



Jasper German Club
Deutscher Verein

Die Zeitung

December 2020

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.

A message from our president

WE NEED YOUR HELP! / WIR BRAUCHEN IHRE HILFE!

Greetings from your President, and a wish for a HAPPY, SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON.

The election period has arrived for the 2021-2022 German Club Officers.

Barb Schmitt has been our faithful Secretary these past years, but has decided to step down, but still help with many club activities. We appreciate her long years of dedicated service.

We need your help in filling our officers positions for our German club! A listing of the duties of our officers can be found at

<https://www.jaspergermanclub.org/bylaws.pdf>.

If you are interested in running for spot on our Officer's roster, or know someone you think would be good in one of these positions, this is a great way to show support of our club and become more involved with a great group of people interested in keeping our German Heritage alive. Names can be emailed to me, van.ziegler@twc.com or by calling me at 812-631-2714. The DEADLINE for submitting names is SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020.

At the beginning of January, you will receive communication on how to vote for all nominees. Voting will end on SUNDAY, JANUARY 10TH.

We will publish the results to you along with press releases and other communication. We will officially congratulate the new officers in person at the first meeting of the German Club in 2021.

Have a safe and Merry Christmas season. Or more appropriately,

Fröhliche Weihnachten

Van Ziegler, President, Jasper Deutscher Verein

A message from our officers and board of directors

In recognition that Covid-19 has affected members in a variety of ways, and the fact that Deutscher Verein was unable to host many member meetings in 2020, the German Club will be applying dues paid for 2020 to 2021.

However, the club would be appreciative receiving your dues payment to help our financial situation. Our club missed the profit opportunity of Strassenfest 2020, and we incur necessary club costs with our scholarships, printing and mailings of our newsletter, maintenance of our tech avenues to keep communication current with you, and projects that need to be completed by next year.

2020 German Heritage Essay Contest

Jasper Deutscher Verein, Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc., and the Jasper Partnership Commission celebrated their German Heritage in October with the observance of German American Day on October 6th.

The tercentennial of the arrival of the first German immigrant group to the United States and the establishment of Germantown, PA, were celebrated on October 6, 1983, and Public Law 100-104 designated October 6th, as "German-American Day" and a proclamation was issued by President Reagan on October 2nd, 1987, and every October 6th is proclaimed to be German-American Day in honor of the contributions made by German immigrants to the life and culture of the United States.

As part of this observance, and with German American as the financial sponsor, an essay contest was held for the seniors at the Dubois County giving them an opportunity to honor their German heritage.

Winners of the essay contests were Pierce Brinkman of Northeast Dubois High School. Pierce is the son of Ryan and Gretchen Brinkman. The winner from Forest Park Jr. Sr. High School was Kendra Hoffman daughter of Greg and Bonnie Hoffman. Jasper High School's

winner was Lauren Verkamp, daughter of Max and Jen Verkamp.

Each student has been awarded a \$250 scholarship from German American.

Die Jugend

If we, at Jasper High School, had been 100% online in September, like Grades 8-12 have been for the last few weeks, the Staufen exchange students would not have been allowed to come to Jasper High School. Whatever happens to in-person education at the High School now, they will be allowed to stay until May because they arrived at a time when classes were in-person. They are both still extremely happy to be in Jasper (also during online classes) and they continue to be active in band and athletics (that have continued to practice even during online learning).

If you have access to something typical, or exceptional, to show these kids during their time here in Jasper, please pass along your ideas and invitations to rhalvorsen@gjcs.k12.in.us.

The German Exchange Advent Calendar fundraiser has come to a successful end for 2020 and we are still working towards hosting the students from Staufen/Pfaffenweiler in October 2021 and taking our trip to Germany in May/June 2022. We hope that very little of the Exchange will have to be virtual at that point.

In the chat window of an online Zoom class, an 8th Grader recently asked: "What does Schnitzelbank actually mean?" I answered her question and thought about all the other ways to translate/describe what a Schnitzelbank is. For the next Zeitung, please send your favorite translation/description of what a Schnitzelbank is to me at rhalvorsen@gjcs.k12.in.us. I'm sure there are some pretty creative ones.

