



DEUTSCHER VEREIN

# Die Zeitung

November 2010

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.



## 2010 German Heritage Award Winners

Gary and Rita Egler

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## German-American Day Celebrated

The Jasper Deutscher Verein, Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc., and the Jasper Partnership Commission sponsored a German-American Day Dinner and Program on Wednesday, October 6th, at the Schnitzelbank Restaurant in Jasper. Over 95 individuals celebrated the occasion.

Al Bennett, president of the Jasper Deutscher Verein, welcomed all present. He introduced Mayor William Schmitt who read the proclamation recognizing October 6<sup>th</sup> as German American Day in Jasper.

Matthias Hilger, president of the Jasper Partnership Commission, introduced the essay winners of the German Heritage in Dubois County essay contest which was held in conjunction with German-American Day.

The winner from Forest Park Junior Senior High School was Jill Rahman and her parents are Gary and Jean Rahman. The winner from Northeast Dubois High School was Wesley Knies. Wesley is the son of Jerry

and Holly Knies. Lauren Koehler was the winner from Southridge High School. Lauren is the daughter of Drew Koehler. The winner from Jasper High School was Kyle Bush son of Greg and Felicia Bush.

Each student presented their essay as part of the program of the evening.

Mr. Hilger noted that this is the eighth year that German American has sponsored the German Heritage Essay contest and thirty students have received scholarships totaling \$7,500.

Mr. Hilger also introduced Raymie Eckerle, Gene Eckerle, and Joan Knies, siblings who were part of the delegation from Jasper who traveled to Pfaffenweiler, Germany in June to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sister City Partnership between Jasper and Pfaffenweiler. Their Great Great Grandfather, John George Eckerle, came from Pfaffenweiler and settled in Jasper in 1847. They shared their experiences of the trip and of meeting and visiting with their relatives still living in Pfaffenweiler. Their presentation was very personal because of their connection to Pfaffenweiler. Each shared with the group an experience that was new to them being in Pfaffenweiler for the first time.

Matthias Hilger, president of The Jasper Partnership Commission, presented the 12th annual German Heritage Award. This award is presented to an individual or group who has contributed generously of their time, talents, or resources in maintaining, improving, or building upon the German roots in Dubois County.

Sister Cities of Jasper and the Jasper Partnership Commission created the award in 1999. The Jasper Deutscher Verein sponsored the award. This recognition is open to all people not just residents of the City of Jasper, who give what they can in order to make a difference. A nomination will recognize the work of those who generously support the German heritage. A committee, consisting of the presidents of the Jasper Deutscher Verein, Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc., and the Jasper Partnership Commission, judges the nominations and selects the winner.

Mr. Hilger encouraged all present to continue to nominate persons who deserve the award.

The 2010 German Heritage Award was presented to Gary and Rita Egler. The Eglers have been members of the Deutscher Verein since the beginning in 1980. Gary was the first Vice President and became President in 1982. Rita has been the Treasurer since 1987.

They have been faithful members. Always working together as a team and providing much back ground support.

At any Deutscher Verein function, Gary and Rita greet all with a friendly smile and comment.

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, Dan and Linda Wehr, Leo and Lora Lou Eckerle, the late Lowell and Joan Glendening, Dave and Janet Kluemper, Rafe and Phyllis Ackerman, and Vic and Monica Knies.

Mr. Hilger thanked Lois Kuntz, Patti Goepfrich, Jim Gutgsell, and Al Bennett for their coordination in the evening's activities.

On behalf of German American, Sharon Burger, Vice President Retail Banking, Rachel Levin, Financial Center Manager, and Steffi Schmuecker, Sales and Services Representative, then presented each essay winner with a \$250 scholarship and certificate.

Mr. Bennett thanked Lois Kuntz for attending the greeting table and congratulated everyone on a very nice program and presentations.

The remainder of the evening was spent socializing.

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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!!**

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## Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

### November

**At the Jasper VFW  
Auction for Student Exchange  
Thursday, November 18, 2010**

Dan Hoffman has graciously agreed to conduct our Annual Auction of donated items with 100% of the proceeds supporting the Jasper High School German Exchange program. Everyone is encouraged to bring an item or two for this auction. Please be generous! Items donated in previous years have included baked goods, crafts, furniture, homemade wine and liquors, German items, and Holiday items. Jeff and Lisa Mann will again donate a 1/2 of hog for the upcoming auction. The Mann's will pay for the processing of the hog. Be creative! The more variety and quantity of items we can have in the auction, the more funds will be raised to support the exchange program. Come prepared to have some fun.....and to bid!

Time: 6:00pm social gathering  
6:30pm appetizers and dessert buffet  
7:00pm club meeting

Members with last names beginning A – P are asked to bring an appetizer, Q – Z are asked to bring a dessert.

