



Oktoberfest Lite — Prost to a safer celebration!

From Munich to Minnesota, Oktoberfest festivals around the world will look different this year. The GAI is hosting two great ways to celebrate our cherished Oktoberfest traditions that have brought people together for centuries. And just like the Munich original, our festival is held in September! Get a ticket to the exclusive Kaiser's Biergarten at the GAI on Sunday, September 20, or pick up everything you need to celebrate at home on Saturday, September 19.

Celebrate Oktoberfest at the Kaiser's Biergarten



Sunday, September 20, 11 AM–1:30 PM (first seating)
or 2:30–5 PM (second seating)

While we can't bring thousands of Oktoberfest fans together for the legendary St. Paul Oktoberfest this year, you can still celebrate in style at our unique *Biergarten* fit for the Kaiser! Tap your toes to live music from the renowned Chmielewski Funtime Band while enjoying *Wiesn* beer in an authentic 1-liter glass beer

mug—the Munich Oktoberfest original from Paulaner! Our *Biergarten* experience includes a full kit to enjoy at our socially-distanced tables with hearty local German foods, one liter of beer for your mug, and tickets to win big at our special festival raffle. Seating is limited at this one-day-only event, so reserve your tickets now! \$100 per adult, \$20 for kids.

Tickets at gai-mn.org/KaisersBiergartenReg

Celebrate Oktoberfest with family and friends at home



Oktoberfest Take Home Kit Pick-up
Saturday September 19, 4–7 PM

Visit the Haus on Saturday for pick-up from our front porch and get your Oktoberfest Take Home Kits! For only \$50 (\$20 for Kinder kits), our Oktoberfest "to-go" will include three bottles of Paulaner *Wiesn* beer (brewed once a year for Oktoberfest!), a small bottle of Jägermeister, an Aki pretzel, German potato salad and

coleslaw, Bavarian nuts, and more! Compete in virtual trivia on our Facebook page (see page 2). Put on your Oktoberfest finest and join other community members for a virtual celebration by tagging us on either Facebook or Instagram.

Pre-order only through September 14 at gai-mn.org/TakeHomeKits

Continued on page 2



EVENTS

Oktoberfest Weekend Overview

SEPTEMBER 19

Oktoberfest Take Home Kit Pick-Up
4–7 PM

Oktoberfest Virtual Trivia—with prizes!
7–8 PM

SEPTEMBER 20

Kaiser's Biergarten first seating
11 AM–1:30 PM

Kaiser's Biergarten second seating
2:30–5 PM

The Chmielewski Funtime Band
Live streamed from the *Biergarten*
4 PM

FALL CLASSES

ADULTS

Fall session registration is open
Classes begin September 14

KIDS

Samstagsschule registration is open
Classes begin September 26

Climate Workshop for Teens
September 19–December 5

Oktoberfest Lite Virtual Events

Oktoberfest Virtual Trivia—with prizes!



Saturday September 19
7–8 PM

Do you know why Oktoberfest beer glasses are dimpled? Why is the official Oktoberfest in Munich (and St. Paul!) held in September? Tune in for

the first-ever Oktoberfest Trivia Competition—virtually—and win some of the GAI's limited-edition Oktoberfest Take Home Kits with authentic German beer and treats for your own celebration and bragging rights.

Three rounds of questions every 15 minutes will be announced on the GAI's Facebook page starting at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 19. Each round will have a winner who can pick up their "prize" kits at the GAI Haus on Sunday, September 20.

Join in at www.facebook.com/GAIMN

Live Music with The Chmielewski Funtime Band



Sunday September 20
4 PM

The Chmielewski Funtime Band is a local and international polka legend not to be missed! Led by accomplished accordionist Florian Chmielewski (a

nonagenarian!), the band is the product of a Polish-American family that has been making music together for over 137 years. Originally from Sturgeon Lake, Minnesota, Florian and his family have produced over 40 albums, appeared on countless TV and radio programs, and continue to perform a full program of touring and concerts near and far. Join them live streamed from the Kaiser's Biergarten on the GAI Lawn for a one-of-a-kind concert that will bring the festive sounds of polka to your Oktoberfest celebration!

See the concert live on the GAI's YouTube channel:
<https://bit.ly/3hbFXuX>

Meet our Members—Part 1: Coming to Amerika

We are excited to continue our "Meet our members" series for the newsletter to introduce and connect our diverse community from home.

