



DEUTSCHER VEREIN

Die Zeitung

December 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.

November Jasper Deutscher Verein in Review

The Jasper Deutscher Verein met Thursday, November 19 at the Jasper Moose Lodge. President Mike Ackerman welcomed the 126 members and guests. He then led in the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer before the meal which consisted of grilled chicken breast and side dishes and desserts supplied by members.

After the meal, drawings for door and special prizes were held. Rita Corn and Laura Grammer won regular door prizes and Charlie Knust and Kent Meyer won special door prizes.

Pat Schuler gave an update on Strassenfest and said we did very well. He stated that we couldn't do it without the help of members and volunteers. He thanked everyone who had a part in it.

Treasurer Laura Grammer gave an update on finances and said we are doing well.

Sandy Wehr introduced the 17 exchange students who will be traveling to Germany in 2017 and the new German teacher at Jasper High School which is Hayley Arthur. She mentioned there will be several fundraisers coming up for the German Exchange Students including Advent Calendars and Pies which they were selling that night.

The Jasper Deutscher Verein were hosting an auction for the German Exchange Students. Before the auction, the students introduced themselves in German. They then helped the auctioneer, Ed Boeglin, with the items that were being auctioned which were donated by members and parents of the students. After the auction, Mike thanked everyone for participating in the auction.

He announced that the Christmas Dinner will be held on December 17 at the Moose Lodge. The meal will consist of fried chicken, ham, dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans and creamy slaw. The price is \$10 per person. Reservations may be made by calling Barb Schmitt at 812-309-9181 or emailing at barbschmitt12@gmail.com. By Dec 12 Doors open at 6:00 meeting will start at 6:30.

Submitted by

Barb Schmitt
Secretary

Message from Mike.....

THANKS!!! – Due to the generosity of our members and guests, Jasper Deutscher Verein was successful in raising over \$2,000.00 for our 19 German Students who are beginning to build their fund for the 2017 trip across the pond. Special thanks goes out to our Auctioneer, Ed Boeglin, for keeping the evening fun and raising \$1983 through the auction. Several of our members and guests threw in a few extra dollars when settling their tab and pushed us over the \$2,000 mark. WOW!!!

Our Christmas meeting will be on Thursday December 17 at the Moose Lodge. Reservations are due to Barb Schmitt by 12-12-2015. This meeting features a paid meal (cost is \$10.00 per person), and there is no carry in for pot luck. Our entertainment for this meeting will include a visit from Santa and great harmony from the Sisters of Second Avenue.

Please mark your calendars for the Thursday January 21st for our Wine and Pie judging. We will be judging wines in 2 groups, grape and non-grape, and the pies in 2 groups, fruit and crême. We will be saving a sliver out of the pies for judging and then providing the rest for members for our desert for the evening. This meeting will also include a people's choice award for wine tasting. Vote with your dollars. Our program will feature Catherine Bramlett, owner of the Mad Batter Bakery at 708 Main St, Jasper, IN.

Our February meeting will be held on Wednesday the 17th. This meeting is our beer and bread judging. While we plan to maintain the bread judging, we will be changing the beer judging for this one up a little this year. More details will be available at our Christmas and January meetings.

Thanks for all you do to keep our German Heritage alive and strong. I look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

Mike Ackerman
President

Message from Laura.....

December is a time for Christmas trees, mistletoe, eggnog, time with family and friends, and of course, the Deutscher Verein Christmas party. Look forward to sharing the Christmas Spirit with all of you.

December is also the time that German Club dues can be paid for 2016.

Hope your December is filled with many happy memories of love, joy, laughter and excitement!

Frohe Weihnachten

Laura Grammer
Treasurer

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 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.

At this time of Christmas, 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!!!!!!!!!!

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

Dezember

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

Reservations are due to Barb Schmitt by December 12th at 812-309-9181.

Januar

Annual Wine and Pie Judging – Thursday, January 21, at the Jasper Moose Lodge – Doors open at 6:00pm. Meeting at 6:30pm.

Judging for two groups, grape and non-grape. Pies in two groups – fruit and crème.

