



Jasper German Club
Deutscher Verein

Die Zeitung

February 2025

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.

Holiday Messages between the Mayors of Jasper and Pfaffenweiler!!!!!!

December 5, 2024

Dear Pfaffenweiler residents and friends,

I wish you good health and the most joyous of times during this Christmas Season and throughout the New Year. We have much to be thankful for as we look forward to this summer and the 40th Anniversary Celebration of our Partnership as Sister Cities. Though the ties to our communities are rooted in family relationships that span centuries, the friendships that have developed over the years have strengthened our community relationship providing a promising experience and future for all. We are looking forward to hosting the delegation from Pfaffenweiler that is planning to attend the 40th Anniversary Celebration of our Partnership and enjoy our annual Strassenfest Festival which takes place the week prior. We have much planning to wrap up with regard to those significant events and the excitement is building. Soon we will be greeting each other at the opening ceremonies of Strassenfest. Please take care and live life as it is meant.

Enjoy a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Dean Vonderheide

Mayor

City of Jasper

.....
December 23, 2024

Dear friends from our sister city Jasper,

the pre-Christmas season – a time for reflection, a cozy way to wind down the year. Normally. Perhaps you are among the many people who have recently shared with me the opposite impression – regardless of one’s professional sector, the pre-Christmas period often seems more akin to a year-end rally on the stock exchange. All appointments must absolutely take place before the end of the year, orders must be delivered before Christmas, one might almost think that 2025 is so far away that it might not even happen.

Even on the political stages of Germany, the pre-Christmas period is once again severely limited in its contemplativeness. The Bundestag is facing dissolution, and all levels of administration are struggling with the short-term organization of a federal election.

But you know what: When Christmas Eve arrives, when the pork shoulder with potato salad is on the table, and the relatives are sitting at the same one, then it all pauses for a moment. The annual space-time continuum of eating, drinking, and family begins, even the most organized among us start to wonder what day of the week it actually is. And you know what: That does us all some good. Use the time between the years to unwind, because the good news is: On January 2, life goes on and the same world will still be turning.

In addition, we are so looking forward to the celebration of 40 years Jasper-Pfaffenweiler next summer! I wish you and your familys a merry christmas and a happy new year. Take care & see ya’ll at Strassenfest!!!

Love

Lukas Mahler

Mayor of Pfaffenweiler

Jasper Deutscher Verein December Meeting in Review

The Jasper Deutscher Verein gathered for the annual Christmas party on Thursday, December 12 at the Jasper Moose Lodge. The Moose was festively decorated with garlands and a beautiful Christmas tree. The tables were decorated with Christmas place mats at everyone’s seat along with an ornament and a German chocolate Santa as gifts for the members. Over 100 members and guests attended the event. Members signed in at the door and had the opportunity to pay dues for 2025. President Landen Weidenbenner welcomed everyone and then led the club in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first order of business was to vote for the incoming 2025 German Club officers. The proposed officers are Laura Grammer President, Lonnie Nicholson Vice President, Mike Ackerman Treasurer, and Valerie Heim Secretary. Dave Prechtel made the motion to vote, Bridgette Bartley seconded the motion and the club

unanimously approved. These officers will transition to these roles in January. Congratulations to all the officers.

Next "Santa Claus is Coming To Town" started playing and in walks Santa! Everyone cheered and said they had been good when Santa asked. He told some original jokes and handed out candy canes to the members. Then Santa said the prayer for our meal in German before he left. The members enjoyed a dinner of fried chicken with country gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, creamy slaw, bread and cookies for dessert.

Following dinner, Dan Otto came up to teach a few German Christmas words and phrases. Then he led the club in singing O' Tannenbaum and Silent night, teaching how to say it in German first and then they were sung in German and English. Vice President Laura Grammer then called outgoing president Landen up to say a few words and present him with a German Christmas Pyramid with hand painted figurines as a gift from the club for his years serving as president. The special prizes were then drawn by Landen. The winners were Dave Kieffner and Jim Strosnider. Laura led the club in an Ein Prosit for the holidays and the outgoing and incoming officers. The meeting concluded with social time to allow everyone a chance to catch up with each other. Festive Christmas music was play throughout the evening by Kurt Heim.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at the Jasper Moose Lodge. Doors open at 6:00pm and the meeting begins at 6:30pm. Look forward to seeing everyone there.

Submitted by
Valerie Heim
Secretary

*****Membership*****

Dues for the DeutscherVerein are \$15 a person. Out of this \$15, a \$1 will go to the Jasper DeutscherVerein (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 DeutscherVerein, \$1.00 of your dues goes to Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc. making each Jasper DeutscherVerein member a member of Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc.*



"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!!

Postal 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 Mike Ackerman at 812-630-8756 or mike@ackoil.com with your new address so we can update our records.

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' website at www.sistercitiesofjasperin.org and keep up on their latest activities.

The Jasper Deutscher Verein is Celebrating 45 Years

The idea for a club came from the Jasper Action Team, following the first Strassenfest in 1979, a club to keep the German theme alive all year long.

