



DEUTSCHER VEREIN

# Die Zeitung

March 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.

German Consul General Herbert Quelle and his wife Corinna Niestrath-Quelle stopped by Jasper for lunch on Wednesday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>. The Quelles visited St. Joseph Catholic Church, toured city hall and ate lunch with Mayor Terry Seitz and wife Deena and representatives from the Jasper Partnership Commission, Sister Cities and the Deutscher Verein. Lunch was catered by the Schnitzelbank.

Submitted by Barb Schmitt

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## Februar Jasper Deutscher Verein in Review

The Deutscher Verein met on Wednesday, Februar 21<sup>st</sup> at the Moose Lodge in Jasper. Doors opened at 6:00 and President Steve Schmitt opened the meeting at 6:30. He welcomed the 60 members in attendance. He started the meeting by leading in the Pledge of Allegiance, God Bless America, and prayer before the meal.

While waiting for meal to be served, Treasurer Laura Grammar presented some information on changing up some of the opening ceremony activities for Strassenfest. Since this will be the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we wanted to do a little something different. There will be a maypole with dancers and a slap dance among other things. Everyone is encouraged to wear their German attire.

After the meal there was a lot of activity. Van Ziegler, Bob Bleemel, and Clif Howard were judging the Homebrew and Bread Competition, while Cortney Norman, a student at Forest Park High School gave an interesting account of her trip to Pffaffenweiler Germany.

Afterwards there were questions from the members. Drawings were held for door prizes. Winners were Gene Kempf and Hayley Arthur. Special prizes were won by Bob Brosmer and Clif Howard.

Winners of the Homebrew Competition were then announced. 1<sup>st</sup> place was Dan Herman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kraig Norris, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Shelby Mullen and Braden Speer. They received a certificate and a beer stein.

Bread Competition winners were 1<sup>st</sup> place Ann Ackerman, Cinnamon Bread and 2<sup>nd</sup> place Rustic Country Sourdough, Kurt and Ginger Hedinger. They received a certificate and a beer stein.

The rest of the evening was spent socializing.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. Doors will open at 6:00, meeting called to order at 6:30. It will be held at the Moose Lodge. Meat will be hamburgers and sausage. Members with last name A-H bring salad, I-N potato, O-P vegetables and Q-Z dessert.

Program will be Dana Reckelhoff, Interpretive naturalist with a bald eagle.

Submitted by  
Barb Schmitt, Secretary

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## News from Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc.

We are looking for a host family for Shana Berkold, age 16, who will be in Jasper from the end of May to September. She is interested in the medical field and would like to do observations at local medical facilities, while improving her English and getting to know another way of life. If you (or someone you know) would be willing to host this young lady, contact Matt Hilger or Sandy Wehr and we can provide you with her information. An excellent opportunity to connect to another culture!!

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## Gift to the Jasper Deutscher Verein (German Club) German Heritage Endowment

October 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

**In Memory of Kenneth Hulsman**

Charles and Linda Burk

**Jasper Deutscher Verein**  
**Taking Scholarship Applications**

The Jasper Deutscher Verein is offering a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to a German student of Dubois County. If you have a child, grandchild or know of anyone who would like to submit an application, please inform them to contact their Guidance Counselor at their school. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2018. If any questions, please contact Linda Wehr at 812-482-4432.

At their January Board of Directors' Meeting in 2008, the following adopted the following qualifications for the Dubois County Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.00.

1. Completion of the common scholarship application available from the School's Guidance Office.
2. Successful completion of two years of high school German.
3. Two years of active participation in German Club or German Civic affairs in other schools.
4. Verification of enrollment in a German course at the college of their choice, or participation in an accredited German study abroad program such as the IU Honors Program.
5. Submission of a one page or less essay stating your personal qualifications and intentions.
6. GPA consideration.
7. Participation in an exchange program or hosting an exchange student.
8. Submission of two letters of recommendation from adults other than school personnel regarding personal character, etc.
9. The scholarship will be awarded upon verification of enrollment in German at college or acceptance into another German study abroad program such as the IU Honors Program. A \$500.00 scholarship will be given for the first semester and will be renewable for the second semester.
10. Parental membership in the Jasper Deutscher Verein will be considered.
11. Submission of all completed forms by April 1, 2018 to:

Jasper Deutscher Verein Scholarship Committee, P.O.  
Box 15, Jasper, Indiana 47547-0015

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

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\_\_\_\_\_

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Jasper, IN 47547-0015

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Search Facebook for Jasper Deutscher Verein or Sister Cities of Jasper	
Deutscher Verein Website: <a href="http://www.jaspergermanclub.org">www.jaspergermanclub.org</a>	

## **What is the Easter Fire in Germany? A Symbol of Light in Darkness....**

(taken from [www.germangirlinamerica.com/easter-fire-germany/](http://www.germangirlinamerica.com/easter-fire-germany/) By: Karenanne)

What is the Easter Fire in Germany, and why is it lit? The Easter Fire, or Osterfeuer, is a symbol of light in the darkness. It can be as simple as lighting a candle, or as big as the bonfires which are ignited all over in Germany at Easter. Because fire is a symbol of light, of renewal, it signifies the end of Winter, and the coming of spring. It also symbolizes Jesus Christ, as the Light of the world. Depending on the community, the Easter fire is lit on Good Friday or Black (Holy) Saturday, with Saturday being more common, and extinguished on Easter Sunday or Monday.

### **What is the Origin of the Easter Fire in Germany? And how did the Easter Fire start?**

For hundreds of years, the Easter Fire has been a tradition in Germany. In Christian tradition, the Easter fire starts with the lighting of a Paschal candle, usually by a Priest or Pastor, to symbolize the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The candle is generally lit on Holy (Black) Saturday to start the Easter Vigil. Parishioners can then light their own candles from this candle. The large Paschal candle is kept lit through the Easter Season. In some churches it stays lit until Ascension Day, or is used throughout the year for Baptisms.

But there is a much older meaning behind the Easter fires that comes from the pre-Christian Saxon tradition. Bonfires at this time of year help the Earth to usher in Spring, and banish the cold and dark of Winter. The fires were also considered a symbol of fertility, and rebirth. The ashes from the Easter fires were spread on the fields to fertilize the soil, and insure good crops for the coming year.

### **Where did Easter Bunny Originate?**

According to legend, a few hundred years ago the Duchess Rosilinda von Lindenberg had to flee from her home with her children and a servant, to hide from war on her land. They were able to find shelter in a small mining village in the mountains. The poor villagers didn't have much, but they shared what they had. Because the village was so isolated, they had never even heard of chickens that would produce eggs!

The Duchess wanted to do something to help the kind villagers who sheltered them, so when she sent her servant to get news from her husband about the war, she also instructed him to bring back chickens. Within a week he was back with a whole cage full of live, egg producing chickens.

The Duchess gathered the eggs and saved them until she had enough, then she prepared a feast for the housewives in the village, serving the eggs in a number of different ways... to teach them what to do with this new food. Then she gave the chickens to the villagers.

When Easter came, she wanted to give something special to the children, but she didn't have any treats. Eggs would be the gift, since she reasoned "an egg is the first gift of the reviving Spring". To make them special, she boiled the eggs in with mosses and roots to give them color. On Easter Sunday, she had the small children build nests in the woods from sticks and moss... each had their own. Then they went in the house for a feast. After the feast, the children went to the woods to look at their nest; in each one they found five beautiful colored eggs, one with a rhyme written on it.

The children were so excited, and wondered how the hens could lay such lovely eggs! Then one little girl said, "*oh no! it wasn't the hens, it must have been the little hare that sprang out of the juniper bush when I wanted to build my nest there*". All the kids laughed, and agreed, and believed that it must have been the hare.

When the Duchess was finally able to return to her home, she kept the tradition of giving the village children a feast of eggs on Easter Sunday.

The tradition spread throughout Germany. Children would prepare nests to see what the little hare would bring. Over time, candy and sugar eggs were found, as well as colored hens eggs.

### **Where did Easter Bunny originate in the Americas?**

When Germans began emigrating to America, and especially Pennsylvania, in the 1700s, they brought the tradition of the Osterhase (Easter Rabbit) with them. And much like the Christmas Tree... the tradition spread across the country, until it the Easter Bunny became a part of American Cultural Traditions.