Februar

Annual Beer and Bread Judging –Wednesday, February 17th.

August

Strassenfest – August 4, 2016 – August 7, 2016

September

Summer Picnic - September 10, 2016

German Christmas Traditions

Christmas markets - Weihnachtsmärkte

When the Advent season opens, Christmas markets also crop up in nearly every German town, large or small. The town squares, normally dark early in winter months, are lit up and buzzing with activity during this time. Townspeople gather together, listen to brass band music, drink beer or hot mulled wine (Glühwein) or apple cider, and enjoy the hearty traditional fare of the region. Vendors peddle baked goods, including gingerbread hearts, sugar-roasted almonds, crepes, cookies, stollen, cotton candy and other sweets. Christmas tree decorations, seasonal items, and handcrafted articles, such as wooden toys and hand-blown glass ornaments, are also sold.

Christmas markets date back to at least the 14th century and were one of the many markets held throughout the year. It was here that people bought everything they needed for the Christmas celebration: baking moulds, decorations, candles, and toys for the children. In fact, until well into the 20th century, the Weihnachtsmärkte were the only place for people to buy such seasonal items.

Markets differ from place to place; each has its own regional imprint. The market at Aachen, for instance, is known for its gingerbread men (Aachner Printen). The regions around the Erzgebirge mountain range are famous for their handmade wooden crafts. Augsburg has a life-sized Advent calendar and opens the holiday season with its famous "Angel Play." At the Frankfurt Christmas Market, visitors will find Quetschenmännchen (little prune men) and Brenten (almond cookies).

The most famous Christmas market is the Nürnberger Christkindlesmarkt, which is known for its gold foil angels and locally produced gingerbread cakes. At least 375 years old, it is one of the oldest, and with over 200

vendors participating each year, it is also one of the largest Weihnachtsmärkte in Germany

Saint Nicholas - Sankt Nikolaus

St. Nicholas Day is celebrated on December 6th in Germany as well as in other European countries. On the evening before the 6th, children place their newly cleaned shoes in front of the door in the hope that Nicholas might fill them with nuts, fruits, chocolate, and sweets. If the children have behaved well, their wishes will be fulfilled. Children who have caused mischief will receive only a switch, which symbolizes punishment for their bad deeds.

The real St. Nicholas lived in the 4th century and was the bishop of a region located in present-day Turkey. Through stories and legends associated with him, he became known as the protector of children and the anonymous bestower of gifts upon them. Over the centuries, the life and deeds of St. Nicholas were celebrated on the saint's appointed day, the 6th of December. By the Middle Ages, the observance had already become a celebration of children and a day on which they received gifts. It was the German Martin Luther who sought to sever the connection between the saint and the gift-giving celebration for children, because in his Reformation theology, there was no place for the glorification of saints. Rather than abolishing the custom outright, Luther replaced the persona of Nicholas with that of the Christ child; in his Protestant teachings, not Nicholas but rather now the baby Jesus was attributed with bringing the children gifts, and not on the saint's day but rather at Christmas. Today in many regions of Germany, not Saint Nick, but rather the Christkind leaves Christmas gifts for children on December 24th.

The adherents of the Catholic Counterreformation did not quietly accept the diminishment of their saint. They responded to the practices of the unorthodox Protestants by making Nicholas a figure who visited families' homes on his appointed day and stood in judgment over children. If the young ones could answer religious questions and said their bedtime prayers faithfully, they received a gift from the sack that Nicholas' companion, Knecht Ruprecht, had slung over his shoulder. Those that slacked in their religious commitments got the switch or were threatened with being hauled off in Ruprecht's sack.

Today children in all the German-speaking regions, regardless of religious denomination, celebrate Nicholastag. Ruprecht, who typically carries a basket filled with edible goodies for the children (and also the switches for the naughty children), has become Nicholas' constant companion. In German-speaking Switzerland, Ruprecht is known as Schmutzli.

