

The German Way Birthday & Holiday Calendar

Birth dates of notable German-speaking people, plus other observance dates

Introduction

Besides birth dates, this calendar includes the dates of national and regional holidays, plus other key dates and observances in German-speaking Europe. [Revised 2018 edition]

Holidays and Observances (in alphabetical order • also by date below)

*Indicates an official bank holiday in at least part of the German-speaking world.

Holidays in **bold type** are observed nationwide in their respective countries.

Unofficial observances and regional holidays/customs are shown in **medium type**.

Advent (around December 1) This four-week observance leading up to Christmas begins on the first Sunday after November 26.

Allerheiligen (November 1) All Saints Day, in Catholic regions*

Allerseelen (November 2) All Souls Day

Aschermittwoch (40 days before Easter) Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent

Aufstand des 17. Juni (June 17) Former West German national holiday ("Tag der deutschen Einheit," 1954-1990), now only an observance day commemorating the 1953 workers' riots in East Germany

Barbarazweig (December 4) Barbara Branch is a custom, not a holiday

*The **Barbarazweig custom**: On December 4 a cutting from a cherry tree is placed in a vase of water. If all goes well, the branch will bloom on or before Christmas.*

Bundesfeier (August 1) Swiss national holiday

Buß- und Betttag (Day of Repentance and Prayer) Former Protestant holiday in November; now a legal holiday only in the state of Saxony

Christihimmelfahrt (Ascension Day)* Observed 40 days after Easter, always on a Thursday

Erntedankfest (Thanksgiving, October) Not an official holiday, date varies by region

Fasching (Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday) Observed in Austria, parts of Germany, and Switzerland; also see *Karneval*.

Fronleichnam (Corpus Christi, 60 days after Easter)* A Catholic holy day; a legal holiday in Austria, Catholic regions of Switzerland, in six of the German *Bundesländer* and other Catholic regions of Germany

Frühling beginnt (around March 20) first day of spring, vernal equinox

Halloween (October 31) Not an official holiday; also Reformation Day (see below)

Heiligabend (Christmas Eve, December 24)

Heilige Drei Könige (Epiphany, "Holy Three Kings")* Also known as *Dreikönigsfest* or *Dreikönigstag*, Epiphany (January 6) is a legal holiday in all of Austria, parts of Switzerland

and in the German states of Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria and Saxony-Anhalt.

The Sternsinger custom: In Germany and Austria, during the Christmas season leading up to Epiphany, volunteer carol singers ("Sternsinger") raise money for charitable causes.

Herbst beginnt (first day of fall, autumnal equinox, on or around September 22)

Internationaler Frauentag (International Women's Day, March 8) Not a legal holiday

Karfreitag (Good Friday, the Friday before Easter) A legal holiday in Germany and most of Switzerland (but not in Austria and Luxembourg)

Karneval is the name for *Fasching* (Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday) in the Rhineland and some other areas of Germany.

Kindertag (Children's Day, June 1) Not an official holiday

Mariä Himmelfahrt (Assumption Day, August 15)* Only in parts of Bavaria

Mariä Lichtmess (Candlemas, February 2, Groundhog Day in North America)

Martinstag (St. Martin's Day, November 11) Mostly in Catholic regions

Mauerfall 1989 (November 9) Opening of the Berlin Wall in 1989

Muttertag (Mother's Day, second Sunday in May)

Narrentag (All Fools Day, April 1) "April, April!" = "April fools day!"

Nationaler Feiertag (October 26) Austrian national holiday

Neujahrstag (New Year's Day, January 1)

Nikolaustag (St. Nicholas Day, December 6)

The Nikolaustag custom: In Austria and Catholic regions of Germany and Switzerland, St. Nicholas, dressed as a bishop and often accompanied by Krampus, leaves gifts for children.

Ostermontag (Easter Monday) The Monday after Easter is a legal holiday.

Ostern (Easter, Easter Sunday)

Palmsonntag (Palm Sunday)

Pfingsten (Whit Sunday, Whitsuntide)

Pfingstmontag (Whit Monday)

Reformationstag (Reformation Day, October 31) - in Protestant regions*

Rosenmontag (Carnival Monday) As part of *Karneval* in the Rhineland

Silvester (New Year's Eve, December 31)

Sommersonnenwende (summer solstice, first day of summer, the longest day of the year)

Sommerzeit (start of Daylight Saving Time)

Tag der Arbeit (May 1) May Day, Labor day, International Workers Day*

Tag der Deutschen Einheit (Day of German Unity, Oct. 3 - now the German "July 4th")

Tag der Erde (Earth Day, April 22)

Totensonntag (Sunday of the Dead, the last Sunday before Advent) Not an official holiday, this is the German Protestant (Lutheran) version of *Allerseeelen*

Vatertag (Father's Day, different dates and customs)

Volkstrauertag (Day of Remembrance, November 17) Not an official holiday

Walpurgisnacht (Walpurgis Night, April 30) Not an official holiday

Weihnachtstag (Christmas Day, December 25) December 26 is also a holiday.

Wintersonnenwende (winter solstice, first day of winter, the shortest day of the year)

Winterzeit (start of Standard Time)

Zweiter (2.) Weihnachtsfeiertag (December 26) Boxing Day, St. Stephen's Day

Holidays and Observances (by date • also see alphabetical list above)

NOTE: Does not include "movable feasts" – such as Easter or Fasching/Karneval – or other observances without a fixed date.

JANUARY	APRIL	SEPTEMBER	NOVEMBER
1 Neujahrstag New Year's Day	30 Walpurgisnacht Walpurgis Night	22 Herbst beginnt First day of fall	11 Martinstag St. Martin's Day
6 Heilige Drei Könige Epiphany	MAY	OCTOBER	17 Volkstrauertag Day of Remembrance
FEBRUARY	1 Tag der Arbeit Labor Day - May Day	3 Tag der D. Einheit German Unity Day	DECEMBER
2 Mariä Lichtmess Candlemas	JUNE	26 Nationaler Feiertag National Day (Austria)	1 Adventszeit Advent start (approx.)
MARCH	17 Aufstand des 17.6. June 17 workers' riots	31 Reformationstag Reformation Day	4 Barbarazweig Barbara Branch
8 Intern. Frauentag Intl. Women's Day	JULY	31 Halloween Halloween	6 Nikolaustag St. Nicholas Day
20 Frühling beginnt First day of spring	<i>keine Feiertage</i> no holidays	NOVEMBER	24 Heiligabend Christmas Eve
APRIL	AUGUST	1 Allerheiligen All Saints Day	25 Weihnachtstag Christmas Day
1 Naarentag All Fools Day	1 Bundesfeier (CH) Swiss National Day	2 Allerseelen All Souls Day	26 2. Weihnachtstag 2nd Christmas Day
22 Tag der Erde Earth Day	15 Mariä Himmelfahrt Assumption Day	9 Mauerfall Fall of the Berlin Wall	31 Silvester New Year's Eve

To learn more about these holidays and observances, see the alphabetical listing above.

Birthdays of Notable People Listed Alphabetically

Also see *birthdays listed by month below*.

A

- Adenauer, Konrad** (1876-1967) January 5 - First chancellor of West Germany, 1949
- Alzheimer, Alois** (1864-1915) June 14 - German physician credited with first identifying the disease later named for him
- Andress, Ursula** (1936-) March 19 - Swiss film actress: *Dr. No* (first "Bond girl"), *The Blue Max*
- Ardenne, Manfred von** (1907-1997) January 20 - German physicist and inventor (TV)
- Arendt, Hannah** (1906-1975) October 14 - German-American writer and political theorist
- Astaire, Fred** (Frederick Austerlitz, 1899-1987) May 10 - US film actor and dancer born to an Austrian father in Omaha, Nebraska; Astaire's father, Fritz Austerlitz, was born in Linz, Austria.
- Astor, John Jacob** (Johann Jakob, 1763-1848) July 17 - German-American business magnate, merchant and investor; America's first multi-millionaire
- Augstein, Rudolf** (1923-2002) Nov. 5 - German magazine publisher (*Der Spiegel*) and journalist

B

- Baader, Andreas** (1943-1977) May 6 - Founder of the infamous Baader-Meinhof gang
- Bach, Johann Sebastian** (1685-1750) March 31 - German composer
- Baedeker, Karl** (1801-1859) November 3 - Publisher of the first authoritative travel guides
- Ballhaus, Michael** (1935-) August 5 - Former German cinematographer in Hollywood
- Ballin, Albert** (1857-1918) August 15 - German-Jewish shipping magnate (Hapag) who invented the ocean cruise
- Baumgartner, Felix** (1969-) April 20 - Austrian skydiver and daredevil who set the world record by skydiving an estimated 24 miles (39 km) from the Red Bull Stratos on October 14, 2012
- Beckenbauer, Franz** (1945-) September 11 - Munich-born "Kaiser" Franz is a former German soccer star and coach.
- Becker, Boris** (1967-) November 22 - German former tennis champion
- Beethoven, Ludwig van** (1770-1827) December 16 - German composer and pianist
- Benedict XVI, Pope** (Joseph Alois Ratzinger, 1927-) April 16 - German-born pope from April 19, 2005 to February 28, 2013. Benedict XVI became the first pope to resign since Pope Gregory XII in 1415. The former cardinal was born in the Bavarian town of Marktl am Inn.
- Benz, Karl** (1844-1929) November 25 - German inventor of the automobile
- Berger, Henri** (Heinrich, 1844-1929) August 4 - Prussian composer and royal bandmaster of the Kingdom of Hawaii from 1872 to 1929, and leader of the Royal Hawaiian Band
- Biermann, Wolf** (1936-) November 15 - German singer-songwriter born in Hamburg
- Bismarck, Otto von** (1815-1898) April 1 - The Prussian statesman who dominated German and European affairs from the 1860s to his dismissal in 1890; he was the German chancellor from 1871 to 1890. His stern rule earned him the nickname "Iron Chancellor."
- Black, Roy** (Gerhard Höllerich, 1953-1991) January 25 - German "Schlager" singer and

film/TV actor

- Bleibtreu, Moritz** (1971-) August 13 - German film actor: *Lola rennt*, *World War Z*
- Böhm, Karl Heinz** (1928-2014) March 16 - Austrian film actor: *The Venetian Affair* (1967)
- Bois, Curt** (1901-1999) April 5 - German film and stage actor: *Casablanca* (1942), *Wings of Desire* (1987)
- Böll, Heinrich** (1917-1985) December 21 - German novelist, writer; Nobel Prize 1972
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich** (1906-1945) February 4 - German Lutheran pastor and theologian known for his resistance to the Nazi dictatorship; executed in April 1945
- Born, Max** (1882-1970) December 11 - German physicist, 1954 Nobel Prize in physics
- Bosch, Robert** (1861-1942) September 23 - German engineer, industrialist, and inventor whose top-notch automotive spark plugs (1897) helped him build Robert Bosch GmbH into one of Germany's largest companies.
- Brandauer, Klaus Maria** (1944-) June 22 - Austrian film/stage actor: *Out of Africa*
- Brandt, Willy** (Herbert Frahm, 1913-1992) December 18 - West German chancellor (SPD) from 1969 to 1974; West Berlin mayor 1957-1966
- Braun, Wernher von** (1912-1977) March 23 - German-born rocket scientist who helped the USA land men on the moon
- Brecht, Bertolt** (1898-1956) February 10 - German poet, playwright, theater director
- Brentano, Clemens** (1778-1842) September 9 - German novelist and poet
- Brühl, Daniel** (1978-) June 16 - German-Spanish actor: *Vaya con Dios*, *Good Bye Lenin!*, *The Bourne Ultimatum*, *Inglourious Basterds*, *Rush* (as Niki Lauda)
- Buber, Martin** (1878-1965) February 8 - Austrian Jewish philosopher, writer, translator, and educator
- Buchholz, Horst** (Horst Werner, 1933-2003) December 4 - German film actor (*One, Two, Three*; *The Magnificent Seven*)
- Bullock, Sandra** (1964-) July 26 - American film actress; German mother, speaks German
- Bülow, Vicco von** (Loriot, 1923-2011) November 12 - German humorist, cartoonist
- Bunsen, Robert** (1811-1899) March 30 - German chemist best known for his eponymous gas burner

