



DEUTSCHER VEREIN

Die Zeitung

November 2013

The Jasper Deutscher Verein was founded in January, 1980 to promote, preserve and celebrate our proud German Heritage in Jasper and surrounding area. The Club is intended to be primarily Social and Not-For-Profit.

German-American Day Celebrated

The Jasper Deutscher Verein, Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc., and the Jasper Partnership Commission sponsored a German-American Day Dinner and Program on Wednesday, October 9th, at the Schnitzelbank Restaurant in Jasper. Over 90 individuals celebrated the occasion.

Raymie Eckerle, president of the Jasper Partnership Commission, welcomed all present. He introduced Mayor Terry Seitz who read the proclamation recognizing October 9th as German American Day in Jasper.

Bridgette Bartley, president of the Jasper Deutscher Verein, introduced the essay winners of the German Heritage essay contest which was held in conjunction with German-American Day.

The winner from Forest Park Junior Senior High School was Morganne Haas and her parents are Bradley and Karen Haas. The winner from Northeast Dubois High School was Lauren Betz. Lauren is the daughter of Michael and Christine Betz. Elizabeth Brinkman was the winner from Southridge High School. Elizabeth is the daughter of Gregory and Vicky Brinkman. The winner from Jasper High School was Shannon Sonderman daughter of John and Judy Sonderman.

Each student presented their essay as part of the program of the evening. On behalf of German American, Steffi Schmuecker, Rachel Levin and Jennifer Tuggle, then presented each essay winner with a \$250 scholarship and certificate. Mrs. Bartley noted that this is the eleventh year that German American has sponsored the German Heritage Essay contest. German American has awarded over \$8,500 to students in the county who have won this contest. Ms. Bartley also recognized Mrs. Sharon Burger. Mrs. Burger recently retired from GA but was instrumental in the Essay Contest from the beginning.

Ms. Bartley also introduced Shannon Sonderman, Sandy Wehr, and Erin White who presented a power point presentation on the JHS German Student Exchange trip to Germany in June of 2013. Eighteen JHS students and Mrs. Wehr and Mrs. White traveled to Pfaffenweiler, Germany and Poessneck, Germany and other parts of



Delli and Ron Keusch
2013 German Heritage Award Winners



2013 German Heritage Essay Winners
and Representatives of German
American - L to R

Rachel Levin, Lauren Betz, Elizabeth
Brinkman, Shannon Sonderman,
Morganne Haas, SteffiSchmuecker,
Jennifer Tuggle, and Jay Baker

Germany. Students stayed in homes of the German students who previously visited Jasper and spent time in the Jasper homes and attended JHS and visited parts of Dubois County.

Mrs. Wehr, president of Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc., presented the 15th annual German Heritage Award. The 2013 German Heritage Award was presented to Ron and Delli Keusch. Mr. and Mrs. Keusch were part of the founding members of the Jasper Deutscher Verein and were in charge of the food booth for many years. They have contributed many hours to promote the German heritage in many different ways.

Ms. Wehr noted that "This couple has been very involved since the beginning of the Jasper German Club. They were one of the original ten couples to form the Jasper German Club. They were always ready to dance the night away in their German outfits teaching everyone how to polka waltz." From a nomination, "They both know many of the old skills and teach whenever the opportunity presents itself such as butchering, making turnip kraut, log sawing, sheephead, frying liver and onions, etc."

Ms. Wehr stated "Ron and Delli were co-chairmen of the food booth at the Strassenfest for the first eight years. Ron was instrumental in putting together the original German Club float. He did the welding, painting, and general maintenance. He made sure the floor was solid for dancing!!! And Ron and Delli always showed up to help get the float ready for the parades. They both speak and understand German. Ron has carried on the dialect spoken in Dubois County."

It was noted that Ron is an entertainer. Throughout the travels of the German Club, at the end of the evening, Ron has entertained with the spoons or harmonica. Mr. and Mrs. Keusch have been involved in the family business, Keusch Glass, for many years. They are members of St. Mary's Church in Ireland and are dedicated to family, friends, and community.

Their four children and many grandchildren also attended the event and Mr. Keusch entertained the group by playing the spoons and lead the group in singing the "Schnitzelbank Song".

Mr. Eckerle thanked Lois Kuntz, Patti Goepfrich, Bridgette Bartley, Sandy Wehr, and entire staff of the Schnitzelbank for their coordination of the evening's activities.

