

January 2010



Greetings from the President

Year in Review

2009 has been a great year for the Jasper Deutscher Verein, with ever growing meeting attendance and events. As usual we started the year off in January with our annual Wine/Beer judging and tasting. New this year was the addition of the "Suds Club" to our festive evening.

We continued in February with a great program by member Bob Bleemel on his participation in the retracing of Abraham Lincoln's historic 1828 flat boat trip to New Orleans . March brought us an old fashioned "sock hop" featuring the "Recycled Teenagers" under the direction of our own V.P. Birnie Jeffries. Many of our members "dressed" for the occasion. We were also blessed with three unforgettable "Elvis" appearances. In April, the Jeffries family was back again along with daughter, Natalie, of Green Thumb Nursery and landscaping, giving us all helpful hints on our spring planting and landscaping.

May brought us warm spring weather and a wonderful outdoor gathering at the Riverwalk. A large turnout enjoyed brats and sauerkraut prepared by Al Astrike and his crew. Nathan Humbert, a 3 rd year West Point Cadet and son of members Gene and Donna Humbert, spoke about life as a cadet. Tours were conducted of the new "Old Mill"; the train cars and the "Old Barn" by ROJAC officers and Deutscher Verein members Dave Buehler and Ron Flick. In recognition of the German Club's funding of the mill's water wheel and terrace, the overlook area was officially christened "Wasserrad Terrasse" which translates to "water wheel terrace".

Of course, the highlight of the year, as always, was the 31st annual Strassenfest. In spite of the rain, we experienced a fantastic Strassenfest, with participation by the Budweiser Clydesdales and our 19 guests from Pfaffenweiler. Dan and Linda Wehr, who have chaired our food booths for so many years, reported that this year's results were the third best on record. Dan and Linda are "retiring" this year and will be replaced by Pat and Phyllis Schuler. We were especially proud to recognize Matt Hilger as this year's "Hofmarshall". Finally, we bid a joyous/sad farewell to our Pfaffenweiler guests on August 8 during a dinner at the Museum. As President of the Deutscher Verein, I am automatically a member of the Strassenfest Committee. I attended most of the meetings during the year and became acutely aware of all the time and effort from this group in preparation for the fest. Many thanks go out to Bridget Jarboe and her committee

As we moved into fall, our family picnic was held on September 19. A group of "fearless hunters" supplied this year's "Jaeger fest" with "Hasen und Rehbraten". After many years as chairman of the event, Matt Hilger is "retiring" and will be replaced by Aaron Rasche. We plan on changing the

nature of this picnic next year and will model it more like the Munich Oktoberfest. Each year our club joins with other German Clubs throughout the nation in recognizing German Heritage Day on October 6. A great night was experienced at the Schnitzelbank with a bountiful German meal, reflective essays by students from local high schools, and an insightful program by new member Maureen Braun. The highlight of the evening was the presentation by Matt Hilger, President of the Jasper Partnership Commission, of the 11 th annual German Heritage Award to Vic and Monica Knies.

November ushered in our annual auction for the Student Exchange Program. With Dan Hoffman as our auctioneer and over 150 members in attendance, we raised over \$2,000 for the students. Finally, to end our year, our Christmas Party was recently held on December 20. With a huge attendance of over 200, we all had a great time celebrating the holiday season and the Birth of Christ. The Celebration Singers, along with a visit from Santa, certainly put us in the Christmas Spirit.

Due to the generosity of our members in time and money and the success of the Strassenfest, your club was able to provide assistance to many individuals and projects. One of the largest projects was the club commitment to ROJAC for the construction of the wheel and terrace of the new "Old Mill". \$30,000 was pledged with \$5,000 paid this year and \$7500 left ongoing. In appreciation of our support, ROJAC is installing a brass plaque in acknowledgement. Of course our ongoing commitment is to the Jasper High School students who take part in the Student Exchange program with Germany . Over \$3100 was donated this year. The club also helps support the "Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc" and the "Partnership Commission". We also purchased for \$1750, a 40 foot trailer for use in storing the Strassenfest booths and supplies, and every year we contribute \$2,000 toward the Strassenfest beer garden tents.