Santa Claus - Der Weihnachtsmann

The figure of Santa Claus, known in Germany as der Weihnachtsmann (literally, "the Christmas man"), is a direct descendant of Saint Nicholas, as can easily be seen from the derivation of the name "Santa Claus". The English appellation came directly from the Dutch variant "Sinterklaas". Centuries-old Northern European tradition also knew a similar figure - a bearded old man in a long, brown, hooded fur coat who traveled on a reindeer-drawn sled. Carrying a staff and nuts, respectively symbolizing fertility and non-perishable, substantial nourishment, this figure from Lapland represented preparation for the long winter season ahead. This figure likely in turn descends from the god Thor or another deity from Germanic mythology.

Many of the characteristics attributed to the modern-day Santa Claus are easily recognizable in both the St. Nicholas figure and the personality descended from old Germanic folklore. The Weihnachtsmann, much like Santa Claus, is depicted as a jolly old man with a long white beard in a red fur suit, with a sack of presents and a switch. On Christmas Eve he leaves gifts for the well-behaved children and punishes those who have been bad. He doesn't arrive through the chimney, but rather slips in and out just long enough to leave the gifts, usually before children can catch a glimpse of him. Depending on the German-speaking region, today it is either the Weihnachtsmann or the Christkind (Christ child) who leaves gifts for the children to open on December 24th in Germany.

The Christmas tree - Der Tannenbaum

The German Tannenbaum is usually put up and decorated on Christmas Eve, though some families opt to erect their tree during the Advent season. Traditionally, the Germans used the fir tree, but nowadays the spruce is widely used. Decorations may include tinsel, glass balls or straw ornaments and sweets. A star or an angel tops the Tannenbaum, and beneath the tree, a nativity scene might be set up and the presents next to it. Germans also usually continue to use real lit candles instead of electric lights on the tree.

The first known Christmas tree was set up in 1419 in Freiburg by the town bakers, who decorated the tree with fruits, nuts, and baked goods, which the children were allowed to remove and eat on New Year's Day. The town guilds and associations first brought evergreens inside their guild houses and decorated them with apples and sweets. Candles were eventually added to the decorations. Already since the Middle Ages, ordinary Germans had been bringing yew, juniper, mistletoe, holly, evergreen boughs - any plant that maintained its green color through the lifeless and dreary winter months - into their homes. Even in areas where forests were sparse, the tradition took hold; people in Northern Germany, for instance, used Christmas

pyramids (Weihnachtspyramiden) in lieu of Christmas trees. The pyramid form was created using sticks that were then decorated with fir branches. By 1800, the custom of bringing a tree into the home was firmly established in many German-speaking regions and continued to spread throughout Europe, and eventually, around the world. The custom was brought to North America by German-speaking immigrants to Pennsylvania and Ohio in the 18th century.

The Tannenbaum is taken down on New Year's Day or on January 6th, Three King's Day, at which time the children can ransack the tree for the sweets and treats that decorated it.

Christmas Eve - Heiliger Abend (also Heiligabend)

December 24th begins as a regular workday. But by 2:00 pm, often even earlier, businesses close in preparation for the holiday celebration, a large part of which occurs on Christmas Eve in Germany. The traditional evening meal includes carp and potato salad. Families sing Christmas carols together and may read the story of Christ's birth aloud. Family members exchange gifts; children are typically the focal point of the gift exchange. The tradition of opening gifts on Heiliger Abend (rather than on December 6th in honor of St. Nicholas) was started by Martin Luther in the 16th century in favor of a celebration that honored Christ rather than a Catholic saint.

On Christmas Eve, German families - whether Protestant or Catholic and even those who are not regular church-goers - often attend mass or a church service. While the mass traditionally takes place at midnight, in recent times the services have moved into the earlier evening hours.

Christmas Day(s) - der erste und zweite Weihnachtstag

Both December 25 and 26 are legal holidays in Germany and are known as the First and Second Christmas Day respectively. What originally started out as a church celebration of Christ's birth has gradually become a family celebration. Businesses are closed, and time is spent visiting with extended family. Goose is the traditional fare on the First Christmas Day, or perhaps rabbit or a roast. These are accompanied by traditional German fare such as apple and sausage stuffing, red cabbage, and potato dumplings. The second Christmas day is usually a quieter time, a day for peaceful contemplation.