We Made it - 3rd Place in the 2013 Wine Festival of the Year Competition

We are really proud of it. We have to express a very heartfelt "Thank you" to all our Friends and Supporters especially in Jasper, the rest of Germany and the World.

We, Pfaffenweiler with only 2,300 people, versus Besigheim (12,000 people) and Radebeul (33,000 people) showed them, that we are the real winners!!

Sincerely,

Community of Pfaffenweiler and the Club Association

September Jasper Deutscher Verein in Review

The Jasper Deutscher Verein held their summer picnic on September 14th at the Jasper Outdoor Recreation. Bridgette Jarboe welcomed the 106 members and guests.

Mike Ackerman led the prayer before the meal. Barb Schmitt and Pam Howard welcomed guests. Ann and Phyllis Ackerman helped with the food and drinks. Mike Ackerman and Cliff Howard grilled the food.

Pat Schuler gave a brief report on the success of the Strassenfest food and pastry booths.

The German Exchange Students had a display set up of their trip to Germany this summer. Josh Dodd gave a power point presentation on his trip to Pfaffenweiler, Germany to learn the art of stone carving.

Winners of door prizes were Norma Schnell, Larry Hanselman, Jeff Libbert, Matthias Hilger, Clara Hollen, Ed Wening, Phyllis Boeglin, Bernie Weidenbenner, Aline Brescher, Eileen Scherle, Norbert Wehr, Wes Rohleder, Vic Teder, Barbara Wehr, Judy Bennett, James Barrow, Gladys Knust, Ari Wiseman, Bri Wiseman, Grant Libbert, Grace Jarboe, and Trey Wiseman. Winners of special prizes were Clif Howard and Charlie Knust.

Freddie Hopf and the Boys was the entertainment for the evening.

The next meeting will be November 21st. It will be at the Jasper VFW. Social half hour will start at 6:00 pm. Meeting will start at 6:30.

This will be the annual auction benefitting the JHS German Exchange Program. Everyone is encouraged to bring an item or two to donate for the auction. Previous items were homeade cookies, cakes, candy, pies, Thanksgiving and Christmas items, handmade items,

wine, gift baskets, gift certificates, etc. Feel free to ask friends and family members to come and join the fun!

Members with last names beginning with A-F bring vegetable, G-K salad, L-P potato dish, and R-Z dessert.

Submitted by

Barb Schmitt
Secretary

Message from Mike.....

We were blessed with a good turn out for the October German Day dinner held at the Schnitzelbank. Those attending were treated to four fine essay presentations from our area high school students regarding their vision and beliefs of their German roots.

Congratulations to Ron and Delli Keusch, this year's honored couple for the German Heritage Award. Thank you, Ron, for leading us in the Schnitzelbank song at the close of the meeting.

Our November meeting will feature our benefit auction to support the students enrolled in German language in high school. We look forward to your attendance and bidding to raise funds to support the next generation of young people who have shown an interest in their German heritage.

The Christmas meeting will include a little cultural entertainment as members from Strings, Inc. charm us with their violins.

In January and February, we will be trying something a little different this year. We are splitting wine and beer judging to two separate meetings and pairing this with an opportunity for others to get involved with food items. More details will be revealed at the November and December meetings.

Hope to see your continued support of our club at the meetings.

Mike Ackerman,

VP, Deutscher Verein

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

November Meeting

At the Jasper VFW

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Time:

6:00pm - Doors Open

6:30pm –Welcome and call meeting to order

Members with last names beginning with A-F bring vegetable, G-K salad, L-P potato dish, and R-Z dessert.

Program – Annual auction to benefit JHS German Exchange Program

Jeff and Lisa Mann will again donate a ½ hog and pay for the processing at Merkleys. The bidder can specify how they want the meat cut/processed. The value of the meat and processing is \$175.00.

Let's see what other interesting items will be auctioned to the highest bidder!!!!!!!

The German Exchange students will be selling advent calendars for \$5.00 each at this meeting.



2015 JHS German Exchange Students



Shannon Schwoerer

Shannon Schwoerer is 16 years old and arrived in Jasper on July 29th. She attends Jasper High School as a Junior. She will return to Germany at the end of the school year.

Shannon is from Pfaffenweiler, Germany. In Germany, she attends Max-Planck-Realschule in Bad Krozengen, Germany. She enjoys being with friends on the weekend. She feels that school here in America is bigger than at home.