There will be a sign up sheet for the Christmas Dinner at this meeting.

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### Dezember

**At the Jasper VFW  
Thursday, December 16, 2010  
Christmas Party**

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### **Address Changes for Newsletters – Also for “Snowbirds” With Temporary Address Change**

If a member has an address change, even a temporary change, please notify Rita Egler at P. O. Box 15, Jasper, IN 47547-0015 or call her at 634-9068. Let her know the dates of the temporary change and she will work with you so that you don't miss any issues of our newsletter.

Any help you can give in maintaining postage costs is appreciated!!!!



## News from JHS German Student Exchange Program

Advent Calendars will be going on sale in November! You may call Erin White at 812-482-6050 to purchase or see her at the November meeting.

Look forward to our annual Chili Supper during Basketball Homecoming in February. In addition to great food, there will be a Theme Basket raffle at the dinner.

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### They Are Coming!!!!

For the 2011-12 school year, Tobias Fidler, Tim Ehrhardt, Hans Guenter, Vanessa De Leo, Marlena Loeffler and Maja Gutenkunst will be traveling to Jasper to attend Jasper High School. These young adults are from Pfaffenweiler or neighboring communities to Pfaffenweiler.

Would you like an opportunity to be a host family or a welcoming family? What a wonderful opportunity to expand your cultural knowledge of Germany and share with the student American culture. If you have any questions or would like additional information on any of these students please contact Matt Hilger at 661-0624, Carolyn Mowat at 634-7193, Sandy Wehr at 482-2055, or Patti Goepfrich at 482-4821.

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### Potential New Club Members

If someone knows of a potential new club member and would like information about the Deutscher Verein forwarded, please contact Rita Egler at 634-9068.

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### A Thought from your Vice President

OH WOW -- it's time for my mind to turn into "German Jelly". "German Jelly" is something that no matter how thin you spread it, it's still thick. Get It?

Well Folks, it's November, and our mutual friend "Father Time" is reminding us to pay attention to him. You see, Father Time waits for no one --- not you and not me. He comes and goes as he wishes and, we are either with him or left behind to wonder "what if".

The "What If" is the thing I want to talk about.

What if -- I never find a running mate to be my Vice President by January 1st?

What If -- Someone like you, never got the chance to be President of our wonderful Deutscher Verein?

What If -- You always dreamed of being a great leader and never got the chance?

What If -- No one ever got to know the real you? The "YOU" that is screaming to get outside and make a difference.

What If -- The greatness that lies within all of us, never gets to be shared or even known because, we felt intimidated or fearful of the task at hand?

Well Fellow Deutscher Verein members, think of this as an opportunity to be all you can be! Yes, I learned it in the Marines. It may very well be "YOUR" last chance to be thrust into the spotlight and shine.

Male or Female -- We need that someone to step forward and say "Yes Bernie' I'll join your team to make this great club even greater."

My email [birniej@yahoo.com](mailto:birniej@yahoo.com)  
My Phone 326-2414  
My Fax 326-9206

Birnie H. Jeffries  
President Elect 2011 and 2012

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### 2010 Deutscher Verein Scholarship Winner



**Olivia Gutsell**

Daughter of Jim and Louise Gutsell  
Pictured with Al Bennett



Dear Jasper Deutscher Verein,

Thank you so much for considering me for the German Club Scholarship!

It will really help out at Notre Dame. I appreciate it.

Sincerely,  
Olivia M. Gutschell

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### **News from the Dubois County Visitors Center**

Experience an Olde World Christmas in your own backyard this November and December. Enjoy Huntingburg Christmas Stroll (Nov 12-14), Ferdinand Christkindlmarkt (Nov 20-21) and Jasper O'Tannenbaum Days (Dec 3-5). Shop for Christmas gifts, spread Christmas cheer and support your local businesses and organizations! For more information and special packages, go to [www.duboiscountychristmas.com](http://www.duboiscountychristmas.com).

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### **Oktoberfest 2010**

Thank you very much to the Crusaders for Hope for their services at the Schnitzelbank for the Oktoberfest 2010.

Thank you for your generosity. It is truly appreciated.



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### **German Heritage Essay Contest Winners**

L to R – Sharon Burger-GA, Wesley Knies, Kyle Bush, Jill Rahman, Lauren Koehler, Steffi Schmuecker-GA, and Rachel Levin-GA

### **Lauren Koehler Daughter of Drew Koehler Southridge High School**

What can we, as the Younger Generation, do to Help Maintain and Preserve our German Heritage?

Many heritages are being lost throughout the world, languages are being lost as we forget to teach our children the ways of our ancestors. Early citizens of Jasper and Huntingburg only knew how to speak German when they arrived, today if you went into a classroom many people would not be able to understand a German speaking person. So what do we do about the loss of understanding the German heritage today?