Ross Halvorsen
JHS/JMS German Teacher



Note: There will not be a newsletter in January, 2021. Sorry for any inconvenience. Patti

HELP! We need help with the landscape maintenance at the DeutscherVerein Maypole and Mural area at 6th and Newton Streets. The area consists of the Maypole crafted by Jim Corn, Mural, Green space and landscaping.

Many of us may take this attraction for granted, but visitors and passersby people certainly do not. It provides a first and lasting impression of Jasper.

When Jim constructed, he maintained the green space himself for many years. After landscaping we volunteered to help Jim and Rita and that was approximately 20 years ago.

We do have someone to mow, but everything else needs to be done which consists of; maintaining the irrigation system, mulching, trimming roses and bushes, caring for the perennials, selecting and planting annuals, edging, pulling weeds and in general, keeping the area clean.

The building owner is very proud and supportive of our efforts and told me that was one of the reasons he purchased the property since it defined Jasper with it's beauty and German Heritage.

This project would best be handled by a couple or small group. Linda and I will be glad to work with anyone to get started. Just give me a call. 812-630-3070

Us old people need some HELP. It's time for some new young blood. Help keep Jasper Beautiful and keep our proud German Tradition active and well!

Dan Wehr

Area at 6th and Newton Streets



News from Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc.

After winning the 2020 Sister Cities International Innovation in Arts and Culture (Population under 25,000) Award for the transatlantic collaborative design of the new partnership logo, Sister Cities of Jasper announces that the new Jasper/Pfaffenweiler memorabilia (a must on every gift guide) are now available at the following locations:

Chocolate Bliss
Downtown Fitness and Running
Dubois County Museum Gift Shop
Finishing Touches
Impulse of Jasper
Jasper City Mill
Jasper Chamber of Commerce
Schnitzelbank Restaurant
Dubois County Tourism (on display only)
Jasper City Hall (on display only)

All proceeds go towards advancing our partnership with Pfaffenweiler including the student exchanges with the neighboring Faust High School in Staufen, Germany. For questions, please contact sistercitiesofjasperin@gmail.com

All checks should be made payable to Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc.

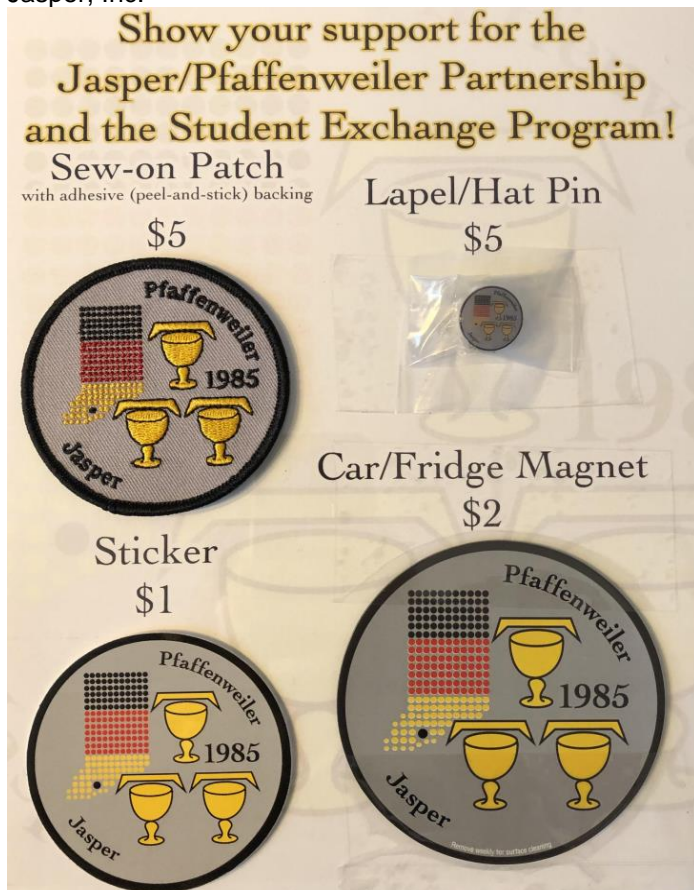
Show your support for the Jasper/Pfaffenweiler Partnership and the Student Exchange Program!

