



**DEUTSCHER VEREIN**

# Die Zeitung

**November, 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.



**Father John Boeglin**  
**2018 German Heritage Award Winner**



**Matthias Hilger**  
**Lifetime Achievement Award Winner**



**2018 German Heritage Essay Winners and**  
**Representatives of German American**

**L to R – Steffi Schmucker-GA, Drake Siegel –**  
**Essay Winner from JHS, Delaney Rasche –**  
**Essay Winner from NE Dubois HS, Courtney**  
**Borman – Essay Winner from Forest Park JR**  
**SR HS, Ceara Baker – Essay Winner from**  
**Southridge HS, and Brittney Massey – GA**

## **Father John Boeglin**

Father Boeglin grew up on his family's farm a few miles north of Evansville. He credits his German-descended parents for inspiring him as he considered his vocation to the priesthood. Father Boeglin was ordained in 1978, at his home parish of St. James. After several assignments in the Evansville area, he came to St Peter Celestine in Dubois County in 1987.

Knowing that many German immigrants came to Dubois County in the mid 1800's and that he had relatives in Dubois County, he was eager to trace the county's German heritage.

He learned that immigrants from Wagshurst were founding members of St Joseph Church as well as St Peter Celestine, so he continued his search for more information. In 1993, he invited Wagshurst residents to Celestine's 150th celebration. They accepted his invitation and more than 120 Wagshurst residents arrived in Celestine for the festivities, with Father John serving as housing coordinator.

The Wagshurst community then invited Father Boeglin and friends to visit their homeland, so in the summer of 1995, seventy guests from Celestine and surrounding communities arrived in Wagshurst, Germany. Today the friendship between the two communities continues. This past summer, Father Boeglin invited Wagshurst residents to come to Celestine to help celebrate their 175th anniversary.

With a deep love for the Christmas season, Fr. Boeglin had his first Christmas Open House at the Celestine Rectory. As the years went by, he became known as "Father Christmas". And every year at the Deustcherverein Christmas gathering, with a hardy ho-ho-ho, he reminds those attending to be good boys and girls!

During his years as pastor of St. Peter Celestine Parish, Father Boeglin and staff compiled a genealogy book entitled Our Connections to the Past: St. Peter Celestine Ancestral Charts. These charts were completed for more than 600 parishioners.

At this time, Father Boeglin continues his work in the Jasper community. He is the pastor of Holy Family Catholic Church, a member of the Jasper Deustcherverein and is the chaplain for the Knights of Columbus, Jasper Council #1584. His leadership and participation are never-ending.

Father John Boeglin truly understands the importance of German heritage and he enthusiastically promotes our local heritage. From translating personal letters for area residents, to promoting the "Friendship Relationship" with Wagshurst, Fr John endeavors to educate and raise

awareness of the German Heritage here in Dubois County.

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## **Matthias Hilger**

The nomination committee felt that it was appropriate at this time to identify an individual for recognition of his lifetime contributions to someone who has literally lived the German Immigrant Experience.

Matthias Hilger was born in Pfaffenweiler, Germany and originally came to Jasper as a young cabinet maker journeyman in 1987 through the Sister Cities program. He was welcomed by Claude and Martina Eckert and Stan Kremp. He not only furthered his knowledge of woodworking, he broadened Jasper's knowledge of German culture and how small the world really is. Two years later he married Kathy Young and together they settled in Jasper and raised two children, Amanda and Alexander.

Matthias routinely corresponds with the Mayor of Pfaffenweiler and keeps the lines of communication open between the two communities.

He gladly translates letters, Christmas cards, etc. for individuals in Jasper from family and friends in Germany. He has given guidance to Individuals who wish to travel to Germany or who have special places or homes in Pfaffenweiler that they would like to visit.

For over 20 years, Matthias has taken responsibility to arrange for host families for students coming to Jasper through the Sister Cities Home Stay program or just come to visit for a period of time. To date, over 80 individuals have benefited from Matthias's expertise. Being the local coordinator for the ACES program, he has spent countless hours with students and Host Families making sure everyone is aware of the guidelines and counseling both the students and Host Families when challenges arise.

Whether it be the Partnership Commission, Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc., the DeustcherVerein, or the Stone Carvers, Matthias has been "The Ambassador".

Matthias has often said that the reason he has been such an ambassador between Jasper and Pfaffenweiler was the result of when he came to Jasper in 1987 at the age of 23, he was welcomed by the citizens of Jasper and he wants to repay the hospitality!!!!!!

Matthias, you are truly deserving of the Lifetime Achievement Award!!!!!!