(taken from German Christmas Traditions-Weihnachten in Deutschland – www.vistawide.com/german/christmas/german_christmas_traditions.htm)

German Language Study on the Rise Worldwide

By population of native speakers, German is the 10th most-widely spoken language in the world. But when measured in terms of economic impact – that is, by the gross national product (GNP) generated by German speakers – it ranks fourth worldwide, after only English, Chinese, and Spanish.

“The world knows that the [European Union] is economically dependent on Germany and that Austria and Switzerland, which are also German-speaking, are also flourishing economically,” says German socio-linguist Ulrich Ammon. “It’s impressive for people that Germany can compete with the large countries as a world export leader. That gives the impression that learning German will give you access to countries that flourish economically and offer good opportunities for business or for a career.”

Professor Ammon may have a point. New data released earlier this month highlights the fact that the number of people learning German as a foreign language has grown for the first time in 15 years. The Deutsch als Fremdsprache weltweit. Datenerhebung 2015 (German as a foreign language worldwide) survey is produced every five years as a collaborative initiative of the Zentralstelle für das Auslandsschulwesen (Central Agency for German Schools Abroad, also known as ZfA), the German Foreign Office, the Goethe-Institut, and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

The Deutsch als Fremdsprache weltweit began in 1985 and, with each five-year interval, it recorded a growth in German language study to a peak of 20.1 million learners in 2000. Subsequent editions of the survey recorded declines in the student population to 16.7 million in 2005 and 14.7 million in 2010, so the 2015 findings are a welcome reversal for German officials and educators.

The 2015 edition of the survey puts the number of German learners worldwide at more than 15.4 million. The vast majority of those – 61% or 9.4 million people – are in Europe, but the survey indicates significant growth in German language study in emerging markets over the past five years, notably in Brazil, China, and India.

“China has seen the number of people learning German more than double in the past five years, to about 170,000,” reports Deutsche Welle. “Brazil has also seen a strong growth in German learners, with about 135,000 people currently studying it – about a third more than in 2010.”

The German broadcaster adds that growth since 2010 has been even more dramatic in India and that plans for further expansion are well advanced: “In 2010, only 18,550 schoolchildren were learning German. Four

years later, that number rose to 107,000. The ambitious goal is to establish 1,000 new schools offering German as a foreign language throughout the country. Negotiations with India's government are already underway."

The German government has signaled its commitment to such an expansion as well: "It's a way to create new partnerships," says Germany's Minister of State Maria Böhmer. "German language classes are an integral part of Germany's foreign policy."

Europe still key

If much of the growth in German language study since 2010 is coming from emerging markets, Europe is still the foundation for the global population of German language students. Poland, in turn, is the leading market for German studies in Europe, accounting for nearly 2.3 million students in the 2015 survey. This represents 24% of the European total and 15% of the global total. "Poland and Germany are economically, socially, and culturally closely interconnected," the study report adds. "The wide range of exchange programs, scholarships, study opportunities, and enhanced job opportunities in German companies in Poland or in Germany significantly promote the motivation to learn German."

France, another key European market, is home to another million students learning German as a foreign language. France and Germany have for many years now encouraged the study of each other's languages within their respective school systems. However, the French government has recently indicated an interest in moving away from its current emphasis on German language study, a prospect that has been vigorously challenged by German officials and educators.

Russia, meanwhile, has bucked the overall trend with a notable decline in its population of German language learners, from about 2.3 million in 2010 to 1.8 million in 2015. The survey report attributes the drop in student numbers in Russia to a number of factors, and particularly to ongoing structural changes in the Russian education system. "Especially in rural areas, the school structures are changing rapidly. More and more schools are closed or merged, so that the number of schools [teaching German as a foreign language] has decreased from about 22,600 in 2010 to just 16,800." The report notes as well that urban schools in Russia continue to emphasize English language study to a greater extent and that this has negatively impacted German language class enrolment.