Sew-on Patch
with adhesive (peel-and-stick) backing
\$5

Lapel/Hat Pin
\$5

Car/Fridge Magnet
\$2

Sticker
\$1



In this time of need for many people, now would be a great time to donate to a local charitable organization. Your generosity will be appreciated!!!!

An Invitation to Learn to Play SKAT

Earlier this summer, I received a phone call from Herb Schmidt of the Louisville German American Club and I asked him to send me the invitation that he was extending to members of the DeutscherVerein.

Here it is.....

My name is Herb Schmidt. I'm on the board of directors at the Louisville German American Club.

We would like to see if anyone in your club plays Skat. (The national card game of Germany) We have several members that play and we are planning a card day once it is safe to get together.

My contact information is.....

Cell phone502 239-2239

Email herbschmidt1956@yahoo.com

I don't answer calls on my cell phone unless I recognize the number. If any of your members call me please ask them to leave a voice message and I will return their call.

Thanks again,
Prost-
Herb

PS – Per Herb in an email, the group will probably meet once a month once it is safe to get together.

Update on the 35th Anniversary Partnership Trip to Pfaffenweiler

The Partnership Trip celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Jasper and Pfaffenweiler Sister City relationship, originally scheduled for June 2020 and postponed to June 2021, has now been postponed again due to COVID until June 2022.

To follow Jasper Partnership information, please see link below.

<https://www.jasperindiana.gov/department/board.php?structureid=41>



If you wish to pay your 2021 Membership Dues, they are \$10 a person and can be mailed to DeutscherVerein, P. O. Box 15, Jasper, IN 47547-0015.

“Ein Prosit”

Ein Prosit Ein Prosit
der Gemutlichkeit
Ein Prosit Ein Prosit
der Gemutlichkeit
Eins, Zwei, Drei, G'suffa!
Zicke, zacke, zicke, zacke
Hoy, Hoy, Hoy,
Kindermachen, Kindermachen
Ya Ya Ya
Motorcycle, Motorcycle
Vroom, Vroom, Vroom
Der Deutscher Verein is Voonderbar!!



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 Patti Goepfrich at 812-482-4821 or pmgoepfrich@gmail.com with your new address so we can forward your newsletter to you. This keeps us from having to pay double postage and assures you to receive all newsletters while you are away from home. Having your mail forwarded while you are gone will not work, simply because of the “Return Service Requested” stamped on our newsletter. This is stamped to let us know when someone has moved. The Post Office informs us of new addresses if you have permanently moved.

German Heritage
By: Kendra Hoffman

Daughter of Greg and Bonnie Hoffman
Forest Park Jr. Sr. High School

My family roots are straight German. Both sides of my family have German ancestors. My parents like to tell me stories about my grandparents. They used to talk in German when they did not want the kids to understand what they were talking about. I think that is so cool! My parents know a few German words but not many, which I think is sad. I wish I knew more about how to preserve and promote my German family roots!

Living in Dubois County has made me realize that there are more people with German ancestors than I ever

knew. Living here has made me so proud of my German Heritage. You can tell when you are interacting with the older members of our community that they have German roots. They are strong-headed and very opinionated, just like my grandmother was. I can tell that I also have the same traits; this makes me happy because I will be able to pass that on to my children.

I believe that good, strong German families should pass down the German language through every generation. I would love to speak German! My friends also think it would be so cool to be fluent in another language, especially one that holds so much meaning for my ancestry! The few words that my dad knows he will say at random times. However, I have never really soaked in that knowledge to the best of my ability. However, if our ancestors passed on the language to our parents and our parents to us, this could make a major difference in preserving the language from our family roots.

We also could have a get-to-know your history fest. This could have people from Germany that have moved to American tell their stories. Also, we could have interactive stations where you learn what it would be like if you were still living in Germany. German families could prepare authentic food from their family recipes. It could be a lot like the Strassenfest but more hands-on and history activities involved.

As you can see, Dubois County does do certain things to preserve our amazing heritage. However, there is plenty more than can be done to make German Heritage more known. We need to do our part to protect the roots of our ancestors before children do not know their history at all.

