Tikkun olam—the legacy of Fred Amram

On February 13, I learned of the passing of my dear friend, Fred Amram. Many of you perhaps had the opportunity to meet Fred, as for the past five years, he has been a frequent guest and lecturer at the Haus. Fred was most notably known as a Holocaust survivor, eager to share his experience fleeing Germany after the Nazi invasion of his hometown, Hannover, and beginning a new life in the U.S. When sharing his story, Fred always challenged his audience to be up-standers, to notice grave injustices both locally and globally, and to have the courage to speak out and take action. At age 89, Fred was still a passionate voice for social justice. It is from him that I first learned of tikkun olam, a Jewish concept defined by acts of kindness performed to repair a broken world.

Fred was a wonderfully multifaceted person. He retired from the University of Minnesota as “Professor of Creativity.” In addition to teaching and writing, Fred was also an inventor. I had the privilege of trying on the Amram 5-in-1 Backpack, a backpack he designed for college students to better distribute the weight in their schoolbags while trekking across campus. Fred never stopped noticing problems he could help solve.

I spoke with Fred just two weeks before he died. Our events team had a Zoom meeting with him where we started to plan how the GAI could honor Holocaust Remembrance this year. Fred was eager to lead a writing workshop, teaching participants how they could record their family’s heritage through storytelling. Fred’s memoir, We’re in America Now: a Survivor’s Stories, has been published and his wife Sandra Brick, a gifted textile and media artist, has created an accompanying exhibit, Lest We Forget, a Survivor’s Stories, recently on exhibit at the Twin Cities German Immersion School. We still plan to host the storytelling workshop with Sandra, likely this fall, knowing how pleased he would be that we too believe that every family’s story is worth saving and passing down to the next generation.

Jeana Anderson, GAI Executive Director
UPCOMING EVENTS

PARTNER EVENT
Karfreitagsgottesdienst
Ecumenical Good Friday Service
Friday, April 7 | 10 AM
Join us for this annual service at St. Paul’s United Church of Christ. The service will be in German, presenting in words and music, Die Sieben Letzten Worte Jesu Christi am Kreuz.
St. Paul’s United Church of Christ
900 Summit Avenue, St. Paul
spuccconsummit.org

PARTNER EVENT
German Community Night at the Minnesota Wild
Tuesday, April 11 | 7 PM
We had so much fun last time, we’re doing another German hockey night. Be sure to buy tickets through the link below to be part of the pre-game festivities. Admission includes a limited edition Wild-German fan scarf.
Buy tickets at gaimn.org/hockey

State Capitol and Rathskeller Tour
Friday, April 14 | 11 AM–12:30 PM
Marvel at the grand murals, sculptures, lavish decorations, and learn about the elaborate conservation work performed to bring the art back to its original appearance. This special Arts and Artists tour includes the capitol’s rathskeller.
$15 plus optional lunch after the tour
Buy tickets by March 29 at gaimn.org/capitol-tour

Pork & Kraut Curbside
Saturday, April 29 | 1–3 PM
Satisfy your German food cravings with our annual Pork & Kraut dinner, available for curbside pick up. Prepared in-Haus, your meal will include German “soul food” favorites—a smoked pork chop, Helga’s secret recipe sauerkraut, Apfelstreuelskuchen, a Warsteiner beer, and more!
$20 member/$25 non-member
Buy tickets at gaimn.org/pork

Grapes to Glass: Riesling Master Class
Thursday, May 4 | 6:30 PM
Riesling is synonymous with German wine—and for a good reason. This class will examining the wide range of styles of this sometimes misunderstood white wine. From sparkling to dry to off-dry and lusciously sweet varieties, Riesling can do it all! The workshop includes sampling and time for questions for instructor Amy Waller, an official German wine ambassador.
Register at gaimn.org/riesling-masterclass

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GAI GERMAN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

Spring session language classes

Spring classes begin the week of April 10

Spring is on its way, and it’s the perfect time to take the next step in your language learning journey! Please don’t wait too long to register so that we don’t have to cancel a class because of low enrollment. We want to make sure we can offer the largest number of classes possible for a wide range of language proficiencies.

Register at gaimn.org/adults

German for Lunch—Book Discussion

Read and discuss Die Entdeckung der Currywurst by Uwe Timm
4 Wednesdays, May 3–24 | noon to 1 PM | Zoom
For levels B1–B2

In his attempt to uncover the origin of the Currywurst, the narrator is led to Frau Brücker, an elderly woman living in a senior residence. Frau Brücker tells him the story of her life and of a love affair with a young boatswain who hides in her apartment toward the end of World War II. Frau Brücker conceals from the young man that the war is over and Hermann doesn’t actually need to hide in her apartment anymore. Read and discuss this beautiful, bittersweet love story.

Register at gaimn.org/adults

Summer camps

Add a GAI German camp to your child’s summer fun! Our half-day week long camps (with optional extended care) immerse campers in themes such as Kinder in der Küche, Märchen, Workshop KREATIV, All Things Bauen, Eine Bunte Woche, and more. German beginners to bilingual children are welcome.

Learn more at gaimn.org/camps

AROUND THE HAUS

Haus & Grounds April work session

This month’s regularly scheduled work session on Saturday, April 8, beginning at 9 a.m. and ending around noon with lunch and beer. There is currently a backlog of work because of all the snow this winter in addition to the normal preparation for spring, so a good turnout would be welcome! If you would like to volunteer or to get more information about helping maintain the GAI Haus and grounds, please contact Jim Gruetzman at jgruetzman@gaimn.org or call the GAI office at 651.222.7027.

Our students say:

“The whole experience also allowed us to meet many interesting people who were our classmates. Some of them took initiative to organize study groups and other types of get together events. It is all really fun.”
— Adam and Neng

Enrollment for new families is open!

Families looking for quality preschool should look no further than the GAI’s German Immersion Preschool! The Kinderstube program focuses on experiential learning in a play-based, German immersion preschool setting modeled after a combination of the German Kita and the American licensed preschool program. Learn more at gaimn.org/kinderstube
301 Summit Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55102  
gaimn.org

GAI Office  
Staff offices located on 2nd floor of the Haus  
Phone: 651.222.7027 | Fax: 651.222.6295  
office@gaimn.org

Language Services  
Phone: 651.222.7027 ext. 101 | language@gaimn.org

Kinderstube German Immersion Preschool  
St. Paul: 612.703.9127  
Minneapolis: 651.353.5147  
preschool@gaimn.org

Connect with us!  
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**Buy garden plants and Strudel to support Kinderstube!**  
Order by April 15

Kinderstube is selling delicious strudels from Ruhland’s Strudel Haus and perennial and annual plants from Bachman’s for their spring fundraiser. Delivery will be on May 25 and 26.  
*Find our online store at gaimn.org/spring-fundraiser.*

**GAI Member Deals**

- **Pork & Kraut Curbside** | Saturday, April 29  
  Members get Pork & Kraut for only $20!  
  Buy tickets at gaimn.org/pork

- **Language classes**  
  Members get discounts on language classes year-round.  
  Learn more at gaimn.org/adult

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**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Deutsche Tage 2023**  
June 10 +11

This year’s Deutsche Tage will highlight **German Innovation**. From medical to technological to edible and wearable—Germany is an engine of invention!  
We’ll raise a beer to past and present German innovators.