Dave Buehler called the first meeting to pursue interest and the group met several times in the fall of 1979. Meetings were held at Beck's Tavern, later BeBops.

The founding members in 1979 were Dave and Judy Buehler, Ron and Dellie Keusch, Ron and LaVerne Kieffner, Gary and Rita Egler, Jim and Jeanne Holler, and Dan and Linda Wehr.

The first official meeting was held in January, 1980 with 320 paid charter members. By April, there were 372 paid members.

The first officers were: Dan Wehr-President, Gary Egler-Vice President, Jeanne Holler-Secretary, and Ron

Kieffner-Treasurer. The first board of directors were: Larry Hanselman, Harvey Berger, and Dave Buehler.

Milestones of the Jasper Deutscher Verein from 1980 to 2019 are listed in the February, 2020 newsletter which can be found on our website – www.jaspergermanclub.org. Officer and Board of Directors info can be found in the December, 2019 newsletter.

The following are milestones from 2020 to 2024!!! Enjoy!!

Deutscher Verein Officers and Board of Directors

2020

Van Ziegler-President
Paul Siegel-Vice President
Barb Schmitt-Secretary
Mike Ackerman-Treasurer
Lacey Apple, Al Bennett, Bridgette Bartley, Dave Buehler, Rita Egler, Brandon Ferguson, Laura Grammer, Mike Hochgesang, Steve Schmitt, Patrick Schuler, Danny Wehr, Sandy Wehr, and Landen Weidenbenner

2021

Paul Siegel-President
Landen Weidenbenner-Vice President
Lacey Apple-Secretary
Mike Ackerman-Treasurer
Al Bennett, Bridgette Bartley, Dave Buehler, Brandon Ferguson, Laura Grammer, Mike Hochgesang, Patrick Schuler, Danny Wehr, Sandy Wehr, and Van Ziegler

2022

Paul Siegel-President
Landen Weidenbenner-Vice President
Lacey Apple-Secretary
Mike Ackerman-Treasurer
Al Bennett, Bridgette Bartley, Dave Buehler, Brandon Ferguson, Laura Grammer, Valerie Heim Mike Hochgesang, Patrick Schuler, Danny Wehr, Sandy Wehr, and Van Ziegler

2023

Landen Weidenbenner-President
Laura Grammer-Vice President
Valerie Heim-Secretary
Mike Ackerman-Treasurer
Al Bennett, Bridgette Bartley, Dave Buehler, Brandon Ferguson, Mike Hochgesang, Patrick Schuler, Paul Siegel, Danny Wehr, Sandy Wehr, and Van Ziegler

2024

Landen Weidenbenner-President
Laura Grammer-Vice President
Valerie Heim-Secretary
Mike Ackerman-Treasurer
Jane Balsmeyer, Bridgette Bartley, Patrick Schuler, Mary Leah Siegel, Paul Siegel, Sherri Uebelhor, Sandy Wehr, and Van Ziegler

2025

Laura Grammer-President
Lonnie Nicholson-Vice President
Valerie Heim-Secretary
Mike Ackerman-Treasurer
Jane Balsmeyer, Bridgette Bartley, Patrick Schuler, Mary Leah Siegel, Paul Siegel, Sherri Uebelhor, Sandy Wehr, Landen Weidenbenner, and Van Ziegler

Milestones of the Jasper DeutscherVerein 2020

The year that COVID struck!!!

There was a meeting in January and in February.

The 35th Anniversary trip to Pfaffenweiler to celebrate the Sister Cities Partnership in June was postponed until June, 2022.

The JHS German Exchange was postponed until 2022.

The March, April, May, and June meetings were cancelled as was StrassenVORfest, the Jasper Strassenfest, the Family Picnic, German-American Day Dinner, the Nashville Trip, the annual Auction benefiting the JHS Student Exchange Program, and the Christmas Dinner.

The Die Zeitung was published for February, March, May, June, September-October, November, and December as a way to keep our members engaged and informed of activities still going on in spite of the cancellations.

In late 2019, a joint project between Sister Cities of Jasper and the Partnership Commissions of Jasper and Pfaffenweiler sponsored a contest to establish a common Partnership Logo. Tracy L. Lorey of Running Design Studio was named the winner.

Sister Cities introduced a cloth patch, lapel pin, car magnet, and a sticker using the new Partnership Logo!!!

The DeutscherVerein introduced new pins, pens, cloth patches, and frisbees.

Alexandra Hasenour of Southridge High School and Kieran Kasten of Jasper High School were the recipients of the Jasper DeutscherVerein scholarships.

Mattis Günter of Staufien and Lennart (Lenny) Seebacher of Ehrenkirchen arrived in Jasper to attend Jasper High School.

Sister Cities of Jasper won the 2020 Award for "Innovation in Arts and Culture" from Sister Cities International.

A "Spirit of Strassenfest" Decorating Contest was held. Mary Martin and Ann Ackerman were the winners.