Eberhard Bulach ("Ebbie")

Eberhard Bulach, or "Ebbie," has been a longtime friend, volunteer, and leader at the GAI. From his service on the board of directors through the 1990s, to his leadership of the board after 2000, he is among the GAI's greatest supporters. Ebbie and his wife, Erne, grew up in Echterdingen, Germany, near Stuttgart. Only five years old during the outbreak of World War II, Ebbie experienced firsthand the hardship of making ends meet during difficult times, and the social and economic devastation of war. Ebbie completed an apprenticeship as a tool-and-dye maker at age 17, but as jobs were scarce at home, he moved to the U.S. to live with family in St. Paul. There he learned the construction business at his uncle's company, was drafted into the U.S. army, and met and married his wife, Erne. Over time, the couple worked hard and eventually bought out his uncle's company to form E.L. Bulach construction company- now Bulach Custom Rock, still a leader in the industry. Community service has always been important to Ebbie, including serving on the planning commission for West St. Paul and Sunfish Lake. With such a varied and

resilient life story, it is no surprise that one of Ebbie's favorite sayings is: "Life is not a series of obstacles, but full of unlimited possibilities." Having lived through wartime, learned and mastered two trades, and worked hard to become successful in a new country, Ebbie's story is inspiring and like many who have made a new life in the U.S.



FALL SESSION

German language classes

REGISTRATION FOR FALL SESSION IS OPEN!

Learn Deutsch@Home via Zoom online classes

Our popular online-only classes offer the same high-quality German instruction as our in-person sessions. Learn from experienced language instructors (via live online-classes) from the convenience of your home—whether you live here in Minnesota, or half-way around the globe.

Register at gai-mn.org/Deutsch@home

Oberstufe Leistungskurs C+ level—Im Dickicht der Medien

Seit einigen Monaten verbringen wir mehr Zeit in den eigenen 4 Wänden als zuvor. Jedoch haben wir Zugang zu verschiedensten Medien, die es uns ermöglichen, den Kontakt mit der Außenwelt aufrechtzuerhalten. In diesem Kurs werden wir uns einen Überblick über die aktuellen Ereignisse in Deutschland und auf der Welt verschaffen und uns im vielfältigen Bereich der Medien als Reporter, Blogger, YouTuber usw. erproben. Register at gai-mn.org/Deutsch@home


Fall classes at the GAI Haus

Fall class options include START 1-2-3 for beginners and courses for intermediate and advanced students. These classes will follow social distancing protocols while offering in-person interactions with your instructor and classmates. Classes begin September 14. Register at gai-mn.org/Fall-2020

Samstagsschule
German Classes for Kids



Samstagsschule
German Classes for Teens



climate kids

Climate workshop for teens
9.19–12.5



Samstagsschule (Saturday School) for kids and teens

Saturday School classes for ages four through high school return for fall! The program is built around natural acquisition of language in an interactive, fun environment. Beginning to advanced levels offered for all age groups. Classes begin September 26. Register at gai-mn.org/children

Climate Kids Workshop for Teens

Registration is open | September 19–December 5 | 10:30 AM–12:30 PM

An interactive climate and culture workshop leading to a *Klimagipfel* (Climate Summit) in December. The course is designed for young people, ages 12–16, with basic knowledge of German (Level 2/A2 or higher).

Register at gai-mn.org/German-and-Science-Workshops

Deutsch@home

Online-only classes



HIER & THERE
The Germanic-American Institute Podcast



FERNSEHEN UND FERNLERNEN

Stroll down memory lane—what German television programs did Katrin, Claudia, and Michael watch growing up in *Deutschland* and *Österreich*? What contemporary shows or movies does the team recommend? Also, get the scoop on GAI's Fall language programs—both at the GAI Haus and online.

Listen at gai-mn.org/Podcast



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Connect with us!

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The GAI Today

COVID-19 is impacting the GAI in a multitude of ways, but we are weathering this crisis, thanks to our amazing members, staff, and board. One of our biggest successes was the quick transformation of our language classes to online learning, and the GAI is emerging as a national leader in distance learning for German. Our team continues to innovate to make cultural events accessible from home and socially-distanced—with popular outdoor events such as the Lawn Café, Makam Baklava concert, and upcoming Oktoberfest Lite. The Deutsche Tage festival in June was also a huge success, as over 1,000 people engaged with the GAI online via live concerts and language events, and took home hundreds of Deutsche Tage Haus Party kits.

We have a lot to look forward to this fall. The GAI’s new partnership with the German American Heritage Museum in Washington, DC, will bring the *Stars and Stripes Over the Rhine* exhibit to the Haus in October. Staged in both Germany and the US, this travelling exhibit focuses on American occupation in the Rhineland after World War I and its continued impact on modern transatlantic relations. Watch our next newsletter for more information!

As for the COVID-19 challenges, both Kinderstube preschool sites were closed for months. We reopened

August 3, but like all schools, cannot predict how the new school year will evolve. Enrollment in summer camps was highly reduced, and income from summer festivals and events was severely impacted. Trying to plan events with ever-changing recommendations and restrictions is difficult, and we are so appreciative of our community’s understanding.

We look forward to the day when we can welcome everyone back to the Haus, but in the meantime, please note the following operating guidelines:

- The Haus is open only for those who have registered for an event or class
- If there is the need to visit the office, please call in advance to schedule an appointment. 651.222.7027 ext. 0
- Face masks and hand washing are required for all who enter the building



Danke!