



Jasper German Club
Deutscher Verein

Die Zeitung

May 2024

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.

Jasper Deutscher Verein April Meeting in Review

The Jasper Deutscher Verein gathered on Wednesday, April 17th at the Jasper Moose Lodge. Vice President Laura Grammer welcomed over 70 members and guests and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Laura called all Veterans up to the front and the Gesang Verein led the club in the singing the National Anthem.

Next, Laura had all new members stand up and introduce themselves and then led the club to welcome them with an Ein Prosit. Laura announced that 2024 is the year to elect Officers for 2025/2026. Two existing Officers have agreed to run for another 2 year term: Mike Ackerman as Treasurer and Valerie Heim as Secretary again. Landen will move to Past President for a 1 year stint on the Board of Directors. Laura will be transitioning to President. We are looking for candidate for an officer position. But currently, no one has stepped up to be considered for the Vice President Office. All officer positions are a two-year commitment, except Vice President which is 2 years a VP and 2 years as President and 1 year as Board Member. If you have questions, please contact Laura.

Laura then called up Dan Otto to lead the club in a prayer. Tables were released for dinner of chicken fettuccini, mixed vegetables and garlic bread prepared by the Jasper Moose Lodge, as well as salad and desserts brought by club members.

After the meal, Laura organized the teams of members playing in the game night. Members enjoyed friendly games of Clue, Pictionary, Cinch, Sheepshead, Crazy 8's, Relative Insanity, Euchre, and Rum.

Next a drawing was held for the Special Prize winners. Judy Gress and Ron Keusch were the winners.

Laura called the meeting to a close. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 15 at the Jasper Moose Lodge. Doors open at 6:00 pm, and dinner at 6:30. See you all there!

Submitted by
Valerie Heim
Secretary

If you haven't already participated in Leopold's survey, please consider taking the time to participate in Leopold's survey!!!! We want our German heritage to be recognized here in Dubois County.

Dear possible participant,

I am doing a short survey on the cultural influence of German immigration for my Bachelor thesis. If you or any other any German Americans from Dubois County could spare 10 minutes, please forward them this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/iW8Ne72EsR>

Your help will be greatly appreciated!

Best wishes and thank you

Leopold Schaffner

Shopping Opportunity for Strassenfest

Jasper Strassenfest Merchandise Room is now available in the Jasper Chamber of Commerce office at 302 West 6th Street. There are "German-style" clothing items for men, women and children. Stop by to see if we have something for you or any of your family members. There is also a nice selection of German flags and bunting for decorating your home or business. Best hours are: 10-1 & 2-4:30 (M-F). Questions? Call us at 812-482-6866

*****Membership*****

Dues for the Deutscher Verein are \$15 a person. Out of this \$15, a \$1 will go to the Jasper Deutscher Verein (German Club) German Heritage Endowment, \$1 per member for dues to Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc., and \$13.00 will be retained for club operating expenses.

As a paid member of the Jasper Deutscher Verein, \$1.00 of your dues goes to Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc. making each Jasper Deutscher Verein member a member of Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc.

There will not be a June Newsletter. The next Newsletter will be provided in Mid July and will include the Strassenfest Work Schedules.

Thanks.....*Patti*

A message from the Marketing Committee

The Marketing Committee has been busy brainstorming and planning new marketing initiatives for the German Club. We are excited for the possibilities and hope to officially kick start a project in the near future. Stay tuned.

Having strong club attendance at the Bomber's game is a great way to promote and market our club! See you all there!

Another simple way to market our club and maintain and grow membership? Invite your friends, family and neighbors to join the German Club! Visit jaspergermanclub.org – click on “Join the club” – print out a few forms and hand them out. The German Club is wunderbar!

Jane Balsmeyer

”Ein Prosit”

Ein Prosit Ein Prosit
der Gemütlichkeit
Ein Prosit Ein Prosit
der Gemütlichkeit
Eins, Zwei, Drei, G'suffa!
Zicke, zacke, zicke, zacke
Hoy, Hoy, Hoy,
Kinder machen, Kinder machen
Ya Ya Ya
Motorcycle, Motorcycle
Vroom, Vroom, Vroom
Der Deutscher Verein is Wunderbar!!

Just a Reminder!!!!!!!!!!!!