We as a younger generation can get more involved in the German community and events that our combining towns have to offer. Every year Huntingburg hosts the Herbsfest, and Jasper hosts the Strassenfest and Octoberfest. These events offer German cuisine, German tradition, and a place to celebrate where you came from. Even though many people go to these events, so many do not understand why and how they tie to Germany. We need to get out there and teach the younger generations about what these events represent, so that they can better appreciate them. It's like going to the Wal-Mart for the first time and expecting to buy a car there. Where are the pamphlets and the information about all these German events?

We are a younger generation, can also attend and support the German clubs and activities that our schools have to offer. The German Club at Southridge is a big help for me when it comes to understanding the lifestyle of my heritage. In German Club, we do all kinds of fun things, like going to the Schnitzelbank where we eat traditional German meals, and we go to *The Nutcracker* Ballet, which is a German play. We can also take German as a foreign language, which teaches us how to read, write, and speak German. German classes offer vocabulary, grammar, and movies to help us learn the way Germans live and speak to one another.

In conclusion, we as a younger generation can get more involved in the German community, take German as a foreign language, and join the German Club. We can also go to our elders and ask them about our German heritage, to get an idea of the way they were brought up in a German community. Even a little researching surely won't hurt, and you can learn things that your elders and your German classes don't teach you. These are all great ways for us to be able to better understand our German heritage. Understanding our German heritage will help us spread the knowledge we acquired to our peers and our family.

**Wesley Knies**  
**Son of Jerry and Holly Knies**  
**Northeast Dubois High School**

Producing The Crop

I would be nowhere close to where I am today without my German heritage. My experiences with my German father and grandfather have molded me and shaped me into who I am today. They have taught me to work extremely hard, appreciate all that we have, and utilize what we have been given.

For as long as I can remember, my father has been fully motivated when it comes to work on the farm. Every day he takes the life he has been given to work hard for his family. Now, his work ethic has rubbed off on me. It feels great when my dad and I can go out and tackle a job with full force. After years of hard work, we now plant over 1,000 acres of land and operate 9 turkey houses.

My grandfather has also taught me essential things that he has learned from his German heritage. One day we were driving from one farm to another, and he said to me, "You know, there's nothing like having some of God's sold as your own." I will never forget these words from my grandpa because it has taught me to appreciate everything I am blessed with. There truly is nothing like owning our own land and having the freedom to do with it as we please. My grandfather must really appreciate wheat he has been blessed with because he is still working to this day at the age of 78.

My grandfather also likes to have a little fun. Some evening after work, my grandpa, grandma, and I will meet at their house to play some cards. First, we eat a delicious supper made by my grandma. We will have anything from fried chicken and mashed potatoes to steak and German fries. Then, we will play cinch, rum, or some other card game my grandparents have taught me. While we play, my grandpa will sometimes talk about his younger days, and he will teach me German words. It is always a grand time.

My father and grandfather have also taught me to utilize what we have been given. Now that we have been blessed with this land and freedom, we need to produce a crop from it. Every year, we grow thousands of bushels of corn and beans and produce thousands of turkeys.

Over the years, my German elders have taught me a prodigious amount of values that I hope to pass on to my children. They have taught me to work hard in everything I do, appreciate all that we have been blessed with, and utilize what we have been given by producing a crop.

**Kyle Bush**  
**Son of Greg and Felicia Bush**  
**Jasper High School**

Our German heritage is definitely something worth preserving, but it is not going to maintain and preserve itself. This is what we, the members of the younger generation, have to do; otherwise it will gradually deteriorate. There is great importance in the preservation of our heritage and there are many easy ways to do it.

The first and easiest way to preserve our heritage is to simply learn about it. Knowledge of a subject gives a person a deeper appreciation for it and will encourage him to share it with others, spreading it to many people and walks of life. A person that has knowledge of his heritage helps him understand about where his family came from and how his daily, modern life is affected by the factors of his family's history. Also learning about it would spark a person's interest in experiencing family traditions and visiting the place where his family came from, and at those places learn about his family's cultural background as well.

Another way to preserve our German heritage would be to practice the traditions our families have kept going for many generations. These traditions would be anything a person's family has been doing ever since before members of the family left Germany. These traditions could be anything that is done on a day to day basis or is only done once a year, something that is done for a holiday is a good example of this. A personal example of this would be that my family celebrates the German holiday, St. Nicholas Day, every year. No matter what the tradition may be, it is important that it is kept alive so that future generations can enjoy the tradition and the heritage as well.

