



GROWTH
ADVANCEMENT
HERITAGE
FUTURE

HONORING THE PAST SHAPING THE PRESENT INSPIRING THE FUTURE

Educate • Celebrate • Advocate

German-American Heritage Foundation
and Museum





At the heart of what we do at GAHF is the passion for the flow and exchange of culture that connects individuals, and builds closer ties and collaborations with Americans of German-speaking descent at every level—ultimately strengthening transatlantic and international connections.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to preserve, promote, and educate about the impact of Americans with German-speaking ancestry in building our nation; and, to excite the next generations to rediscover their roots, while strengthening political, cultural, and economic transatlantic relations.

OUR VISION

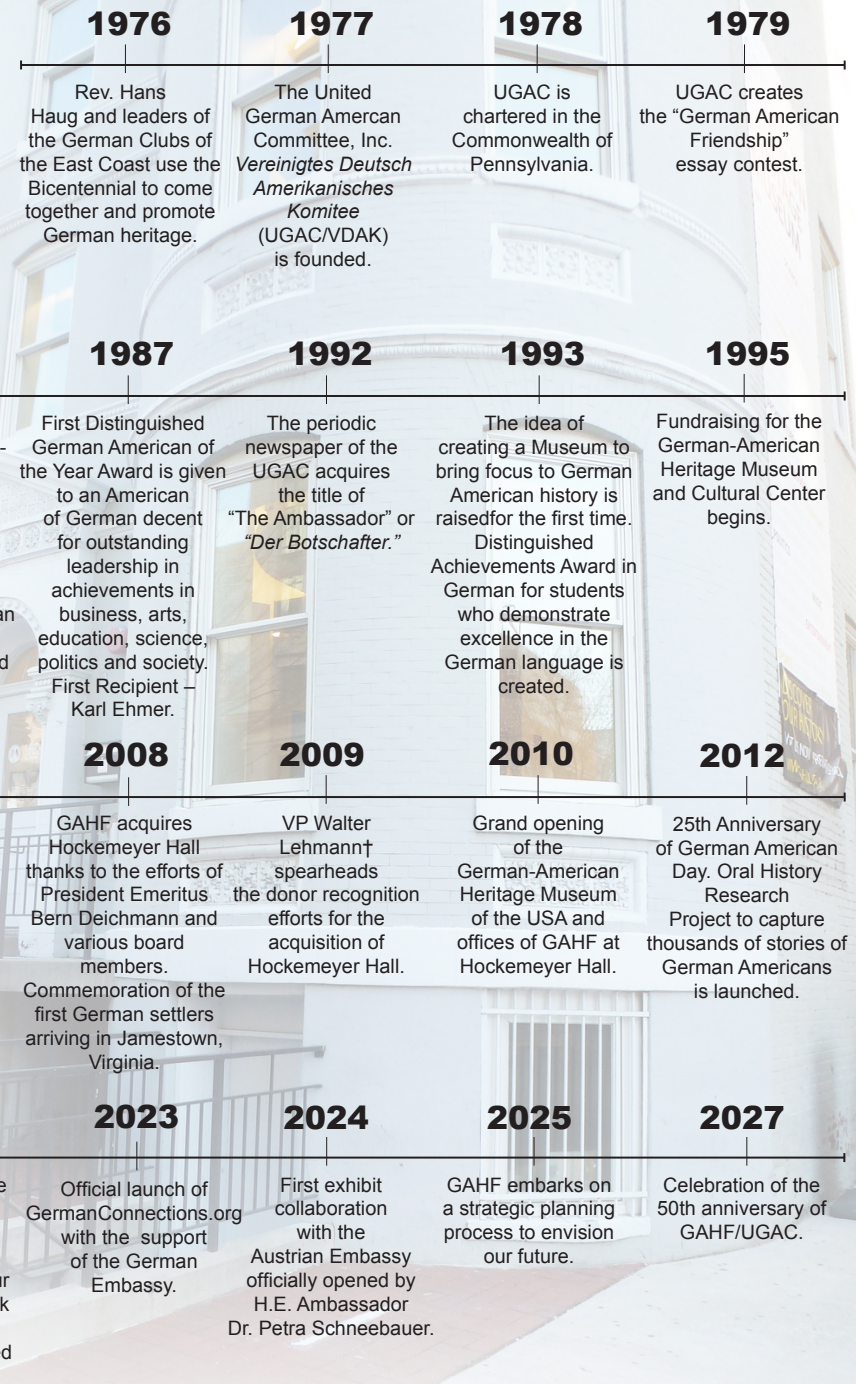
Our vision is to become the ONE voice that will speak up for all Americans with German-speaking ancestry and their organizations to preserve, promote, and educate about our heritage and strengthen transatlantic ties.