C

- Canetti, Elias** (1905-1994) July 25 - Bulgarian-born Swiss and British novelist, playwright, and non-fiction writer who wrote in German; 1981 Nobel Prize in Literature. When Canetti was seven the family moved to Vienna, Austria, where Elias lived and later attended university.
- Cantor, Georg** (Georg Ferdinand Ludwig Philipp Cantor, 1845-1918) March 3 - German mathematician and inventor of set theory, now a fundamental theory in mathematics
- Ceram, C.W.** (Kurt Wilhelm Marek, 1915-1972) January 20 - German journalist and author known for his popular works about archaeology. Marek used his C.W. Ceram pseudonym (Marek spelled backwards with a C) to distance himself from his earlier work as a propagandist for the Nazis. His most famous book, *Gods, Graves, and Scholars*, first published in 1949, has sold millions of copies and has been translated into 28 languages.

Charlemagne (Karl der Große, 742-814) d. January 28 - Crowned Holy Roman Emperor in 800.

Clausewitz, Carl Philipp Gottfried von (1780-1831) July 1 - German/Prussian soldier and military theorist who stressed the psychological and political aspects of war

D

Darnell, Bruce (1957-) July 19 - Afro-American TV personality in Germany

Dassler, Adi (Adolf Dassler, 1900-1978) November 3 - German inventor of the sports shoe, and founder of the Adidas company; his brother Rudolf later founded Puma.

Day, Doris (Kappelhoff, 1924-) April 3 - Former US Hollywood film star of German heritage

DiCaprio, Leonardo Wilhelm (1974-) Nov. 11 - American film actor with a German mother

Dietrich, Marlene (1901-1992) December 27 - German film star who came to the US in 1930

Döblin, Alfred (1878-1957) August 10 - German novelist: *Berlin Alexanderplatz* (1929)

Doldinger, Klaus (1936-) May 12 - German jazz musician, composer ("Tatort")

Doppler, Christian (1803-1853) Nov. 29 - Austrian mathematician and physicist; the "Doppler effect" is named for him.

Dörrie, Doris (1955-) May 26 - German film director, *Männer, Nackt*

Dreifuss, Ruth (1940-) January 9 - Swiss politician; first woman to serve as president (1999)

Droste-Hülshoff, Annette von (1797-1848) January 10 (or 12) - German writer

Duden, Konrad (1829-1911) January 3 - German teacher who authored the first German spelling guide (1872). The name "Duden" in Germany is like "Webster" in the US.

Dürer, Albrecht (1471-1528) May 21 - German painter, printmaker

Dutschke, Rudi (1940-1979) March 7 - German student activist in the 1960s and '70s

E

Ebner-Eschenbach, Marie von (1830-1916) September 13 - Austrian writer, novelist

Ehrlich, Paul (1854-1915) March 14 - German bacteriologist, immunologist and physician who received the 1908 Nobel Prize in Medicine

Eichinger, Bernd (1949-2011) April 11 - German film producer in Hollywood

Einstein, Albert (1879-1955) March 14 - German-born physicist famous for his theory of relativity

Elisabeth of Austria ("Sisi," 1837-1898) December 24 - Bavarian-born Empress Elisabeth of Austria married Austro-Hungarian Emperor Franz Joseph I when she was only 16 years old. She was 60 years old when an Italian anarchist stabbed her to death in Geneva.

Emmerich, Roland (1955-) November 10 - German director in Hollywood (*Independence Day*)

Ende, Michael (1929-1995) November 12 - German author: *The Neverending Story*

Engels, Friedrich (1820-1895) November 28 - German social scientist, author, political theorist, philosopher, and father of Marxist theory, alongside Karl Marx

Erhard, Ludwig (1897-1977) February 4 - West German chancellor (CDU), 1963-1966; as Economics Minister, credited with the "economic miracle" of the 1950s and '60s

Esslinger, Hartmut (1944-) June 4 - German-born industrial designer for Apple Computer and Sony; founder of Frog Design.

F

Fahrenheit, Daniel Gabriel (1686-1736) May 24 - German physicist and inventor of the temperature scale named for him

Falco (Hans Hölzel, 1957-1998) February 19 - Austrian pop singer: "Rock Me Amadeus"

Fassbinder, Rainer Werner (1945-1982) May 31 - German director, "New German Cinema"

Federer, Roger (1981-) August 8 - Top-ranked German-Swiss tennis champion

Feininger, Lyonel (1871-1956) July 17 - German-American cartoonist, painter and leading exponent of Expressionism

Fischer, Emil (1852-1919) October 9 - German chemist, Nobel Prize 1902

Fischer, Joschka (Joseph Martin "Joschka," 1948-) April 12 - German politician (Alliance '90/The Greens), German Foreign Minister (1998-2005)

Fontane, Theodor (1819-1898) December 30 - German poet, novelist: *L'Adultera* (1882), *Effi Briest* (1894-95) - 2019 is Das Fontane-Jahr, the 200th anniversary of his birth.

Forster, Marc (1969-) November 30 - German-Swiss film director (*World War Z*, *Quantum of Solace*)

Frankfurter, Felix (1882-1965) November 15 - Austrian-born US Supreme Court Justice from 1939 to 1962

Franz Joseph I (Kaiser Franz Joseph, 1830-1916) August 18 - Austrian emperor, 1848-1916, House of Habsburg; also see **Elisabeth of Austria** above.

Freud, Anna (1895-1982) December 3 - Sixth and last child of *Sigmund Freud*, and the only one to follow in her father's footsteps, primarily in child psychology

Freud, Sigmund (Sigismund Schlomo Freud, 1856-1939) May 6 - Austrian creator of psychoanalysis

Friedrich Barbarossa (Frederick Barbarossa, Frederick I, 1122-1190) d. June 10 - Barbarossa was elected King of Germany at Frankfurt and crowned in Aachen in 1152. He served as Holy Roman Emperor from 1155 until his death in Anatolia (now Turkey). One legend says he is not dead, but asleep with his knights in a cave in the Kyffhäuser mountain in Thuringia, Germany.

Friedrich der Große (Frederick the Great, Frederick II, 1712-1786) January 24 - Prussian king from 1740 to 1786

Fröbe, Gert (Karl Gerhart Fröbe, 1913-1988) February 25 - German actor (*Goldfinger*)

Fröbel, Friedrich (1782-1852) April 21 - German pedagogue, a student of **Pestalozzi**, who laid the foundation for modern education

Fugger, Anton (1493-1560) June 10 - Prominent member of the Fugger merchant and banking dynasty who was one of the richest men in history

Funke, Cornelia (1958-) December 10 - German author of books for children and teens. *Inkheart* and *Thief Lord* were also turned into films.

G

- Ganz, Bruno** (1941-) March 22 - Swiss film actor who played Prof. Bruckner in *The Boys from Brazil*, Daniel in *Wings of Desire*, Adolf Hitler in *Downfall*, and Prof. Rohl in *The Reader*.
- Gauss, Carl Friedrich** (1777-1855) April 30 - German mathematician, astronomer and physicist
- Geiger, Hans** (1882-1945) September 30 - German inventor of the Geiger counter
- Genscher, Hans-Dietrich** (1927-) March 21 - German politician of the liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP). Genscher served as Foreign Minister and Vice Chancellor of Germany from 1974 to 1992, longer than anyone for either post.
- Giger, H.R.** (Hans Rudolph Giger, 1940-2014) February 5 - Swiss artist and designer who created the monster for Ridley Scott's sci-fi film *Alien* (1979).
- Gödel, Kurt Friedrich** (1906-1978) April 28 - Austrian-American mathematician, logician, and philosopher
- Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von** (1749-1832) August 28 - Germany's greatest author, dramatist and poet
- Gottschalk, Thomas** (1950-) May 18 - Famous German TV host, film actor
- Graf, Steffi** (1969-) June 14 - German former tennis star, now married to Andre Agassi
- Grass, Günter** (1927-2015) October 16 - German novelist, poet, playwright, illustrator, artist, sculptor and recipient of the 1999 Nobel Prize in Literature; widely regarded as Germany's most famous modern writer.
- Grimm, Jacob** (1785-1863) January 4 - Best known for *Grimms' Fairy Tales*
- Grimm, Wilhelm** (1786-1859) February 24 - Best known for *Grimms' Fairy Tales*
- Grönemeyer, Herbert** (1956-) April 12 - German musician, singer, actor (*Das Boot*)
- Gropius, Walter** (1883-1969) May 18 - German architect who helped found the Bauhaus
- Gruber, Franz** (1787-1863) November 25 - Austrian composer of "Stille Nacht" ("Silent Night") – with lyrics by Joseph Mohr
- Gutenberg, Johannes Gensfleisch zum** (ca. 1397-1468) d. February 3 - German inventor of movable type and printing

H

- Haber, Fritz** (1868-1934) December 9 - German chemist, Nobel Prize in chemistry, 1918
- Hagen, Nina** (1955-) March 11 - German punk-rock singer; related to **Wolf Biermann**
- Hagens, Gunther von** (1945-) January 10 - German anatomist, artist, creator of "Body Worlds"
- Handke, Peter** (1942-) December 6 - Austrian novelist and playwright
- Hauptmann, Gerhart** (1862-1946) November 15 - German dramatist and novelist who received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1912
- Haydn, Franz Joseph** (1732-1809) March 31 - Austrian composer
- Hegel, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich** (1770-1831) August 27 - German philosopher
- Heidegger, Martin** (1889-1976) September 26 - German philosopher

