**

Mit herzlichen Grüßen,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Nancy Zinter' and the signature on the right is 'Jeana Anderson'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy Zinter, Board Chair

Jeana Anderson, Executive Director

THE JOY OF LEARNING FOR ALL AGES

Stop by the GAI Haus, and on most days you'll find classes of engaged students practicing conversation, learning the fine points of grammar, or delving into fascinating cultural topics. As a premier, award-winning language institute in the U.S., the Germanic-American Institute offers language learning for all levels and ages.

Kinderstube

The advantages of language immersion for young children is well documented. Kinderstube German Immersion Preschool is a leader in proven best practices for teaching children ages 3–5. No prior experience in German is needed from the child or the family, although some parents are inspired to register for our adult classes!

Samstagsschule

Kruthica, a teenager and former GAI language student, recently scored in the 99th percentile on the National German Exam and was selected for the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) Study Trip Award—an all-expense paid trip to Germany.

Adults

Ted Taylor joined the GAI in 2014 as a language student at the age of 91. He was still taking classes until shortly before he died at the age of 94. Ted allowed us to say, "We have students ages 3 to 93." Ted inspired us to start a current events class for advanced students, incorporating discussions of articles from German newspapers. He truly embodied what it meant to be a "Lifetime Learner."

The German Apprenticeship Model Project

As part of a multi-year project to raise awareness of the German Dual Education system, GAI hosted a well-received symposium that brought together four stakeholders who could benefit from this system: business and industry, government, educational institutions, and anyone interested in career development for young people that aligns with workforce needs.



PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

Kinderstube German Immersion Preschool
Summer Camps
School Release Day Workshops
Samstagsschule for Kids and Teens
Familien Kino

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Summer, Fall, and Spring Classes
Schnupperkurs
Freitag Feierabend
FallVergnügen and Spring Spezial
KinoKneipe
Community Education

SHARING CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

The Germanic-American Institute is well known for community events such as Deutsche Tage, the Holiday Open Haus, Karneval Tanzparty, and St. Paul Oktoberfest.

Besides these anchor cultural events, every year brings something fresh and exciting. The *Geniale Dilletanten* traveling exhibition, Bier und Bingo, Rheinland Member Night, Das Moderne Deutschland series, Earth Day für Kinder, Grapes to Glass—among others.

CULTURAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

***Geniale Dilletanten* traveling exhibition**

This Goethe-Institut traveling exhibition brought back the music, film, art, design, fashion, and profiles of seven 1980s German experimental bands, introducing many people to a unique time in German history. Displayed at Schmidt Artists Lofts Tunnel Gallery, the exhibition was part of the Wunderbar Together: The Year of German-American Friendship 2018/19 campaign.

Das Moderne Deutschland Series

Adults and kids participated in educational experiences focusing on Germany's approach and success in areas such as culture and society, Climate Smart municipalities, sustainable building practices, and earth friendly initiatives. Events included Earth Day für Kinder and the Environmental Pavilion at Deutsche Tage.

St. Paul Oktoberfest

The GAI takes pride in producing Minnesota's most authentic Oktoberfest. From German arias to traditional oompah music, everyone can find a connection to Germanic culture. We were honored to have special guest Mayor Melvin Carter stop by to sample a bratwurst, dance a quick polka, and address the crowd in the main tent with a message of taking pride in our cultures and communities.



MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS



In the kitchen and on the grounds

We are fortunate to have a corps of super-volunteers who log thousands of hours every year. Most visible on the grounds and at events, volunteers are also found in the library checking in books, in the kitchen making *Kartoffelsalat*, or behind a microphone, recording the *Hier und There* podcast.

Super-members

Along with giving generously of their time, many members also make monetary contributions. In return they have a stake in a growing institution and a strong connection to a place that welcomes, values, and needs them.

The next generation

The Germanic-American Institute strives to stay relevant in a quickly changing world. By highlighting contributions by modern Germany to education, industry, and environmental concerns, GAI can be a source of information and inspiration.



