



Germany 2023 –a year chock full of anniversaries and timely topics!

What a year! In 2023 we are commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift, the 60th anniversary of President Kennedy's momentous trip to Berlin, and the 175th anniversary of the Gold Rush that helped turn German born Levi Strauss into the embodiment of the American Dream! Bertha Benz drove the first automobile over a long distance in 1888; 200 years ago, Ludwig van Beethoven finished the Ode to Joy. Moreover, Richard Wagner died 140 years ago, and all the American beer drinkers rejoiced exactly 90 years ago when Prohibition officially ended in the USA. On a much more somber note, 2023 is also the 90th anniversary of Hitler coming to power in Germany and the 85th anniversary of the November pogrom (Kristallnacht.)

As you can see, there is just so much to talk about when it comes to German topics, especially as they relate to American history and society. That is why I am delighted to present a list of all the relevant and timely topics that I am offering in 2023. As always, I am looking forward to educating, enlightening, and entertaining your audiences!

Please take note: This is just a selection of my available programs. Visit www.anetteisaacs.com for a list of all offered programs.

Brand new – available in April:

Joseph Goebbels: The Man who seduced a Nation!



This year's 90th anniversary of Adolf Hitler coming to power in Germany presents a fitting occasion to take a closer look at his mouthpiece, Joseph Goebbels. Through his perfidious use of propaganda, this quintessential Nazi was not only able to turn the Dictator into a worshipped god-like figure, but he also seduced a whole nation and made many stubbornly believe in an essentially unwinnable war. German Historian Anette Isaacs presents fascinating insights into the life and mind of this powerful manipulator.

Programs celebrating major anniversaries:

Operation Freedom – The Berlin Airlift (75th anniversary)



It was perhaps one of the greatest adventures in American military history: the Berlin airlift of 1948/49! When Soviet troops closed all access routes to West-Berlin by land, sea, and rail, thus threatening the lives of 2.5 million people, American General Lucius D. Clay did not hesitate and organized a bold and fantastic bridge across the sky, involving 700 planes and more than 250 000 flights over a period of 14 months! Join German Historian Anette Isaacs for a fascinating discussion of this exciting time in her country's postwar history.

John F. Kennedy in Berlin: Revisiting a momentous trip! (60th anniversary)



2023 marks the 60th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's epoch-making visit to Berlin. For almost 45 years the German Metropolis, divided by a 98-mile-long concrete wall, was synonymous with the Cold War in Europe. Join German historian Anette Isaacs for a fascinating look back at this special Wednesday in June of 1963 that was so tremendous that it inspired the President to turn to his aide Ted Sorensen and say: "We'll never have another day like this one, as long as we live."

150 years ago, Levi Strauss received the patent for his famous pants:

Levi Strauss, the Gold Rush, and the World's most famous pair of pants!



Everybody loves them, everybody wears them: Jeans are no doubt an iconic garment and they tell the legendary story of the American West. But did you know that they were made world famous by an adventurous Bavarian Jew who combined his marvelous business sense with German ingenuity? Join German Historian Anette Isaacs for a fascinating journey into the days of the Gold Rush and learn about Levi Strauss and his amazing life!

135 years ago, Bertha Benz was the first human being ever to drive an automobile over a long distance:

The amazing Adventure of Bertha Benz and the History of the German Automobile



The superb reputation of German cars is legendary: Porsche, BMW, AUDI, and Mercedes Benz have millions of fans all over the world and are synonymous with the quality and success of German engineering. But hardly anyone knows that the history of the automobile's origin is, to a great extent, due to Bertha Benz, a young mother of five, who 135 years ago became the first human being ever to drive an automobile over a long distance. German Historian Anette Isaacs introduces you to Bertha Benz and her exciting and history making adventure of 1888!

The Tainted Legacy of Richard Wagner



To some he is the creator of divine music, to others history's most controversial composer: 140 years after he died in Venice, Richard Wagner and his legacy that was tainted by both, his own difficult personality, and the usurpation of his music by Adolf Hitler, are still topics of lively debate. Join Historian Anette Isaacs for a fascinating discussion of how the music and the legacy of Richard Wagner are received in her native country of Germany today.

Germany's liquid bread – a refreshing look at the history of Beer!



90 years ago, Prohibition ended in the United States and beer was back! Once so essential to daily diets that it was referred to as *liquid bread*, beer to this day is a source of great cultural and national pride, especially in Germany. Join Historian Anette Isaacs for a lively exploration into the history of this iconic drink that will also include a look at the lucky German brewers who became *Beer Barons* in the USA!

Other crucial anniversaries and commemorations in 2023:

The Life and Times of Martin Luther



2023 is an important year for all Protestants: Humankind's most rebellious monk, Martin Luther, was born 540 years ago. Join German Historian Anette Isaacs as she explores Luther's colorful and riveting life story. Ms. Isaacs also offers captivating insights into daily life in the 16th century, thus painting a fascinating picture of this highly dramatic episode in the history of civilization.

Ode to Beethoven – the Man behind the Music!