Although Judy and I have been members for many years, this year has opened our eyes to the extent of what our club does and is to the community. I encourage everyone to accept a more active role in the club. Of course, a club of this size cannot exist without a lot of time and effort on the part of its members. In addition to those previously mentioned, I would like to thank the officers and board members of your club. In particular, many thanks go out to Patti Goepfrich for all she does for the club from preparing the newsletter to her major inputs for the Family Picnic and the German Heritage Dinner.

Your officers and board are all looking forward to the New Year. Make an effort to attend meetings and get involved in your club this New Year. I can assure you, you'll be glad you did.

Happy New Year!

Al Bennett, President

Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars

Januar Deutscher Vereinsabend

Date: Thursday, January 21, 2010

Place: Jasper VFW

Time: 6:00PM Social Hour

6:30PM Soup, Cheese and Meat

7:00PM Club Meeting

7:30PM Judging and Program

Beer and Wine Judging/Tasting

This meeting is always one of the best attended meetings of the year and also one of the most fun. In addition to the wine tasting, the Suds Club will again be here with all of their micro brewed lagers.

The categories to be judged are: Grape Wine, Non-Grape/Other Wine, and Beer. It is rumored that our judges will be demanding but fair. Let's have a great turnout!

During the tasting, a table of various cheeses and meats along with soup will be provided by the club.

We will be celebrating our 30 th anniversary as a club during 2010. A fabulous Power Point presentation, developed by the Jeffries family, will be shown depicting the good time had during Deutscher Verein activities. Come and reminisce about the "good old days" and "the way we were".

We will also be having a Canned Food Drive to benefit the Community Bank. Now is the time to give to others who need and are grateful for our help. Please bring a can or two of canned food items to help others in our community.

Dan Wehr, Birnie Jeffries and Al Bennett will be talking about this event and the history of the Jasper German Club on January 18 on WITZ at 7:05am and WBDC at 9am. Tune in if you can!

Februar Deutscher Vereinsabend

Date: Thursday, February 18, 2010

Place: Jasper VFW

Time: 6:00pm Social Gathering

6:30pm Desserts and Appetizers provided by members. Those with last names beginning A to L are asked to bring desserts, M to Z please bring appetizers.

7:00pm Club Meeting

7:30pm Program

Our program will feature noted Jasper Architect and Historian, Ron Flick. Ron has done extensive research on German immigration to Jasper. In addition, Ron, along with Professor William Keel, chairman of the Dept. of Germania Languages at the University of Kansas , have researched the origins of the "Schnitzelbank" song. A great power point presentation is promised.

In addition, the club will be partnering with Alan Hanselman of the Schnitzelbank for this exciting program. Invite all your friends and let's have a great turn-out!

As always, guests are welcome.

"JASPER DEUTSCHER VEREIN - 30 YEARS AGO, THE WAY IT ALL STARTED -

AT LEAST THE BEST I CAN REMEMBER"

The first Strassenfest was in 1979. The idea came about when the Dave Buehler family made a trip to Germany the previous year, and by accident came upon a "German Street Festival." Dave was President of the "Jasper Action Team", a division of the Jasper Chamber of Commerce, and

with all of his enthusiasm began pitching that Jasper should have a Strassenfest. The first one was organized, but on a much smaller scale than we know today; mainly patterned after the "Sommerfest" held at Jaycee Park moved downtown. This was an instant success and you know the rest of the story. It was also realized by the Action Team that Strassenfest would be an annual event. Something else was needed to keep the German spirit alive the rest of the year; thus, the idea of the German Club. A couple interest meetings were called in September and October of 1979. To say the least there was tremendous interest. The meetings were held at Beck's Tavern on the Square.

January 17, 1980 was the first meeting. Wow, did we hit the ground running! Our first official meeting was not until February 21 st . Prior to the official meeting on February 9 th , we already had a Dine and Dance, Faschnacht, or pre-lenten party to raise money for decorations for the Strassenfest and provide seed money for our new club. We raised \$1,400 and presented it to Charles Stenftenagel, Chairman of the Strassenfest and another \$624 for the club start up.

At the Faschnacht, officers and directors were elected:

Dan Wehr President

Gary Egler Vice President

Jeanne Holler Secretary

Ron Kieffner Treasurer

Directors

Larry Hanselman

Harvey Berger

Dave Buehler

Even before the first official meeting, there were already 290 paid members with several more signing up that night. By the April meeting we had 392 members. The "Faschnacht", held at the Holiday Inn, was a huge success with over four hundred (400) people attending. The club already had a band and a Mannerchor formed before the first meeting. The band had already played at two public functions prior to the meeting.