Mary Leah Siegel and Mayor Dean Vonderheide were presenters at the Indiana Sister Cities International Symposium which was held virtually.

Al and Judy Bennett were the recipients of the German Heritage Award.

Jim and Rita Corn announced their retirement plan in maintaining the landscaping at the Maypole and green space at 6th and Newton Streets. They began this labor of love in 1996.

Sandy Wehr was selected as the 2020 Indiana Sister City Volunteer of the Year.

The Board of Directors applied the 2020 dues to the 2021 dues.

Sister Cities of Jasper was awarded the 2022 Program of the Year Award from Sister Cities of Indiana for the 35th Celebration Trip and Anniversary Celebration.

On December 31, 2022, the partnership commissions of Jasper and Pfaffenweiler signed the Unified Declaration for the future of the Partnership between Jasper and Pfaffenweiler.

2023

Sister Cities of Jasper announced that the Wine Queens from Germany will be attending the Wine and Dine Your Valentine event on February 11th. The Wine Queen of Germany was Katrin Land and the Baden Wine Queen was Jessica Himmelsbach.

Strassenfest will again be on 4th Street this year.

The best kept secret of February was the arrival of Bürgermeister Lukas Mayer and his assistant, Diana Treyer, for the Wine and Dine Your Valentine Event.

Landen Weidenbenner and Laura Grammer were invited by Consul General Wolfgang Moessinger to attend a German Heritage Workshop in Chicago.

Lea Thoma, a student at Heilbron University in Germany came to Jasper for an international internship. She worked as a Human Resources and Marketing Intern at Kimball Electronics and was hosted by Mike, Bridgette, and Grace Bartley.

A Jasper DeutscherVerein Gesangverein was organized and Nancy Litteken has agreed to organize the group.

Anneliese Krauter from the Heart's Closet-Surviving WWII gave a presentation at the Dubois County Museum.

Autumn Voegerl, a student at Jasper High School, was the recipient of the Jasper DeutscherVerein scholarship.

Linda Meyer, Sarah Grathwol, and Felix Eckerle from Pfaffenweiler attended Jasper High School.

The Log Sawing Contest continues at the Strassenfest. The Jasper DeutscherVerein introduced this event to the

Strassenfest in 1987 with Joe Eckerle as its first chairman followed by Danny Wehr.

Bürgermeister Lukas Mahler returned to Jasper in August to attend the Strassenfest.

Sister Cities of Jasper announced that Brianna Lammers, Agricultural Sciences Teacher, and Daniel Otto, German and French Teacher, both from Jasper High School will be the German Exchange Teachers during the summer.

Sister Cities also announced that a Culinary Exchange is being planned for Pfaffenweiler.

Heike Dürr and Betinna Schwentker came to JHS in October from the Faust-Gymnasium to participate in the second phase of the teacher exchange. Ms. Dürr teaches French and P.E.; and Ms. Schwentker teaches Theology and Ethics.

Jay Hamlin had an exhibit of photographs taken during his cultural visit to Pfaffenweiler in 2021 at the Jasper Community Arts/Thyen Cultural Center.

Sandy Wehr was the recipient of the German Heritage Award presented at the German American Day Dinner held in October.

Daniel Otto was honored as one of the 2023 German Embassy Teacher of Excellence Award. He was recognized at the AATG/ACTFL convention in Chicago in November.

Board Members will be broken down as-

- Marketing/Communications/Newsletter Coordinator
- Legacy Board Member (two positions available)
- Booth/Fundraising Coordinator
- German Heritage Youth Coordinator
- German Heritage Adult Coordinator
- Special Projects Coordinator
- Sister Cities President

2024

Membership Dues were increased. \$15.00 per person/\$30.00 per couple. \$1.00 of dues are provided to Sister Cities for membership in Sister Cities and \$1.00 goes to the Jasper Deutscher Verein (German Club) German Heritage Endowment.

Newsletters will no longer be mailed via Non-Profit Org Bulk Mailing. Members were given the option of having their newsletters mailed via US Mail, sent via email ONLY, or sent via US Mail and via email.

The 2023-2024 Wine Queen of Baden, Julia Noll, and the 2023-2024 Wine Princess of Germany (former Wine Queen of Baden) Jessica Himmelsbach, were sponsored by Sister Cities of Jasper and attended events in Jasper.

Sister Cities of Jasper announced the first Culinary Exchange participants. These individuals traveled to Pfaffenweiler in the summer of 2024. They were: Jamie Boaz-Head Chef at the Klubhaus61, Kim Mitchell-Chef at Snaps Café, and Haley Ondiek-Consumer and Family Science Teacher at Jasper Middle School.

Strassenfest returned to the Courthouse Square!!!!

Leopold Schaffner of the University of Passau reached out to several DeutscherVerein members and did interviews to support his thesis – The Cultural Influence of 19th Century German Immigration to the USA on their Descendants in the 21st Century Using the Example of Dubois County, Indiana. A Bachelor thesis to obtain the degree of a “Bachelor of Arts” (B.A.) in International Cultural and Business Studies from the School of Humanities and Cultural Studies from the University of Passau. Leopold and his girlfriend, Isabella Schaal of Germany, and Al and Kathy Baldwin of Jasper attended the September meeting of the DeutscherVerein.