**What is my role in preserving and promoting
our German heritage in Dubois County**
By: Lauren Verkamp

Daughter of Max and Jen Verkamp
Jasper High School

As long as I can remember, Germany has been on the forefront of my mind. When my dad was in high school, he went on a summer exchange program to Germany, and discovered he was distantly related to his host family. Since then, he has kept in close contact with the family, and shared his love for the German people and culture with our family. Because of my close connection, I was ecstatic to begin learning German in 8th grade. As soon as we began learning, I fell in love. Because I had visited Germany once before, and had so much exposure to the language, learning it came easily to me. When I was given the opportunity to go on the same exchange my father went on, I knew I could not resist.

My German exchange taught me an abundance of lessons. I learned independence, confidence, and appreciation for our differences. A month away from home forced me to step out of my comfort zone, and learn to do things for myself. In addition, I embraced my mistakes. Although I sometimes would mess up my words, I would learn from them, and it ultimately was a great experience. In order to remember my great memories forever, and share them with others, my friend and I put together a video of some of our favorite aspects of the trip. We hope this video will be used in the future to promote the exchange to younger high schoolers.

Since I returned, I have wanted to do everything I could do to promote the importance of my German heritage in the community. My first step in doing this was within my own school. Last year, I was the president of the high school German Club. I recruited many new members, including those not even enrolled in German classes. I organized creating German themed t-shirts, as well as going to Rosenvolk, a medieval themed festival, and visiting the Evansville art museum. The year before, I organized and created a German themed day at the local museum for young children to learn about German traditions. It was entitled Kinder Karneval, and reflected the German holiday called Fasching. This is similar to Mardi Gras. This process was extremely rewarding for me because I was able to learn more about other cultures, and share it with others.

My German heritage has always been a big part of my life, and I want to share that with as many people as possible. I think it is so important for everyone to learn new languages, whatever it may be, and experience different cultures. Being educated on other ways of life and immersing yourself in these seemingly strange traditions is something I believe everyone should experience. This is why I have done so many things through the years to promote German, and I hope to continue sharing my love of the beautiful culture.

German Heritage
By: Pierce Brinkman

Son of Ryan and Gretchen Brinkman
Northeast Dubois High School

The German Heritage holds a special place in my heart. Both my Grandpa Brinkman and Great-Grandma Bonifer were descendents of Germany. They passed when I was young, and I often wish I would have learned more about their German backgrounds. My father tells me stories that were passed down from my grandpa about what his life was like as a young boy growing up in a strong German family. To me, the German Heritage is a

combination of many aspects. My grandpa taught my father and my father has taught me the importance of being a hard worker and getting the job done. I believe that the strong work ethic is one of the most prominent qualities of the German background. Aside from the strong work ethic of Germans, there is also the quality of being very disciplined. Germans always look for ways to solve problems using what they have. They are known to be great thinkers. Many of our world's inventions come from those with a German heritage. Many Germans are followers of traditions. From eating certain foods like brats and weiner schnitzel, to gathering for community events and celebrations. The qualities that Germans have with their work ethic, discipline, and traditions are qualities that I strive to uphold. I believe I can preserve the German heritage by continuing to participate in local traditions, whether it be attending Strassenfest or a weekly church service. I feel that I exhibit the strong work ethic and discipline in all that I do. I am a distance runner who is disciplined to work harder and harder each day to get better. I believe if residents of Dubois County instill in themselves the qualities of the German heritage, Dubois County will continue to thrive.

Crescent Calzones

Ingredients

½ lb bulk Italian pork sausage or ground beef
1 clove garlic, finely chopped
½ cup chopped green bell pepper
1 can (8 oz) Pillsbury™ refrigerated crescent dinner rolls
¼ cup pizza sauce
½ cup shredded mozzarella cheese (2 oz)
1 egg, beaten

Steps

1. Heat oven to 375°F. Grease or spray cookie sheet. In 10-inch skillet, cook sausage and garlic over medium heat until no longer pink; drain. Stir in bell pepper.
2. On cookie sheet, unroll dough and separate into 4 rectangles; press each into 7x4-inch rectangle, firmly pressing perforations to seal. Spread 1 tablespoon sauce on half of each rectangle to within 1 inch of edge. Sprinkle 2 tablespoons cheese over sauce; top with one-fourth of sausage mixture. Fold dough over filling; firmly press edges with fork to seal. Brush top of each with egg. With fork, prick top of each to allow steam to escape.
3. Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until deep golden brown. Immediately remove from cookie sheet. Serve warm.