School enrollment drives overall numbers

As the Russian example particularly reflects, the bulk of German language students worldwide are enrolled via

their domestic school systems. This amounts to 13.4 million (or 87% of the global total) in the 2015 survey. As University World News reported recently, "Germany's PASCH or Partnerschulinitiative des Auswärtigen Amtes (Schools: Partners for the Future) plays a key role in this context, with its roughly 1,700 partner schools and a total of 600,000 students, acting as a beacon to also attract students to other programs."

Another 1.3 million German language students (8.8% of the global total) are enrolled at the higher education level with a further 600,000 (4.2% of the global total) in adult education courses.

In line with its position as a major economic power, Germany is also an important international study destination. That, along with the German government's commitment to promoting German language study worldwide, suggests that further growth in enrolment may be in the forecast for key emerging markets in particular.

A recent study from the International Association of Language Centres (IALC) provides a further indicator of growing demand in the future. The IALC study is based on a global survey of nearly 500 agents and nearly two-thirds of respondents (62%) indicated that they promoted German language programs, making German the third-most marketed foreign language among responding agents after only English and French.

Nearly half of the responding agents (48%) indicated that they have observed increasing demand for German language studies, particularly for pathway programs leading to advanced studies with German universities and also for junior programs.

The IALC study also noted growing demand for German in emerging markets in Latin America but also in Asian markets such as India, Nepal, and Pakistan. "The further east you go, the more important German becomes," agrees Professor Ammon. "In China or India, German is more important than, say, Spanish."

(taken from:
<http://monitor.icef.com/2015/04/german-language-study-on-the-rise-worldwide/>)

January and February Newsletters

Due to Patti's schedule, the January newsletter will be sent the latter part of January and there will be NO newsletter in February. Thanks for your understanding. Watch for news releases and emails concerning Club activities. Thanks for your understanding.

MEMBERSHIP

Dues for the DeutscherVerin are \$10 a person. Out of this \$10, a \$1 will go to the Jasper Deutscher Verein (German Club) German Heritage Endowment, \$.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 by March 31, 2016 by mail to German Club, P.O. Box 15, Jasper, IN 47547-0015 or paid at meeting.



*Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year to All!!!!
Be safe and enjoy the time with
your families and friends!!!!!!!!!!!!*

**Gifts to the Jasper Deutscher Verein (German Club)
German Heritage Endowment**

July 1, 2015 – September 30, 2015

In Memory of Bill Birge

Daniel and Kathy Gutsell

In Memory of Larry Schaeffer

Danny and Linda Wehr

**In Honor of Bill and Marlene Seger's 50th
Anniversary**

Charles and Bonita (Loechte) Schuler

**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: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Membership Dues

It's that time of year again! Please submit your dues for 2016 by March 31, 2016 by completing and sending in the following form. Thanks!

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

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

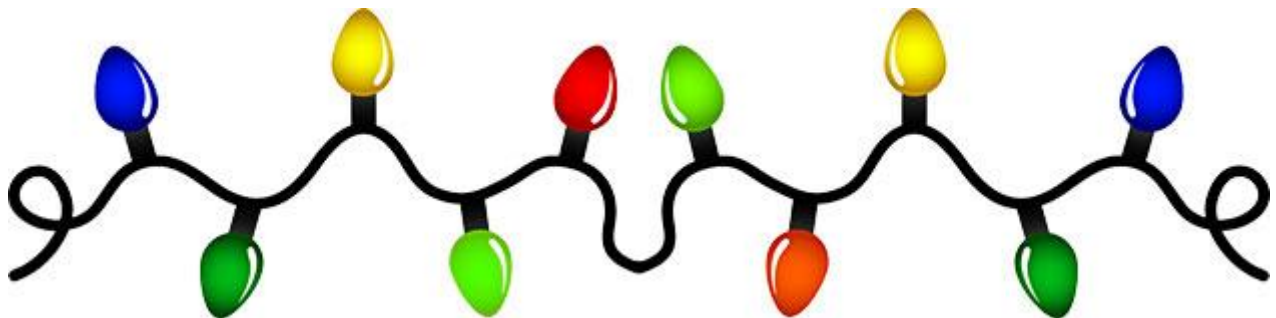
Home Phone () _____ - _____

Please note your email address: _____

[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: _____



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