In addition to this newsletter, additional information on the Jasper DeutscherVerein can be gotten on the website – www.jaspergermanclub.org. The website features information on German Heritage info of the DeutscherVerein and Sister Cities, pictures of areas in Dubois County, past German Heritage winners, and past newsletters and be sure to “like us” on Facebook at Jasper DeutscherVerein and Sister Cities of Jasper.

Also, remember to check out Sister Cities' new website at www.sistercitiesofjasperin.org and keep up on their latest activities.

Gift to the Jasper DeutscherVerein (German Club) German Heritage Endowment

January 1, 2024 to March 31, 2024

In Honor of Sandy Wehr
Paul and Laura Grammer

A message from our president

Happy May! We are in full-swing for the year, and it has been so great seeing the new faces coming to meetings and even becoming new members. I continue to encourage you all to bring your friends, co-workers, and others who may be interested in joining the German Club. It takes all of us to keep our club's traditions alive and to help and promote our German heritage in the community. I want to thank our members who are bringing new members and promoting the club.

Landen Weidenbenner
President

A message from our vice president

Ländler Dance at Strassenfest Beer Garden

Ländler dance practices will start this summer. The Ländler is performed in the Beer Garden on Thursday Evening after the Parade to the Beer Garden, First Toast, First Waltz, and First Polka.

Jane & Mark Balsmeyer reluctantly said yes last year. Jane shared their experience:

Last year, my husband, Mark, and I decided to get involved in the Strassenfest opening ceremonies, which led to reluctantly agreeing to participate in the Ländler Dance. We had no idea what the Ländler Dance was, nor had any real idea what we were getting into. Laura invited us to the first practice and we found the group to be inviting, helpful and fun. Since we couldn't make all of the practices, the access to the music and a video were very helpful so we could practice on our own too. We weren't sure if we'd enjoy doing the Ländler Dance, yet it added fun twist to our Strassenfest experience and we'll do it again!

Dust off your ego and get ready for fun. Join the group and learn this traditional dance from the Bavarian Region of Germany. If you want to learn, contact Laura@ackoil.com or 812-482-6666 and we will put you on the email list.

Laura Grammer
Vice President



A message from our treasurer or treasurer's tales

Volunteer to work the German club booths at Strassenfest. You may phone Ann at 812-630-7241 to learn about openings in the booth schedule. For 2024, booth assembly is planned for Monday 07-29-2024 at 5:30 PM. Booth disassembly and tear down on Sunday morning and load out on Sunday afternoon following the parade. If South Main Street construction activities allow, the anticipated parade route may include 5th Street again this year.

Do we have a good telephone number and if applicable, email address information for you in our membership list? If you have a change, please drop an email to mike@ackoil.com or call Mike at 812-630-8756 to provide current information. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter via email, please be sure to let us know.

Continue to encourage friends and family to join our club. Involved members help to keep our club thriving and growing as we continue our mission to promote, preserve and celebrate our proud German Heritage.

Mike Ackerman

Treasurer

Sister Cities of Jasper April 2024 Update for Jasper German Club

The Board of Directors of the Sister Cities of Jasper met on Saturday, April 20th, 2024 to discuss upcoming events and projects for 2024. The group discussed the planning for the two sponsored exchanges in summer of 2024, as well as timing of future fundraising events, and updates to the Sister Cities of Jasper By-Laws.

Student Exchange 2024 Update

The Jasper students are preparing for their exchange trip from May 31st to June 22nd! Four students will be going on the exchange with chaperones, Sandy Wehr and JHS German Teacher, Daniel Otto. The Staufen students will be coming in the Fall of 2024, currently they are currently scheduled to be in Jasper from September 27th to October 11th. We're excited for the 2024 group and can't wait to share their experiences through social media and their blogs.

Culinary Exchange 2024 Update

We are excited to begin our first Culinary Exchange! Three individuals will be traveling to the Pfaffenweiler area from June 24th to July 5th. Kent Seger, Sister Cities of Jasper Board member and Culinary Exchange Chairperson, along with the help of a culinary exchange committee, and counterparts in Pfaffenweiler, is arranging the exchange.

Activities have been planned in an effort to deepen the connection and share a tangible part of Pfaffenweiler with the people of Jasper. Visits with chefs in local restaurants, markets, wineries, and in Pfaffenweiler kitchens will give our participants a chance to taste, see, and master the culinary scene of our German Heritage. We are certain they will gather ideas and skills to share with the people in Jasper.