(taken from: <https://www.pillsbury.com/recipes/crescent-calzones/>)

**Endowments at the
Dubois County Community Foundation**

**Jasper Deutscher Verein (German Club)
German Heritage Endowment**

A donor-advised endowment to benefit generations in ensuring that our German heritage is preserved and enriched in Jasper and Dubois County.

**Claude and Martina Eckert
Sister Cities Endowment**

A designated endowment to provide support to Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc. to support the Jasper/Pfaffenweiler relationship.

A gift to the Jasper Deutscher Verein (German Club) German Heritage Endowment or to the Claude and Martina Eckert Sister Cities Endowment is a wonderful way to remember that special someone. A gift in honor of someone or in memory of someone may be given. The Dubois County Community Foundation will send a letter of acknowledgment to the individual being honored or to the family of someone being remembered. Send your gift along with the appropriate information to the Dubois County Community Foundation, P. O. Box 269, Jasper, IN 47547-0269. Envelopes are also available at the greeting table at each club meeting.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

to the _____
(Please specify appropriate Endowment)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

I want my gift to be in memory of / in honor of:



Memories from the past!!!!

Taken from **The Herald** – Friday, October 7, 1988
Editor's Note: The following are excerpts from German newspapers which chronicled a Jasper group's visit to Pfaffenweiler. They were translated by Matt Hilger.

The first group of Jasper residents to officially visit the community's sister city of Pfaffenweiler arrived in the Snail Valley on Wednesday, Aug 31.

The visitors were picked up in Stuttgart by Bürgermeister Fritz Gutsell and Archivist Edmund Weeger (Eddi). At the town entrance a big sign put up across the street with the inscription, "Welcome to Pfaffenweiler," and flanked by two flags.

Before their arrival, the people of Pfaffenweiler were busy, especially in the upper town, where the "Schneckenfest" (Snail Festival) takes place, and at the winery. The last preparations for the welcoming of the guests were going on and also for the festival. Despite the preparation work, musicians of the Batzenberger Winzerkapelle showed up to welcome the guests with lively march music. The choir of the grade school...sang English and German songs, and a young couple in traditional costumes recited a poem in "alemannisch" dialect (this is the dialect the older people in Jasper still talk). The poem told about the emigration and today's contact with the descendants of the emigrants.

In a short address Bürgermeister Gutsell pointed to the meaning of this first official partnership visit from Jasper. A special salute was given to Jasper councilman Vic Knies, and the chairman of the Sister-City Club, Claude Eckert and his wife, Martina. Women and men in traditional costumes served wine and bread to the guests as a welcome.

Before the group from Jasper started their trip from the airport of Stuttgart to Pfaffenweiler, they had a welcome in the State Assembly Building from the Parliament State Secretary Gundolf Fleischer. After a tour through the capitol building of Baden-Wuerttemberg, they sat together for lunch in the restaurant of the State Assembly. It was a special pleasure for the visitors to welcome a young man from Stuttgart, who stayed in the Jasper area for half a year interning. He stayed till March of this year. Wolfgang Joas had his fiancé along, Jan Gerber, from Ferdinand. The young Swabian guided his friends from Jasper after the welcome and lunch through the downtown of Stuttgart.

The next day, after arriving in Pfaffenweiler, the group took a little bus tour through the wine country of Baden, and saw one of the biggest wineries of South Germany. In the evening, the second delegation from Jasper arrived at their Sister City. The German Club group traveled a whole week through other parts of Europe to

see more of this little continent. After stops in Paris and Lake Geneva, they bypassed Italy, came through Innsbruck, Austria, and visited Switzerland on their way to Pfaffenweiler.