- Heine, Heinrich** (Christian Johann Heinrich, 1797-1856) December 13 - German poet, journalist, and essayist
- Heisenberg, Werner** (1901-1976) December 5 - German physicist; quantum mechanics
- Helmholtz, Hermann von** (1821-1894) August 31 - German physician, physicist and philosopher known for the Helmholtz equation and other scientific work
- Hertz, Heinrich Rudolf** (1857-1894) February 22 - German physicist
- Herzog, Roman** (1934-) April 5 - German politician (Christian Democratic Union, CDU) who served as President of Germany from 1994 to 1999.
- Herzog, Werner** (Werner Herzog Stipetić, 1942-) September 5 - German film director: *Aguirre, the Wrath of God* (1972), *Nosferatu the Vampyre* (1979), *Fitzcarraldo* (1982), *Queen of the Desert* (2015)
- Hesse, Hermann** (1877-1962) July 2 - German-born Swiss poet, novelist, and painter. His best-known novels include *Steppenwolf*, *Siddhartha*, and *The Glass Bead Game*.
- Hitler, Adolf** (1889-1945) April 20 - Austrian-born German *Führer* whose 1000-year Reich only lasted 12 years
- Hofer, Andreas** (1767-1810) November 22 - Tyrolean (Austrian) patriot
- Hoffmann, E.T.A.** (Ernst Theodor Amadeus, 1776-1822) January 24 - German writer (early fantasy/sci-fi)
- Hoffmann von Fallersleben, August Heinrich** (1798-1874) April 2 - August Heinrich Hoffmann was a German poet known by his pen name "Hoffmann von Fallersleben." He is best known for writing the lyrics for the German national anthem ("Deutschlandlied").
- Honecker, Erich** (1912-1994) August 25 - East German General Secretary from 1971 to 1989; in charge of building the Berlin Wall in 1961, on orders of **Walter Ulbricht**
- Humboldt, Alexander von** (1769-1859) September 14 - German naturalist, explorer and geographer; explored Latin America, visited the US, met with President Jefferson
- Humboldt, Wilhelm von** (1767-1835) June 22 - German philosopher and founder of the Berlin university named for him in 1949; brother of Alexander above
- Hundertwasser, Friedensreich** (1928-2000) December 15 - Noted Austrian architect, artist

J

- Jahn, Helmut** (1940-) January 4 - German-American architect whose design work includes the Sony Center in Berlin, the *Meseturm* in Frankfurt, One Liberty Place in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the international airport in Bangkok, Thailand
- Jähn, Sigmund** (1937-) February 13 - East German cosmonaut (Soyuz 31, Soyuz 29)
- Jannings, Emil** (1884-1950) July 23 - German film actor, winner of first Oscar in 1929
- Jung, Carl Gustav** (1875-1961) July 26 - Swiss psychiatrist and psychotherapist who founded analytical psychology, aka C.G. Jung
- Jürgens, Curd** (Curd Gustav Andreas Gottlieb Franz, 1915-1982) December 13 - Jürgens was an Austrian stage and film actor. His Hollywood films (often as Curt Jurgens) include *The Enemy Below* (1957), *The Inn of the Sixth Happiness* (1958), *The Longest Day* (1962), *Miracle of the White Stallions* (1963), and *The Spy Who Loved Me* (1977).

Jürgens, Udo (Udo Jürgen Bockelmann, 1934-2014) September 20 - Austrian-born (Klagenfurt) *Schlager* singer who had many hit songs over the years: "17 Jahr, blondes Haar" (1965), "Griechischer Wein" (1974), "Aber bitte mit Sahne" (1976), "Mit 66 Jahren" (1978), "Ich war noch niemals in New York" (2001).

K

Kaempfert, Bert (1923-1980) October 16 - German songwriter and orchestra leader

Kafka, Franz (1883-1924) July 3 - Born in Prague, Kafka was an Austrian Jew whose "Kafkaesque" stories, written in German, have become classics.

Kalina, Robert (1955-) June 29 - Austrian designer of euro banknotes

Kant, Immanuel (1724-1804) April 22 - German philosopher

Karl der Große (724-814) ("Charles the Great") - See "Charlemagne" above.

Kästner, Erich (1899-1974) February 23 - German writer whose works have been turned into films by Disney: *The Parent Trap* and *Emil and the Detectives*

Kaymer, Martin (1984-) Dec. 28 - German golf pro; PGA Championship winner 2010

Kepler, Johannes (1571-1630) December 27 - German astronomer and mathematician best known for his laws of planetary motion

King, Martin Luther, Jr. (1929-1968) January 15 - Visited East Berlin in 1964 – against the wishes of the US government

Kinski, Klaus (1926-1991) October 18 - German film actor who appeared in more than 130 films, many by director Werner Herzog, including: *Aguirre, the Wrath of God* (1972), *Nosferatu the Vampyre* (1979), *Woyzeck* (1979), and *Fitzcarraldo* (1982)

Kinski, Nastassja (Nastassja Aglaia Kinski, 1961-) January 24 - German film actress, daughter of Klaus Kinski, whose films include: *Aguirre, the Wrath of God* (1972), *Tess* (1979), *Cat People* (1982), and *Faraway, So Close!* (1993)

Kissinger, Henry (1923-) May 27 - German-born US Secretary of State from 1973 to 1977

Klee, Paul (1879-1940) December 18 - Swiss artist whose highly individual style was influenced by expressionism, cubism, and surrealism

Klimt, Gustav (1862-1918) July 14 - Austrian painter and sculptor

Klum, Heidi (1973-) June 1 - German-American fashion model, TV star, fashion designer

Knef, Hildegard (1925-2002) December 28 - German actress, singer, writer

Koch, Robert (1843-1910) December 11 - 1905 Nobel Prize for discovery of the cause of tuberculosis

Kohl, Helmut (1930-2017) April 3 - German *Kanzler*/chancellor from 1982 to 1998

Kokoschka, Oskar (1886-1980) March 1 - Austrian painter with a unique style

Kollwitz, Käthe (1867-1945) July 8 - German artist and sculptor

Kruger, Diane (1976-) July 15 - German actress: *National Treasure*, *Troy*, *Inglourious Basterds*

L

Laemmle, Carl (Karl Lämmle, 1867-1939) January 17 - German-born Jewish founder of

- Universal Studios (1912) and cinema pioneer
- Laemmle, Carla** (Rebekah Isabelle "Carla" Laemmle, 1909-2014) October 20 - American film actress of German Jewish descent; niece of Carl Laemmle
- Lagerfeld, Karl Otto** (1933-) September 10 - Noted German fashion designer
- Lamarr, Hedy** (Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler, 1914-2000) November 9 - Austrian-born film actress who was a big Hollywood star in the 1940s and '50s, and also an award-winning inventor
- Lang, Fritz** (1890-1976) December 5 - Austrian film director in Hollywood
- Langer, Bernhard** (1957-) August 27 - German golf pro; Master's winner 1985, 1993
- Last, James** (Hans Last, 1929-2015) April 17 - German composer and big band leader who had numerous best-selling albums in Germany and the UK. His composition "Happy Heart" was an international success with recordings by Andy Williams and Petula Clark.
- Lauda, Niki** (1949-) February 22 - Austrian former Formula One race driver
- Leibniz, Gottfried Wilhelm** (1646-1716) July 1 - German mathematician and philosopher
- Lilienthal, Otto** (1848-1896) May 23 - German aviation pioneer and the first person to make well-documented, repeated, successful gliding flights
- Link, Charlotte** (1963-) October 5 - Bestselling German novelist
- Liszt, Franz** (1811-1886) October 22 - German-speaking Hungarian composer, pianist and conductor
- Litfass, Ernst** (Litfaß, 1816-1874) February 11 - German inventor, printer, and publisher who invented the free-standing cylindrical advertising column that bears his name in German: *die Litfaßsäule*
- Loewe, Frederick** (1901-1988) June 10 - Berlin-born composer of famous musicals, including "Camelot" and "My Fair Lady"
- Loriot** (Vicco von Bülow, 1923-2011) November 12 - German humorist, cartoonist
- Lorre, Peter** (1904-1964) June 26 - Austrian, German-speaking film actor (*M, Casablanca, The Maltese Falcon, 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, Around the World in Eighty Days*)
- Lubitsch, Ernst** (1892-1947) January 29 - German film director in Hollywood
- Ludwig II** (1845-1886) August 25 - "Mad" King Ludwig of Bavaria, 1864-1886 ("Swan King")
- Luther, Martin** (1483-1546) November 10 - German monk, Catholic priest, professor of theology and seminal figure of the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century
- Luxemburg, Rosa** (1871-1919) March 5 - German Marxist philosopher and economist of Polish Jewish descent

M

- Mach, Ernst** (1838-1916) Feb. 18 - Austrian scientist and philosopher who gave his name to the air speed system that measures the speed of an aircraft in relation to the speed of sound, Mach 1 being the local speed of sound.
- Mann, Heinrich** (1871-1950) March 27 - German author, brother of *Thomas Mann*
- Mann, Thomas** (1875-1955) June 6 - Noted German author: *Buddenbrooks, The Magic Mountain, Death in Venice*; 1929 Nobel Prize in Literature
- Marx, Karl** (1818-1883) May 5 - German philosopher, born in Trier, Prussia; with *Friedrich*

- Engels*, co-founder of communism
- Masur, Kurt** (1927-2015) July 18 - East German former conductor of the New York Philharmonic, 1991-2002
- Mateschitz, Dietrich** ("Didi" 1944-) May 20 - Austrian billionaire founder of Red Bull
- May, Karl** (1842-1912) February 25 - German author of adventure and western stories, once popular with German youngsters
- Meinhof, Ulrike Marie** (1934-1976) October 7 - Meinhof was a member of the infamous Baader-Meinhof gang, a German left-wing terrorist group.
- Meitner, Lise** (1878-1968) November 7 - Austrian nuclear physicist who discovered fission; second woman to earn a doctorate from the University of Vienna (1906)
- Melanchthon, Phillip** (Phillip Schwartzerd, 1497-1560) February 16 - German scholar and religious reformer, who worked with Martin Luther
- Mencken, H.L.** (1880-1956) Sept. 12 - Henry Lewis Mencken was the son of German-Americans in Baltimore. He became a famous and controversial journalist and literary critic. His authoritative multivolume work, *The American Language*, was published between 1919 and 1948.
- Mendel, Gregor** (1822-1884) July 20 - Austrian naturalist noted for studies in genetics
- Merkel, Angela** (1954-) July 17 - Germany's first female chancellor, in office since 2005
- Mesmer, Franz Johann** (1734-1815) May 23 - Austrian physician who gave us the word "mesmerize." After being accused of practicing magic rather than medicine, Mesmer was forced to leave Austria in 1778.
- Messner, Reinhold** (1944-) September 17 - One of the world's most successful mountain climbers, from South Tyrol; author of over 60 books; first solo climb of Mount Everest without supplemental oxygen
- Mey, Reinhard** (1942-) December 21 - German singer, songwriter, *Liedermacher*
- Meyer, Julius Lothar** (1830-1895) August 19 - German chemist who created the first periodic table of chemical elements in 1862, only a few years before the Russian Dimitri Mendeleev.
- Mies van der Rohe, Ludwig** (Maria Ludwig Michael, 1886-1969) March 27 - Born in Aachen, Germany, Mies was known for his trend-setting architecture and the phrase "less is more." He was associated with Walter Gropius and the Bauhaus.
- Mittermaier, Rosemarie** ("Rosi" 1950-) August 5 - German Olympic downhill ski champion and 3-time world champion
- Modersohn-Becker, Paula** (1876-1907) February 8 - German Expressionist painter
- Mohr, Joseph** (1792-1848) December 11 - Austrian author of lyrics to "Stille Nacht" – with music by *Franz Gruber*
- Morgenstern, Christian** (1871-1914) May 6 - German poet and author noted for his humorous poems
- Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus** (1756-1791) January 27 - Austrian composer
- Mueller-Stahl, Armin** (1930-) December 17 - German film actor: *The House of the Spirits* (1993), *The Thirteenth Floor* (1999), *Eastern Promises* (2007), *Angels and Demons* (2009)
- Murnau, F.W.** (Friedrich Wilhelm Plumpe, 1888-1931) December 28 - German-born Hollywood film director whose grave is near Potsdam
- Musil, Robert** (1880-1942) November 6 - Austrian writer, novelist

Mutter, Anne-Sophie (1969-) June 29 - Internationally acclaimed German violinist

N

Naidoo, Xavier (Kurt) (1971-) October 2 - German soul and R&B singer

Nast, Thomas (1840-1902) September 27 - German-born American caricaturist, editorial cartoonist and artist who also helped create the modern Santa Claus image

Nena (Gabriele Susanne Kerner, 1961-) March 24 - German pop singer Nena made a big splash in the 1980s with "99 Luftballons" ("99 Red Balloons" 1984). After that worldwide hit, her career leveled off, especially in the non-German-speaking world.

