



DEUTSCHER VEREIN

# Die Zeitung

August, 2018

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.

## Sister Cities program honored as one of best

July 6, 2018

By LEANN BURKE

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JASPER — Sister Cities of Jasper President Sandy Wehr was browsing the Sister Cities International website one day when she decided to enter Jasper's program for an award.

"We'd never done it before, and I thought, why don't we toot our own horn?" she said this morning in a phone interview.

Former President Dwight Eisenhower started Sister Cities International in 1956 as part of an effort to create peace and prosperity across the world. The organization's annual awards recognize excellence in overall programming and highlight key innovations in arts and culture; business and trade; humanitarian assistance; youth and education; and professional and technical exchange categories among more than 500 Sister Cities relationships.

When Wehr threw Jasper into the running, she expected an honorable mention or some other small accolade. Instead, she got a phone call saying Jasper won Best Overall Program in the 10,000-25,000 population category.

"I am pleased with our Sister City program for all its endeavors and congratulate them on this prestigious award," Jasper Mayor Terry Seitz said in a press release.

Sister Cities of Jasper is one of more than 2,000 Sister Cities International programs nationwide. It's also a team effort among several Jasper organizations, including the city, the Jasper Deutscher Verein and Jasper High School; and connects Jasper with Pfaffenweiler, Germany, a town of about 2,6000 people located in the foothills of the Black Forest in the south west corner of Germany.

The Sister Cities relationship between Jasper and Pfaffenweiler began in 1985 after Sabine Jordan, the humanist-in-residence for Jasper, suggested the two cities partner based on their shared history. Many of Jasper's first German residents came to the U.S. from

Pfaffenweiler in 1847. More than a century later, delegates from each city made the trans-Atlantic trip again to establish a relationship between the two communities, and the Sister Cities relationship has grown into a program filled with citizen diplomacy and relatives reuniting. Many of the same last names can be found in both Jasper and Pfaffenweiler.

One of the major benefits of the Sister Cities program has been the high school exchange program. The two cities take turns sending students to each community for study periods. In 2017, Jasper took 15 students to Germany for the month of June as part of the partnership. In 2019, 19 more Jasper students will make the trip. For several students, the trip has been the first step on a path for their lives. One student, Wehr said, married his exchange partner and currently lives in Germany. Two other students decided to study in Germany after the trip.

Students aren't the only ones traveling as part of the Sister Cities program. Guests from Pfaffenweiler occasionally attend the Jasper Strassenfest. Every five years, the cities take turns hosting an anniversary celebration for the partnership.

Most recently, a group from Pfaffenweiler visited Jasper to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Sister Cities partnership. In 2013, Jasper High School art teacher Josh Dodd traveled to Pfaffenweiler to learn stone carving from Pfaffenweiler's master mason. Since then, The Stone Carver Group, a club under the umbrella of Sister Cities, has formed to teach the art of stone carving. Headquartered in the Dubois County Museum, the group works to restore old tombstones in Dubois County and to showcase their skills at the Strassenfest and other festivals throughout the county.

The annual German Heritage Award, given to an individual or group who give of their time and talent to promote and preserve our German heritage, and high school essay contest are also part of Sister Cities of Jasper's efforts to keep the city's German heritage alive.

"We are very honored," Wehr said in a press release. "(We) believe this award is great for our Sister Cities partnership with Pfaffenweiler and other German cities."

(The Herald – July 6, 2018)

**Summer Picnic**

Summer picnic will be on Sunday August 26th. Doors open at 2:00 pm. Will eat around 4. Mike Hochgesang will be grilling smoked pork chops and chicken breasts. Last names A-H bring vegetable, I-M bring salad, N-S, dessert and T-Z potato.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars**

**August**

**Sunday, August 26, 2018  
Summer Picnic  
Jasper Outdoor Recreation Club**

Doors open 2:00 pm, eat around 4. Mike Hochgesang will be grilling smoked pork chops and chicken breasts. Last names A-H bring vegetable, I-M bring salad, N-S, dessert and T-Z potato.

**September**

German Heritage nominations due September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Send to Jasper Deutscher Verein, P.O. Box 15, Jasper, Indiana 47547-0015.

