



**DEUTSCHER VEREIN**

# Die Zeitung

November 2015

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 Tuesday, October 6th, at KlubHaus 61 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 6th as German American Day in Jasper.

Mike Ackerman, 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 Samantha Wendholt and her parents are Joe and Danette Wendholt. The winner from Northeast Dubois High School was Kelly Vonderheide. Kelly is the daughter of Gerald and Glenda Vonderheide. Jessica Schaeffer was the winner from Southridge High School. Jessica is the daughter of Nick and Cassie Schaeffer. The winner from Jasper High School was Allison Reckelhoff daughter of Allen and Toni Reckelhoff.

Each student presented their essay as part of the program of the evening. On behalf of German American, Jay Baker, Steffi Schmuecker, Rachel Levin, and Jennifer Tuggle then presented each essay winner with a \$250 scholarship and certificate. Mr. Ackerman noted that this is the thirteenth year that German American has sponsored the German Heritage Essay contest. German American has awarded over \$10,500 to students in the county who have won this contest.

Mr. Ackerman also introduced Duane Busick, a self-employed event videographer from Bloomington. Mr. Busick gave an interesting program on "German Heritage of Dubois and Spencer Counties and how the area became so enamored with the celebration of Christmas". Mr. Busick shared with the group an interesting video presentation on festivals and events in Southern Indiana. Especially of interest to the group were the opening of the ceremonies of the 2015 Jasper Strassenfest featuring the mayors of Jasper and



**Lois Kuntz**  
**2015 German Heritage Award Winner**



**2015 German Heritage Essay Winners and**  
**Representatives of German American – L to R**

**Steffi Schmuecker, Jennifer Tuggle, Allison**  
**Reckelhoff, Samantha Wendholt, Kelly**  
**Vonderheide, Jessica Schaeffer, Rachel Levin,**  
**and Jay Baker**

Pfaffenweiler and the band members from Pfaffenweiler and the opening ceremony of the Christkindlmarkt in Ferdinand with the Christkindl Angel appearance.

Mrs. Wehr, president of Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc., presented the 17th annual German Heritage Award. The 2015 German Heritage Award was presented to Lois Kuntz. Ms. Kuntz is a member of the Jasper DeutscherVerein and Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc. She has been the recording secretary of the Jasper Partnership Commission since its inception in 1997.

“When it comes to the Partnership between Jasper and Pfaffenweiler, Ms. Kuntz truly holds the bond close to her heart.” One nomination stated that “She is very organized and she keeps everything on target, on deadline and within budget.” She works very closely with the Mayor’s office in Pfaffenweiler. She makes sure all visitors to Jasper’s City Hall feel welcome and goes out of her way to make sure all have a good memory of their visit to Jasper.

Ms. Kuntz has a daughter, Abby, and two granddaughters, Mallory and Jillian.

Mr. Eckerle thanked Laura Grammer, Lois Kuntz, Patti Goepfrich, Mike Ackerman, Sandy Wehr, and Tammy Hudson and the entire staff of KlubHaus 61 for their coordination of the evening’s activities.

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### **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 Patti Goepfrich at P. O. Box 15, Jasper, IN 47547-0015 or call her at 812-482-4821 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.

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**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!!!!!!!!!!**

### **The students in the JHS German Exchange Program – Heading to Germany in June, 2017**



L to R - Sitting  
Max Birge, Tyler McCormick, Sydney Peters, Chloe Daum, Cole Stenftenagel

Row 2: Bryan Hagan, Keeli May, Logan Pinkstaff, Tyler Richardson

Row 3: Sara Haas, Nick Hedinger, Drake Siegel, Grant Keller, Will Dixon, Max Otto

Not pictured: Connor McCormick, Kate Schuetter, Samantha Schuetter

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### **Let’s Meet Haley Arthur, the German Language Teacher at JHS**

My name is Hayley Arthur. I prefer to be called Hayley or Frau Arthur. The students call me Frau Arthur as well as most of the teachers.

I have degrees in German Studies and Philosophy from USI. I am currently working on my Masters in the Arts of English Literature.

My previous experience focused on raising three young men. As I am approaching the end of that era, my focus is switching to exactly what I want to do for a “living,” which is teach German to high schoolers.

After teaching German for 10 weeks at North High School for the German teacher on maternity leave, I changed my major from Mathematics teaching to German teaching.

I learned to speak German during my senior year as an exchange student in Regensburg, 1989-1990. (The

same year the wall came down.)

In my spare time (never) I enjoy sewing, knitting, crocheting, reading, walking with my dog Louie, hanging out with my sons and occasionally seeing my adult friends.