Hayden Armstrong of Jasper High School and Miles Welp of Forest Park Jr. Sr. High School were awarded the Jasper DeutscherVerein scholarships.

The documentary “Banished into Paradise” was shown at the Alexander School House during the Strassenfest.

The Marketing Committee is looking to strengthen the branding and awareness of the DeutscherVerein through an updated visual identity. The current logo is being reviewed.

Four JHS students traveled to Germany to participate in the exchange with Staufen Gymnasium.

The Indiana German Heritage Society recognized the Jasper DeutscherVerein and Patti Goepfrich as the Co-Recipients of the 2024 Hoosier German-American of the Year.

Kim Lottes was the recipient of the German Heritage Award presented at the German American Day Dinner held in October.

Dr. Sebastian Franz and Dr. Alfred Wildfeuer from the Universität Augsburg University visited Dubois County to study the Deutscher dialects still spoken in Dubois County.

Sister Cities of Jasper announced that the Wine Queen of Baden, Lucia Winterhalter and Kim Gunderson, Sommelier from Jasper will be special guests at the 2025 Wine and DINE Event on February 15, 2025.

Jasper Strassenfest Committee Has Selected Two Hofmarschalls for 2025 Strassenfest

The Jasper Strassenfest 2025 will be July 31, August 1, 2, and 3. 2025 also marks the 40th anniversary of the Jasper and Pfaffenweiler partnership, and we have chosen to make that our theme. We have chosen two Hofmarschalls - Lois Kuntz of Jasper and Diana Treyer of Pfaffenweiler. Both women have been instrumental in the evolution of this partnership, with their roles in each Mayor's office, respectively.

We are excited to continue to be back on the Downtown Square, and a return to feelings of normalcy. South Main Street is getting closer to completion on its revitalization, and will bring a fresh look to the German Club Booth and Beer Garden areas.

We are also excited to be welcoming the guests from Pfaffenweiler and looking for ways to recognize, honor, and incorporate them into our festivities - working closely with German Club - German Heritage and the Partnership Commission. While it is early in the calendar year, our planning has been ongoing for months, and this year's Fest is looking to be another year of celebrating tradition and heritage with our community, and visitors - showing off that Jasper pride.

I encourage anyone to reach out with questions, ideas, or thoughts. My contact is email: cleckerle@gmail.com or call/text: 812-630-8791.

Corie Eckerle

2025/2026 Jasper Strassenfest Chairperson

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, 2025. If there are any questions, please contact Shelley Whalen at 812-827-1027.

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, 2025 to: Jasper DeutscherVerein, Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 15, Jasper, Indiana 47547-0015
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Lonnie and Trish Nicholson



Lonnie is our Vice President

Introducing our Vice President

Guten Tag,

My name is Lonnie Nicholson and I'm excited to be your Vice President for 2025. My wife, Trish, and I are happy to rejoin the club after focusing the last few years on our children and our careers.

I grew up in Starlight, Indiana, on a farm near Huber Winery. I graduated from Indiana University in 1986 and moved to Jasper to work for Kimball International, where Trish and I met. We are now both retired from Kimball. I am currently an academic tutor and adjunct faculty member at Vincennes University Jasper.

We have three adult children and enjoy trips to Pittsburgh where two are currently living.

Trish and I share hobbies that include travelling, playing cards (including sheepshead), and watching IU and Xavier sports.

I look forward to the key responsibilities of the VP including preparing for and hosting the special programs planned for our club meetings.

Danke,

Lonnie Nicholson

Parting words.....

I wanted to take a moment to say "Thank You" to everyone in the Jasper Deutscher Verein as I say "Farewell" as your past president. I want to thank my officers, Laura Grammer (former Vice President), Mike Ackerman (Treasurer), and Valerie Heim for always being reliable, hardworking, and being the voice of change and being advocates for our club. I would also like to thank Patti Goepfrich for being so diligent with our newsletter, and always being the person, I could call with questions about our club's history. There are so many others, so if I missed anyone, please know you are appreciated and valued. Thank you to all of you. Our club is in good hands with Laura, Lonnie, Mike, and Valerie, and I cannot wait to see what they accomplish. Brandon & I will still be heavily involved with the club, and will continue to sit on our Marketing Committee. Wishing you all a very Happy New Year, and look forward to seeing all at future club events.