She chose Jasper because of the long-lasting and good partnership with Pfaffenweiler and she wants to learn more about the American life-style.

Her welcoming family is Bill and Marlene Seger.

The Guests from Dudenhofen, Germany

A dinner and program organized by Diane Hoppenjans and the Ferdinand Tourism Commission was held at the Schnitzelbank on October 17th. The evening was to honor Michael and Barbara Schmidt and Clemens and Sylvia Koerner of Dudenhofen, Germany. Many who emigrated to the United States from Dudenhofen settled in the southeast corner of Mariah Hill and attended St. Ferdinand Church. Those surnames include Arnold, Bettag, Balbach, Grundhoefer, Hollander, Lehr, Lindauer, Nord, Ofer, Koenig, and Tretter.

Ms. Hoppenjans welcomed all present and asked that those families with the above surnames raise their hands to show their presence. It was very heartwarming to see the number of those families in attendance.

Mr. Ken Sicard introduced Mayor Terry Seitz who presented a gift and also Raymie Eckerle, president of the Jasper Partnership Commission, who presented the guests from Dudenhofen with Sister Cities pins and a copy of the 15th Anniversary Booklet of Sister Cities of Jasper and Pfaffenweiler Partnership. The Jasper DeutscherVerein and Sister Cities of Jasper were also represented by Bob Dilger, Darren Patterson, Sandy Wehr, Kevin Manley, Deena Seitz, and Patti Goepfrich.

If all can be arranged, St. Martin's Choir will visit Ferdinand in 2015, the town's 175th anniversary year and give a special concert.

Sister Cities of Jasper

Thank you to all who participated in the German Food for German Students fundraiser at the Schnitzelbank on October 6th. Your support is appreciated!!!!

Address Changes for Newsletters – Also for “Snowbirds” With Temporary Address Change

Would all members who are going to be gone for any period of time, please notify Rita Egler at P. O. Box 15, Jasper, IN 47547-0015 or call her at 634-9068 with your new address so we 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.

Please notify Patti Goepfrich of any email address changes. pmgoepfrich@twc.com

**What Does German Heritage Mean to Me?
By: Elizabeth Brinkman**

**Daughter of Greg and Vicky Brinkman
Southridge High School**

Across the county people show and are proud of their German heritage. The people say this and believe this but never define what makes up that heritage. To me, heritage means so much more than where your family came from. Heritage is your traditions, your family, your community, and how you are raised. Having a German

heritage means that I know my family came from Germany, has German influences, and celebrates this history.

So much of Dubois County has a German influence in their life by just participating in the local events. I, like many families in the area, have traced my family back to Germany before and found that only a few generations ago we left Germany. The families that settled in this area haven't been here for very many generations and still hold tight to their homelands. My family still displays and honors the glasses, beer steins, and photographs that our ancestors brought from Germany. My grandfather grew up, not far from where I live now, and spoke only German until he started elementary school and learned English. My grandfather still speaks fluent German and tries to speak to me at times in German. Much of my childhood I worked with and spent time with my Grandfather. He always seemed to be more dedicated and willing to put forth more effort than many other people. For a long time I didn't understand why he and the rest of my family felt so differently about work and putting effort towards work. As I grew up I began to realize that much of this came with us from Germany. Germans are traditionally seen as very dedicated and hardworking people. My family brought this tradition of being hardworking people from Germany and the people there.

Many people in this area share this hardworking German nature. The fact that the community shares this common link makes my family and others more willing to show pride in their heritage. This pride means that people also are more curious about their history and push others to explore their own heritage. Large portions of my family's history and heritage would still be a mystery to me if it my community didn't push the idea of German heritage in school activities and local events. This makes the community as much a part of my heritage as my family. This helped me figure out what makes me special and makes my family special.

That is what German heritage means to me. It means a community coming together to remember. It means a connection to my ancestors and understanding my grandfather's life. Heritage makes me and my family who we are. There is no one in this county that can claim to not have a German heritage because living here gives us this heritage. The county has the heritage and the people that live here do too.

Your Wish is Granted
By: Lauren Betz

Daughter of Michael and Christine Betz
Northeast Dubois High School

"Promise me kids, before I leave this life, keep the family heritage, traditions, and values alive in the future generations. It is where we are from." This was said by my great grandfather, Jerome Betz. This is such a simple request but a lot of work for future generations.