OUR HISTORY

Since its founding in 1977, GAHF has served as the national umbrella organization for Americans of German-speaking descent, who want to work together on vital issues and promote their heritage.

In March 2010, the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA (GAHF) opened the German-American Heritage Museum (GAHM) as the first national inspiration for German American heritage and culture.

German Americans have played a vital role in shaping the culture, history, and innovation of the United States. However, as generations pass, key stories, artifacts, and traditions risk being forgotten. At GAHF, we are dedicated to preserving and celebrating this rich heritage, ensuring that future generations understand the profound impact of German-speaking immigrants on our nation's history, values, and progress. — Donald Thureau, former GAHF President & current board member



A NATIONAL NETWORK WITH GREAT IMPACT

GAHF is dedicated to preserving and promoting the German American experience through our German-American Heritage Museum in Washington, D.C.



**ARCHIVES
THAT HOUSE
INVALUABLE
ARTIFACTS**

DR. MONIKA HOFFARTH-ZELLOE & JAMES ZELLOE

**GAHF Members and Vienna
Trip Participants**

"We had an unforgettable time, and are delighted that we decided to come along. The tours provided insight into Vienna's fascinating history, going back to Roman times, and an excursion into Vienna's underground, but the absolute highlight was the ball in the magnificent Imperial Palace. It was a wonderful and unique experience to dance in the grand ballrooms under crystal chandeliers, and to savor the special ambiance of a real Viennese ball."



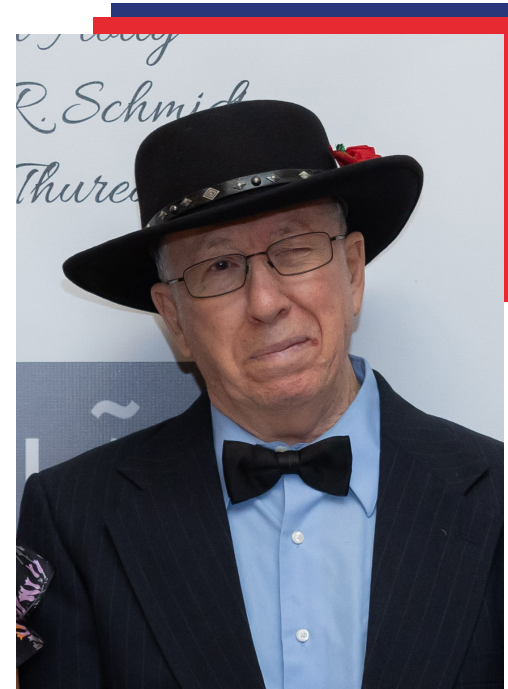
**NATIONAL PRESENCE
STRENGTHENS EFFORTS TO CELEBRATE
GERMAN AMERICAN HERITAGE**

TRANSATLANTIC CONNECTIONS CULTURAL ENGAGEMENTS AND EDUCATION



PAUL OSTERMAN-HEALEY
2024 - 2025 Scholarship Recipient

.... until I found the German-American Heritage Foundation's domestic study scholarship, I never would've thought that my German heritage could tangibly help me in affording my education. Receiving the scholarship has been a great help in pursuing my dream of working in transatlantic affairs and being aware of my German heritage was a great privilege, and an asset for my future. I can't thank the GAHF enough for their kindness, generosity, and most of all, recognition that young Americans of German heritage have something to give the world.



GARY LEE KOERNER
Long-time GAHF Member and Major Donor

GAHF is an umbrella organization that can bundle and focus the work of the many local and regional organizations to ensure that the work and lessons of our ancestors stay with us.



(Philharmonic Ball, Vienna, 2025)



OUR PEOPLE

For over four centuries, Americans of German descent have played a vital role in shaping our nation—as inventors, scientists, educators, and entrepreneurs. Today, GAHF continues their legacy through educational initiatives, cultural programs, and scholarship opportunities that empower the next generation of German American scholars and leaders.

By expanding access to historical research, curating engaging museum exhibits, and supporting academic excellence, we ensure that German American heritage remains a vibrant and enduring part of our national identity.

GERMAN AMERICAN IMPACT ON THE UNITED STATES BEGAN LONG AGO AND CONTINUES TODAY



KARL RAPP
Creator of the
Original BMW Engine

Karl Rapp founded Rapp Motorenwerke in 1913, which was later merged with Flugmaschinenfabrik Gustav Otto and renamed Bayerische Flugzeug-Werke AG (BFW) in 1916.



FELIX BAUMGARTNER

Austrian skydiver and daredevil who set three world records in the Red Bull Stratos project, in which he jumped from a capsule attached to a helium balloon in the stratosphere on October 14, 2012.



