

## Learning from the Germans: Race and the Memory of Evil

A discussion with author Susan Neiman

Susan Neiman directs Berlin's Einstein Forum, a public think tank for the state of Brandenburg. She has lived in Berlin for most of her adult life but was born and raised in the southern United States. For this book, she spent three years interviewing people in both Germany and the United States.

In her book, she asks what we can learn from the Germans about confronting past evils, the concept of *Vergangenheitsaufarbeitung*, "working off the past",

and how communities can come together to remember and move forward.

Her other works include Slow Fire: Jewish Notes from Berlin, The Unity of Reason: Rereading Kant, Evil in Modern Thought, Moral Clarity: A Guide for Grownup Idealists and Why Grow Up? Subversive Thoughts for an Infantile Age.



#### VIRTUAL EVENT

Learning from the Germans: Discussion with author Susan Neiman Sunday, April 18 | 12:30–1:30 PM Free, register at gaimn.org



At left: Stolpersteine, brass "stumbling stones", set into a cobblestone street in Cologne, Germany, are one way to acknowledge victims of the Holocaust.



"I think that there are lessons that America and other countries can learn from the Germans. The Germans didn't address their past perfectly. They didn't even do it willingly for a long time. It was a long, slow process. And I think that may be the most important lesson that we have to learn from them. But I still think Germany did something absolutely historically unique."

---Susan Neiman (From an interview at Foreignpolicy.com)

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**



ONLINE EVENT Schnupperkurs Sampler Class Wednesday March 31 and Thursday April 8, 6:30–7:30 PM

This one-hour online sampler will introduce you to how our language classes work. If you decide to register for spring session, take \$10 off your first class and we'll throw in a coupon for a free beer (or other beverage) at our next event!



PARTNER EVENT German Good Friday Service Available Friday, April 2

This year's annual ecumenical service will be online, available at St. Paul's United Church of Christ website. The service will be spoken and sung in German—but even if you speak English, Hmong, Somali or Spanish— *Willkommen.* 

#### Go to spucconsummit.org



PARTNER EVENT Lessons from the Holocaust: History for Contemporary Learners April 12–30, 1–2:15 PM

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) is offering a free 15-session online program focusing on the events leading up to and culminating in the Holocaust. Take as few or as many classes as you like.

Register at minndakjcrc.org/ education\_programs/lessons



#### Summer Teen Intensiv for ages 14–18

This advanced full-day camp experience is for teens with level B1 German skills or graduates of Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS). We will dive into two important current topics in these week-long camps: Multiculturalism—what does racism look like in Germany and how do young people deal with this topic, and Living the Sustainable Life—how does "*Nachhaltigkeit*" relate to nutrition, housing, education, and the digital world.

June 21–25 *Multikulti*? Multiculturalism and Racism in Germany August 23–27 Living the Sustainable Life (#FridaysForFuture) *More information and registration at gaimn.org/camps* 



Summer Camps for ages 4–13 Kids will have the run of the GAI Haus and grounds this summer, exploring interactive themes while learning German. Beginners to bilingual campers are welcome! Themes include Spy Camp, Pirate Voyage, Creepy Crawlies, Podcasting for Kids, and more. For children with no German knowledge, *Kinder lernen Deutsch* camps introduce beginners to basic words and phrases in a fun and interactive environment. *More information and registration at gaimn.org/camps* 

Register at gaimn.org

#### GAI GERMAN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

# START 1-2-3

German for Beginners

#### WE LOVE BEGINNERS

Learn the basics of communicating in German—from *Guten Morgen* to *ein Bier, bitte.* Class emphasis is on speaking, in a casual, fun, and supportive environment. Our START 1-2-3 classes are designed for students with little or no German skills to students who have completed up to 9 months of German study.

#### More info at gaimn.org/adults



#### **SPRING SESSION BEGINS APRIL 12**

Come rain, shine, snow or the dreaded "wintery mix", brighten up your Minnesota "spring" by taking a German class! We'll be offering a few daytime in-person classes—so come out of hibernation and join us! *More info at gaimn.org/calendar/spring* 



#### OBERSTUFE LEISTUNGSKURS C+ Im Reich der Fantasy

Imaginäre Welten mit magischen Gestalten strahlen seit jeher eine besondere Anziehungskraft aus, und Fantasy als Genre in Literatur und Filmkunst erfreut sich auch heute einer großen Beliebtheit. Wie sieht es aber mit Fantasy in der deutschsprachigen Welt aus? Wir wollen dieser Frage im Oberstufe Leistungskurs nachgehen und vielfältige Aspekte des Genres Fantasy erschließen. **More info at gaimn.org/calendar/spring** 

#### **AROUND THE HAUS**

#### Saturday work sessions will resume

Haus & Grounds will begin regularly scheduled monthly work sessions beginning on Saturday April 10. All masking and distancing protocols will be followed. I am hoping we can get a good start on our spring work as well as catching up on much deferred maintenance. Work sessions begin at 9 a.m. and end at noon with lunch and beer! Contact Jim Gruetzman at jgruetzman@gai-mn.org.

# HIER & THERE Board Chair Danika Hoffmann

Günther interviews GAI's board chair Danika Hoffmann about her recent travels to Germany, the role of the GAI board of directors, the GAI in 2021, and more. Listen at gaimn.org/Podcast



## Auf Gespensterjagd

Go Auf Gespensterjagd (ghost hunting) with our latest Storycast. You can listen and follow along with the text at gaimn.org/Podcast.



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### In case you missed it...

*Spätzle* lovers young and old participated in our first cooking demonstration from the GAI kitchen with Helga Parnell. If you missed it, and other GAI online events, find them on GAI's YouTube channel (tinyurl.com/tbsb9cd4).





Michael Kenney, of Defined Destinations Travel, shares photos of winter travel destinations in Germany and Austria, including skiing in Kitzbühel and other ansas in the Austrian Alps. You may be

Michael Kenny from Defined Destinations Travel and Peter Sulzenbacher, an Austrian skiing instructor and travel guide, talk about skiing in the Austrian Alps and other winter travel destinations in Germany and Austria.