German Heritage Essay Contest entries must be postmarked by September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Send to Deutscher Verein, P.O. Box 15 Jasper, Indiana 47547-0015

**Oktober**

**Thursday, Oktober 4, 2018  
German Heritage Dinner at the Schnitzelbank**

Doors open. At 6:00 pm. Program starts at 6:30, Eat at 7:00 pm.

**Sunday, Oktober 7, 2018  
The Jasper DeutscherVerein’s participation in the  
“Deutschlandjahr USA” Parade in Indianapolis –  
presented by the German Consulate of Chicago**

Depart Jasper at 9:00 am, parade at 1:00 pm, return to Jasper at 6:00 pm. \$35 per person. Reserve seats soon. Call Lisa Bower at City Hall. 812-482-4255.

## **What not to do in Germany- Simple Survival Tips for Enjoying German Culture**

(Taken from: <http://germangirlinamerica.com/what-not-to-do-germany/> By: karenanne)

### **Don't Fondle the Produce at the Market**

As someone who has ... on more than one occasion... been stuck behind the elderly woman who was picking out raisins/green beans/cherries ONE BY ONE to get only the best ones, I can see the logic in this. Tell the person running the stand what you want... 4 pounds of apples, 1 pound of green beans etc, and they will be sure to give you exactly what you ask for. Besides, as my cousin once pointed out to me, no one wants the fruit that has been squeezed by everyone who is walking by! Worried you will get an apple with a bruise? It won't hurt you! Besides, everyone else will probably get an apple with a bump too. And again, the farmer isn't making money off of fruit no one wants... take what you get and move on. (The expectations we have of perfect produce is just a result of American Supermarket training. It's shameful how much gets thrown away for not being PERFECT)

### **Do Not Arrive Late**

When you make plans in Germany to meet at 10am... DO NOT arrive at 10:10. Being late is not acceptable. EVER! Now, what if you've been stuck in traffic and can't get there on time? (Honestly, you didn't plan for the possibility of unforeseen traffic?) Call ahead ..that's what Handies (Cell phones) are for. There are few good excuses for lateness; for example- extreme blood loss or an International incident that affects you personally. Just learn to get there early and wait outside for the right time to ring the doorbell. (Maybe set your watch back an hour early). Don't believe me? My aunt invited me to lunch on one of my visits to Germany. Now, I only get there every few years since it's a 5600+ miles journey. I got distracted in the last 100 yards, and arrived 10 minutes late. They had already eaten, and my plate sat alone on the table. Lesson learned.

### **Don't Arrive Empty Handed**

When you are invited to someone's home it is polite to bring a little something. Flowers are nice... or a small box of chocolates. Basically, if you are invited, bring something! My father always cut a bouquet of his beautiful roses and mom would wrap them in tissue before we went to friends for Kaffee... and when people came to us, they would bring flowers too. Don't go nuts, but do bring something (especially if you are staying overnight!). And it might get you out of trouble for showing up late....

### **Don't Just Wave a Hi or Hello**

While we are on the subject of greetings... In Germany people shake hands when they arrive and when they leave (the exception is when you leave a busy table in a restaurant... rather than go around the table, if you are with friends, you can rap the table with your knuckles and say your goodbyes.) Shake firmly, but you aren't trying to win a strong man contest, look the person in the eye and say hello, or introduce yourself. Just sitting in the chair without rising and doing a brief wave is guaranteed to bring grief down on your head...especially if my mother catches you!

### **Don't Greet People by asking "How are You?"**

Unless you really want Chapter and Verse about how someone is feeling, don't ask How Are You? Here in the US we throw the question around as a greeting, but Germans don't do idle questions... especially with strangers. Such a question presumes a deeper friendship or closer relationship than you ordinarily get from the guy selling you a Slurpee at the 7-11. This is not to say that Germans are cold, or don't talk, quite the opposite. Once you've made a connection with a German, and have become a trusted friend, THEN you can dive deep into conversation, and you know you will have a friend forever. Good way to greet someone? Say "Guten Tag" or "Hallo" ich heisse... (my name is....).