My family has kept family traditions alive by turning the TV off and avoiding technology games until we got older. Instead, we have played indoor and outdoor games, talked about old family stories, and sang and danced to the old harmonica on the back porch. Old German recipes have been handed down along with canning, butchering, and food preserving skills. Carefully identifying pictures, recording, and updating family history has been made a priority.

My parents taught and raised my younger siblings and me the "old fashioned" ways of holding the door open for people, smiling to others, using good manners, helping others, going to church every Sunday, praying every night and before meals, and working really hard. We grew up using our imagination, just like our ancestors! Life is so short, why not have fun with your siblings and friends: riding bikes, going on adventures along the creek, catching lightning bugs at night, making mud pies, singing fun tunes or rhymes, making a fort/ hide away, playing dolls, or with little cars and Tonka trucks. That is what was passed down: life, energy, love, determination, happiness, hard work, teamwork, cooperation, faith, fun, communication, and independence.

Of course, living in a 168-year-old log cabin for eight years of my life really made a difference to me. Seeing and living the life of my ancestors can really open and humble a person's mind. When I was little, we were lucky to have running water, an air conditioner, and a heater. The cabin was cramped with what we had and with only one closet. You could feel the strength, energy, and determination of making a new life in America by touching the notches in each log of the log cabin and barn. You could also see their being in the grooves and curves in each step leading to the attic in the log cabin. I smile with pride.

Mom taught us kids "Ihr Kinderlein Kommet," "Stille Nacht," and "Adeste Fidelis" during our elementary years. It was very touching to see the tears roll down the 80- and 90-year-olds' faces at the Christmas masses as we sang these songs. After mass they mentioned, "It was nice to hear our native tongue. It brought back

memories of our youth." This experience really showed me the importance of the German and Latin languages.

As I reach adulthood, I feel confident to pass down my German heritage to my children, grandchildren, and future generations. I've learned a lot about my German roots, but I know to keep an open mind and humble heart to learn more. "Don't worry grandpa; I'll fulfill your request too!"

German Heritage
By: Morganne Haas

Daughter of Bradley and Karen Haas
Forest Park Jr. Sr. High School

How do we truly define our German heritage? First we must dispel the myths. Germans are not tight with their money but thrifty and financially responsible. Germans are not hard-headed but determined and goal orientated. Not all Germans love sauerkraut and have a pair of lederhosen stashed in the back of their closet. Only a few homes in Dubois County actually display a cuckoo clock constructed in the mountains of the Black Forest. Our heritage is much more than the tangible things that we can see and touch, such as objects and monuments. It is the intangible traditions that we have inherited which truly make our German culture unique. The language, songs, dances, and even recipes are how we identify ourselves.

Having studied the German language for three years at Forest Park, I enjoy and appreciate the fact that Germans respect the past, celebrate the present, and build for the future. That old collection of German recipes that grandma left you may not seem like much in a monetary sense, but it is a treasure that must be protected for future generations. Christmas would not be the same without the smell of the traditional springerle cookies crafted with the special design covered rolling pin, or the sweet kuchen rising in the warm kitchen. A black, red and gold flag waving in the breeze reminds us that it is our German descendants who blessed the country with the Christmas tree and Saint Nick. They developed the bratwurst, frankfurter, and hamburger . . . not to mention pretzels and beer!

To the 40% of all Hoosiers that are of German ancestry, the Schnitzelbank is more than a restaurant on Third Avenue in Jasper, Indiana. It is a woodworking bench used before the industrial revolution for carving. It is also a song that introduces a new topic in each verse and ends with a comic twist which proves that Germans have a wonderful sense of humor. The more a person indulges into their family traditions and stories of the past the more meaningful our culture becomes. Participating

in community functions such as festivals, and spending time with grandparents is a great way to keep the past alive. We are blessed to have extensive information in the genealogy department of our local libraries, the Dubois County museum, and the German Club. The German heritage is all around us and free for the taking. It is our responsibility to embrace it and share it. The knowledge of my German heritage gives me a glimpse of where I have been and where I am going. "Danke schön"

What Can We As The Younger Generation Do to Help Maintain and Preserve Our German Heritage
By: Shannon Sonderman

Daughter of John and Judy Sonderman
Jasper High School

Heritage is something that the younger generation cares less about. We don't care where we came from. Life is all about us and where we are going. However, we need to remember where we came from to know how to get to where we want to go.