### **A Message from Steve.....**

I want to congratulate Father John, this years winner of the German Heritage award and Matt Hilger the winner of the Life Time Achievement Award. They are both well deserved of these awards, congratulate them when you see them.

Also, please make our newest member and our new German teacher Ross Halverson and his wife feel welcome.

My term as president is coming to a close at the end of the year. I want to thank each and every one of you for all the support you have given me these past two years (it sure doesn't feel like two years) and I know that you will be just as supportive for our new president Van Ziegler and his vice-president Paul Siegel. I know that they will both do great jobs.

Thanks everyone,

*Steve Schmitt*  
*President*

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**My German Heritage**  
**By: Delaney Rasche**

### **Daughter of Duane and Julie Rasche** **Northeast Dubois High School**

One definition of 'German' reads as a person of German decent. I would be one of the hundreds of thousands that fall into this definition. Living in America and using this definition technically labels me a German American by name. So with that being said, let me tell you what my German Heritage means to me.

First. I'll start by telling you about my German history. I am a fifth generation German American. My three times great grandparents came to America from Germany and first settled in Cincinnati, OH, which was a major German settlement in the 1800s. This eventually led to my grandpa being born, and later, he married my grandmother. My grandmother was also of German decent. My grandpas last name was Heeke, and my grandmother's maiden name was Giesler; that's only on my mom's side of the family. I know less facts about my family's origin on my father's side, except that it's unquestionably German. My last name, Rasche, given by my father, is of German origin. It's fun to put reservations in my family's last name when we travel because no one can pronounce it right. They never announce it at the end, but since it's German you have to say it; the name doesn't sound right if you don't!

Second of all. the German community around us undoubtedly makes me feel proud of my heritage.

Attending Strassenfest at the beginning of each August, eating at the Schnitzelbank in Jasper, and making traditional foods, such as strudels, bratwursts, and sauerkraut, are what makes living in a German community the most fun. Plus, all of the German last names you hear on the radio and read in the papers are always a reminder of how many German Americans that call Southern Indiana their home. Our German heritage is really cool because it gives a lot of people in our community at least one thing in common, even if we don't realize it all the time.

In conclusion, my German Heritage means to me who I am. If it wasn't for my family being German, I wouldn't get to write my quite uncommon last name down on every paper. (According to names.org. less than one in three hundred and three thousand people have the last name Rasche.) Without my German Heritage. I probably wouldn't know what delicious food tasted like or feel a sense of community like the German one I know. It's taken opportunities and hard work from my German ancestors for me to be here today, living comfortably in the early 21st century. I also think, because of my German Heritage, that there's a funny coincidence that my birthday is October 3rd, 2000. I was born exactly ten years after the reunification of Germany in 1990, so my birthday in Germany is the public holiday of German Unity Day. From birth I've been connected with a piece of German Heritage that I didn't realize until now.

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### **What Does German Heritage Mean to Me?**

**By: Drake Siegel**

### **Son of Paul and Mary Leah Siegel** **Jasper High School**

What does German heritage mean to me? My German heritage plays a very large roll in my life. In fact, I consider my German heritage to be an important aspect of my personality and it even defines who I am as a person. While both sides of my family are of German descent, I am lucky to trace my German heritage directly from my grandfather, Gregor Gertz, who immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1963.

His story, while not unique for many Germans, was a central part of my childhood and my own development into a young adult. On March 3, 1945 the Allied Forces bombed the small town of Stadtlöhn, Germany where a small boy just shy of the age of six sat huddled in a basement cellar. He and his family emerged survivors and the kindness of the American soldiers that flowed on the path through his hometown in the subsequent weeks, left an indelible mark on him. Their kindness left him with a yearning for a new land, and dreams of a new

life in the United States someday. My grandfather grew up in an impoverished Germany that was in ruins after World War II where food and everyday supplies were limited and scarce. Yet, living during this war-torn devastation and then the reconstruction, helped to shape my grandfather into the successful man he would later become. He shared his story with me and he instilled in me both an appreciation for his new life, as well as a deep-rooted love for the heritage of his homeland, Germany.

Passed on to me from my grandfather, my German heritage has always been a part of me and I don't remember a time without it. Some of my earliest and favorite memories from my childhood are visiting wonderful people and places in Germany. I have been so very fortunate to visit Germany five times in the seventeen years of my life. Each time, I have appreciated even more than the trip before. Each time, I have further developed relationships with my German family and friends, and each time I have grown to appreciate my direct line to my German heritage and a deeper-rooted love for Germany.