EMMY NOETHER

A German mathematician who made many important contributions to abstract algebra, including Noether's Theorem, which explains the connection between symmetry and conservation laws, and guided modern physics.



LENA HOSCHEK

Austrian fashion designer who studied with Vivienne Westwood, and combines nostalgic craftsmanship, lush fabrics, and feminine silhouettes. Launched in 2005, her designs are popular with celebrities like Sarah Jessica Parker, Christina Hendricks, Lana Del Ray, and Katy Perry.



HANS KÖNIGSMANN
2023 Distinguished
German American of the Year
and SpaceX Rocket Scientist

As the former Vice President of Flight Reliability and Build at SpaceX, he propelled the company from its humble beginnings as a startup to unprecedented heights including an official partnership with NASA.

"GAHF and its museum are doing excellent work. I look forward to staying connected and being involved in the organization."



**HELMUT GRÖTTRUP
& JÜRGEN DETHLOFF**
Inventors of the Circuit Chip

These German engineers developed the idea of incorporating a silicon integrated circuit chip into a plastic smart card in the late 1960s. This concept laid the foundation for the chip-based credit cards we use today.



**MARGARETHE
MEYER-SCHURZ**

German-born educator who established the very first kindergarten in Watertown, Wisc. from 1854-1856. The concept of kindergarten gradually spread throughout the U.S., and public schools eventually adopted it as the first year of formal elementary education.

OUR PROGRAMS

EXHIBITS

Ever since the museum's inception in 2010, we have featured a number of exciting exhibits covering a wide range of topics. To celebrate our 50th anniversary, we are in the early planning stages for an exhibit on one of the most famous German-language children's books of all times: Johanna Spyri's, *Heidi*.



EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF MIDWINTER VIENNA

Starting in 2024, we took groups of Americans to visit Vienna and experience its famous ball season, which has been going strong for more than 200 years. The Austrian capital is renowned for its cuisine, world-class orchestras, its architectural beauty, and the more than 400 balls attracting half a million visitors that take place at various venues during the months of January and February.



EVENTS & LECTURES

Although many of our in-person events take place at our museum in Washington, D.C., we also offer a number of virtual events and lectures.

Some topics featured ballroom dance lessons, a baking contest, lectures with filmmakers, historians, and authors, concerts with local and visiting musicians, German American Day walking tours along Washington, D.C.'s famous Mall, annual showing of *Die Feuerzangenbowle*, and of course, beer and wine tastings. The annual highlight of our event calendar is the Distinguished German American of the Year Award Gala which gives guests an opportunity to celebrate, network, and dance the night away.

SCHOLARSHIPS, INTERNSHIPS & EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Beginning in 2023/2024, we started awarding domestic scholarships for young German American students who demonstrate an interest in German language and culture, receiving \$2,500 each. The scholarship received generous funding support from Christel and Ronald Tillmann in honor of Maria Tillmann-Geschwent.

Thanks to our established network of colleges and universities in Washington, D.C. and beyond, and a fruitful partnership with The Fund for American Studies (TFAS), we are able to host a number of interns every year.

PARTNERSHIPS



Your online one-stop resource for all things Austrian, German, and Swiss American. Listings are completely free and give organizations a chance to showcase how they fit into this rich tapestry of German Americana.



Here, you can find our museum online and it is the world's leading online platform of high-resolution images, videos, and artifacts. This virtual gallery utilizes the most recent image technology.



A free reciprocal network that connects world-class institutions for the benefit of our Members. ROAM is built to work for everyone—museums of all sizes and types.



SAMANTHA BROWN
2024 Distinguished
German American of the Year

"When I travel to Germany, I feel like I have returned to my roots. My ancestors came from Hesse in western Germany, and we have retained that groundedness and appreciation for hard work that is so typical for German people. I also love hearty Austrian and German cuisine, and every year, my mother cooks pork chops for me for my birthday. I am truly honored to have been chosen as the 2024 Distinguished German American of the Year."