Three individuals were chosen for our first exchange:

Head chef at the Klubhaus61 by the Schnitzelbank, Jamie Boaz - The Chef is very motivated to make his current menu more authentic and plans to expand it with new recipes and stories from his travels to Germany.

Chef Kim Mitchell, of Snaps Café in Jasper - The original Saloon and Boarding House opened in 1872, and the current owners want to incorporate German Food that is common in our sister city.

Jasper Middle School Consumer and Family Science Teacher, Haley Ondiek - In this role, she has an opportunity to introduce many younger students to German Food and Culture. We hope her approach interests them to continue to study the German Language at the Middle School and High School levels.

Congratulations to Jamie, Kim, and Haley! We cannot wait to hear about their exchange trip and get a "taste" of their experience upon their return.

Reminder - NEW Sister Cities of Jasper WEBSITE

After many, many, months of planning and work, the Sister Cities of Jasper new website is now live! Check it out at <https://www.sistercitiesofjasperin.org/home>

Save the Date! Mark your calendars!

Wine & Dine Your Valentine Event for 2025 will be on Saturday, February 15, 2025 at KlubHaus 61 in Jasper!

Mary Leah Siegel

President, Sister Cities of Jasper

As many of you have visited Pfaffenweiler, undoubtedly during your visit you made a trip to the top of the vineyards and visited the Afrik Monument.

The following article and pictures were taken from Badische Zeitung – Article by Stephan Elsemann – Saturday, March 16, 2024. Thank you to Sven Schumacher and Daniel Otto for their help in getting this article prepared for this newsletter.

Novel about migration and expulsion

From Pfaffenweiler to Algeria: "Der Afrik" by Sven Recker

By Stefan Schlegel

Around 1850, more than 130 impoverished people from the Pfaffenweiler area were forced to emigrate to Algeria. Author: Sven Recker recounts the story in his novel "Der Afrik".

In the 19th century, in many places, life abroad was more attractive than in Germany. The poor population of the winemaking village of Pfaffenweiler (Breisgau-Hochschwarzwald district) was almost forced to emigrate to Algeria. This tragic story inspired the writer Sven Recker, who comes from Buhl, to write his novel "Der Afrik".

SWR reporter Stefan Schlegel reports from Pfaffenweiler:
The community of Pfaffenweiler has financed emigration to Algeria by clearing the forest and selling the logs.

To pay for the transportation of the poor of the area, an entire forest was cut down and land sold to winegrowers in order to finance their departure out of the country to Algeria. The resulting vineyard was given the name "Africa". The municipality of Pfaffenweiler promised their emigrants paradise at the time, but the reality was quite different. Letters of inquiry and the emigrants' cries for help made clear that life in Africa was not nearly as they had hoped. Many of the 132 people wanted to go back home. The history is well documented in the village and there is also a monument at the top of the vineyard commemorating emigration.

"Der Afrik" tells the story of the banishment of a returnee

Writer Sven Recker tells the story of emigration from the perspective of a lonely rider who is called "the Afrik". His real name is Franz Xaver Luhr. The story in the novel is fictional. "Der Afrik" in the novel is quite an oddball and outsider. For decades, he has been planning his revenge on the community after he and his mother went to Africa under false promises. However, this plan of revenge is then thrown into disarray because suddenly a distressed and bewildered boy appears at his home and says in French: "Tu es famille". "You are family".

Great interest at author reading in Bad Krozingen

At the author's reading of the book at the cinema in Bad Krozingen (Breisgau-Hochschwarzwald district) at the beginning of September, 2023, the hall was packed. Half of the guests came from Pfaffenweiler. The interest in one's own village history is apparently big. Rosemarie Ehret said that "the Afrik" was seen on the wedding picture of her grandparents but he could not have been such an outsider as portrayed in the novel. Sven Recker clarified during the reading, that he was not a historian

and that, according to thorough research, it would have been laborious to distance himself from the real story in order to be able to tell the fictional story well.

At the reading, the Mayor of Pfaffenweiler, Lukas Mahler, expressed his gratitude for the attention given to learn the history of the village through the book. Sven Recker said he finds the story of forced emigration interesting because the drama is similar to that found in current-day migration stories from Africa, but with reversed roles.