Born in Nevada and raised in Oklahoma, I am 75% American Indian and 25% American German. 15 years ago, my children and I moved from Las Vegas to Evansville, a town I had never heard of. While visiting my grandfather in Oklahoma the week before the move, he told me his mother and father were both born in Evansville. Their parents had migrated there. My genes have travelled a nomadic circle and are back at its beginning.

My goals for students taking German at JHS are:

1. They learn the art of speaking the language.
2. They feel prepared and motivated to continue studying German in the universities.
3. And they learn ways of continuing its use even after school, just out of sheer joy.

Teaching German to the children of a community, where the German heritage is so strong, is more than a dream come true - it's an honor. And I know my grandfather and great-grandparents are very proud.

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## **Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars**

### **November**

#### **Annual Auction benefitting the JHS German**

**Exchange Program** – Thursday, November 19,  
At the Jasper Moose Lodge – Doors open at 6:00pm  
Meeting at 6:30pm.

The Moose will furnish grilled chicken breast. Members with last name initials of A through H are asked to bring a dessert, I through Q to bring a potato or vegetable and R through Z to bring a salad.

An auction will take place for JHS German Exchange Program. Everyone is invited to bring an item or two to donate for the auction. Some suggestions are homemade cookies, cakes, pies, candy, Thanksgiving and Christmas items, handmade items, wine, gift baskets, gift certificates, etc.

The JHS German Exchange students will also be selling Advent Calendars.

### **Dezember**

**Christmas Dinner** – Thursday, December 17, at the Jasper Moose Lodge – Doors open at 6:00pm. Meeting at 6:30pm.

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## **2016 – September 10, 2016 – Summer Picnic**

### **Traditions and Tales By: Samantha Wendholt**

#### **Daughter of Joe and Danette Wendholt Forest Park Jr Sr. High School**

As our grandparents age, they start to forget. They start to forget the language, the memories, and the heritage. As the oldest generation winds away, they slowly take the German heritage with them. It is our job as the up and coming leaders of this area, to preserve these memories. The younger generation might ask, "What actions can we take to maintain these traditions?"

The German Heritage is highly unique. The traditions we celebrate, and the history we learn, help shape the area we live in. The world we live in is always evolving, but we must not forget where our roots lie. We remember our ancestors by celebrating our annual fests, such as the Heimatfest, the Strassenfest, and many more. We also remember the strong German ties by the food we eat, and the family traditions we practice. In my family, we have a pickle ornament that is hung every year in our Christmas tree. Also in my family, among many other German traditions, we butcher annually; when we butcher, we make liver and blood sausage. For decades, this tradition has been passed down in my family. When I was little I would help my grandmother bake. We always made kuchen bread. As a member of the younger generation, I feel it is my duty to keep these family traditions alive. One way to keep the German heritage thriving is to keep our individual family traditions alive.

Another way to pass down our German heritage is to educate others. Many of my favorite memories of my grandfather are the tales he told me, and the fun facts he would share about Germany. Even though he was not a direct immigrant, he could remember the stories his father and grandfather told him. Listening to our ancestors from Germany--or anywhere--could unlock a whole new realm of memories and traditions that could impact our society.

We do not need to search for more ways to preserve our German heritage. The answer to preserving our German heritage remains simple; the answers are in our families. Our ancestors have the knowledge to give us, we just have to sit down and listen to the many tales of their

lives. Our heritage is already very prominent in our society; the only way to make it better is to individually educate ourselves about the family history. Our history and traditions are unique, and I am proud to say I am a German decedent.

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**German Heritage**  
**By: Kelly Vonderheide**

**Daughter of Gerald and Glenda Vonderheide**  
**Northeast Dubois High School**

I believe German heritage has a very strong appearance in our community, especially in the older generation. But what about my generation? What are we doing to keep German traditions alive? I believe we have plenty of opportunities to keep our traditions alive, but I'm not quite sure we, as a generation, are taking advantage of the opportunities we are given.

One very obvious way my generation can keep practicing the German traditions and values is attending and volunteering at our local Jasper Strassenfest. Not only should you attend, but you should also encourage other people, younger and older, to attend Strassenfest to help keep tradition going. I believe the more you get involved in community events, especially ones like Strassenfest, the more you will beware of our German ways. From these you can learn how to work hard, but also have fun while doing so.

Another way of reminding our youth of German traditions would be to encourage learning about Germany in school and eating German food in the comfort of our homes. There are many easy recipes to make including everyone's favorite, sauerkraut and sausage. If you are unable to make a traditional German meal, there is always the wonder Schnitzelbank restaurant that will give you a full German experience.