Nestlé, Henri (Heinrich Nestle, 1814-1890) August 10 - German founder of the Swiss food company Nestlé; the family name's Swabian origins: *das Nestle* = little nest

Neutra, Richard Josef (1892-1970) April 8 - The Austrian-American architect came to the US in 1923 to work in Chicago with Frank Lloyd Wright and other American architects. He was known for his unique designs in steel and concrete after his earlier work with houses, using natural materials – mostly in Southern California.

Newton, Helmut (Helmut Neustädter, 1920-2004) October 31 - Berlin-born German-Australian fashion photographer who helped revolutionize fashion photography in the 1970s by foregoing the studio in favor of natural outdoor settings.

Nietzsche, Friedrich (1844-1900) October 15 - Noted German philosopher: "God is dead."

Noether, Emmy (Amalie Emmy Noether, 1882-1935) March 23 - Noether was a noted mathematician born in the Bavarian town of Erlangen, Germany.

Nolde, Emil (1867-1956) August 7 - German-Danish painter and printmaker. Nolde was one of the first Expressionists, a member of *Die Brücke*, and is considered to be one of the great oil painting and watercolor painters of the 20th century.

Nowitzki, Dirk (1978-) June 19 - German basketball player, Dallas Mavericks, NBA

O

Oberth, Hermann (1894-1989) June 25 - German/Austro-Hungarian rocket scientist

Ohm, Georg Simon (1789-1854) March 16 - German physicist for whom the ohm, a unit of electrical resistance, is named. As a professor of physics at the Polytechnische Schule in Nürnberg and later in Munich, Ohm made important discoveries about electrical properties that came to be formulated as Ohm's Law (1827).

Opel, Adam (1837-1895) May 9 - German founder of the company that bears his name (1862). Opel is now a division of General Motors.

Orff, Carl (1895-1982) July 10 - German composer - "Carmina Burana"

Otto I (912-973) November 23 - Otto the Great was German king from 936 and emperor of the Holy Roman Empire from 962 until his death.

Otto, Nicolaus (1832-1891) June 10 - German co-inventor of the four-stroke internal combustion engine (*der Ottomotor*, 1876) still widely used today

P

- Pachelbel, Johann** (1653-1706) September 1 - German composer
- Pestalozzi, Johann Heinrich** (1746-1827) November 12 - Swiss educational reformer
- Petersen, Wolfgang** (1941-) March 14 - The director of *Das Boot*, *Air Force One* and *The Perfect Storm* is one of many Germans and Austrians who achieved success in Hollywood.
- Porsche, Ferdinand** (1875-1951) September 3 - Czech-German automotive engineer, best known for creating the first gasoline-electric hybrid vehicle (Lohner-Porsche), the Volkswagen Beetle, and the Mercedes-Benz SS/SSK, as well as the first of many Porsche automobiles.
- Porsche, Ferdinand Alexander** (1935-2012) December 11 - Son of *Ferry Porsche*, grandson of *Ferdinand Porsche*; he was a German designer whose best known product was the first Porsche 911 (pron. PORSH-uh, not PORSH).
- Porsche, Ferry** (Ferdinand Anton Ernst Porsche, 1909-1998) September 19 - Austrian technical automobile designer and automaker-entrepreneur; born in Wiener Neustadt, Austria, Ferry was the son of *Ferdinand Porsche*.
- Potente, Franka** (1974-) July 22 - German film actress: *Lola rennt*, *The Bourne Identity*, *The Bourne Supremacy*
- Pötzsch, Oliver** (1970-) December 20 - German author (*The Hangman's Daughter*) born in Munich
- Preis, Alfred** (1911-1993) Feb. 2 - Austrian-born architect in Hawaii best known for designing the USS Arizona Memorial (dedicated in 1962) at Pearl Harbor
- Previn, André** (Andreas Ludwig Priwin, 1929-) April 6 - German-American film music composer
- Prochnow, Jürgen** (1941-) June 10 - German film actor: *Das Boot*, *Air Force One*, *The Da Vinci Code*, *NCIS: Los Angeles* (2010, TV)
- Pulitzer, Joseph** (1847-1911) April 10 - Born in Austria-Hungary, the Jewish Pulitzer arrived in the US in 1864 at the age of 17. In 1868 he became a reporter in St. Louis for the German-language newspaper *Westliche Post*. Three years later he was a part-owner. By 1883 he owned the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and was soon wealthy enough to purchase the *New York World*.

Q

- Quinn, Freddy** (Franz Eugen Helmut Manfred Nidl, 1931-) September 27 - Famous Austrian "Schlager" singer noted for his seafaring songs

R

- Raab, Stefan** (1966-) October 20 - German TV entertainer of "TV total" fame (RTL)
- Raabe, Max** (1962-) December 12 - The German singer and his "Palast Orchester" tour Germany and the world with classics from the 1920s and 1930s.
- Rainer, Luise** (1910-2014) January 12 - German film actress, first and only German actress to win an Academy Award (1936/37, *The Great Ziegfeld*, *The Good Earth*)

- Ranke, Leopold von** (1795-1886) December 21 - German historian and a founder of modern source-based history
- Ratzinger, Joseph Alois** > See *Benedict XVI, Pope*
- Rau, Johannes** (1931-2006) January 16 - Former German president (1999-2004)
- Reed, Dean** (1938-1986) September 22 - American-born "Red Elvis" GDR rock star
- Reinhardt, Max** (1873-1943) September 9 - Noted Austrian stage and film director
- Reis, Philipp** (1834-1874) January 7 - German inventor of a telephone prototype
- Reitsch, Hanna** (1912-1979) March 29 - Pioneering female test pilot for the Third Reich
- Remarque, Erich Maria** (Erich Paul Remark, 1898-1970) June 22 - German author: *All Quiet on the Western Front*
- Reuter, Ernst** (1889-1953) July 29 - Berlin mayor (1948-1953) during the airlift
- Reuter, Paul Julius Baron von** (Israel Beer Josaphat, 1816-1899) July 21 - Founded a news agency in Aachen, Germany and Verviers, Belgium in 1849. Two years later Reuter moved to London and established the Reuters Telegrams news agency.
- Richthofen, Manfred von** ("The Red Baron" 1892-1918) May 2 - German WWI flying ace
- Riefenstahl, Leni** (1902-2003) August 22 - German Nazi film director famous for her groundbreaking cinematography for the 1936 Olympic Games and her Hitler propaganda
- Rilke, Rainer Maria** (René Karl Wilhelm Johann Joseph Maria Rilke, 1875-1926) December 4 - Austrian poet born in Prague, then part of Austria-Hungary; called "one of the most lyrically intense German-language poets."
- Ritter, Carl** (1779-1859) August 7 - Influential German geographer
- Roche, Charlotte** (1978-) March 18 - Controversial British-born German novelist (*Schoßgebete*, 2011 and *Feuchtgebiete/Wetlands*, 2008) and former TV personality
- Roebing, John August** (1806-1869) June 12 - German-American engineer and bridge-builder, the Brooklyn Bridge being the most famous
- Rommel, Erwin** (1891-1944) November 15 - German WWII army general, "The Desert Fox"
- Röntgen, Wilhelm Conrad** (1845-1923) March 27 - German discoverer of x-rays
- Rosberg, Nico Erik** (1985-) December 25 - German-born Formula One race driver whose Finnish father, Keke Rosberg, was also a noted F1 driver.
- Rosenzweig, Franz** (1886-1929) December 25 - German Jewish theologian and philosopher born in Kassel. His major work is *The Star of Redemption*, a philosophical examination of the relationships among God, humanity, and the world.
- Rothschild, Mayer Amschel** (1744-1812) February 23 - Founder of the famous House of Rothschild and its European banking empire. His five sons later helped spread the Rothschild ("red shield") name beyond Frankfurt to London, Naples, Paris, and Vienna.
- Rühmann, Heinz** (1902-1994) March 7 - German film actor (*Ship of Fools*, 1965)
- Rummenigge, Karl-Heinz** (1955-) September 25 - Former German soccer star

S

- Sailer, Toni** (Anton Engelbert "Toni" Sailer, 1935-2009) Nov. 17 - Austrian (Kitzbühel) champion downhill ski racer; won all three gold medals in alpine skiing at the 1956 Winter Olympics.
- Schätzing, Frank** (1957-) May 28 - German sci-fi author (*The Swarm/Der Schwarm*)
- Schäuble, Wolfgang** (1942-) September 18 - German politician (Christian Democratic Union, CDU) who was Germany's Federal Minister of Finance from 2009 to 2017
- Schiele, Egon** (1890-1918) June 12 - Schiele was an unconventional Austrian painter heavily influenced by **Gustav Klimt**. Schiele and his wife died in the influenza pandemic of 1918.
- Schiffer, Claudia** (1970-) August 25 - Known as one of fashion's top models, the tall, Teutonically blonde *Mannekin* from Düsseldorf is also one of the world's richest. Discovered by German designer **Karl Lagerfeld** in 1988, Schiffer retired in October 1998.
- Schiller, Friedrich** (1759-1805) November 10 - Second only to **Goethe**, one of Germany's greatest dramatists and poets. His dramas include *Die Räuber* (1781), *Kabale und Liebe* (1784), *Don Carlos* (1787), *Wallenstein* (1800, considered his greatest drama and translated into English by Coleridge), and *Wilhelm Tell* (1804).
- Schindler, Oskar** (1908-1974) April 28 - German industrialist, spy, and member of the Nazi party credited with saving the lives of 1,200 Jews during the Holocaust – a story made famous in the 1982 novel *Schindler's Ark*, and the 1993 film *Schindler's List*.
- Schinkel, Karl Friedrich** (1781-1841) March 13 - German architect and artist
- Schliemann, Heinrich** (1822-1890) Jan. 6 - German amateur archaeologist who discovered Troy
- Schlink, Bernhard** (1944-) July 6 - German author (*The Reader/Der Vorleser*)
- Schmeling, Max** (1905-2005) September 28 - Champion German boxer
- Schmidt, Auguste** (1833-1902) August 3 - Female German teacher and author who promoted women's rights in the 19th century
- Schmidt, Harald** (1957-) August 18 - German TV entertainer and talk-show host
- Schmidt, Helmut** (1918-2015) December 23 - Chancellor of West Germany (SPD), 1974-1982
- Schmidt-Rottluff, Karl** (1884-1976) December 1 - German expressionist painter and printmaker, one of the four founding members of the artist group *Die Brücke*.
- Schneider, Romy** (1938-1982) September 23 - Austrian film actress famous for her "Sissi" films
- Schnitzler, Arthur** (1862-1931) May 15 - Austrian author and playwright
- Scholl, Hans** (Hans Fritz Scholl, 1918-1943) September 22 - Member of the "White Rose" anti-Nazi resistance group; brother of Sophie Scholl
- Scholl, Sophie** (Sophia Magdalena Scholl, 1921-1943) May 9 - Member of the "White Rose" anti-Nazi resistance group; sister of Hans Scholl
- Schröder, Gerhard** (1944-) April 7 - German chancellor 1998-2005
- Schrödinger, Erwin** (1887-1967) August 12 - Austrian physicist who did pioneering work in the field of quantum theory
- Schubert, Franz** (1797-1828) January 31 - Austrian composer
- Schumacher, Michael** ("Schumi," 1969-) January 3 - Retired German seven-time Formula One World Champion, regarded as one of the greatest F1 race drivers ever.
- Schumann, Robert** (1810-1856) June 8 - German composer and influential music critic