To this day, German born Ludwig van Beethoven, who finished his iconic 9th Symphony (*Ode to Joy*) 200 years ago, is the most listened to creator of classical music. Join German Historian Anette Isaacs for an intimate look at the life and times of this tragic genius who was as famous for his fiery personality as for his divine ability to turn his personal struggles into supreme and powerful melodies.

Margarete Steiff- The Woman behind the Teddy bear!



It is common knowledge that President Theodore Roosevelt, who was born 165 years ago, was the namesake of the iconic Teddy Bear. Hardly anyone knows, though, that this delightful toy was invented by an amazing woman who overcame terrible sickness and incredible challenges and turned her tiny workshop into one of the most recognizable international brands– and all that in the male dominated world of the 19th century! Join German historian Anette Isaacs as she relates the story of the truly awe-inspiring life of toy maker and business maven Margarete Steiff!

Fascinating current events programs:

Taking Inventory of Germany's Traffic Light Coalition



These are turbulent times for the coalition government under Chancellor Olaf Scholz: The war between Russia and the Ukraine has dire consequences for the country's energy supply and it is throwing a big wrench into the coalition's initial plans to modernize the country and to make it "greener". Germany expert Anette Isaacs discusses the many challenges the post-Merkel cabinet must face these days.

The New Promised Land: an Update on the Migrants and Refugees in Germany



Seven years ago, wars in the Middle East and economic hardship in many other countries were responsible for the biggest refugee crisis since World War II. Over a million of the refugees and migrants set their sights on Germany which seemed to become a new *promised land*. Anette Isaacs will discuss how her home country has dealt with the huge task of absorbing this enormous influx of people and how the refugees are faring in today's Germany!

Audience Favorites, perfect for all occasions:

“Mad” Ludwig II of Bavaria: Inside the Life and Mind of Germany’s Fairy-tale King!



Although he once famously said: “I wish to remain an eternal enigma to myself and to others”, King Ludwig II. is perhaps the most illustrious of all Germans. Best known as an eccentric whose love for art (especially the music of Richard Wagner) and architecture is legendary, the young King had a charmed but also tragic existence. Join German Historian Anette Isaacs as she unravels this “eternal enigma” and presents you with mesmerizing insights into the Fairy-tale King’s amazing life!

Also available: **Richard Wagner and King Ludwig of Bavaria – Between Music and Madness** Please see this lecture descriptions at www.anetteisaacs.com

The German Virtuosa – Inside the Life and Times of Clara Schumann



She was not only a divine pianist, talented composer, and successful teacher, but also a mother of 8 and the main breadwinner in her family. In the very male dominated 19th century, German *superwoman* Clara Schumann did it all while juggling a 61-year concert career that made her internationally famous. Join German Historian Anette Isaacs for an intimate look at the life of the very exceptional *Clara Virtuosa*!

So fun for an Oktoberfest type of event in the fall:

Culinaria Germania—the delicious dish on German Food



When thinking about German food bratwurst, sauerkraut, beer, and all kinds of breads are the first things that come to mind. German food and drink are well-known and popular all over the world. But there is so much more to German cuisine, especially when one takes the regional differences into consideration. Join German Historian Anette Isaacs, M.A. as she takes you on a fascinating, fun –and delicious– journey through the culinary wonders of her native country, highlighted by an authentic Kaffeeklatsch with typical German desserts such as the mysterious, yet delectable Bienenstich.



Don’t forget my delectable Workshop for Groups and Organizations:

The Wonders of Tea: Re-discovering an iconic beverage!



Tea is the most widely consumed beverage in the world after plain water. But what do we really know about this amazing beverage? Join Anette Isaacs for a fascinating journey into the world and history of tea, followed by an exclusive tasting of delectable specialty teas from major tea growing nations such as China, Japan, Sri Lanka, and Taiwan.

Please allow 2 ½ to 3 hours for this utterly delightful experience.

Two very important subjects in my work as a historian and public educator are *Jewish Life and Remembrance* and *the history of the Third Reich*. In 2023 the following programs will be timely:

90th anniversary of Hitler's rise to power in Germany:

The Germans and their *Führer*: Insights into a mutual obsession



Addressing a huge and adoring audience at the Party Convention in Nuremberg in 1936, Adolf Hitler stated: *"That you have found me among so many millions is the miracle of our time! And the fact that I found you—that is Germany's good fortune!"* Join German Historian Anette Isaacs for an exploration of how this consummate symbiosis of *Volk and Führer* (People and Leader) –that started 90 years ago with his rise to power– came into existence and how it changed and evolved during the course –and especially- the demise of the *Third Reich*.

Between Normality and Terror: Everyday Life in Nazi Germany



Most of today's research on Nazi Germany is focused on its system of terror that ultimately led to the death and destruction of millions of people. While we will discuss the role of governmental surveillance and brutality, we want to first and foremost explore what daily life was like for ordinary citizens in 1930s Germany. By looking at various societal paradigms, such as education, employment, and cultural expression, we will gain insights into how the German people were oscillating between normality and terror and how the Nazis were able to turn Germany into a brutal and horrific dictatorship.