Interestingly, the first meetings and dance were held at Beck's, Schnitzelbank, Holiday Inn, Heritage Inn, and the Legion. Our first news letters consisted of 3 x 5 cards printed with a mimeograph machine. Postage was .10 - my how things have changed. Our dues were \$5.00 per person, 30 years between price increases not bad.

Also, by the February meeting "Deutscherverein" name was established; the logo was already in place; by laws complete and efforts were under way to incorporate; and the third Thursday of the month was set for our normal meeting date. By the March meeting, plans were being firmed up on trips to the Terre Haute German Festival; and the April meeting our first European trip. The Deutscherverein band and mannerchor performed at all of our first meetings followed by singing by all members.

The first Committees were:

Band: Jim Holler and Gary Fields

Mannerchor: Ken Ziegler, Bill Balsbaugh, Don Rasche, Leo Schmitt, Norb Kreilein

Program: Josie Siebert, Crystal Roediger

Membership: Dan Wehr, Gary Egler, Tom Hynes,
Fred Hollinden, Vic Eckert

Social: Dave Buehler, John Thyen, Mike Hochgesang, Ken Heim, Bernita Berger, Rita Webber,
Hilary Hochgesang

Historical: John Fierst, Julius Bitner, Al Schuler, Cecile Klamer

Costumes: Linda Wehr, Crystal Roediger, Marilyn Thyen

Float: Mike and Pat Hochgesang, Ken Heim, Gary Egler, Harvey Berger, Roy Stockbridge, Tom
Hulsman,

Jim Corn, Dan and Linda Wehr

Efforts were well under way to outfit members with lederhosen and dirndls as well as our club
vests, which had already been designed.

After the very quick start, momentum continued into the early and mid 80's. By 1987 the club
had already taken three trips to Europe and many within the U.S. Other milestones include and
May Pole "Maibaum" by master craftsman Jim Corn, which were from design sketches by artist
Judy Bennett. The Maibaum will stand for many more years reminding all who pass through
Jasper of its rich German Heritage. Dedication was held in October 10, 1985 by Mayor Alles and
special guest Lt. Governor John Mutz.

You probably remember the murals on the Gamble building, which we were involved in and we
also influenced the German architecture around town, which still exists today.

In 1981 Sabina Jordan came to Jasper via a state grant as a "Humanist in Residence", and was
immediately fascinated by our heritage. She urged us to explore a " Sister City " that we might
have a relationship with and some day even possibly a student exchange program. Zeroing into
the area was easy, selecting was a bit tough, until visiting Pfaffenweiler - everyone knew
immediately, that was the place, and you know the rest of this story. Also, one of the places of
strong consideration, prior to the decision, was a small town in Austria , near Hitler's Eagle's
Nest. After our selection and getting Mayor Alles and other City Officials on board, we decided
the relationship with Pfaffenweiler needed additional separate focus, thus Sister Cities was
formed to lead efforts, especially in the student exchange portion.

The Deutscher Verein is alive and well. As they say about the quilt wheel at the church picnic,
"where she stops, nobody knows." Let's just hope the wheel keeps spinning for many years to
come!

Auf Wiedersehen

Dan Wehr

25 Anniversary Trip Planned

The Jasper Partnership Commission along with Sister Cities of Jasper are organizing a Sister City
Visit with coach tour through France and Switzerland this coming June. Departure from Jasper
will be on June 16 th .

We will celebrate our 25th Anniversary of our Partnership in the Snail Valley with a busy schedule
for the next three days with the Pfaffenweiler community, your host family, including on Sunday

the Steibickfescht (Stone Quarry Festival) in the historical quarry above the town.

On June 21 st , the group will be transported to Mulhouse , France , for a journey on a High Speed train down through the Rhone River Valley to Avignon in Southern France . Multiple days will be spent around Avignon . We will be staying within the old medieval walled town in Avignon offering the opportunity to stroll the narrow cobblestoned village, shop the quaint shops, flea market and bars and restaurants in the shadow of the Palace of the Popes.