- Schurz, Carl** (1829-1906) March 2 - Born near Cologne, Germany, Schurz fled to America by way of England from the German revolution of 1848. Schurz was a Union general in the Civil War, became a US Senator (R, Missouri, 1869-1875), Secretary of the Interior in the Rutherford B. Hayes administration, and confidant of Abraham Lincoln.
- Schwarzenegger, Arnold** (1947-) July 30 - Austrian-born bodybuilder, film actor and former two-term governor of California, 2003-2011
- Schwarzer, Alice** (1942-) December 3 - German feminist advocate, journalist and publisher
- Schwarzaupt, Elisabeth** (1901-1986) January 7 - First woman German cabinet member, as CDU health minister (1961-1966), under *Konrad Adenauer*
- Schweiger, Til** (1963-) December 19 - German actor and filmmaker: *Inglourious Basterds*
- Schweitzer, Albert** (1875-1965) January 14 - Schweitzer was born in Kaisersberg in German Alsace, now in France. He became a generous doctor to the natives in Lambarene, French Equatorial Africa (now Gabon), where he lived from 1913 until his death in 1965.
- Seeler, Uwe** (1936-) November 5 - Legendary German soccer player and official who played for Hamburger SV and also made 72 appearances for the West German national team
- Simonis, Heide** (1943-) July 4 - First woman to become governor (*Ministerpräsidentin*) of one of the 16 German states (*Bundesländer*). Simonis was elected governor of Schleswig-Holstein in 1993, serving until 2005 (SPD).
- Skladanowsky, Max** (1863-1939) April 30 - Groundbreaking German filmmaker and inventor of the first motion-picture projector, the Bioskop, in 1895
- Sommer, Elke** (Elke von Schletz, 1940-) Nov. 7 – Berlin-born film actress, entertainer, and painter - Films: *A Shot in the Dark* (1964), *The Venetian Affair* (1967), *Zeppelin* (1971)
- Spoerl, Alexander** (1917-1978) January 3 - Spoerl was a master of that rarity in German literature: witty, ironic humor. One of his classic works, the semi-autobiographical *Memoiren eines mittelmässigen Schülers* (*Memoirs of a Mediocre Student*, 1950), pokes fun at what might seem to be an unfunny subject, describing in hilarious detail what it was like growing up in Germany just as the Nazis were coming to power.
- Spoerl, Heinrich** (Heinrich Christian Johann, 1887-1955) February 8 - Heinrich was the father of Alexander Spoerl. Heinrich Spoerl is best known for his 1933 classic German novel *Die Feuerzangenbowle: eine Lausbüberei in der Kleinstadt*.
- Spyri, Johanna** (1827-1901) June 12 - Swiss author: *Heidi's Lehr- und Wanderjahre*, 1880
- Stauffenberg, Claus von** (Claus Philipp Maria Schenk Graf von Stauffenberg, 1907-1944) November 15 - German military officer who was executed for his attempt to assassinate Hitler
- Stein, Edith** (1891-1942) October 12 - German Roman Catholic philosopher and nun murdered by the Nazis for her efforts to protect Jews
- Steiner, Max** (1888-1971) May 10 - Austrian-born Hollywood film composer
- Steinmetz, Charles Proteus** (Karl August Rudolph, 1865-1923) April 9 - The German-born professor, mathematical genius, and theorist Steinmetz, who came to the US in 1889, died with about 200 practical patents to his credit. His inventions and improvements were primarily in the area of electrical devices and the transmission of electricity.
- Storm, Theodor** (1817-1888) September 14 - German author, poet
- Strauss, Franz Josef** (Strauß, 1915-1988) September 6 - Bavarian politician, chairman of the Christian Social Union, long-time minister-president (governor) of the state of Bavaria

Strauss, Johann, Sr. (1804-1849) March 14 - Austrian composer

Strauss, Johann, Jr. (1825-1899) October 25 - Austrian "Waltz King," son of Johann, Sr.

Stresemann, Gustav (1878-1929) May 10 - German politician and statesman who served as Chancellor in 1923 and Foreign Minister 1923–1929, during the Weimar Republic

Süssmuth, Rita (1937-) February 17 - First female president (CDU) of the German parliament (*Bundestag*, 1988-1998)

Swarovski, Daniel (1862-1956) October 24 - Austrian glass-cutter, jeweler

T

Teller, Edward (1908-2003) January 15 - Born in Budapest, Austria-Hungary, Teller went to Germany in 1926, where he studied in Karlsruhe and Leipzig. The Jewish physicist came to the US in 1935 after working in Göttingen and spending time in England and Denmark. Known as the "father of the H-bomb," Teller worked on the wartime Manhattan project at Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Thiele, Gerhard (Gerhard Paul Julius, 1953-) September 2 - German astronaut and scientist who flew on NASA's STS-99 Shuttle Radar Topography Mission. One of nine Germans who have been to space.

Tischbein, Johann Heinrich Wilhelm (1751-1829) February 15 - German painter

Trotta, Margarethe von (1942-) February 21 - German film director

Tucholsky, Kurt (1890-1935) January 9 - German journalist, satirist and writer best known for his biting humor and critical views of the human species. He committed suicide after his books were burned and he was exiled from Germany by the Nazis.

Tykwer, Tom (1965-) May 23 - German film director: *Lola rennt*, *Perfume*, *Cloud Atlas*

U

Uhse, Beate (Beate Uhse-Rotermund, born Beate Köstlin, 1919-2001) October 25 - German pilot, entrepreneur, and champion of sexual freedom. Uhse opened the first sex shop in the world in Flensburg, starting a new industry. Her company, Beate Uhse AG, is listed on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange.

Ulbricht, Walter (1893-1973) June 30 - East German leader who ordered the construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961; also see **Erich Honecker**.

Ullrich, Jan (1973-) December 2 - German former pro road bicycle racer who won a gold and a silver in the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney. He was later banned from the sport for doping, a violation he admitted to in 2013.

V

Vettel, Sebastian (1987-) July 3 - German Formula One race driver

Veidt, Conrad (1893-1943) January 22 - German actor who played the evil Major Strasser in *Casablanca* (1942) and worked in Hollywood during both the silent and talkie era

W

Wagner, Richard (1813-1883) May 22 - German composer of operas ("Ring Cycle")

Waltz, Christoph (1956-) October 4 - Austrian film actor: *Inglourious Basterds*, *Django Unchained*

Wassermann, August Paul von (1866-1925) February 21 - The German pathologist who invented a widely-used test for the diagnosis of syphilis in 1906. Born in Bamberg, Wassermann studied in Vienna, Munich, Strasbourg, and Berlin, where he was a student of bacteriologist Robert Koch.

Weissmuller, Johnny (1904-1984) June 2 - Austrian-born American Olympic swimmer and "Tarzan" film actor

Wenders, Wim (1945-) August 14 - German film director (*Wings of Desire*; *Paris, Texas*)

Wildier, Billy (1906-2002) June 22 - Austrian film director in Hollywood: *Double Indemnity*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Some Like It Hot*

Witt, Katarina (1965-) December 3 - German ice skating star

Wittgenstein, Ludwig (Ludwig Josef Johann Wittgenstein, 1889-1951) April 26 - Austrian-British philosopher and writer born in Vienna

Wowereit, Klaus (1953-) October 1 - Berlin's openly gay mayor (SPD) from 2001 to 2014

Z

Zeiss, Carl (1816-1888) September 11 - Innovative German lens maker

Zellweger, Renée (1969-) April 25 - American film actress with Swiss-German father

Zeppelin, Ferdinand Graf von (Ferdinand Adolf Heinrich August Graf von Zeppelin, 1838-1917) July 8 - German dirigible pioneer

Zimmer, Hans (1957-) September 12 - German film music composer: *The Lion King*

Zuse, Konrad (1910-1995) June 22 - German inventor of the first digital, programmable computer, the Z3 in 1941

Birthdays of Notable People by Month/Date

NOTE: Dates in *italics* are the date of death (birthdate unknown).

Januar • January

3 | **Duden, Konrad** (1829-1911) German teacher who authored the first German spelling guide (1872). The name "Duden" in Germany is like "Webster" in the US.

3 | **Schumacher, Michael** ("Schumi," 1969-) Retired German F1 racing World Champion

3 | **Spoerl, Alexander** (1917-1978) Author of the humorous, semi-autobiographical *Memoiren eines mittelmässigen Schülers* (*Memoirs of a Mediocre Student*, 1950)

4 | **Grimm, Jacob** (1785-1863) Noted for *Grimms' Fairy Tales*

- 4 | **Jahn, Helmut** (1940-) German-American architect
- 5 | **Adenauer, Konrad** (1876-1967) First chancellor of West Germany, 1949
- 6 | **Schliemann, Heinrich** (1822-1890) German amateur archaeologist who discovered Troy
- 7 | **Reis, Philipp** (1834-1874) German inventor of the first telephone prototype
- 7 | **Schwarzhaupt, Elisabeth** (1901-1986) First female German cabinet member, as CDU health minister, under **Konrad Adenauer**
- 9 | **Dreifuss, Ruth** (1940-) Swiss politician; first woman to serve as Swiss president (1999)
- 10 | **Droste-Hülshoff, Annette von** (1797-1848) German writer
- 10 | **Hagens, Gunther von** (1945-) German anatomist, artist, creator of "Body Worlds"
- 12 | **Rainer, Luise** (1910-2014) German film actress, Academy Award (1936/37)
- 14 | **Schweitzer, Albert** (1875-1965) Born in Kaysersberg in German Alsace, now in France, Schweitzer served as a doctor in Lambarene, French Equatorial Africa (now Gabon).
- 15 | **King, Martin Luther, Jr.** (1929-1968) Visited East and West Berlin in 1964
- 15 | **Teller, Edward** (1908-2003) Born in Budapest, Austria-Hungary, Teller went to Germany in 1926, where he studied in Karlsruhe and Leipzig. Known as the "father of the H-bomb," Teller headed the wartime Manhattan project at Los Alamos, New Mexico.
- 16 | **Rau, Johannes** (1931-2006) Former German president (1999-2004)
- 17 | **Laemmle, Carl** (1867-1939) Founded Universal Studios in 1912
- 19 | **Tucholsky, Kurt** (1890-1935) German journalist, satirist and writer best known for his biting humor and critical views of the human species
- 20 | **Ardenne, Manfred von** (1907-1997) German physicist and inventor (TV)
- 20 | **Ceram, C.W.** (1915-1972) German author: *Gods, Graves, and Scholars*
- 20 | **Hoffmann, E.T.A.** (1776-1822) German writer of early fantasy/sci-fi
- 22 | **Veidt, Conrad** (1893-1943) German actor who played the evil Major Strasser in *Casablanca* (1942) and worked in Hollywood during both the silent and talkie eras
- 24 | **Friedrich der Große** (Frederick the Great, 1712-1786) Prussian monarch
- 24 | **Kinski, Nastassja** (1961-) German film actress, model
- 25 | **Black, Roy** (1953-1991) German "Schlager" singer and film/TV actor
- 27 | **Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus** (1756-1791) Austrian composer
- 29 | **Lubitsch, Ernst** (1892-1947) German film director in Hollywood
- 28 | **Charlemagne** (Karl der Große, 742-814) Holy Roman Emperor
- 31 | **Schubert, Franz** (1797-1828) Austrian composer