This summer, while visiting family in my grandfather's hometown of Stadtlohn, my great uncle showed me something that further deepened my appreciation for my heritage. He showed me a copy of a birth record from St. Otger's Kirche. It was the earliest known birth record of a member of the Gertz family in Stadtlohn, that of a baby named Johannes Gertz. He was born and then baptized at St. Otger's in 1759. Johannes Gertz was born on the 3rd of February in 1759! It is simply amazing to me that there has been a member of my family living in Stadtlohn and attending St. Otger's for over 259 years!

From Johannes, through many generations, to Gregor, to me...that is my German heritage, long-lasting, enduring, always and forever a part of me.

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**Preserving and Promoting German Heritage in  
Dubois County  
By: Ceara Baker**

**Daughter of Fred and Laurie Baker  
Southridge High School**

Dubois County has a substantial role in promoting and preserving German heritage in Indiana. German heritage originated in Dubois County in the 1830's, and preserving the rich culture is the position young people in the community, like myself, should take. The German culture throughout the community deserves attention because it has such a major role in the foundation of this area. My role in helping the conservation and advocating the German heritage in my area comes from studying the language all throughout high school, participating in

Southridge German club and the opportunity to travel to Germany this coming summer.

German heritage preservation and promotion in Dubois County is important to me because of the role I have in the Southridge German program. Studying the language helps me immerse myself into the culture. I also have held an office in my German Club since my junior year. I help plan and schedule activities for the club with my fellow officers. Some events we arranged within the past year included several field trips to events such as the Rosenvolk Festival and the Nutcracker Ballet, and a trip to the Schnitzelbank. The club held a German breakfast to promote heritage of Germany by bringing members together to enjoy the culture together. All of these events would not have been possible without my growing love to further my education in German at Southridge High School. I am now in my fourth year of the language and I promote others to get involved in the class because of the enjoyment and knowledge I have gained from my years in it. The preservation of the club is a role I take pride in because of the importance it has in uniting the students at Southridge. Bringing together the students in German will have a lasting effect on the German community because the future of the heritage in Dubois County is youth.

To further my knowledge and understanding of German culture, this summer I will be taking an EF trip with my school to Germany and surrounding countries to learn more about heritage and how to preserve and protect it back home in Dubois County. I hope that my trip will benefit me greatly, so I will be able to tell of my experiences in German culture. This once in a lifetime opportunity will heighten my knowledge of German heritage and create another way I can promote and preserve the culture at home.

German heritage and cultural preservation is very important to me because of my upbringing in Dubois County. Growing up in a community that has such pride for their heritage shows me that promotion and preserving the culture is very vital for the community. My school German class and club has taught me that the culture is important to our community, and needs to be well kept throughout the following years. Being an officer in our school's German club has benefited me tremendously because of the activities I have been a part of planning to spread German influence in my community.

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**What Does German Heritage Mean to Me?  
By: Courtney Borman**

**Daughter of Chad and Heather Borman  
Forest Park Jr Sr High School**

My whole life I wanted to travel. I wanted to escape the media and the grips of a small town. I thought that when I left, I wouldn't miss the one spotlight, the people who



know everything about everyone, or the smell of the cow manure in the air. I thought I would find myself. I figured that by getting on a plane and flying half way around the world, I would escape it all and finally be on my own for the summer. When I boarded the plane, I didn't look back. I was on my own in a foreign country. Germany, for five weeks. This would be a time to explore the unknown world of where my family came from. In a way, I was experiencing exactly what my ancestors had when they moved to the United States a hundred years ago.

At first, I was having the time of my life. I saw things that most people only dream of seeing: Dresden. Munich Berlin, Jena, Leipzig, Pfaffenweiler, France, The Netherlands, and Switzerland. I saw the prettiest views, the biggest of cities, and so much history. As the weeks went on, I started to feel lost. No, not geographically, but emotionally. My exchange student began to ignore me. I felt lost in a sea of never ending confusion. I was lost in the language. It was harder to understand when I was being forgotten by the person who was supposed to be my guide. I started to miss my one stoplight town. I missed the way the houses lined main street. I missed the nice people who knew me, the ones who helped me on my adventure through life so far. Toward the end of my trip, things got better. I was learning so much. However, I was so ready to get home. When my plane touched the ground in Evansville and I headed home. I realized that I went on this trip in an effort to find out who I was and what I wanted in life. It only took me 4,000 miles and a plane ticket to find myself, and when I did I found myself right where I had left off- home.

Since my experience, I have realized that going back to my roots has helped me grow as a person. To me, heritage means something to be proud of. Germany is more than beer and World Wars. It is hard work until your hands bleed. It is day in and day out of refusing to quit.

Being of German descent is more than where your family came from; it is a passion to be proud of people that Got you here. My heritage means family. When we gather around the table and sing Ein Prosit and throw our glasses in the air, I can feel the warmth of my German heritage.