ANNUAL FUND 2020
Our goal: \$70,000

Because recent restoration work to the carriage house foundation and main Haus repairs have nearly depleted the Haus & Grounds fund, it is imperative that we meet this year's Annual Fund goal. To help restore and maintain our home for future generations, please make your contribution by the end of the year. Danke!

LEGACY SOCIETY

The Germanic-American Institute's Legacy Giving Program was established to support the sustainability and long-term impact of the GAI. These dedicated members are a driving force in sustaining the GAI's growth and development for the future.

Gifts can also support programs such as the Ted Taylor Lifetime Learner scholarships. Anyone with a financial need who wants to learn German can apply, whether they are a family wanting to enroll their 3 year old in the Kinderstube German Immersion Preschool, or a baby boomer who has finally decided to pursue the dream of learning a second language.



Herzlichen Dank, Legacy Society members

Anonymous (7)

Fred Aderhold*

Charles Alsip

Eric & Renate Amann

Heino Beckmann & Darlene Sholtis

Fred & Nancy Behr

Christine & Markus Berger

Todd & Laurie Brand

Eberhard & Erné Bulach

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Christian Engelbrecht

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GAI Damenklub

Donald "Skip" & Cindy Garretson

Ron Gerdes & Sue Saunders

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Ted Taylor*

Robert Voigt*

Paul & Helga Wittig

Nancy & Rick Zinter

* Deceased

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the Federal Republic of Germany
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- Vom Fass, Mall of America
- Waldmann Brewery & Wurstery
- Walters Recycling & Refuse
- Winzer Stube Restaurant
- World Without Genocide
- Wunderbar Together, Germany
and the U.S.
- YouTV

ANNUAL GIVING

July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019

Platinum \$5,000+

Heino Beckmann & Darlene Sholtis
Adele A. & Donald E. Garretson
Family Fund
Louis F. Hill
Pat & Mike Rose
Arlette Siekmeier
Rick & Susan Taylor Spielman Family
Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation,
in honor of Ted Taylor

Summit Circle \$2,500+

Anonymous
Nancy & Rick Zinter

Goethe Society \$1,000–2,499

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Ron Gerdes & Sue Saunders
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Mozart Society \$500–999

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GAI Damenklub
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Schiller Society \$250–499

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Eric & Elizabeth Brotten
Monika & Robert Burkhead
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Helen M. Diehl
Steve & Terry Dondlinger

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Evelyn & Roger Engle
Lothar & Helga Gehrke
Maiken Givot
George Glotzbach
Ron & Carol Gritzmaker
Donavon & Shirley Hess
Monika Hoffmann & Jim VanBuskirk
Mike & Cindy Huttner
Kathryn Keefer
Evelyn Klein
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Helmut & Mary Maier
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Winzer Stube Restaurant
Richard J. Ziemann



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 Margie Deutsch
 Wolfgang Ebert
 Susan Evans & Robert Allen
 Tom Felling
 Carol Fellner
 Edward Fox
 Carson Freund
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 James & Jackie Gruetzman
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 Michelle Klatt & Brian Bottemiller
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 Jeff & Judy Koniges
 Axel & Gigi Kornfuehrer
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 Manfred & Sieglinde Wormuth
 Gisela Zimmer & Joe Hertenstein

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 Susan & Peter Borden

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Cody W. Wendlandt, MD
Ingrid Werk
Edward Wolf
Jan & Jon Zeipen

Corporate & Volunteer Matching Grants

3M Foundation
Aon Foundation
SeaTec Consulting Inc.
Securian Foundation
Thrivent Financial Foundation

Other Donations

Anonymous (7)
Robert Aderhold & Audrey Kingstrom
Maurice Anderson & Tamara Beutow
Scott Bentrup & Emily Good
Herb & Lynne Benz
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THANK YOU, BULACH CUSTOM ROCK

Thanks to Steve Bulach of Bulach Custom Rock, GAI now has two paved handicapped parking spaces! This improvement will allow guests with mobility challenges to more easily navigate the parking lot.