Februar • February

- 2 | **Preis, Alfred** (1911-1993) Austrian-born architect in Hawaii best known for designing the USS Arizona Memorial (dedicated in 1962) at Pearl Harbor
- 3 | **Gutenberg, Johannes Gensfleisch zum** (ca. 1397-1468) German inventor of movable type and printing
- 4 | **Bonhoeffer, Dietrich** (1906-1945) German Lutheran pastor and theologian known for his resistance to the Nazi dictatorship, which executed him in April 1945
- 4 | **Erhard, Ludwig** (1897-1977) West German chancellor (CDU), 1963-1966; as

- Economics Minister, credited with the “economic miracle” of the 1950 and '60s
- 5 | **Giger, H.R.** (1940-2014) Swiss artist and designer: sci-fi film *Alien* (1979)
- 8 | **Buber, Martin** (1878-1965) Austrian Jewish philosopher, writer, translator, and educator
- 8 | **Modersohn-Becker, Paula** (1876-1907) German Expressionist painter
- 8 | **Spoerl, Heinrich** (1887-1955) Spoerl is best known for his 1933 classic German novel *Die Feuerzangenbowle: eine Lausbüberei in der Kleinstadt*.
- 10 | **Brecht, Bertolt** (1898-1956) German poet, playwright, theater director
- 11 | **Litfass, Ernst** (1816-1874) German printer, publisher and inventor of the *Litfaßsäule*
- 13 | **Jähn, Sigmund** (1937-) East German cosmonaut (Soyuz 31, Soyuz 29)
- 15 | **Tischbein, Johann Heinrich Wilhelm** (1751-1829) German painter
- 16 | **Melanchthon, Phillip** (1497-1560) German scholar and religious reformer
- 17 | **Süssmuth, Rita** (1937-) First female president of the German *Bundestag* (1988-1998)
- 18 | **Mach, Ernst** (1838-1916) Austrian scientist and philosopher who gave his name to the system that measures the speed of an aircraft in relation to the local speed of sound
- 19 | **Falco** (Hans Hölzel, 1957-1998) Austrian pop singer (“Rock Me Amadeus”)
- 21 | **Trotta, Margarethe von** (1942-) German film director
- 21 | **Wassermann, August Paul von** (1866-1925) German pathologist who invented a widely-used test for the diagnosis of syphilis in 1906
- 22 | **Hertz, Heinrich Rudolf** (1857-1894) German physicist
- 22 | **Lauda, Niki** (1949-) Retired Austrian Formula One racing champion
- 23 | **Kästner, Erich** (1899-1974) German writer/humorist whose works have been turned into films by Disney: *The Parent Trap* and *Emil and the Detectives*
- 23 | **Rothschild, Mayer Amschel** (1744-1812) German founder of the famous House of Rothschild and its European banking empire.
- 24 | **Grimm, Wilhelm** (1786-1859) Along with his brother Jacob, noted for *Grimms' Fairy Tales*
- 25 | **Fröbe, Gert** (1913-1988) German actor (*Goldfinger*)
- 25 | **May, Karl** (1842-1912) German author of adventure and western stories

März • March

- 1 | **Kokoschka, Oskar** (1886-1980) Austrian artist, painter
- 2 | **Schurz, Carl** (1829-1906) German-born Union general in the Civil War, US Senator, and Secretary of the Interior in the Rutherford B. Hayes administration
- 3 | **Cantor, Georg** (1845-1918) German mathematician and inventor of set theory
- 5 | **Luxemburg, Rosa** (1871-1919) German Marxist philosopher and economist of Polish Jewish descent
- 7 | **Dutschke, Rudi** (1940-1979) German student activist in the 1960s and '70s
- 7 | **Rühmann, Heinz** (1902-1994) German film actor active from the 1930s into the '70s
- 11 | **Hagen, Nina** (1955-) German punk-rock singer; related to **Wolf Biermann**
- 13 | **Schinkel, Karl Friedrich** (1781-1841) German architect and artist
- 14 | **Ehrlich, Paul** (1854-1915) German bacteriologist, immunologist and physician who received the 1908 Nobel Prize in Medicine

- 14 | **Einstein, Albert** (1879-1955) German-born physicist famous for his theory of relativity
- 14 | **Petersen, Wolfgang** (1941-) German-born director of *Das Boot*, *Air Force One*, *The Perfect Storm*, *Troy* and *Poseidon*
- 14 | **Strauss, Johann, Sr.** (1804-1849) Austrian composer
- 16 | **Böhm, Karl Heinz** (1928-) Austrian film actor
- 16 | **Ohm, Georg Simon** (1789-1854) German physicist for whom the ohm, a unit of electrical resistance, is named. He formulated Ohm's Law (1827).
- 18 | **Roche, Charlotte** (1978-) British-born German novelist and former TV personality
- 19 | **Andress, Ursula** (1936-) Swiss film actress; first Bond girl: *Dr. No*, *The Blue Max*
- 21 | **Genscher, Hans-Dietrich** (1927-) German politician who served as Foreign Minister and Vice Chancellor of Germany from 1974 to 1992, longer than anyone for either post.
- 22 | **Ganz, Bruno** (1941-) Swiss film actor: *The Boys from Brazil*, *Wings of Desire*, *Downfall*, and *The Reader*
- 23 | **Braun, Wernher von** (1912-1969) German-born rocket scientist who helped the USA put men on the moon
- 23 | **Noether, Emmy** (1882-1935) Mathematician born in the Bavarian town of Erlangen
- 24 | **Nena** (1961-) German pop singer: "99 Luftballons" ("99 Red Balloons" 1984)
- 27 | **Mann, Heinrich** (1871-1950) German author, brother of *Thomas Mann*
- 27 | **Mies van der Rohe, Ludwig** (1886-1969) Known for his trend-setting architecture and the phrase "less is more" – associated with Walter Gropius and the Bauhaus
- 27 | **Röntgen, Wilhelm Conrad** (1845-1923) German discoverer of x-rays
- 29 | **Reitsch, Hanna** (1912-1979) Pioneering female test pilot for the Third Reich
- 30 | **Bunsen, Robert** (1811-1899) German chemist
- 31 | **Bach, Johann Sebastian** (1685-1750) German composer
- 31 | **Haydn, Franz Joseph** (1732-1809) Austrian composer

April

- 1 | **Bismarck, Otto von** (1815-1898) Prussian statesman, the "Iron Chancellor"
- 2 | **Hoffmann von Fallersleben, August Heinrich** (1798-1874) German poet known by his pen name: Hoffmann von Fallersleben ("Deutschlandlied")
- 3 | **Day, Doris** (1924-) German-American actress and singer, born Doris Kappelhoff
- 3 | **Kohl, Helmut** (1930-2017) German *Kanzler*/chancellor from 1982 to 1998
- 5 | **Bois, Curt** (1901-1999) German film and stage actor: *Casablanca* (1942), *Wings of Desire* (1987)
- 5 | **Herzog, Roman** (1934-) German politician, German president from 1994 to 1999
- 6 | **Previn, André** (1929-) German-American pianist, conductor and film music composer
- 7 | **Schröder, Gerhard** (1944-) German chancellor 1998-2005
- 8 | **Neutra, Richard Josef** (1892-1970) Austrian-American architect
- 9 | **Steinmetz, Charles Proteus** (1865-1923) German-born professor, mathematical genius, and theorist who was granted about 200 practical patents, most related to electricity.
- 10 | **Pulitzer, Joseph** (1847-1911) American newspaper publisher born in Austria-Hungary

- 11 | **Eichinger, Bernd** (1949-2011) German film producer in Hollywood
- 12 | **Fischer, Joschka** (1948-) German politician, German Foreign Minister 1998-2005
- 12 | **Grönemeyer, Herbert** (1956-) German musician, singer, actor (*Das Boot*)
- 16 | **Benedict XVI, Pope** (Joseph Alois Ratzinger, 1927-) German-born pope from April 19, 2005 until February 28, 2013
- 17 | **Last, James** (1929-2015) German composer and big-band leader
- 20 | **Baumgartner, Felix** (1969-) Austrian skydiver and daredevil who set the world record by skydiving an estimated 24 miles (39 km) in 2012
- 20 | **Hitler, Adolf** (1889-1945) Austrian-born German *Führer* whose thousand-year Reich only lasted twelve years
- 21 | **Fröbel, Friedrich** (1782-1852) German pedagogue, student of Pestalozzi
- 22 | **Kant, Immanuel** (1724-1804) German philosopher
- 25 | **Zellweger, Renée** (1969-) Swiss-American film actress; Swiss father
- 26 | **Wittgenstein, Ludwig** (1889-1951) Austrian-British philosopher and writer born in Vienna
- 28 | **Gödel, Kurt Friedrich** (1906-1978) Austrian-American mathematician and philosopher
- 28 | **Schindler, Oskar** (1908-1974) German industrialist, spy, and member of the Nazi party credited with saving the lives of 1,200 Jews during the Holocaust
- 30 | **Gauss, Carl Friedrich** (1777-1855) German mathematician, astronomer, and physicist
- 30 | **Skladanowsky, Max** (1863-1939) Groundbreaking German filmmaker and inventor of the first motion-picture projector, the *Bioskop*, in 1895

Mai • May

- 2 | **Richthofen, Manfred von** ("The Red Baron," 1892-1918) German World War I flying ace
- 5 | **Marx, Karl** (1818-1883) German philosopher; with *Engels*, co-founder of communism
- 6 | **Baader, Andreas** (1943-1977) Founder of the infamous Baader-Meinhof gang
- 6 | **Freud, Sigmund** (1856-1939) Austrian inventor of psychoanalysis
- 6 | **Morgenstern, Christian** (1871-1914) German poet and author best known for his humorous poetic works
- 9 | **Opel, Adam** (1837-1895) German founder of the company that bears his name (1862)
- 9 | **Scholl, Sophie** (1921-1943) Member of the "White Rose" anti-Nazi resistance group
- 10 | **Astaire, Fred** (F. Austerlitz, 1899-1987) US actor/dancer with Austrian-born father
- 10 | **Steiner, Max** (1888-1971) Austrian-born Hollywood film composer
- 10 | **Stresemann, Gustav** (1878-1929) German politician and statesman who served as chancellor in 1923 and Foreign Minister 1923-1929, during the Weimar Republic
- 12 | **Doldinger, Klaus** (1936-) German jazz musician, composer ("Tatort")
- 15 | **Schnitzler, Arthur** (1862-1931) Austrian author and playwright
- 18 | **Gottschalk, Thomas** (1950-) Famous German TV host, film actor
- 18 | **Gropius, Walter** (1883-1969) German architect who helped found the Bauhaus
- 20 | **Mateschitz, Dietrich "Didi"** (1944-) Austrian billionaire founder of Red Bull
- 21 | **Dürer, Albrecht** (1471-1528) German painter, printmaker
- 22 | **Wagner, Richard** (1813-1883) German composer of operas