The cultural talk on SWR2 in the morning (06.09.2023) is dedicated to the new novel by Sven Recker:

Pfaffenweiler winery commemorates village history with red wine "Afric"

With the novel "Der Afrik", Sven Recker is not unearthing any hidden information. The Hug Winery even sells a wine with the name "Afric". The grapes grow on the same vineyard which was once used to finance the emigration.



Mario and
Manuela Hug

Hug Winery in
Pfaffenweiler



German Heritage Award Nomination

The Jasper DeutscherVerein, Jasper Partnership Commission, and Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc. will celebrate German-American Day on Sunday, October 6 at KlubHaus 61 with an afternoon event. In addition, there will be the High School Essay Contest Awards. The event will honor the contributions made by German immigrants to the life and culture of the United States.

The annual German Heritage Award will be presented to an individual or group who has contributed generously his/her or their time, talents or resources to maintaining, improving or building upon the German roots in Dubois County. The recognition is open to all individuals who give what they can in order to make a difference.

A nomination will recognize the work of those who generously support our local German Heritage.

Nominations can be sent to Jasper DeutscherVerein, German Heritage Award, P. O. Box 15, Jasper, IN 47547-0015 or via email to siegel.maryleah@gmail.com and should include a letter of up to one page listing the reason for the nomination, a biography, up to two pages, listing the service or efforts of the nominee along with the Nominee's Name, Home address and whether the nominee's service is voluntary or paid. The Nominator's name and address must also be included and must be postmarked by September 1, 2024.

Sister Cities of Jasper and the Jasper Partnership Commission created the award in 1999.

The Jasper DeutscherVerein is sponsoring the award.

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, Mike and Ann Ackerman, Father John Boeglin, Rosie Stewart, Al and Judy Bennett, Paul and Laura Grammer, Joe Rohleder, and Sandy Wehr.

Lifetime Achievement Award Winner is Matthias Hilger.

**August 1 – August 4
Jasper Strassenfest**

Theme – German Flair on the Square!!!

Longtime Jasper downtown business owners and advocates, Jim Siebert and Maureen Braun, will represent the Greater Downtown Jasper Business Association as Co-Hoffmarschalls!!!



Nomination for the 2024 German Heritage Award

Nominee's Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

ZIP: _____ Phone: _____

Occupation: _____

Nominator's Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

ZIP: _____

Relationship to nominee:

Nominee's service is: voluntary / paid (circle one)

Nominations need to be postmarked to
Jasper Deutscher Verein, German Heritage Award,
P. O. Box 15, Jasper, IN 47547-0015 or emailed to
siegel.maryleah@gmail.com
by September 1, 2024)

Celebrating the month of May

Maifest (or Mayfest in English) is the traditional German celebration of the arrival of spring. Maifest is still celebrated throughout Germany with the maibaum (maypole) decorated to show off the history and crafts of the town.

Maifest, also known as Mayfest, is a cherished German tradition that celebrates the arrival of spring. This lively festival is observed throughout Germany, with a central focus on the Maibaum (maypole). Let's delve into the delightful details:

What is Maifest?

Maifest takes place on May 1st and symbolizes the end of the long, dark winter. Early Germans referred to May as "Wunnimanoth," signifying the pasture month—a time when animals returned to graze after spending a chilly winter indoors.

In ancient Pagan times, Maifest was associated with dancing, celebration, and the shedding of winter's darkness and cold. Today, it remains a secular festivity. People in cities and villages adorn their surroundings with ribbons and flowers, embracing the spirit of spring.

The Maibaum (Maypole):

Around the 10th century, the tradition of the Maibaum began. Here's how it unfolds:

Young men from the village venture into the woods to find a tall tree.

They strip the tree of its branches and leaves, then proudly parade it back to the village.

Craftsmen carve shields or symbols representing various town guilds or clubs, which are attached to crossbeams on the Maibaum.

A wreath adorns the top, and long ribbons cascade down.

The Maibaum is carefully guarded because young men from neighboring villages might attempt to "steal" it, holding it for ransom (usually settled with beer or a nice lunch at a Gasthaus).

On the first day of May, the Maibaum is erected in the town square or marketplace, marking the joyous arrival of spring.

Festive Elements:

Bonfires illuminate the night, chasing away the remnants of darkness. Dances fill the air, celebrating the season's renewal. Special drinks include Maibock (a strong spring beer) and Maibowle (a wine punch infused with Waldmeister, a fragrant herb).

