

PERSPEKTIVEN



Register for Spring 2026 Courses!

Starting as early as March 31st, we have 6 Spring courses being offered! In response to your requests, we now have a A1 beginner class! Whether you're at an A1 or a B1 level, we'd love to see you there!

Read More About...

**The Max Kade Institute's
upcoming exhibits**

**Upcoming Goethe House
Events!**

**Wisconsin's German
American of the Year**

**Pres. Smaglick's Gradisnik
Award**

Celebrate Goethe House Members!

President of the Goethe House, Dorothy Smaglick, along with Treasurer, Heiner Giese, were honored this year in recognition of their leadership and lasting contributions to Wisconsin's German community. Read all about it!

PERSPEKTIVEN

Executive Director's Column & Spring Courses!

Eine kleine Notiz...

We are in full swing with the Winter session for our German language classes. Goethe House Wisconsin is happy to have a robust enrollment that enables us to offer five class levels. If you are a complete beginner or a seasoned speaker, we just might have the class for you! Six classes will be offered in the Spring, from German A1 101 with a variety of levels leading up to German B1 302. Consider learning German or continuing to refine your language skills with Goethe House Wisconsin.

In addition to our language classes, keep a look-out for monthly events. In April, classical guitarist Laura Lootens will perform April 16 th at the UWM Zelazo center. In May the Goethe House will present a game night. From card games to board games, have some fun playing with others and practice German in a relaxed, fun atmosphere. Date to be announced soon.

Until next time...Alles Gute, alles Goethe!

Tim Miller, GH Director

Spring 2026 Schedule

Beginning April 2nd:

German 101 A1 Level

Thursdays 6-8pm

German 201 A2 Level

Thursdays 6-8pm

German 302 B2 Level

Thursdays 6-8pm

Beginning March 31st:

German 103 A1 Level

Tuesdays 6-8pm

German 204 A2 Level

Tuesdays 6-8pm

German 301 B1 Level

Tuesdays 5:30-7:30pm

Sign up [HERE](#)

PERSPEKTIVEN

Upcoming Events

A Night of Gemütlichkeit

March 6th @ Elk's Lodge #46

Sponsored by the German American Societies, this event celebrates Wisconsin's German American clubs and community. We are proud to share that our own Heiner Giese—Goethe House Treasurer and DSSV Senior President—will be honored as Wisconsin German American of the Year for his decades of service. Details and tickets are available online [HERE](#)

Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra - Bach's St. Matthew Passion

March 20th & 21st @ MKE Symphony Orchestra

Join us for the second concert with our special MSO offer featuring Bach's St. Matthew Passion conducted by Ken-David Masur in his final season as Music Director. Thanks to grant support, we're extending the special \$10 student and teacher ticket price; all other tickets are \$25. Arrive one hour early for the free "Meet the Music" pre-concert talk for an engaging introduction to the evening's performance. Please RSVP with your ticket quantity and preferred date to info@ghwisconsin.org by March 13. Payment may be made via Zelle (info@ghwisconsin.org) or by check.

Goethe Institute Concert: Laura Lootens DIABOLICO

April 16th 8pm @ UW-Milwaukee Zelazo Center

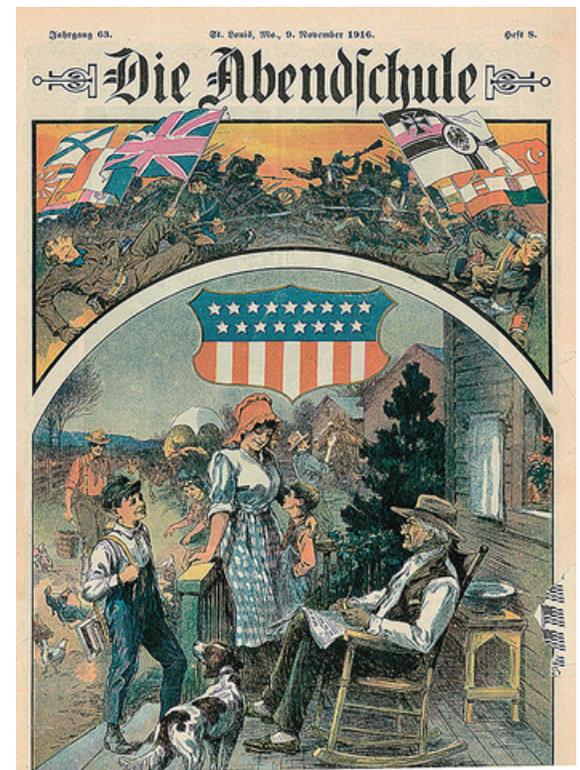
- Sponsored by the Goethe-Institut, this special Midwest tour brings concerts to select cities, and we are fortunate that Milwaukee is one of them. German classical guitarist Laura Lootens—widely recognized as one of today's most exciting voices in classical guitar—is known for her commanding sound, fearless virtuosity, and dynamic stage presence. A prodigy who began university studies at fifteen, she won First Prize at the 2022 Andrés Segovia International Competition and now serves on the faculty of the University of Music and Performing Arts Munich. Tickets at <https://concertsinamerica.com/laura/>

PERSPEKTIVEN

Exploring the Max Kade Institute for German American Studies

The Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies is an interdisciplinary unit in the College of Letters and Science at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. It is dedicated to researching, preserving, and sharing the stories of German-speaking immigrants and their descendants in the larger context of global migration past and present.