A very unique way of learning and keeping German culture alive, that I have personally experienced, is hosting a German exchange student or hosting one of the families who come over from Pfaffenweiler during Strassenfest. My family decided to be a host family to a 15-year old German girl when I was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. It's been seven years since she arrived, and we still keep in contact with not only her, but also her family. I learned so much about German culture while she was here, and I learned even more when my family and I traveled to Germany to visit her in her hometown in 2010. I wish every single kid in our community could have the experience I did, but I understand that everyone is not that lucky. If you aren't able to host a family or person, definitely try to talk to a German exchange student or family throughout the year. You will learn so much about

Dubois County's strong German roots, and you will also make that person feel much more welcome.

Finally, if you can't accomplish any of the things I just said, I challenge you to at least talk to someone of the older generation about our German heritage. German grandparents, in my opinion, are the best resource for discovering our true roots. Ultimately, the best way to keep traditions and culture alive and well, is to be informed about our German lifestyle and keep on passing down values such as working hard, practicing southern hospitality, and pride in our community.

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**My German Heritage**  
**By: Allison Reckelhoff**

**Daughter of Allen and Toni Reckelhoff**  
**Jasper High School**

Over a thousand words written and over a thousand deleted and here we are. When I started writing this I was trying to write everything about me and my family's German heritage. I decided 500 words wasn't enough to show how much appreciation I have for my German heritage; it has impacted my life in a number of ways I cannot count.

My mom's maiden name is Lueken and Dad is a Reckelhoff. My mom grew up in Jasper, Indiana and my dad in Schnellville, Indiana. Both are Catholic and grew up praying before every evening meal, going to Church every Sunday, and celebrating holidays. Both sides get together for Christmas; we always have plenty of food. I will always remember singing Christmas carols and playing games. My mom's side of the family loves each other so much that we have a Christmas Eve party and then a Christmas Eve party the next night. I always loved coming into the warm, fragrant-filled house on Christmas Eve, after mass, seeing my family all together; and thinking to myself that my house, the house I have lived in my whole life, has never felt this much like home. I love my family and if I don't see them almost every day, I talk to them on the phone; we are a very closely knit family.

Dad's side also gets together to butcher. At almost every party or get together Dad and his siblings play sheep-head and drink beer. I always loved playing with my cousins when my dad was in the shed butchering. I loved running around the farm finding different adventures; whether it be looking at the cows and pigs, or even playing in the hay, we always found something fun to do. Dad and his siblings grew up on this farm; he has thirteen brothers and sisters. There is a big interval between Dad and his oldest sibling, so not all of them were home at the same time. Because of that, Dad was always hard at work to provide for him and his family. This just shows how Germans used to have a big family

to provide and take care of the farm and how much hard-work meant to them.

Both of my families have followed in the footsteps of their German ancestors in more ways than just playing sheep-head and drinking beer. I believe Germans were hard-workers, sort of stubborn in a good way, and always cherished family; that is exactly how my family is. I am glad I grew up with the German heritage, because it has taught me that it takes hard work to get things done right and that family are the only ones that will always be there for you; like my dad said the other day, "Family is family, we have each other's backs." I couldn't imagine a life without my family nor the German Heritage.

**My Thoughts of German Heritage**  
**By: Jessica Schaeffer**

**Daughter of Nick and Cassie Schaeffer**  
**Southridge High School**

Growing up, I did not understand the meaning behind the Strassenfest in Jasper or the Herbsfest in Huntingburg. At that time, they were miniature fairs with deep-friend everything and places I could hang out with my friends. Now that I am older and have taken German in High School, I realize that they are in fact Germany words meaning street fest and fall fest. I also understand that the German culture is very huge in our area. In school, you hear about the holocaust and think Germany is an awful place, but to me it is so much more.

To me, Germany is a beautiful place. Though I have not ever been there in person research shows me just how beautiful it is. From the vast assortment of castles littering the countryside to the crowded city streets you cannot help but fall in love with the whole place. From the food to the way they used to dress and even the way they celebrate is so amazing. It is definitely on my bucket list to visit someday.

As a little girl, I remember going to my grandparents' house and hearing them talk to each other. Being only a child it all sounded like gibberish to me as I have gotten older, I have come to learn that it was not gibberish at all. Ever since then I have had an interest in the language and culture so I decided to take the class in high school. I learned to talk semi-fluently with my grandparents and we can have conversations that no one else knows. My grandparents tell me all about their ancestors and what they learned from them as well and I have learned so much about my family and heritage.

My German heritage has become a big part of who I am today. I may not walk down the street wearing Lederhosen, but I can recognize the German words and

know what all of them mean and understand where they came from.

**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.

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