With care,

*Landen Weidenbenner &
Brandon Ferguson*

**Gifts to the Jasper DeutscherVerein
(German Club) German Heritage
Endowment**

October 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

In Memory of Phyllis Ackerman

Anonymous (2)
James and Ann Arvin
Mark and Jane Balsmeyer
Mary Barrazotto
Keith and Chrisy Bartley
Audrey Beckman
Becky Beckman
Chris and Susan Berg
LaVerne Berg
Steve and Linda Berg
Barbara Berger
Bob Bleemel
Edward and Michelle Boeglin
Karen Boha
Michael and Maureen Braun
Marie Knies Burger Family
Tim and Mary Cassidy
Ulrike Dennet
Castle and Key Distillery
Norma Dauby
William and Patricia Deatrick
Marilyn Dittmer
Fred and Carole Feltner
Mark and Sandy Fierst
John and Jane Fischer
Doug and Becky Fleck
Mike and Joyce Gore
Paul and Laura Grammer
Larry Haas
Betty Hanselman
Michael Harper
Gerald and Pat Hasenour
Kurt and Valerie Heim
Rosemary Heim
Tonya Heim
Michael and Patricia Hochgesang
Brady and Constance Jarboe
Charles and Sue Kempf
Jerome Kersteins
Dorothy Keusch
Ron Keusch
Mark and Janet Kordes
Kenneth and Joan Lampert
Carol Lete
Zary and Vicki Lete
Beverly Luegers
Robert McCarty
Ronald and Judy Mehringer
Edward and Rita Messmer
Lonnie and Patricia Nicholson
Rosie Persohn

Dave and Nancy Prechtel
Gregory and Pamela Reas
Mark and Lois Recker
David and Angela Rudolph
Richard and Janice Rudolph
John and Karen Sander
Sharon Sander
Jeff Schneider
Patrick and Phyllis Schuler
Ken and Janet Sendelweck
Paul and Mary Leah Siegel
Don Streicher and Mary Jo Hart
Brad and Donna Terwiske
Bruce and Tina Terwiske
Gerald and Shirley Terwiske
Tri-State Service & Maintenance, Inc.
Michael and Rita Uebelhor
Max and Jen Verkamp
Robert and Dorothy Vogler
Dave and Sandy Wehr
Steve and Shelley Whalen

Jasper Deutscher Verein Januar
Meeting in Review

The Jasper DeutscherVerein gathered on Wednesday, January 15 at the Jasper Moose Lodge. This meeting was extra special because the club celebrated its 45th Anniversary! Members signed in as the entered and were able to pay dues for 2025. President Laura Grammer welcomed the 70 members and guests to the meeting, and then called up all the members who were Veterans to lead the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Van Ziegler led the club in singing God Bless America. Then Laura led the members in a game similar to the anniversary game, where members sat down depending on how long they have been club members. Members still standing had been a part of the club for 40 years or more. She asked those members to join the German Club Board members and officers for a picture with the cake to celebrate our clubs 45th Anniversary. After the picture, Mike Ackerman read Mayor Dean Vonderheide's proclamation celebrating the anniversary. Laura then led an Ein Prosit to celebrate the club.

Next, Laura explained that a red folder was given to each family that was in attendance. The folders are to be used for every meeting. Inside the folders is meeting list with expected meal for each month, the Apfel Strudel flier and recipe, and a German Language sheet. Laura explained that this folder came about from members feedback from the May 2024 meeting. She encouraged the members to bring the folders each month and add to them as papers are given out at each meeting. Laura then announced that members could sign up to learn how to make Apfel Strudel. They will be taking 10 couples (set of 2 people). If you would like to sign up, please let Laura know.

Laura then released the tables for dinner of chicken noodle soup and chicken salad sandwiches which were wonderful on the cold evening. The meal was prepared by the Moose, as well as salad and desserts brought by club members. Member also enjoyed the 45th Anniversary cake for dinner.

After dinner, Mike Ackerman gave a brief Treasurer Report to the club and discussed the donations we have received in honor of Pat Hollinden, David Laake, Gwynavere Morton, Mary Gertz, Bruce Jarboe and Phyllis Ackerman. Laura then announced that she is looking for volunteers to help set up the club meetings. If you are interested, please let Laura know.

Dan Otto then came up to help Laura teach the club German words. Using the sheet in the folders, we learned the German Vowels and how to pronounce words with those vowel sounds. The presentation for January was provided by the Sister Cities Exchange Chefs, Haley Ondiek, Kim Mitchell and Jamie Boaz. They showed pictures and spoke of their experiences while in Germany this summer, recounting all the great food they made and had on the trip, and all the people they met. They announced that the Sister Cities Wine and Dine event coming up in February will feature some of the foods that they learned to make while in Germany. Overall, they said it was a great experience and were thankful for the opportunity!

Following the presentation, the members socialized and played cards.

Special prize winners were Ruth Kuebler and Rita Corn. Laura called the meeting to a close.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 19 at the Jasper Moose Lodge. The Sister Cities will present the Baden Wine Queen at this meeting. You won't want to miss it! Doors open at 6:00pm, and dinner is at 6:30pm.

Submitted by
Valerie Heim
Secretary

A message from our president

In 2025, the Deutscher Verein celebrates the 45th Year of promoting, preserving and celebrating our German Heritage. The club has been successful because of the members work-ethic, craftsmanship, entrepreneurial spirit and desire to succeed.