A tour of this well known city is planned, a visit of the Palais des Papes (Palace of the Popes), where several popes and antipopes lived from the early 14th to early 15th centuries, a visit to Pont d'Avignon and Notre Dame des Domes. It is followed by Bus Excursions to the Pont du Gard (built around the year 19 BC. Designed to carry the water across the small Gardon river valley; it was part of a nearly 31 miles aqueduct bringing water from Uzès to Nimes . It was constructed entirely without mortar. The Pont du Gard was added to the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites in 1985), the city of Nimes with the elliptical Roman Amphitheatre, the towns of Arles , Aix-en-Provence and L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue (a town surrounded by water with 6 of the original 70 watermills still in place).

On June 25 th , a tour bus will take the group into the French Alps, passing through Grenoble and Albertville into Chamonix , situated near the massive peaks of the Aiguilles Rouges. The town shares both the summit of highest mountain in the Alps , Mont Blanc , and the title of highest town of France .

We will take the cable Car to Aiguille du Midi at about 9,759 feet, visiting a panoramic viewing platform, with a cafe and a gift shop.

From there the bus will take the group back to Zurich for one day, to fly back to the US on June 28 th .

This is a wonderful, relaxing and exciting way to see many sights in Europe in a short time period. A tour that will provide lasting memories for years to come!

For more details please contact Lois Kuntz at the Jasper City Hall at 482-4255 or call Jackie's Travel at 482-7158.

MEMBERSHIP

Due to rising costs, the Deutscher Verein Board of Directors has voted to raise the yearly dues. Starting January 1, 2010 , dues will raise to \$10 a person. Out of this raise, a \$1 will go to the Jasper Deutscher Verein (German Club) German Heritage Endowment and \$.50 per member for dues to Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc. and \$8.50 to German Club for postage and meetings. Dues are to be paid in January by mail to German Club, P.O. Box 15 , Jasper , IN 47547-0015 or paid at meeting.

We are trying to build our membership and need many people to work at the Strassenfest and help with our meetings during the year. The Strassenfest is our only fund raiser of the year. We need everyone and I am asking all members to try to get new people interested in the German Club.

All members who are going to be gone for any period of time, I would appreciate if you would let me know when you are leaving and give me your new address so I can forward your newsletter to you. This keeps us from having to pay double postage and assures you to receive all newsletters while you are away from home. Having your mail forwarded while you are gone will not work, simply because of the "Return Service Requested" stamped on our newsletter. This is stamped to let us know when someone has moved. The Post Office informs us of new addresses if you have permanently moved.

Thanks for your help and please let me know if you have any questions regarding membership or if you know of someone interested in the German Club.

Thanks again,

Rita Egler, 634-9068

A Thought from your Vice President

Hello everyone and Happy New Year to all. The word "Happy" is a special word that isn't used enough. It is a great reply - if true - when folks ask you "How are you doing?" Replying "I am Happy" seems to say it all.

Wrapping up 2009 is one of mixed emotions. My diary tells me that its been a year of ups and downs - but thank God - mostly ups. We are Americans - that in itself is enough to be thankful for a lifetime.

Our German Club is growing faster than the natural decline of age and death rates - that's a good thing. Laughter and smiling are traits of a "Happy" person and I really work hard to wear them on my sleeves.

We all should.

One item of serious thought - Let's go out of our way to sit and talk with new members at the meetings. All of us are guilty of being "Clickish" with our closest friends and family, but let's reach out and really get to know them and they know you.

We all remember our early introduction into the Club and it was a little uneasy until we really got to know how wonderful all of you are..

I am so happy to be a part of a large membership that makes me - yes me - feel loved and wanted. We all want and need that.

I grew up in a "Hugging Family" - we would even follow our relatives out to their cars and wave goodbye to them until they were out of sight. The Jeffries (Dad) came from Scotland Heritage and the Stahls (Mom) were pure German - were they ever! I'm blessed to be a mixture of both.

I need to set the record straight on something. Marge and I will not be going to Germany in June. I can hear the aaaaah's already and that makes me proud to be potentially missed.

My Marine Corps Helicopter Squadron HMH46 is celebrating the 100th year anniversary of the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing at New River , North Carolina on June 17, 18, 19, 20, 2010. I am one of the chief organizers for our squadron only, for that celebration. It is an honor to be remembered or thought of enough to be an instrument in getting it done. I am committed to doing just that.