Walpurgisnacht (April 30):

Before Maifest, Walpurgisnacht kicks off the Spring Awakening. Witches gather on the Brocken in the Harz Mountains for their annual celebration.

So, as May arrives, let's raise our imaginary Maibowle glasses and dance in the spirit of Maifest! 🍀 🍷 🌿

(Taken from Maifest – Wikipedia)

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

Mai

Mai 15, 2024-Wednesday-Jasper Moose Lodge-2507 Newton Street. Doors open at 6:00pm-festivities begin at 6:30pm. Strassenfest Preview

Meal will be served: Members bring either a Salad or Dessert.

What will be happening at the Glockenspiel and at Opening Ceremonies?

What are the plans for the booth?

How will things look when we are moving back to the square?

Signup Sheets for the Strassenfest will be available.

Juni

Juni 5, 2024-Wednesday-League Stadium, Huntingburg City Park, 203 South Cherry Street, Huntingburg

The Dubois County Bombers will have "Dingers in Deutschland Night" on Wednesday, June 5, 2024. Purchase your tickets at www.DCBombers.com. See details later in this newsletter!!!!

Juli

Juli 29, 2024-Monday-Booth Assembly at 5:30pm

August 1 – August 4 Jasper Strassenfest

Theme – German Flair on the Square!!!

August 4, 2024-Sunday- Booth disassembly and tear down on Sunday morning and load out on Sunday afternoon following the parade. If South Main Street construction activities allow, the anticipated parade route may include 5th Street again this year.

September

September 18, 2024-Wednesday-Jasper Moose Lodge-2507 Newton Street. Doors open at 6:00pm-festivities begin at 6:30pm. Strassenfest Wrap-Up Meeting.

Meal will be served. Members bring either a Salad or Dessert.

Oktober

Oktober 6, 2024-Sunday-KlubHaus61-2031 Newton Street. Celebrating German-American Day. Planning an afternoon event with more details coming later.

2025

Februar

Februar 15, 2025-Saturday-The KlubHaus61-2031 Newton Street-Wine and Dine Your Valentine Event sponsored by Sister Cities of Jasper

Dubois County Bombers vs. Johnstown Mill Rats – Wednesday, June 5th

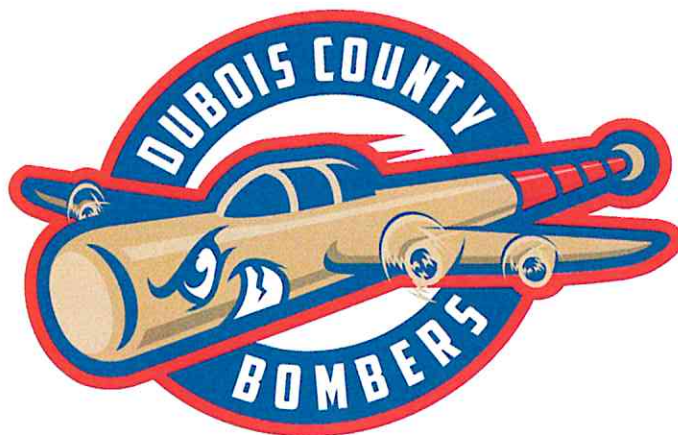
"Dingers in Deutschland Night"

Willkommen! Dubois County has a RICH history of German heritage and tonight we celebrate it! Parts of the stadium will be decorated in "Oktoberfest-style" flair, there will be plenty of sausages available for purchase, and the highlight of the evening will be a traditional German "Masskrugstemmen" (stein-holding) contest taking place in the stadium DURING the game. Anyone over 21 can compete in this unique Bavarian feat of strength and endurance where contestants must hold a 1-liter stein of beer out in front of them (at shoulder level) for as long as they can. The winner will be recognized in front of everyone toward the end of the game and prizes will be awarded. Polka music will be played ALL NIGHT LONG and we have a special appearance and toast on the field from the Jasper German Club.

And the best part: If a Bombers player hits a home run tonight, every fan over the age of 21 will receive a gift certificate for a FREE (German Lager) beer!

Gates Open at 5:30est | First Pitch at 6:30est

**Purchase your tickets at www.DCBombers.com*



Deutscher Verein
P. O. Box 15
Jasper, IN 47547-0015

Jasper DeutscherVerein	
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	Van Ziegler-Legacy

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