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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 in our communities!!!! Your generosity will be appreciated!!**

### News from Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc.....



German and American Students with German Consul General Herbert Quelle on October 7<sup>th</sup> prior to the parade at Indianapolis celebrating *The Year of German-American Friendship*.



Many thanks to Mike and Ann Ackerman for getting the float together and getting it to Indy.

**Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars**

**November**

**Wednesday, November 14, 2018**  
**Please note the date!!!!!!**

November meeting is on Wednesday the 14th. This will be the annual auction for the Jasper German Exchange Students. Everyone is encouraged to bring an item or two to donate to the auction. Some suggestions are homemade cookies, candies, cakes, pies, Thanksgiving and Christmas items, handmade items, wine, gift baskets, gift certificates, snack mix, jelly, etc. Please ask family members and friends to come join in the fun! Members with last names ending in A-H bring a salad, I-Q dessert, R-Z vegetable. Entrée will be Coney Dogs!!!!

**Dezember**

**Thursday, Dezember 13, 2018**

December meeting will be on Thursday, December 13th. This will be our Christmas meeting. We will be having a meal consisting of Fried chicken, roast beef/gravy, dressing, green beans, corn, creamy slaw and bread and butter, plus dessert. The price will be \$10 per person. To reserve your dinner. call Barb at 812-309-3992 or email [barbschmitt12@gmail.com](mailto:barbschmitt12@gmail.com). **Please get your RSVP in by December 6th. No late reservations.**

I am looking for a few volunteers to donate a pie or two. You can call Barb at 812-309-3992.

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Note: There will not be a newsletter in January, 2019. Sorry for any inconvenience.

*Patti*

**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)

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City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Smoked Gouda and Bacon Dip (from Pillsbury.com)

### Ingredients

- 1 - can (11 oz) refrigerated crusty French loaf
- 8 oz smoked Gouda cheese, shredded (about 2 cups)
- 1 package (8 oz) cream cheese, softened
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- ½ cup sour cream
- 1/8 teaspoon crushed red pepper (cayenne)
- 1 cup chopped cooked bacon
- ¼ cup sliced green onions

Heat oven to 350°F. Bake French loaf as directed on can; cool before slicing

Meanwhile, spray 9-inch pie plate with cooking spray. In medium bowl, mix Gouda cheese, cream cheese, mayonnaise, sour cream and crushed red pepper; mix on low speed with electric mixer until well mixed. Reserve 2 tablespoons bacon for topping; set aside. Stir in remaining bacon and 3 tablespoons of the green onion.

Transfer mixture to pie plate. Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until dip is heated through. Top with remaining bacon and green onions. Serve hot dip with sliced French bread



## German Christmas Pyramids – Let Light and Movement Brighten Your Holidays

(from - <https://germangirlinamerica.com/german-christmas-pyramids>)

In our home everyone is excited when the German Wooden Christmas Pyramids come out of their boxes. We have two in my home... one depicting the Nativity, the other is a band of sweet Angels.

A German Christmas Pyramid Carousel is generally made of wood. They have fins or paddles on the top that attach to a central pin. Candles around the sides send hot air up to the paddles, causing them to spin, and this makes the central scene spin. It's fantastically low-tech! Kids are mesmerized, even adults will stop and watch.

Some Pyramids are large and wildly intricate, depicting multiple scenes on multiple levels. Others are small, simple, and have only a few carved figures. All are beautiful in their own way.

These German Wooden Christmas Pyramids are the type of decoration that will become a family heirloom.... brought out and enjoyed every year for many Christmases to come.

In our house, the kids take turns lighting the candles to send the Pyramid rotating

### History of the German Christmas Pyramid

German Wooden Christmas Pyramids are said to come from the Erzgebirge (Ore Mountains) of Germany. Miners needed to understand how to engineer simple machines with wood for the mines. Capstans, is a vertical axeled rotating machine that were used in the mines, and these principles were used to add movement to the pyramids. First they build larger "Lichtergestelle", or Light Stands that began as wooden beams topped by Pine Boughs and candles. In time they shrunk them down so they to smaller sizes. These simple constructions brought light and cheer into homes during the dark winter.

Carved figures were added, depicting everyday life, but also depicting Christian motifs like angels and the Nativity. Today, Holiday scenes are very common on Christmas Pyramids, you will find Santa and Penguins, Children and Snowmen, as well as familiar Manger Scenes.

Christmas Markets in Germany, especially in the Southern parts of Germany, will often display Giant Christmas Pyramids for all to see. They are truly spectacular.

Most common though, are the smaller Christmas Pyramids that you can have in your home. Like the early versions, they add light and joy to the home.

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