Keep laughing, smiling and dancing and I hope to see you on the VFW dance floor.

Sincerely Yours,

Birnie Jeffries,

Vice President

4495 E Schnellville Rd.
St. Anthony , IN 47575

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fax: (812) 326-9206

Potential New Club Members

If someone knows of a potential new club member and would like information about the Deutscher Verein forwarded, please contact Rita Egler at 634-9068.

Erinnerst Du Dich?

In the coming newsletters, we will have an opportunity to review memories of the Deutscher Verein taken from Board Meeting Minutes.

Annual Chili Dinner Benefiting the JHS Student

German Exchange Program

The 2010 German Exchange Program Annual Chili Supper will take place on Friday, January 29th from 5:30-8:00pm . Tickets will be on sale at the next German Club meeting for \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for kids. Tickets can also be purchased from any German Exchange student or Erin White at the high school. Tickets will also be sold the evening of January 29th: \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for kids. Gallons of chili can also be purchased ahead of time for \$15.00 each.

The meal will include all-you-can-eat chili, hot dog or peanut butter sandwich, drink and homemade dessert. All proceeds benefit the German Exchange Trip in 2011.



Anna-Lisa Weber

Anna-Lisa Weber arrived in Jasper on August 5, 2009 at the age of 16. She has since celebrated her 17 th birthday.

Her home community in Germany is Staufen and attends JHS as a Junior. In Germany , she attends Faust Gymnasium in Staufen.

While at JHS, she has participated in Cross Country and plans on participating in swimming or basketball during the winter and in track and field in the spring.

She enjoys hanging out with her friends and host family.

There are differences between school life in Staufen and Jasper. In Germany , the lessons are

shorter, the students have more breaks, the students don't need hall passes, there are difference schedules every day, and not every teacher has his/her own classroom.

They do have a school cafeteria in Germany .

Anna-Lisa wanted to come to the States to learn something new and she was aware of the Student Exchange Program between JHS and Faust Gymnasium.

She states that Jasper is a great place and she is enjoying her time here and promises to come back!!!

Her host family is Mark, Michele, and Catherine Bramlett.

MEMORABILIA WANTED

We are looking for items to replace trophies in the cabinets at the Schnitzelbank. If you have any memorabilia you would like to display in these cabinets (located in the Deutscher Verein Room) please contact Rita Egler at 634-9068. We would appreciate items for a short period of time to display, or for any time you would agree on. These items may be items from Germany or pertaining to the German Club or Sister Cities. Thanks, Rita Egler

Message from Pfaffenweiler Mayor Dieter Hahn

Citizens of Jasper and friends:

We live in a world of activity and we struggle for extra time. The new electronic media changed the rhythm of time. It seems that quiet time has very little place within the mad rush and bustle of our everyday lives. Even the contemplative days of Advent give way, more and more, to the stress of getting thousands of things done before Christmas. Nevertheless, quietness, relaxation, exhalation and moments of rest are indispensable for times of creative power and energy.

Quietness gives way to great thoughts. With quietness you recognize yourself. According to a Chinese saying: "Only in a calm pond is the light of the stars reflected."

I want to wish you all a silent, quiet and contemplative Christmastime and a happy and active, but less stressful, 2010.

I hope I will see many of you in Pfaffenweiler next year to celebrate the 25 th anniversary of our Sister City partnership.



Ein Prosit, Ein Prosit, der Gemut-lich-keit, Ein Prosit

Ein Prosit, der Gemut-lich-keit, Eins Zwei, Drei.G'suffa

A toast, A toast, To happy times, A toast, A toast, To happy times, One, two three. drink up

Membership Dues

It's that time of year again! Please submit your dues for 2010 by January 31, 2010 by completing and sending in the following form. Thanks!

SEND TO: Jasper Deutscher Verein, ATTN: Rita Egler, P.O. Box 15 , Jasper , IN 47547-0015

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Home Phone () _____ - _____ E-mail: _____

[circle one]

Single Membership (\$10.00) or Couple Membership (\$20.00)

[circle one]

New Membership or Membership Renewal

Please indicate the year which dues are to be applied: _____

Deutscher Verein

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