

Alaaf and Helau! Karnival and Fasching in Germany*

Kölle Alaaf!

Kölle Alaaf! is the typical Cologne Carnival greeting, which can be translated as "Cologne above all!" This cry can be heard throughout the week-long street festival, which ends on Ash Wednesday. Some one million visitors flock to the city on the Rhine to join the celebrations—turning the city into a party zone.

Helau Mainz!

Helau, thought to be an old shepherd's call, is today used as a carnival greeting. In Mainz the *Schwellköpp*—oversized paper-mâché heads known as "swollen heads" have been an important part of the city's carnival for over 80 years. Their big day is the Rose Monday parades.

Hu hu hu Rottweil!

In Baden-Württemberg, carnival, known as *Fasnet* in the local dialect, is also important. In Rottweil it's celebrated according to Swabian-Alemannic traditions. Revelers, called *larvae*, wear hand-carved wooden masks, walk the town and call out "Hu hu hu."

Fölsch Foll—Hinein! Throw yourself into it in Fulda!

The German state of Hesse also likes to celebrate carnival. Some 4,000 participants and floats venture along the four-kilometer procession through Fulda's inner city—making it the biggest carnival parade in the state.

Bremen Ahoy!

Bremen-ites enjoy heating things up with samba rhythms and exotic costumes creating a carnival with a little taste of Rio. Some 35,000 people come to the Hanseatic city to enjoy the biggest annual Samba carnival in Europe. People on stilts, dancers and live music bands participate in the city procession.

Narri Narro München! The fools rule Munich!

In Munich, carnival is known as *Fasching*, and is celebrated mainly in all the big halls. *Narri Narro* calls for fools to rule the city during the festival. One outdoor highlight is the dance of the market women on the *Viktualienmarkt*.

Author: Elisabeth Yorck von Wartenburg, dw.com

* Information is based on past celebrations. This year carnival celebrations are looking for creative alternatives including window parties, live-streamed carnival sessions, and smaller carnival music concerts.



EVENTS

FEBRUARY 28
VIRTUAL EVENT
From the GAI kitchen: Make *Spätzle* with Helga Parnell

MARCH 13
VIRTUAL EVENT
Armchair Travel: Winter Escape to the Austrian Alps

MARCH 28
Pork & Kraut Curbside
Pick up a pre-ordered meal
Registration opens early March

LEARN GERMAN

Adults
FEBRUARY 6
Oberstufe Leistungskurs begins

Kids
FEBRUARY 6
Winter Samstagsschule begins



FEBRUARY 15
Kinderstube German Immersion
Preschool Fall registration opens to the public
kinderstubepreschool.org



WINTER READING

Explore Germany through its fiction

Buddenbrooks by Thomas Mann

One of the finest novels to characterise 19th-century Germany, *Buddenbrooks* was published in 1901, when Mann was 25. Over a thousand or so pages, this epic family chronicle takes place in the north of the country, drawing heavily on Mann's life in the Hanseatic city of Lübeck, near the Baltic coast. Mirroring, to some extent, his own struggle to fit into his bourgeois family as an artist, it portrays the decline of a wealthy German merchant family over four generations as they face modernity, changing mores and, eventually, bankruptcy.

Berlin Alexanderplatz by Alfred Döblin

Many books have been written about the depressions and debaucheries of the Weimar demi-monde. But none capture the modern aspect of the times better than Döblin's masterpiece. This is the story of former cement worker and small-time crook Franz Biberkopf as he is released from prison into the kaleidoscopic capital of the 1920s.

Alone In Berlin by Hans Fallada

Fallada's novel – published in 1947 as *Jeder stirbt für sich allein* (*Every Man Dies Alone*) – portrays the intense, fraught atmosphere of Nazi Berlin. The novel is based on the true story of a working-class couple, the Hampels, which was unearthed from Gestapo files and handed to Fallada by the Soviets. The Hampels (the Quangels in the book) aren't proactively against the Nazis until 1940, when their son is killed while fighting in France. The book depicts everyday life as the war rages and the terrifying grip of the National Socialists tightens on the city.