OUR IMPACT AND REACH SINCE 2020

Exhibits

13 ENRICHING &
MULTI-CULTURAL
EXPERIENCES

Scholarships
& Educational
Outreach

\$10,000
TO SUPPORT STUDENTS
OF GERMAN-SPEAKING
DESCENT

Experience the Magic
of Midwinter Vienna



Events & Lectures

SOLD OUT!
AT MAXIMUM CAPACITY

School Trip Visits

QUARTERLY

Museum and
Online Visitors

1 MILLION+
ONLINE & IN-PERSON

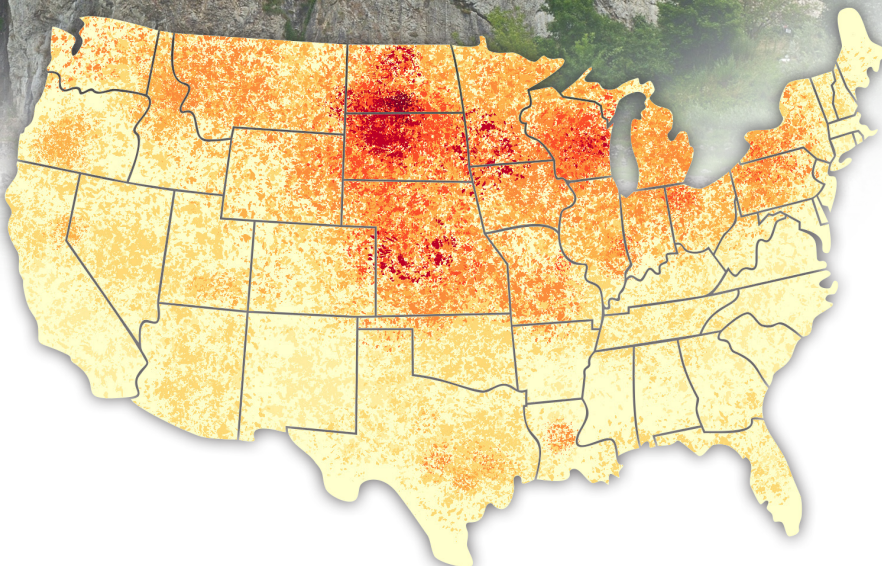
Social Media
Audience

13,000+

PERCENTAGE
OF AMERICANS
CLAIMING
GERMAN
ANCESTRY

**44,164,758 PEOPLE IN THE
U.S. ARE THOUGHT TO BE
OF GERMAN ANCESTRY IN
2018**

70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
5%
<5%



As we approach our **50th anniversary in 2027**, we stand at a pivotal moment in our history—one that calls for bold investment in our future.

The challenges we address today will be the stepping stones for our future success. We are embarking on a Strategic Planning process to advance our heritage and to ensure our future.

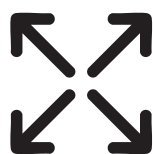
We cannot do this alone. We need our community to join us in building a legacy that will carry us forward for the next 50 years.

OUR 2-YEAR GOAL
\$750,000

TO CONTINUE PRESERVING AND SHARING GERMAN AMERICAN HERITAGE, WE MUST:



INVEST
in our people
and leadership



EXPAND
exhibits and
visitor experience



DIGITIZE
archives and
offer increased
collection access
to online guests



SUPPORT
scholarships and
encourage
German American
studies



HOST
cultural programs
and events for all
generations



GROW
and sustain our
membership



JOIN THE JOURNEY

GAHF is a community of individuals who celebrate and embrace their shared heritage and values. We serve as a vital link between the American public, embassies of German-speaking countries, and U.S. Government institutions, ensuring that the history of German-Americans remains a recognized and respected part of our national story. Your support keeps our history alive. Join us in preserving the past, celebrating the present, and shaping the future of German American heritage.

KONRAD HERMANN JOSEPH ADENAUER

The first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

"The past is our heritage, the present is our responsibility, and the future is our challenge."

Encapsulating the essence of human existence and the interconnectedness of time.

*Pictured: The Brooklyn Bridge, designed by John A. Roebling, creator of the suspension bridge.



WAYS TO INVEST

By supporting GAHF, you can help us promote and educate the public about the history and ongoing contributions of Americans of German-speaking descent. Your donation ensures we can continue our mission through museum enhancements, scholarships, digitized archives, and cultural programming.

COMPANY SUPPORT

Companies that **GIVE**,
RECEIVE much more!



Mission-Focused
Program Support



Grant Funding



Employee Giving



Cause-Related Marketing
& Sponsorships



Volunteerism Campaigns

INDIVIDUAL GIVING

Give the way that works
best for **YOU!**



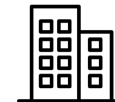
Online Giving



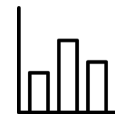
Checks



Donor-Advised Funds



Family Foundations &
Company Matching



Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds &
Other Appreciated Securities



Memorial Gifts

To discuss this exciting opportunity, contact Executive Director, Katja Sipple, MA, MIS:



202-467-5000



sipple@gahmusa.org



gahmusa.org

ARRIVING AT ELLIS ISLAND

5202-12



**G
A
H
F**

**GERMAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE
FOUNDATION AND MUSEUM
719 SIXTH STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001
202-467-5000
INFO@GAHMUSA.ORG**

Gold
Transparency
2025

Candid.