My heritage is German. I had a wonderful opportunity to take an active part in learning about my German heritage. I was able to participate in a German exchange program. I stayed with two families and learned their customs.

Our Heritage is similar in that they believe in the importance of family. When we visited my exchange sister in Germany, they had a going away party for her twin brother. The house was full of family and laughter. I felt like I was back home because we also have big family parties. However, they differ in that he was going away to travel the world for a year before he went to college. It is very normal for them to explore another cultures vs. in America we generally go straight to college or to the workforce.

American's differ from the German Heritage in that German's are more into being a part of nature. They ride their bikes to school and work. They enjoy going for walks. They enjoy eating outside. Their eating habits are very different. We eat three meals a day, but they eat three meals a day along with three or four snacks. They eat lots of bread and fresh foods. They go to the store more often and have small refrigerators. They live a more relaxed lifestyle.

One of the best ways teens can learn about their German heritage is to host an exchange student from Germany. I hosted three German exchange partners.

Laura stayed with my family a year. She is like my sister. I also hosted Carla and Venessa for two weeks each through the Sister City exchange program. When they lived with us, I learned about my heritage by talking to them about what it was like to be a teenager in Germany.

I then went and lived in Germany for two weeks with each family to experience their culture. I noticed right away that their cars were smaller and more energy efficient. Germany also has a very big public transportation network. In Germany most houses don't have air conditioning.

I believe the best way for the young generation to preserve our German heritage is to have friends in Germany and visit each other. I hope to go back to Germany and learn more about their very extensive culture and ways of life. For Germany being a small country it is still very diverse and we need to remember where we came from.

News from the Dubois County Suds Club

The Dubois County Suds Club is a group of local home-brewers. Anyone who home-brews or wants to learn how to home-brew is invited to attend.

In addition to monthly meetings, the club also holds group brew sessions and live demonstrations throughout the year. Anyone wanting more information about the club is invited to call 630-8433 or attend a meeting.

Even if you have no interest in learning how to homebrew, members of the Deutscher Verein are ALWAYS invited to stop by a meeting or event to simply enjoy some good beer! Thanks!

[Dec 7](#) - Holiday Party @ Jaycee's clubhouse

Justin Rumbach

At this time of Thanksgiving, let us remember the less fortunate of our communities. This would be a great time to make a donation to any organization helping those in need.

Your generosity will be appreciated.

Endowments at the Dubois County Community Foundation

**Jasper Deutscher Verein (German Club)
German Heritage Endowment**

A donor-advised endowment to benefit generations in ensuring that our German heritage is preserved and enriched in Jasper and Dubois County.

**Claude and Martina Eckert
Sister Cities Endowment**

A designated endowment to provide support to Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc. to support the Jasper/Pfaffenweiler relationship.

A gift to the Jasper Deutscher Verein (German Club) German Heritage Endowment or to the Claude and Martina Eckert Sister Cities Endowment is a wonderful way to remember that special someone. A gift in honor of someone or in memory of someone may be given. The Dubois County Community Foundation will send a letter of acknowledgment to the individual being honored or to the family of someone being remembered. Send your gift along with the appropriate information to the Dubois County Community Foundation, P. O. Box 269, Jasper, IN 47547-0269. Envelopes are also available at the greeting table at each club meeting.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

to the _____
(Please specify appropriate Endowment)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

I want my gift to be in memory of / in honor of:

Please acknowledge my gift to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Deutscher Verein
P. O. Box 15
Jasper, IN 47547-0015

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
JASPER, IN
PERMIT NO. 149

Return Service Requested

Deutscher Verein	
<u>Officers:</u> Bridgette Bartley – President bnjarboe@hotmail.com Mike Ackerman – Vice President mike@ackoil.com Rita Egler – Treasurer gregler@frontier.com Barb Schmitt – Secretary b.schmitt@insightbb.com	<u>Directors:</u> Al Bennett Dave Buehler Raymie Eckerle Patti Goepfrich Birnie Jeffries Patrick Schuler Danny Wehr Sandy Wehr
Die Zeitung Editor: Patti Goepfrich Phone: 812-482-4821 e-mail: pmgoepfrich@twc.com	
http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sister-Cities-of-Jasper/104109826372883?sk=wall	
Deutscher Verein Website: www.jaspergermanclub.org	