The Women of the *Third Reich*



"The mission of women is to be beautiful and to bring children into the world." These words, auspiciously written by Hitler's mouthpiece Joseph Goebbels in 1929, laid out the simple but essential role German women were expected to play in the prospective Third Reich. By examining both the general situation of women in Nazi Germany and the individual lives of wives and girlfriends of the Nazi elite, such as Magda Goebbels, Emmi Goering, Leni Riefenstahl, and the infamous Eva Braun, German Historian Anette Isaacs will reveal in how far this lofty expectation was met by reality in a racially motivated totalitarian system.

Never Forget: Remembering the Holocaust in Berlin and Germany



This year we commemorate the 85th anniversary of Kristallnacht, also known as the November pogrom. Almost eight decades after the end of World War II, Germany has evolved into a country with a varied and fascinating remembrance culture, reminding Germans and visitors alike of the nation's horrible past and legacy. German historian Anette Isaacs will take you on a photographic journey to some of the many memorials to victims of the Holocaust, that show how remembrance and guilt have been expressed in the "land of the perpetrators."

Nazi Hunter Fritz Bauer—A Heroic Story!



It has become common knowledge that Adolf Eichmann was captured by Mossad agents in Argentina and brought to justice in Israel. But hardly anyone is familiar with the fact that it was a German Jew, the Hessian attorney general Fritz Bauer, who provided pivotal information about Eichmann's whereabouts in South America to the Israeli authorities. Join German Historian Anette Isaacs as she pays homage to Bauer, this true hero who died 55 years ago, and who confronted post-war German society with its guilt -and denial thereof- by almost single-handedly initiating the Auschwitz Trials of the mid 1960s.

Eichmann before Jerusalem—Insights into the mind of a Mass Murderer



Although he did not belong to the highest leadership circle, Adolf Eichmann is commonly referred to as the “architect of the Holocaust.” Who was this man? Did he really just represent the “banality of evil” as author Hannah Arendt so famously expressed it? Or was he indeed a fanatical and utterly brutal Nazi, as recent historical research suggests? Join German Historian Anette Isaacs for a compelling discussion of the decade Eichmann spent in Buenos Aires, which will reveal crucial insights into the mind of one of the world's most callous mass murderers.

From Survivors to DPs: Jews in Post- War Germany



It is a little-known fact that right after the end of World War II, over 200 000 Jewish Refugees and Holocaust Survivors found temporary asylum in Germany, of all places. The occupying forces created the so-called DP Camps for these *Displaced Persons* and helped them to prepare for a future life in the United States and Israel, for example with the creation of training *Kibbutzim* on German territory. Join German Historian Anette Isaacs and gain fascinating insights into Jewish Life in immediate Post-War Germany.

Germany and Israel—a story of Guilt and an unlikely Friendship



In 1965 Germany and Israel reluctantly entered into diplomatic relations. What at first glance seems to be a rather unlikely relationship –especially in light of the shared history– has evolved over time into a blossoming friendship and successful economic bond. In order for this to happen Germany had to face its Nazi legacy and subsequent collective guilt. Join German Historian Anette Isaacs as she discusses how her native country has attempted to cope with the guilt of causing the Holocaust and how this painful but necessary process heralded a new era in German- Israeli relations.

Also timely in 2023:

Silent Heroes: Exploring the Resistance Movement in Nazi Germany



This crucial presentation looks at the relatively unknown and sometimes even forgotten heroes who often gave their lives in order to fight against the German dictator's brutal Nazi regime. German Historian Anette Isaacs pays homage to Sophie and Hans Scholl, Georg Elser, Baron von Stauffenberg, the women of Rosenstrasse, and other groups who made up the *German Resistance*.

1945 – the year that shaped the new Germany



This year's 78th anniversary of the end of World War II presents us with a valuable opportunity to look back at the events that took place in 1945, a year that proved to be pivotal for the transformation of Germany from a brutal belligerent dictatorship to a flourishing and pacifist democracy. Join German Historian Anette Isaacs for a fascinating discussion of how key events like the bombing of Dresden, the Potsdam Conference, and the beginning of the Nuremberg trials played a crucial role in this remarkable process.

The Long Road "Home": Returning to Germany after the Holocaust.



Much has been written in recent years about the renaissance of Jewish Life in Germany which was primarily caused by a major wave of immigration on part of Jews from the former Soviet Union. While this lecture will explore this particular phenomenon and its consequences as well, it first and foremost wants to attempt to find an answer to the question why Jews were coming back to Germany right after World War II. Join German Historian Anette Isaacs, M.A. as she traces back the long road home that led to a rebirth of Jewish Life in her native country.

Jews in Germany today



Almost eight decades after the end of World War II, today's Jewish Community in Germany is the third largest in all of Europe and Jewish Life is flourishing. German Historian Anette Isaacs explores various facets of Jewish Life in her native country.

Please contact me and let us select the perfect programs for your audience! I am looking forward to hearing from you!

Anette Isaacs, M.A.

Tel: 847 826 9694

anette.isaacs@outlook.com