### **Don't Expect Ice Water to Appear on Your Table at a Restaurant**

In Germany, the busboy doesn't show up at your table, moments after you sit down, with giant tumblers of ice water. If you want water... you have to order it. Chances are you will get a smaller glass, and maybe a bottle if you need refills. Most importantly! Be aware that there are a few types of water! Generally, if you order water, you get Mineral Water (what my kids call bubble water). If you want plain old water, ask for Still water. (You will most likely get a bottle of it on the table, and there is a good chance you will find it on the bill later). On the subject of drinks... most drinks are served in much smaller quantities in Germany than in the US, and forget about free refills! I once watched a parents encourage their American son to have "as many Cokes as he wanted"... the bill made his dad go pale. Would have been cheaper to give him beer....

### **Don't Ask for a Doggy Bag**

I'm sure that with changing times, there are changing habits, but that doesn't mean you get to carry the remnants of your meal home in a piece of aluminum foil wrapped to resemble a swan. And since well-behaved dogs are allowed into restaurants, no one believes you are taking food home for Waldie. The portions may still be big, but they aren't gigantic! And generally, it's polite to just finish your plate. Your Oma would be pleased. (Or do what I do... share your meal.... ) For Bonus Points... eat like a German! Fork in the left hand and knife in the right... and keep them there. Don't switch them back and forth, and for goodness sake DO NOT hold your fork with your fist while cutting your meat... I promise, your food will not try to escape!

### **Don't Expect a Table all for Yourself at a Biergarten**

A Biergarten is an extension of a German living space... and if someone is in your space, you share. (If you want to drink alone, stay home). Biergarten tables and benches are long enough to make space for several people ... and even more if you like to be close! Now, sitting at a table with other people doesn't mean you have to be best friends forever, or even buy them a Bier... it just means that more people have a chance to sit and enjoy the day. And who knows? you might make friends. You can go ahead and mark the space you need with a tablecloth and some clips.

### **Don't Drink and Drive**

Now, I know this is a universal truth, but in Germany, drunk driving is strictly VERBOTEN. The blood alcohol level is 0.05% compared to the United States 0.08%... but the penalties are much MUCH stricter. Not only do you pay a hefty fine (THOUSANDS of Euros), you lose your license for a minimum of 6 months... probably longer... but you also get to visit with a psychologist who determines your fitness to drive again. (Read one man's experience HERE) I know it seems odd that a culture SO invested in drinking beer could be so hard on drinking and driving... but it keeps people safe. Walk, ride a bike, take a taxi, take a streetcar, I understand UBER is even moving in to Germany. This way everyone gets home safely, and you can go out again next week!

### **Don't Drive Slowly in the Left Lane**

I know, the Autobahn can be intimidating... it's a bit like NASCAR, but without numbers and you don't have a spotter. The rules are simple- faster cars drive on the left, slower cars drive on the right, and under NO CIRCUMSTANCES may you pass on the right. How do you know if you are driving too slow on the left? Some big Mercedes will come up behind you and flash his lights (don't freak out, just move over). One myth that needs correcting, contrary to what you may think, there ARE speed limits on the Autobahn in many areas. Pay attention to road signs

### **And Finally, the Most Common Piece of Advice You Will Find in Any Article About Fitting in in Germany....**

#### **DON'T CROSS AGAINST THE AMPELMANN!!**

I know, I know... the Ampelmann is just a red or green silhouette, and while he has a tremendous pop culture following, he has no actual power over you. BUT! The Oma next to you at the crosswalk carries an umbrella, and is fearless about waving it about while she shouts at you for posting a bad example for children. Even if there are NO CARS. Even if there are NO CHILDREN. Even if you've been standing there for 5 minutes, and you run the risk of being late for lunch with your Aunt. (You should have left 30 minutes earlier... just in case). Stand there and wait for the green Ampelmann... do this, make it a habit, and you will begin to understand the flow of living in Germany.

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### **German Heritage Award Winners**

Past recipients of the German Heritage Award are Mary Jo Meuser, Claude and Martina Eckert, Dave Buehler, Linus and Sally Lechner, Joe and Irene C. Eckerle, Danny and Linda Wehr, Leo and Lora Lou Eckerle, the late Lowell and Joan Glendening, Dave and Janet Kluemper, Rafe and Phyllis Ackerman, Vic and Monica Knies, Gary and Rita Egler, Patti Goepfrich, Larry and Betty Hanselman, Ron and Delli Keusch, Jim and Rita Corn, Lois Kuntz, Stan Jochum, and Mike and Ann Ackerman.

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