Steve Bulach donated labor and materials and coordinated the project. In addition, Bulach Custom Rock has made many generous donations over the decades, from a new driveway to steps and sidewalks.

GAI has a long-standing relationship with the company, thanks to the company founder, Ebbie Bulach, longtime GAI member and former board president. We can testify to their utmost professionalism and the quality of their work, and encourage anyone with a "concrete need" to contact them.

Bernhard Marzell	Elsie Roepke
Denise McMullan	Kristina Roslik
Prudence & Raymond Meyer	Camille Sampers
Liesa Miller	Rudy & Susan Schnasse
Richard Mueller	Tom & Wanda Shepard
Rudolf & Jayne Mueller	Barbara Sletten
William J. Muggli	Anthony Stelter
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Paul & Ardys Randall	JoAnn Winter
Anita & Paul Ratwik	Susan Wolkerstorfer
Cynthia Reimers Erickson	James Wolter
Mary & David Robinson	Jan & Jon Zeipen

In Memoriam

Louis F. Hill, in memory of Bruce Larson
Helga Parnell, in memory of
Hugh Markley
Evelyn Schlichting, in memory of
Doris Catherine (La Fere) Schlichting
William Schlichting, in memory of
Doris Catherine (La Fere) Schlichting

Special Thanks

Bulach Custom Rock
Dominium – Schmidt Artists Lofts:
Off-site event space
GAI Damenklub: Year-round fundraising
Jim Gruetzmans and Haus &
Grounds team
John & Mary Neeser: Plants & gardens
Helga Parnell and the Stammtisch team
Philip Powell, Sound System and door locks
Mike & Pat Rose: Plants & gardens
All of our volunteers!

Das Moderne Deutschland Series Sponsors

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Paul & Helga Wittig
Nancy & Rick Zinter



Fiscal Year Ending June 2019

Summary of Audited Financial Statements

Statement of Activities	2019	2018	2017
Total Revenue	\$1,463,582	\$1,419,449	\$1,205,708
Total Expenses	\$1,414,035	\$1,361,527	\$1,080,716
Total Net Gain/Loss	\$ 49,547	\$ 57,922	\$ 124,992

Statement of Financial Position

Assets

Checking/Savings	\$ 534	\$ 5,013	(\$ 1,050)
Legacy Giving Funds (3)	\$ 273,128	\$ 200,706	\$ 106,545
Endowment Fund	\$ 18,433	\$ 17,139	\$ 24,131
Endowment Investment Fund	\$ 71,468	\$ 63,220	\$ 50,864
Other Current Assets	\$ 19,393	\$ 14,590	\$ 76,471
Fixed Assets	\$ 347,331	\$ 359,787	\$ 353,779
Total Assets	\$ 730,287	\$ 660,455	\$ 610,740

Liabilities

Line of Credit	\$ 38,600	—	—
Other Current Liabilities	\$ 67,573	\$ 90,389	\$ 52,792
Deferred Revenue	\$ 109,371	\$ 103,770	\$ 147,374
Long Term Liability	\$ 16,500	\$ 17,600	\$ 19,800
Total Liabilities	\$ 232,044	\$ 211,759	\$ 219,966

Total Equity	\$498,243	\$ 448,696	\$ 390,774
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The full audited financial statement is available upon request.
Please contact the office to receive a copy: 651.222.7027

GAI Board of Directors 2019

OFFICERS

Nancy Zinter, *Board Chair*, Securian Financial Group (ret.)
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Bettina Dehnhard, Communications Coordinator
Erin Howlett, Office Manager
Rachel Leiphon, Volunteer and Events Coordinator
Krista Ostrom, Development and Social Media Coordinator



Contact Us

GAI Office

Staff offices are 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

301 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Website: gai-mn.org | Facebook: GAIMN | Instagram: GAIhaus | Twitter: GAIMN

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