They Divided the Sky by Christa Wolf

This 1963 debut novel established Wolf's reputation in East German literature. Set during 1961, when construction of the Berlin Wall began, the tale is based around two lovers separated by it: Rita Seidel, a woman in her early 20s who, like the writer, generally supports the values of the "antifascist" GDR, and Manfred Herrfurth, a chemist who settles in the west. Although the Wall is not specifically mentioned in the novel, the book is saturated with the atmosphere of the newly partitioned city.

The Bridge of the Golden Horn by Emine Sevgi Özdamar

The second book of a trilogy by Turkish-German writer, actor and director Sevgi Özdamar, this semi-autobiographical work looks at life in Germany from the perspective of a teenage *Gastarbeiter* (guest worker) in the 1960s and 70s. The narrator, who has left Turkey having lied about her age, learns German while working in menial jobs to earn money for drama school.

Why We Took the Car ('Tschick') by Wolfgang Herrndorf

An idiosyncratic road trip novel through the somewhat unlikely terrain of Brandenburg (the state which surrounds Berlin), this novel is also a tender and lighthearted coming-of-age story of two outsider schoolboys.

Visitation by Jenny Erpenbeck

One of Germany's most talked about contemporary talents, Erpenbeck's *Visitation* (*Heimsuchung*) reconstructs 100 years of German history through events in a lakeside house in Brandenburg. By chronicling the intersecting lives of three generations who lived in the house, Erpenbeck creates an intimate way of bringing the century to life.

This House is Mine by Dörte Hansen

Something of a surprise hit, this 2015 novel is set in a rural fruit-picking area near Hamburg. The tale begins with a family of aristocratic refugees from East Prussia arriving at a run-down farmhouse in 1945 to start their lives anew. A new generation of the same family arrive several decades later, this time fleeing city life in Hamburg.

From theguardian.com, tinyurl.com/y855szhv



FROM THE GAI KITCHEN:

Make Spätzle with Helga Parnell



VIRTUAL EVENT

Saturday, February 28, 1–2 p.m.

Learn how to make *Spätzle*, a German egg noodle, using the hand-drop method—no special equipment is needed. Cook along or watch the demonstration and then make your *Spätzle* later. The recipe and ingredients list will be provided and there will be time for questions.

\$5, registration opens early February at gai-mn.org



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



OBERSTUFE LEISTUNGSKURS C+

Vorsicht, Fälschungen!

Falsche Kunstwerke, falsches Geld, falsche Meldungen, falsche Geschichte, falsche Wissenschaft... unser Leben strotzt ja geradezu vor Fälschungen, was uns den Anlass bietet, Gefälschtes im Rahmen des Oberstufe Leistungskurses aufs Korn zu nehmen.

Feb 6–March 27 (8 weeks), 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Register at gai-mn.org/adults



Podcast: Visit Berlin

Learn about visiting one of Europe's most interesting cities—the podcast team shares their tips and experiences. Listen at gai-mn.org/Podcast



BEHIND THE MICROPHONE

Communications and Development Director Erin Hart takes you behind the microphone with an interview of podcast host Günther Jahn. Listen at gai-mn.org/Podcast

SUMMER LANGUAGE CAMPS



SUMMER LANGUAGE CAMPS

Registration opens soon

German beginners to bilingual campers are welcome at GAI's summer camps. Language learning is centered around a different interactive theme during each week-long camp.

Registration opens in February

AROUND THE HAUS

GAI Office Update

The office will be staffed full-time for phone calls, but the Haus is still closed to visitors.

Saturday work sessions are still on hold

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.



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Kinderstube German Immersion Preschool

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kinderstubepreschool.org

Connect with us!

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We did it! Thanks to YOU and your generosity, the GAI was able to raise \$113,356.80 to exceed our Annual Fund 2021 goal of \$100,000. *Herzlichen Dank!*

Your donations mean that the GAI will be able to continue our mission-centric work into 2021 and beyond. This is a challenging time, and we are so thankful for your support. On behalf of the entire staff and the Board of Directors of the Germanic-American Institute, *Vielen Dank!*