Join the Max Kade Institute for the in-person and virtual events and explore our website. You can find recordings of presentations in the MKI Virtual Lecture Series, scanned images from our Library and Archives, MKI’s exhibit “Neighbors Past and Present: The Wisconsin German Experience,” our most recent virtual exhibit on “Anna Seifert: Letters in German from a Wisconsin Farm,” and much more.



Among these interesting presentations and exhibits, the Max Kade Institute also has a plethora of scanned items from their Archives. Scanned passports, cookbooks, family photos, and books are available to view for free on their website. **Die Abendschule (The Nightschool)** is a particularly interesting collection. *Die Abendschule* was a family journal published in St. Louis, MO, between 1854 and 1940. The Institute has provided scans of entire issues published from 1916 to 1919.

PERSPEKTIVEN

President's Column



Winter weather has been interesting to say the least. From -15 degrees to 63 and back to snow. Although we apparently are not alone. My cousin in Bavaria shared that they are having "Sauwetter."

Goethe House has been busy in the past months - from a Glass Lecture and Beer Tasting to the Weihnachtsfeier at Kegel's to the German Cooking Class at Chef Pam's to the Milwaukee Symphony Beethoven and Haydn concerts to our Movie Matinee. We are excited to continue offering our classes and a variety of cultural and entertaining events and hope you will join us.

The German American Societies Night of Gemuetlichkeit on March on Friday, March 6 at Elks Lodge #46 will be a celebration of Wisconsin's German American clubs and community. Heiner Giese, Goethe House treasurer and DSSV senior president, will be honored as the Wisconsin German American of the Year in recognition of his decades of contributions to the German American community.

The second Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra special partnership with the German American community on March 20 and 21 at 7:30 pm. Bach's St. Matthew Passion will be conducted by Ken-David Masur in his last season as the MSO Music Director. Tickets will again be \$25 and only \$10 for teachers and students.

Please also consider supporting our mission by joining the Goethe House:

<https://ghwisconsin.org/membership/>

Dorothy Smaglick

PERSPEKTIVEN

Wisconsin German American of the Year: Heiner Giese

For more than four decades, Heiner Giese has been a steadfast leader and advocate for German culture, language, and heritage in Wisconsin. His commitment to preserving the Wisconsin legacy of German immigrants and strengthening the German-American institutions has left a lasting impact on our state.

Since the early 1980's he has served on the Goethe House board and been deeply involved with the DSSV (German Language and School Society), where he served as president from 1980 until recently, and now continues on as Senior President. Thanks to his leadership, both organizations have remained important centers for cultural programming, community engagement, and historical preservation. Heiner's impact extends beyond leadership titles. He has served as treasurer of the Goethe House for ten years, and played a key role in securing long-term financial stability through grants to provide cultural experiences for others. As an attorney in the German-American community, he has helped establish several memorial funds that remain major sources of support for both the Goethe House and DSSV.



Heiner helped incorporate German Fest Milwaukee in 1981, and served on its early board of directors, which led to its establishment as one of the largest German festivals in America. He continues to volunteer at German Fest every year.

PERSPEKTIVEN

Celebrating President Dorothy Smaglick!

The Wisconsin Association for Language Teachers (WAFLT) has named Dorothy Smaglick, Goethe House Board President, as the recipient of the 2025 Anthony J. Gradisnik Award, which honors outstanding advocacy for world language education outside of the teaching profession.

From the WAFLT Press Release:

For decades, Smaglick has been one of Wisconsin's most dedicated champions of German language and culture. Through her leadership with the German Language and School Society, the Friends of the Max Kade Institute, and the Goethe House of Wisconsin, she has strengthened programs that connect students to scholarships, competitions, cultural programming, and real-world career pathways.

As a longtime DSSV board member, Smaglick has helped sustain the annual German Essay Contest, awarding cash prizes to students across the state while supporting teachers with funding for initiatives such as the AATG National German Exam. She also organizes teacher grants and classroom funding opportunities to ensure German programs continue to thrive.

Smaglick spearheads the biennial Wisconsin German College and Career Day, which brings together students, universities, and German-affiliated companies. In 2024, she assumed the presidency of the Goethe House of Wisconsin, expanding adult language courses, increasing cultural offerings, and strengthening partnerships—including collaboration with the Goethe-Institut Chicago.



Through her vision, mentorship, and tireless advocacy, Smaglick has become a driving force for German language education in Wisconsin, inspiring both educators and students and helping ensure that German remains a vibrant part of the state's educational and cultural landscape.