- 23 | **Lilienthal, Otto** (1848-1896) German aviation pioneer and glider pilot
- 23 | **Mesmer, Franz Johann** (1734-1815) Austrian physician – the word “mesmerize”
- 23 | **Tykwer, Tom** (1965-) German film director, *Lola rennt*, *Perfume*, *Cloud Atlas*
- 24 | **Fahrenheit, Daniel Gabriel** (1686-1736) German physicist and inventor of the temperature scale named for him
- 26 | **Dörrie, Doris** (1955-) German film director: *Männer, Nackt*
- 27 | **Kissinger, Henry** (1923-) German-born US Secretary of State from 1973 to 1977
- 28 | **Schätzing, Frank** (1957-) German sci-fi author (*The Swarm/Der Schwarm*)
- 31 | **Fassbinder, Rainer Werner** (1945-1982) German film director

Juni • June

- 1 | **Klum, Heidi** (1973-) German-American fashion model, TV star, fashion designer
- 2 | **Weissmuller, Johnny** (1904-1984) Austrian-American gold-medal Olympic swimmer and “Tarzan” film actor
- 4 | **Esslinger, Hartmut** (1944-) German-born industrial designer for Apple Computer and Sony; founder of Frog Design
- 6 | **Mann, Thomas** (1875-1955) Noted German author: *Buddenbrooks*, *The Magic Mountain*, *Death in Venice*; 1929 Nobel Prize in Literature
- 8 | **Schumann, Robert** (1810-1856) German composer and influential music critic
- 10 | **Friedrich Barbarossa** (Frederick I, 1122-1190) Barbarossa was elected King of Germany at Frankfurt and crowned in Aachen in 1152. He served as Holy Roman Emperor from 1155.
- 10 | **Fugger, Anton** (1493-1560) Prominent member of the Fugger merchant and banking dynasty; one of the richest men in history
- 10 | **Loewe, Frederick** (“Fritz,” 1901-1988) Berlin-born composer of famous Lerner and Loewe musicals, including “Camelot” and “My Fair Lady”
- 10 | **Otto, Nicolaus** (1832-1891) German co-inventor of the four-stroke engine
- 10 | **Prochnow, Jürgen** (1941-) German film actor: *Das Boot*, *Air Force One*
- 12 | **Roebing, John August** (1806-1869) German-American engineer and bridge-builder, the Brooklyn Bridge being his most famous
- 12 | **Schiele, Egon** (1890-1918) Unconventional Austrian painter heavily influenced by Klimt.
- 12 | **Spyri, Johanna** (1827-1901) Swiss author of *Heidi* (1880, US English version 1885)
- 14 | **Alzheimer, Alois** (1864-1915) German physician credited with first identifying the disease later named for him
- 14 | **Graf, Steffi** (1969-) German former tennis star, now married to Andre Agassi
- 16 | **Brühl, Daniel** (1978-) German-Spanish actor: *Vaya con Dios*, *Good Bye Lenin!*, *The Bourne Ultimatum*, *Inglourious Basterds*, *Rush* (as Niki Lauda)
- 19 | **Nowitzki, Dirk** (1978-) German basketball player, Dallas Mavericks, NBA
- 22 | **Brandauer, Klaus Maria** (1944-) Austrian film/stage actor: *Out of Africa*
- 22 | **Humboldt, Wilhelm von** (1767-1835) German philosopher and founder of the Berlin university named for him in 1949
- 22 | **Remarque, Erich Maria** (1898-1970) German author: *All Quiet on the Western Front*

- 22 | **Wilder, Billy** (1906-2002) Austrian film director in Hollywood: *Double Indemnity, Sunset Boulevard, Some Like It Hot*
- 22 | **Zuse, Konrad** (1910-1995) German inventor of the first digital, programmable computer
- 25 | **Oberth, Hermann** (1894-1989) German/Austro-Hungarian rocket scientist
- 26 | **Lorre, Peter** (1904-1964) Austrian, German-speaking film actor (*M, Casablanca, The Maltese Falcon, 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, Around the World in Eighty Days*)
- 29 | **Kalina, Robert** (1955-) Austrian designer of euro banknotes
- 29 | **Mutter, Anne-Sophie** (1969-) Internationally acclaimed German violinist
- 30 | **Ulbricht, Walter** (1893-1973) East German leader who ordered the construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961; also see *Erich Honecker*

Juli • July

- 1 | **Clausewitz, Carl Philipp Gottfried von** (1780-1831) German-Prussian military theorist
- 1 | **Leibniz, Gottfried Wilhelm** (1646-1716) Noted German mathematician and philosopher
- 2 | **Hesse, Hermann** (1877-1962) German-born Swiss poet, novelist, and painter. His best-known novels include *Steppenwolf, Siddhartha, and The Glass Bead Game*.
- 3 | **Kafka, Franz** (1883-1924) Born in Prague, Kafka was an Austrian Jew whose "Kafkaesque" stories, in German, have become classics.
- 3 | **Vettel, Sebastian** (1987-) German Formula One race driver
- 4 | **Simonis, Heide** (1943-) First woman to become governor (*Ministerpräsidentin*) of one of the 16 German states; served as governor of Schleswig-Holstein from 1993 to 2005
- 6 | **Schlink, Bernhard** (1944-) German author (*The Reader/Der Vorleser*)
- 8 | **Kollwitz, Käthe** (1867-1945) German artist and sculptor
- 8 | **Zeppelin, Ferdinand Graf von** (1838-1917) German dirigible pioneer
- 10 | **Orff, Carl** (1895-1982) German composer: "Carmina Burana"
- 14 | **Klimt, Gustav** (1862-1918) Austrian painter ("The Kiss") and sculptor
- 15 | **Kruger, Diane** (1976-) German-born former fashion model, TV personality, Hollywood film actress: *National Treasure, Troy, Inglourious Basterds*
- 17 | **Astor, John Jacob** (Johann Jakob Astor, 1763-1848) German-American business magnate, merchant, investor and multi-millionaire
- 17 | **Feininger, Lyonel** (1871-1956) German-American cartoonist, painter and leading exponent of Expressionism
- 17 | **Merkel, Angela** (1954-) Germany's first female chancellor, in office since 2005
- 18 | **Masur, Kurt** (1927-2015) Former East German conductor of New York Philharmonic, 1991-2002
- 19 | **Darnell, Bruce** (1957-) Afro-American TV personality in Germany
- 20 | **Mendel, Gregor** (1822-1884) Austrian naturalist noted for his studies in genetics
- 21 | **Reuter, Paul Julius Baron von** (1816-1899) German founder of the Reuters news agency
- 22 | **Potente, Franka** (1974-) German film actress: *Lola rennt, Bourne Identity*
- 23 | **Jannings, Emil** (1884-1950) German film actor, winner of first Oscar in 1929
- 25 | **Canetti, Elias** (1905-1994) Bulgarian-born Swiss and British novelist, playwright, and

- non-fiction writer who wrote in German; 1981 Nobel Prize in Literature
- 26 | **Bullock, Sandra** (1964-) Film actress; German mother, speaks German
- 26 | **Jung, Carl Gustav** (1875-1961) Swiss psychiatrist and psychotherapist, aka C.G. Jung
- 29 | **Reuter, Ernst** (1889-1953) Berlin mayor (1948-1953) during Berlin Airlift
- 30 | **Schwarzenegger, Arnold** (1947-) Austrian-born bodybuilder, film actor and former two-term governor of California, 2003-2011

August

- 3 | **Schmidt, Auguste** (1833-1902) Female German teacher and author who promoted women's rights in the 19th century
- 4 | **Berger, Henri** (Heinrich, 1844-1929) Prussian composer and royal bandmaster of the Kingdom of Hawaii from 1872 to 1929, and leader of the Royal Hawaiian Band
- 5 | **Ballhaus, Michael** (1935-) Former German cinematographer in Hollywood
- 5 | **Mittermaier, Rosemarie ("Rosi")** (1950-) German Olympic downhill ski champion
- 7 | **Nolde, Emil** (1867-1956) German-Danish painter and printmaker
- 7 | **Ritter, Carl** (1779-1859) Influential German geographer
- 8 | **Federer, Roger** (1981-) Swiss tennis champion
- 10 | **Döblin, Alfred** (1878-1957) German novelist: *Berlin Alexanderplatz* (1929)
- 10 | **Nestlé, Henri** (Heinrich, 1814-1890) German founder of the Nestlé company
- 12 | **Schrödinger, Erwin** (1887-1967) Austrian physicist who did pioneering work in the field of quantum theory
- 13 | **Bleibtreu, Moritz** (1971-) German film actor, *Lola rennt*, *World War Z*
- 14 | **Wenders, Wim** (1945-) German film director
- 15 | **Ballin, Albert** (1857-1918) German-Jewish shipping magnate (Hapag) who invented the ocean cruise
- 18 | **Franz Joseph, Kaiser** (Franz Josef I, 1830-1916) Austrian emperor, 1848-1916
- 18 | **Schmidt, Harald** (1957-) German TV entertainer and talk-show host
- 19 | **Meyer, Julius Lothar** (1830-1895) German chemist who created the first periodic table of chemical elements in 1862, only a few years before the Russian Dimitri Mendeleev.
- 22 | **Riefenstahl, Leni** (1902-2003) German film director famous for her groundbreaking cinematography for the 1936 Olympic Games, plus *Triumph of the Will*
- 25 | **Honecker, Erich** (1912-1994) East German General Secretary from 1971 to 1989; in charge of building the Berlin Wall in 1961, on orders of *Walter Ulbricht*
- 25 | **Ludwig II** (1845-1886) "Mad" King Ludwig II of Bavaria, 1864-1886 (the "Swan King")
- 25 | **Schiffer, Claudia** (1970-) Former German top fashion model from Düsseldorf
- 27 | **Hegel, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich** (1770-1831) German philosopher
- 27 | **Langer, Bernhard** (1957-) German pro golfer; Master's winner 1985, 1993
- 28 | **Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von** (1749-1832) Germany's greatest author, dramatist, poet
- 31 | **Helmholtz, Hermann von** (1821-1894) German physician, physicist and philosopher