Following years serving the club as Vice President, Treasurer and German Heritage Coordinator, I am excited about leading the club as Deutscher Verein President.

All leaders have support. I am blessed with a wonderful husband, Paul, who also loves the German Club.

Like many of our members, we have found that the Deutscher Verein nurtures our soul and provides a conduit to have a positive impact in the communities where we live, work and play.

The newly elected Vice President, Lonnie Nicholson, introduced Strategic Planning to the Board. During this process it became evident that Jasper Deutscher Verein is the nucleus that has had a profound impact on the community. When the Board completes the Strategic Plan, it will be shared with the club.

Our goals for the club over the next 2 years are to build on past successes and ensure the Jasper Deutscher Verein remains strong and relevant for another 45 years.

Laura Grammer
President

A message from our treasurer

We are now collecting 2025 dues of \$15.00 per person. Dues may be paid in person at meetings or may be mailed to PO Box 15, Jasper, IN 47547-0015.

Mike Ackerman
Treasurer
mike@ackoil.com
812-630-8756



Pictured are the 40+ membership and officers and board members attending the 45th Anniversary Club meeting in January.

Members attending with 40 or more years of membership – Jim and Rita Corn, Al and Judy Bennett, Rosemary Heim, Mike Humbert, and Bob Dilger. Officers and Board Members include – Laura Grammer, Lonnie Nicholson, Mike Ackerman, Valerie Heim, Bridgette Bartley, Pat Schuler, Mary Leah and Paul Siegel, Sandy Wehr, and Van Ziegler.

Jasper Deutscher Verein Celebrating 45 Years

For an organization to be active after 45 years is very special. To be able to celebrate 45 years with individuals who have been members for all 45 years and to have the first president be able to celebrate the 45 years is unheard of. Well, the Jasper Deutscher Verein is proud to be able to say we have attained all of the forementioned!!!!!! WOW!!!!!!

The 45th Anniversary of the Jasper Deutscher Verein has been documented in several ways!! Dan Wehr, Laura Grammer, and Lonnie Nicholson spent time at WJTS18 with Kaitlyn Neukam and talked about the past history and future plans for the Jasper Deutscher Verein. The interesting presentation can be found on the 18 WJTS and Jasper Deutscherverein Facebook pages and will be added to the Jasper Deutscher Verein website in the future.

Mayor Dean Vonderheide presented a Proclamation honoring the Deutscher Verein to Dan Wehr and Laura Grammer.

Kathy Tretter, Editor of the *Ferdinand News*, sat down with Dan and Linda Wehr, Ron Keusch, Landen Weidenbenner, Laura Grammer, Mike Ackerman, and Patti Goepfrich and reviewed 45 years on the Deutscher Verein. She wrote an article of the Deutscher Verein and it was published with pictures in the January 23, 2025 edition of the *Ferdinand News*. The article will be included in the March edition of this newsletter.



Sister Cities of Jasper February 2025 Update for Jasper German Club

First, on behalf of the Board of Directors for Sister Cities of Jasper and the students going on the student exchange, we thank you for your generous support of the upcoming 2026 Student Exchange during the auction at the November meeting! Your participation and generous spirit help us to further our relationship with Pfaffenweiler and the Staufen Gymnasium and to foster future generations that will continue to share and promote our German heritage in years to come.

Wine & DINE Your Valentine Event 2025!

The focus this year is more on the DINE portion of the event featuring our culinary exchange participants as well as the Wine Queen of Baden, Lucia Winterhalter and Dr. Kim Gunderson, sommelier, to lead us through the wine pairings/tastings. We will be fundraising with some fun activities during the event, a wine pull, silent auction, etc. to support additional exchanges and events in 2025, 2026, and beyond. Gather a group of friends and plan to attend, it is sure to be a great time!

Thank you to those of you who have already purchased tickets!

Join Us!

**Saturday, February 15th – Wine & DINE
Your Valentine Event**

**Celebrate the beginning of the 40th Anniversary Year
of the Jasper/Pfaffenweiler Partnership!**

Klubhaus61 – 6:00PM

Tickets: \$75 per person or \$560 for a table of 8

Tickets are available online via Eventbrite, or you may contact Mary Leah Siegel 812-309-3468 before **February 10th!**

Fundraising in 2025: As you are all aware, our future exchanges, activities, events are subject to additional grants, fundraising, and donations.

For 2025, we are currently applying for additional grants and examining our 5-to-10-year plan to sustain and manage additional programs and exchanges. We plan to celebrate this 40th Year of the Jasper - Pfaffenweiler partnership with several activities and fundraising efforts "For the next 40..." to sustain the partnership and activities for the next 40 years.

2025 Officers

President: Mary Leah Siegel

Vice President: Sandy Wehr

Treasurer: Matt Hilger

Secretary: Sheri Keller

2025 Directors: John Eckerle, Alan Hanselman, Stan Jochum, Daniel Otto, Kent Seger, Jen Verkamp

Feel free to contact me with any questions, and as always, a HUGE THANK YOU to the Jasper DeutscherVerein members for their support for Sister Cities of Jasper and our partnership with Pfaffenweiler!