An unofficial prelude of the Schneckenfest took place on the same evening, in the festival cellar of the Winzerkapelle. It was a special invitation of the Batzenberger Winzerkapelle for their friends from the U. S. In this way they wanted to say thank you for the great hospitality, the people of Jasper gave them last year. At the same time, the musicians also wanted to give their guests an impression how the little village celebrates its festivals in these old barns.

The welcome speech was given by the chairman of the club, and was translated into English by Karin Woerner. Bürgermeister Gutgsell took this opportunity to point out the partnership, and thanked everybody who made a special effort to maintain the friendship between the two communities.

Rudolph Eckerle, a grape farmer from Pfaffenweiler, told quite funny stories how the grape farmers in the former days earned their daily bread. Hubert Treyer, the Pfaffenweiler town poet, read a few poems about the life in the little wine community of 2,500. The regional governor, Dr. Emil Schill mentioned afterwards in a short address, "Whoever was at the Schneckenfest always returns. I can insure you, you are absolutely top!" In English, he welcomed the guests from Jasper and presented them a picture book about the rural district.

Following the program the guests of the American Sister City entertained with a few songs from their home country and presented little gifts to different German friends. Regardless of the unusually cool weather, all the cellars in the festival area were busy Schneckenfest evening.

Saturday afternoon the Pfaffenweiler people performed a pageant about the emigration to the U.S., depicting why they had to leave, what it cost, what they had to expect and how hard it was to leave forever. Edmund Weeger translated the whole pageant, but a lot of the Jasper guests were able to understand quite a bit of the German language themselves. In the late afternoon the Jasper visitors presented the official gifts to the community of Pfaffenweiler. Dave Buehler and Claude Eckert presented office furniture for the Mayor's office and a podium for the civic auditorium, an unexpected gift for the Pfaffenweiler community.

At 9 a.m. Sunday, the Pfaffenweiler parish held a special church service with the choir for all their Jasper friends. In the afternoon, the brass band from a neighboring town entertained in the festival area and a little group of the Jasper guests performed square dancing. Besides, this,

the Pfaffenweiler people performed again the emigration pageant. The fest lasted late into Sunday night. Unfortunately, on Monday morning, about half of the U.S. citizens had to leave again to fly home.

The rest, left early in the morning to go to Freiburg. A few of them were welcomed in the city hall by Regierungspraesident Dr. Nothelfer. Victor Knies presented him an Indiana flag and a plate of the Jasper courthouse. In the meantime, part of the group visited the Carl-Schurz-Haus, the American house in the downtown of Freiburg. Afterwards they went shopping and sightseeing through this historical city.

On Tuesday they got a little more acquainted with the area around Pfaffenweiler. A bus took them all into the Black Forest. Through Staufen and the Muenstertal, they came to Todtnau, where they had the chance to watch a glass blower.

From there they went to St. Blasien, had lunch, toured the old dome cathedral, had a reception with the mayor of this city, and drove on through the Black Forest, along the Titisee, down the Hoellental, past the Hirschsprung (deer jump) and Freiburg and ended in Pfaffenweiler again.

In the evening everybody met in the civic auditorium for a traditional community evening. The Accordion Club played, the brass band and the men's choir entertained together with the festival night watchman. The traditional dancing group showed their dances and the square dance group from Jasper got the chance to dance and all celebrated their growing friendship.

Wednesday was a free day for everybody, the last day together to do what everybody liked to do.

But every visit has an end. On Thursday morning the group left Pfaffenweiler and only a few stayed a little bit longer to spend more time in the area and to see more of Europe. Knies thanked everybody for their effort and hospitality and invited everybody of Pfaffenweiler to come to Jasper.

Captions of the pictures in the article

Residents of Jasper recently traveled to Pfaffenweiler for an official sister city visit. Below, the Americans showed the Germans how square dancing is done. The group also gave the town a wooden snail, right. Pfaffenweiler annually hosts the 'Snail Festival.'

Among the other presentations made to Pfaffenweiler by the Jasper group were furniture for Mayor Fritz Gutgsell's office, presented by Dave Buehler, above, and a city flag, presented by councilman Vic Knies, below.

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

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