September

- 1 | **Pachelbel, Johann** (1653-1706) German composer
- 2 | **Thiele, Gerhard** (1953-) German astronaut and scientist who flew on NASA's STS-99 Shuttle Radar Topography Mission.
- 3 | **Porsche, Ferdinand** (1875-1951) German automotive engineer
- 5 | **Herzog, Werner** (1942-) German film director: *Aguirre, the Wrath of God* (1972), *Nosferatu the Vampyre* (1979), *Fitzcarraldo* (1982), *Queen of the Desert* (2015)
- 6 | **Strauss, Franz Josef** (Strauß, 1915-1988) Bavarian politician, chairman of the Christian Social Union, member of the federal cabinet in different positions
- 9 | **Brentano, Clemens** (1778-1842) German novelist and poet
- 9 | **Reinhardt, Max** (1873-1943) Noted Austrian stage and film director
- 10 | **Lagerfeld, Karl** (1933-) Famous German fashion designer
- 11 | **Beckenbauer, Franz** (1945-) "Kaiser" Franz is a former German soccer star and coach.
- 11 | **Zeiss, Carl** (1816-1888) Innovative German lens maker
- 12 | **Mencken, H.L.** (1880-1956) German-American author, journalist and literary critic
- 12 | **Zimmer, Hans** (1957-) German film music composer in Hollywood
- 13 | **Ebner-Eschenbach, Marie von** (1830-1916) Austrian writer, novelist
- 14 | **Humboldt, Alexander von** (1769-1859) German naturalist, explorer and geographer; explored Latin America, visited the US, met with President Jefferson
- 14 | **Storm, Theodor** (1817-1888) German author, poet
- 17 | **Messner, Reinhold** (1944-) One of the world's most successful mountain climbers, from South Tyrol
- 18 | **Schäuble, Wolfgang** (1942-) German politician
- 19 | **Porsche, Ferry** (1909-1998) Austrian technical automobile designer and automaker; born in Wiener Neustadt, Austria, Ferry was the son of *Ferdinand Porsche*.
- 20 | **Jürgens, Udo** (1934-2014) Austrian-born (Klagenfurt) *Schlager* singer who had many hit songs: "17 Jahr, blondes Haar," "Griechischer Wein," "Aber bitte mit Sahne"
- 22 | **Reed, Dean** (1938-1986) American-born "Red Elvis" GDR rock star
- 22 | **Scholl, Hans** (1918-1943) Member of the "White Rose" anti-Nazi resistance group
- 23 | **Bosch, Robert** (1861-1942) German engineer, industrialist, and inventor of spark plugs
- 23 | **Schneider, Romy** (1938-1982) Austrian film actress famous for her "Sissi" films
- 25 | **Rummenigge, Karl-Heinz** (1955-) Former German soccer star
- 26 | **Heidegger, Martin** (1889-1976) German philosopher
- 27 | **Nast, Thomas** (1840-1902) German-born American caricaturist, editorial cartoonist, and artist who also helped create the modern Santa Claus image
- 27 | **Quinn, Freddy** (1931-) Famous German "Schlager" singer noted for his seafaring songs
- 28 | **Schmeling, Max** (1905-2005) Champion German boxer
- 30 | **Geiger, Hans** (1882-1945) German inventor of the Geiger counter

Oktober • October

- 1 | **Wowereit, Klaus** (1953-) Berlin's openly gay mayor (SPD) since 2001
- 2 | **Naidoo, Xavier** (1971-) German soul and R&B singer
- 4 | **Waltz, Christoph** (1956-) Austrian film actor: *Inglourious Basterds*, *Django Unchained*
- 5 | **Link, Charlotte** (1963-) Bestselling German novelist
- 7 | **Meinhof, Ulrike Marie** (1934-1976) Key member of the infamous Baader-Meinhof gang
- 9 | **Fischer, Emil** (1852-1919) German chemist, Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1902
- 12 | **Stein, Edith** (1891-1942) German Roman Catholic nun murdered by the Nazis
- 14 | **Arendt, Hannah** (1906-1975) German-American writer and political theorist
- 15 | **Nietzsche, Friedrich** (1844-1900) Noted German philosopher
- 16 | **Grass, Günter** (1927-2015) German novelist, poet, playwright, artist; Nobel Prize in Literature
- 16 | **Kaempfert, Bert** (1923-1980) German songwriter and orchestra leader
- 18 | **Kinski, Klaus** (1926-1991) German film actor who appeared in more than 130 films, including: *Aguirre, the Wrath of God*; *Nosferatu the Vampyre*, and *Fitzcarraldo*
- 20 | **Laemmle, Carla** (1909-2014) German-American film actress, niece of **Carl Laemmle**
- 20 | **Raab, Stefan** (1966-) German TV entertainer of "TV total" fame (RTL)
- 22 | **Liszt, Franz** (1811-1886) German-speaking Hungarian composer, pianist and conductor
- 24 | **Swarovski, Daniel** (1862-1956) Austrian glass-cutter, jeweler
- 25 | **Strauss, Johann, Jr.** (1825-1899) Austrian "Waltz King," son of *Johann, Sr.*
- 25 | **Uhse, Beate** (1919-2001) German pilot, entrepreneur, and champion of sexual freedom who opened the first sex shop in the world in Flensburg, Germany.
- 31 | **Newton, Helmut** (1920-2004) Berlin-born German-Australian fashion photographer

November

- 3 | **Baedeker, Karl** (1801-1859) German publisher of the first authoritative travel guides
- 3 | **Dassler, Adi** (1900-1978) German founder of Adidas
- 5 | **Augstein, Rudolf** (1923-2002) German magazine publisher (*Der Spiegel*) and journalist
- 5 | **Seeler, Uwe** (1936-) Legendary German soccer player and official
- 5 | **Sommer, Elke** (1940-) Berlin-born film actress, entertainer, and painter
- 6 | **Musil, Robert** (1880-1942) Austrian writer, novelist
- 7 | **Meitner, Lise** (1878-1968) Austrian nuclear physicist who discovered fission
- 9 | **Lamarr, Hedy** (1914-2000) Austrian-born film actress and inventor
- 10 | **Emmerich, Roland** (1955-) German film director in Hollywood
- 10 | **Luther, Martin** (1483-1546) German seminal figure of the Protestant Reformation
- 10 | **Schiller, Friedrich** (1759-1805) Second only to Goethe, one of Germany's greatest dramatists and poets
- 11 | **DiCaprio, Leonardo Wilhelm** (1974-) American film actor with a German mother
- 12 | **Ende, Michael** (1929-1995) German author: *The Neverending Story*

- 12 | **Loriot** (Vicco von Bülow, 1923-2011) German humorist, cartoonist
- 12 | **Pestalozzi, Johann Heinrich** (1746-1827) Swiss educational reformer
- 15 | **Biermann, Wolf** (1936-) German singer-songwriter
- 15 | **Frankfurter, Felix** (1882-1965) Austrian-born US Supreme Court Justice from 1939 to 1962
- 15 | **Hauptmann, Gerhart** (1862-1946) German dramatist and novelist
- 15 | **Rommel, Erwin** (1891-1944) German army general, aka the "Desert Fox"
- 15 | **Stauffenberg, Claus von** (1907-1944) German military officer who was executed for his attempt to assassinate Hitler in 1944
- 17 | **Sailer, Toni** (1935-2009) Austrian champion downhill ski racer from Kitzbühel
- 22 | **Becker, Boris** (1967-) Former German tennis champion
- 22 | **Hofer, Andreas** (1767-1810) Tyrolean (Austrian) patriot
- 23 | **Otto I** (912-973) Otto the Great was German king from 936 and emperor of the Holy Roman Empire from 962 until his death.
- 25 | **Benz, Karl** (1844-1929) German inventor of the automobile
- 25 | **Gruber, Franz** (1787-1863) Austrian composer of "Stille Nacht" (with lyrics by Josef Mohr)
- 28 | **Engels, Friedrich** (1820-1895) German social scientist, author, political theorist, philosopher, and father of Marxist theory, alongside **Karl Marx**
- 29 | **Doppler, Christian** (1803-1853) Austrian mathematician and physicist
- 30 | **Forster, Marc** (1969-) German-Swiss film director (*World War Z*, *Quantum of Solace*)

Dezember • December

- 1 | **Schmidt-Rottluff, Karl** (1884-1976) German expressionist painter and printmaker
- 2 | **Ullrich, Jan** (1973-) German former pro road bicycle racer who won a gold and a silver in the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, but was later banned from the sport
- 3 | **Freud, Anna** (1895-1982) Daughter of **Sigmund Freud** who became a child psychologist
- 3 | **Schwarzer, Alice** (1942-) German feminist advocate and journalist
- 3 | **Witt, Katarina** (1965-) German former ice skating star
- 4 | **Buchholz, Horst** (1933-2003) German film actor (*One, Two, Three*)
- 4 | **Rilke, Rainer Maria** (1875-1926) Austrian poet born in Prague, then part of Austria-Hungary; called "one of the most lyrically intense German-language poets"
- 5 | **Heisenberg, Werner** (1901-1976) German physicist; quantum mechanics
- 5 | **Lang, Fritz** (1890-1976) Austrian film director in Hollywood
- 6 | **Handke, Peter** (1942-) Austrian novelist and playwright
- 9 | **Haber, Fritz** (1868-1934) German chemist, Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1918
- 10 | **Funke, Cornelia** (1958-) German author of books for children and teens
- 11 | **Born, Max** (1882-1970) German physicist, 1954 Nobel Prize in Physics
- 11 | **Koch, Robert** (1843-1910) 1905 Nobel Prize for discovery of cause of tuberculosis
- 11 | **Mohr, Joseph** (1792-1848) Austrian author of lyrics to "Stille Nacht" ("Silent Night")
- 11 | **Porsche, Ferdinand Alexander** (1935-2012) German auto designer (Porsche 911)
- 12 | **Raabe, Max** (1962-) The German singer and his "Palast Orchester" tour Germany

and the world with classics from the 1920s and 1930s.

- 13 | **Heine, Heinrich** (1797-1856) German poet, journalist, and essayist
- 13 | **Jürgens, Curd** (1915-1982) Austrian stage and film actor whose Hollywood films include *The Enemy Below* (1957), *The Longest Day* (1962), and *The Spy Who Loved Me* (1977)
- 15 | **Hundertwasser, Friedensreich** (1928-2000) Noted Austrian architect, artist
- 16 | **Beethoven, Ludwig van** (1770-1827) German composer and pianist
- 17 | **Mueller-Stahl, Armin** (1930-) German film actor: *Angels and Demons*, *Eastern Promises*
- 18 | **Brandt, Willy** (Herbert Frahm, 1913-1992) West German chancellor (SPD) from 1969 to 1974; West Berlin mayor 1957-1966
- 18 | **Klee, Paul** (1879-1940) Swiss artist influenced by expressionism, cubism, and surrealism
- 19 | **Schweiger, Til** (1963-) German filmmaker, actor: *Inglourious Basterds*
- 20 | **Pötzsch, Oliver** (1970-) German author (*The Hangman's Daughter*) born in Munich
- 21 | **Böll, Heinrich** (1917-1985) German novelist, writer; Nobel Prize in Literature, 1972
- 21 | **Mey, Reinhard** (1942-) German singer, songwriter, *Liedermacher*
- 21 | **Ranke, Leopold von** (1795-1886) German historian, founder of source-based history
- 23 | **Schmidt, Helmut** (1918-2015) Chancellor of West Germany, 1974-1982 (SPD)
- 24 | **Elisabeth of Austria** ("Sisi," 1837-1898) Bavarian-born Empress Elisabeth of Austria married Austro-Hungarian Emperor Franz Joseph I when she was only 16 years old.
- 25 | **Rosberg, Nico Erik** (1985-) German-born Formula One race driver whose Finnish father, Keke Rosberg, was also a noted F1 driver
- 25 | **Rosenzweig, Franz** (1886-1929) German Jewish theologian and philosopher
- 27 | **Dietrich, Marlene** (1901-1992) German film star who came to the US in 1930
- 27 | **Kepler, Johannes** (1571-1630) German astronomer and mathematician
- 28 | **Kaymer, Martin** (1984-) German golf pro; PGA Championship winner 2010
- 28 | **Knef, Hildegard** (1925-2002) German actress, singer, writer
- 28 | **Murnau, F.W.** (1888-1931) German-born Hollywood film director
- 30 | **Fontane, Theodor** (1819-1898) German poet, novelist: *L'Adultera* (1882)

Errors: If you notice any errors on our birthday/holiday calendar, please let us know!

Additions: Have we left out a notable person you think should be on the list? Tell us.

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