Mary Leah Siegel

President, Sister Cities of Jasper



Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

Please note the following information may change due to the fact that we are publishing many months ahead!!!

Stammtisch

Sheepshead - meeting 2 times a month to play. Playing - 2nd & 4th Mondays to play Sheepshead at Headquarters-201 Main Street, Jasper.

Februar

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

Februar 19, 2025-Wednesday-Jasper Moose Lodge-2507 Newton Street. Doors open at 6:00pm-festivities begin at 6:30pm.

Our program will be presented by Sister Cities of Jasper.

Lucia Winterhalter, Wine Queen of Baden, will be visiting Jasper from Germany and coming to the February meeting! She will be presenting information and answering any questions you may have about the wine queen program locally in Baden, and overall, in Germany. She will also talk about the area of Baden and how the wine growing and making industry is a large part of the culture and heritage of the region. Lucia is from Bad Krozingen, Germany, just a little over 5 kilometers or 3.5 miles from our sister city of Pfaffenweiler, Germany. AND of course, we will be sampling a few of the wines from the Pfaffenweiler Weinhaus led by Lucia.

Special thanks to the Jasper Deutscher Verein for their continued promotional and financial support of Sister Cities of Jasper exchanges and events. We appreciate all the support from the members for our fund-raising efforts throughout the year. One small way that we hope show our appreciation to you is by providing the wine and supplies for the February meeting and by having the Wine

Queen of Baden, Lucia Winterhalter, share her experiences with all of you!

Fried Tenderloin, brown mushroom gravy, butter spätzle noodles and California Medley will be served. Members bring either a Salad or a Dessert.

Stammtisch

Sunday, March 16th from Noon to 4pm

Learn to bake Apfel Strudel – Kimball International Up to 20 people. Will bring one Strudel to the March meeting. We can accommodate up to 20 people. Reservations are required and can be made by emailing Laura at laura@ackoil.com

März

März 19, 2025-Wednesday-Jasper Moose Lodge-2507 Newton Street. Doors open at 6:00pm-festivities begin at 6:30pm.

Strategic Planning & Introduce new Logo

Baked Boneless Chicken Breast, Fettuccini Noodles with Broccoli & Alfredo Sauce will be served. Members bring either a Salad or Dessert.

April

April 16, 2025-Wednesday-Jasper Moose Lodge-2507 Newton Street. Doors open at 6:00pm-festivities begin at 6:30pm.

“Banished into Paradise” a documentary film about the emigration from Southwestern Germany (Pfaffenweiler) to Dubois County in the 1800’s will be shown and Strassenfest sign up.

Fried Chicken Tenders, Au gratin Potatoes, and Green Beans will be served. Members to bring either a Salad or Dessert.

Stammtisch

Saturday, April 26-Visit Winzerwald Winery & Whiskey Run (6853 E Pilot Knob Road, Milltown) Forestry Walk 1-to-2-mile(s) hike (BYOB, Deutscher Verein provides Charcuterie Boards, Snacks)

Mai

Mai 21, 2025-Wednesday-Jasper Moose Lodge-2507 Newton Street. Doors open at 6:00pm-festivities begin at 6:30pm.

Strassenfest Preview & Strassenfest Signup

German Tenderloin (Grilled Tenderloin, Swiss, Sauteed onions, bacon) Potato Wedges, and Green Beans will be served. Members to bring either a Salad or Dessert.

Juni

Bombers Game (TBD)

Stammtisch

Learn to Dance the Landler (TBD)

August

Strassenfest will be held July 31st – August 3rd!!! And we will celebrate 40 years of the Sister Cities Partnership between Jasper and Pfaffenweiler!!!!

Strassenfest Setup: July 28 or 29.
Teardown: August 3

Work at least 1 shift and help with either Setup or Teardown

September

September 17, 2025-Wednesday-Jasper Moose Lodge-2507 Newton Street. Doors open at 6:00pm-festivities begin at 6:30pm.

Strassenfest Wrap-up and Workers' Party

Pork Chop, au gratin Potatoes, and Baked Beans will be served. Members bring either a Salad or Dessert.

Oktober

Oktober 15, 2025-Wednesday-Jasper Moose Lodge-2507 Newton Street. Doors open at 6:00pm-festivities begin at 6:30pm.

German American Day & silent or small auction
Schnitzelbank Catering - German Buffet
Exchange kids bring desserts??

Stammtisch

Saturday, November 15

Make Cardboard Gingerbread Houses – bring spouse or kids or grandkids. Reservations required. Email reservations to Laura at laura@ackoil.com. Deutscher Verein provides Houses, Hot Cocoa & Gingerbread Cookies. Bring to November German Club Meeting to show members.

November

November 19, 2025-Wednesday-Jasper Moose Lodge-2507 Newton Street. Doors open at 6:00pm-festivities begin at 6:30pm.