The last way to preserve our German heritage that will be mentioned is to experience the culture of a person's heritage. This can be achieved in many ways; whether it is visiting the place of said heritage, adopting ways of life similar to people that share one's heritage, or just visiting cultural events that are nearby. For example, I visited a couple areas in Germany, Pfaffenweiler being one of them, two summers ago and I was able to experience something similar to what my parents experienced when they lived in Germany a couple decades ago. It doesn't really matter how one would go about experiencing the culture of their heritage, but anyway it is done, actually getting out and experiencing culture is one of the best ways to gain appreciation for it and to preserve it which should be the main goal of doing so.

Our German heritage is not going to preserve itself, so it is our job, as the younger generation, to make sure that there is always a strong appreciation for it. It will not be

easy to preserve our heritage but with the methods mentioned above it is very possible to do so. With everyone's effort our German heritage will surely live on for future generations to enjoy.

**Jill Rahman**  
**Daughter of Gary and Jean Rahman**  
**Forest Park Jr. Sr. High School**

Was ist Deutschland?

A rich German heritage planted itself in the soil of Dubois County as the first German settlers arrived here in the 1830s. The German heritage brought many customs and traditions to this new land. Germans have earned recognition for their work ethic, stubborn attitude, and stoic emotions. Preserving these customs, traditions, and characteristics should become a priority for our generation. As a child, knowledge of my German heritage grew slowly.

At Ferdinand Elementary, students used to celebrate Windows of the World Week, also known as WOW Week, in the spring of every year. The week was intended for students to learn more about various cultures of the world; fifth grade students studied Germany. My appreciation for my heritage grew immensely. Sadly, the students in this area no longer receive the full week of cultural education. Windows of the World would provide the perfect opportunity for the students to learn more about their heritage; however, the schools have numerous ways to provide cultural education opportunities within their classrooms.

In various urban schools, students enroll in cultural classes to earn elective credits. Learning a foreign language provides a limited amount of cultural education. Because a course in foreign language focuses mainly on the spoken words, the history, customs, and traditions rarely see the spotlight. By introducing cultural awareness courses, students could earn an elective credit while learning more about their heritage, and the public could trust that the students have learned to appreciate all their ancestors have done. The burden of cultural education should not fall completely on the shoulders of educators.

Service clubs throughout area high schools also have the means to accomplish this goal. To complete service time, students could volunteer time to spend at an elementary school teaching students about their rich heritage. As a National Honor Society member, I believe teaching young children expands their knowledge base while providing the volunteer with an enriching experience. Because spare time during the school day is scarce, clubs may also consider hosting a booth at a

few of the county's German festivals. The child-friendly activities would be a welcomed addition to the annual festivals. Though the school and community influence children greatly, today's children receive the most cultural influence in their homes.

Some parents have already taken responsibility for teaching their children about the family's ancestry. Children will more likely trust the beliefs and opinions of their parents and older siblings before trusting the opinions of a volunteer whom they do not know. However, parents cannot teach the children everything they should know. The additional help of volunteers would benefit the younger generation.

I greatly value my German ancestry, and I believe educating today's children about the traditions, customs, and beliefs of the German people is a goal we can accomplish in time. Children constantly yearn for more knowledge. The past affects the future; children hold the future in the palm of their hands, and we must make certain their heritage affects their future decisions.

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**Ein Prosit, Ein Prosit, der Gemut-lich-keit, Ein Prosit**  
**Ein Prosit, der Gemut-lich-keit, Eins**  
**Zwei, Drei...G'suffa**

**A toast, A toast, To happy times, A**  
**toast, A toast, To happy times, One,**  
**two three... drink up**

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**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.

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Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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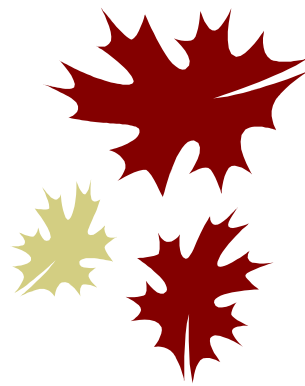
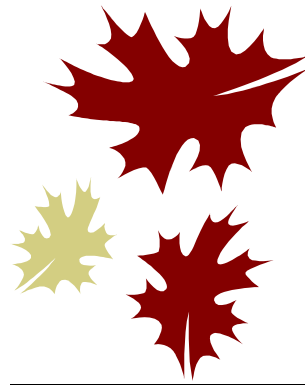
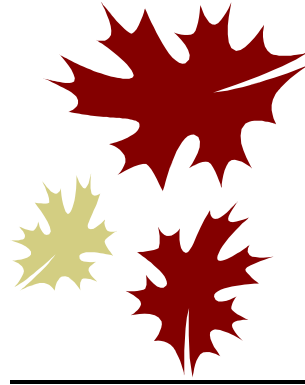
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## Deutscher Verein

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