History of Gingerbread Houses – Maybe recipe & example from a member

Fried Boneless Chicken Breast & Country Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, and Green Beans will be served. Members to bring either a Salad or Dessert.

Dezember

Dezember 11, 2025-Thursday-Jasper Moose Lodge-2507 Newton Street. Doors open at 6:00pm-festivities begin at 6:30pm. PLEASE NOTE DAY CHANGE to Thursday!!!!!!

Christmas Party

Santa & Christmas Tree history & Wine Tasting with Kim Gunderson, sommelier

Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Cooked Carrots, 7 Layer Salad, and IGA Cookies will be served.



Kaitlyn Neukam of 18 WJTS doing her "magic" behind the scenes interviewing Dan Wehr, Laura Grammer, and Lonnie Nicholson for the IN.form program!!!!



Mayor Dean Vonderheide presenting the Proclamation honoring the 45th Anniversary of the Jasper Deutscher Verein to our first president, Danny Wehr and our current president, Laura Grammer.

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Jasper DeutscherVerein was the brainchild of the Jasper Action Team, a Jasper Chamber of Commerce Committee, following the first Strassenfest, a club to keep the German theme alive all year long; and

WHEREAS, several individuals met in the fall of 1979 to plan the ground work for this new club; and

WHEREAS, by January, 1980 there were 320 charter paid members with the first official event, "The Fastnacht", held at the Jasper Holiday Inn on February 9, 1980 and the first official meeting was held at the Schnitzelbank Restaurant on February 21, 1980; and

WHEREAS, the Jasper DeutscherVerein was founded in January, 1980, in Jasper, Indiana, USA, for the purpose of promoting interest in the community of our German heritage, history of the community, Bavarian architecture, etc. This is to be a purely social club; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of the Jasper DeutscherVerein to the community have been numerous.

THEREFORE, I, Dean Vonderheide, Mayor of the City of Jasper, do hereby proclaim the year 2025 as the

45th Anniversary Year of the Jasper DeutscherVerein

and urge all citizens, especially those of German Heritage, to join in the celebration.




I have set my hand and cause the seal of the office of the Mayor to be affixed this 2nd day of January, 2025.

Dean Vonderheide
Dean Vonderheide, Mayor

Sister Cities of Jasper

2025 Wine & DINE Event

JOIN US FOR AN AMAZING EVENING FOCUSED
ON THE FANTASTIC FOOD AND WINE
OF THE BADEN REGION OF GERMANY!

Saturday FEBRUARY 15, 2025

\$75 Per Person - \$560 Table of 8

Tickets Include:

- Wine Tastings
- Fantastic Four Course Dinner
Featuring Regional Culinary
Specialties of the Baden Region of
Germany
- Entertainment by Jon & Stacey
- Wine Pull/Fun Activities/Door
Prizes



DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM
LOCATION: KLUBHAUS61
2031 N. Newton St,
Jasper, IN 47546



Lucia Winterhalter,
Wine Queen of Baden



Dr. Kim Gunderson
Sommelier

Join us for the 2025 Wine & DINE Your Valentine Event by Sister Cities of Jasper!

This is the perfect opportunity to indulge in a delightful evening filled with exquisite Pfaffenweiler Weinhaus wines and delectable dishes from the Baden region of Germany at KlubHaus61.

Immerse yourself in a fun-filled atmosphere surrounded by fellow culinary and wine enthusiasts. Treat your taste buds to a culinary experience like no other "German" food you've ever had before!

Don't miss out on this unforgettable event hosted by Sister Cities of Jasper, featuring the Wine Queen of Baden, Lucia Winterhalter, local Sommelier, Dr. Kim Gunderson, and the 2024 Culinary Exchange Participants: Jamie Boaz, Hayley Ondiek, and Kim Mitchell.

Four Course Menu:

- Appetizers: Wurstsalat and Flädlesuppe
- Salad: Grüner Salat
- Buffet Dinner: Schäuferle, Hühnerschnitzel, Kartoffelsalat, Knöpfle Pfanne, Regional Baden Vegetables
- Regional Baden Desserts

Wine Tastings: Pfaffenweiler Weinhaus Wines

- 2 Tastings with Appetizers 3 Tastings with Dinner 2 Tastings with Desserts
- Additional Tastings and Wine by Glass Available for Purchase

Full Cash Bar Available!

TICKETS
AVAILABLE
ON
EVENTBRITE!



Membership Dues

It's that time of year again! If you have not yet paid your 2025 dues, please submit by completing and sending in the following form with payment as soon as possible. Thanks! If questions, contact Mike at 812-630-8756 or mike@ackoil.com

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

Name _____ Spouse _____

Phone _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Email _____

Address: _____ City, State, ZIP _____

Winter Address: _____ When: _____

Preferred Method of Contact for Strassenfest Booth Shift Scheduling _____

Annual Dues (calendar year) \$15.00 per person (\$30.00 per couple)

Jasper Deutscher Verein

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Mike Ackerman – Treasurer
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Coordinator

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