



Jasper German Club
Deutscher Verein

Die Zeitung

September 2021

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.

Special Guests at the 43rd Annual Jasper Strassenfest

Jasper was honored to have special guests for the Strassenfest on Saturday, August 7. Attending were Consul General Wolfgang Moessinger, his wife, Mairead Winters-Moessinger, Honorary Consul Sven Schumacher and his wife and son, Shannon and Conrad.

The day began with a luncheon at the Schnitzelbank Restaurant. Attending were the special guests and Mayor Dean Vonderheide, Max Verkamp-President of the Jasper Partnership Commission, Mary Leah Siegel-President of Jasper Sister Cities, Inc., Paul Siegel-President of the Jasper Deutscher Verein, Bob Bleemel-Chairman of the Jasper Strassenfest, Maureen Braun, wife of US Senator Mike Braun, Matthias Hilger, and Patti Goepfrich.

Later the special guests toured the Sisters of St. Benedict Monastery at Ferdinand and St. Joseph Catholic Church at Jasper.

Consul General Moessinger addressed the crowd at the Jasper Strassenfest and then all participated in the festivities at the Strassenfest.

Consul General Moessinger has led the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Chicago since July, 2019 and oversees German interests in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

Honorary Consul Schumacher is based in Indianapolis.



L to R – front row – Conrad and Shannon Schumacher, Mairead Winters-Moessinger, Maureen Braun, and Patti Goepfrich

L to R – back row – Bob Bleemel, Matthias Hilger, Honorary Consul Sven Schumacher, Mary Leah Siegel, Paul Siegel, Consul General Wolfgang Moessinger, Mayor Dean Vonderheide, and Max Verkamp



Consul General Wolfgang Moessinger and his wife, Mairead Winters-Moessinger



German Consulate General in Chicago

@GermanyinMidwest · Consulate & Embassy



Consul General Wolfgang Moessinger and Mayor Dean Vonderheide

A message from our vice president

A big THANK YOU to everyone for booth set-up, tear-down, and for our club members coming out in their German attire Thursday evening to help with the parade to the Bier Garten. The energy was awesome and you could feel the love of our German Heritage come to life. We had people of all ages join us.

Landen Weidenbenner
Vice President

Winners of Strassenfest Events
Sponsored by the Deutscher Verein

Log Sawing Contest

Women's Division:

First: D & D – Julie Dieus and Kristi Durcholz

Second: Wood Peckers – Amelia Kiefer and Grace Kizior

Men's Division:

First: The Splitters – Kaleb Werner and Mitchell Werner

Second: Angry Beavers – Nathen Block and Mark Hoffman

Sheephead Tourney

There were 36 players for the Sheephead Tourney.

Kenny Schnell, \$40 donated by DeutscherVerein, Lester Sickbert, \$25 gift card donated by Ackerman Oil, John Werner, \$25 gift card donated by Ackerman Oil, Jim Hildenbrand, \$15 gift card donated by Green Thumb Nursery, Roger Verkamp, \$10 gift certificate donated by Headquarters, Jim Hochgesang, \$10 gift certificate donated by Headquarters, Jerry Wilz, \$10 gift certificate donated by Headquarters, Leroy Bleemel, \$5 donated by DeutscherVerein, and Ralph Werner, \$5 donated by DeutscherVerein.

A message from our treasurer

Booth Co-Chairs Mike & Bridgette Bartley and Mike & Ann Ackerman extend our sincere thanks to all who worked the Strassenfest Booth. It takes the efforts of all able bodied club members for us to generate successful results. We had great fellowship and lots of fun serving Strassenfest guests our great German food offerings.

A special thanks to our 2021 day chairs: Kevin Bartley, Kevin Mullen, and Mike Jahn for your extra efforts to keep our booths running well.

Historically, in addition to our support through the November Auction meeting, our club provided a donation to students to assist with their requirement to earn funds to make the trip to Germany. Beginning a few years ago, we began encouraging these students to assist us in the staffing of our booths at Strassenfest. Thanks to our Jasper student workers and the 2 girls from Carmel who are working toward a Congressional Service Award by working festivals throughout the state for their efforts. These young workers were able to fill 24 of our shifts. Some stands on the square had to shut down early due to lack of volunteer workers. Other than closing the pastry booth at approx. 10 PM each evening and selling pastries from the brat booth, our club's use of students to supplement our ranks, allowed us to keep the booths operating full schedule. Thank you to our student workers: Abby Aders, Logan Albrecht, Hayden Armstrong, Jacksone Beier, Layn Burger, Levin Cozza, Kylene Danzer, Madison Haaf, Eva Hulse, Noah Lamont, Cassie Merrimon, Jillian Troutman, Ryan Verkamp, Autumn Voegerl, Morgan Vonderheide, Anastasia Ebersole – Carmel, AnnaMaria Ebersole - Carmel

Each year, we had to spend money to patch our old pastry case to keep it going. In 2020, we were able to acquire a newer pastry case. Thank you to Jim Corn for building and painting the filler panel for the Pastry Booth to fit to our new cold case profile.

Booth setup: Thanks to the good sized group who came out on Tuesday to help with the booth setup and decorating and to the smaller contingency on Sunday afternoon for tear down.

As many are aware, lead times for buying almost everything is now longer and supply of all product including foods are very tight. Our orders had to be in early with no reorders possible on most of the items that we sell at our booth. Our goal was to maintain historical order volumes on virtually all items while increasing order volumes on our core items, we were fortunate enough to basically sell out of all foods. With Bridgette's efforts to order the right amount of product, we avoided the need for bulk food discounted sales of unused product that would have negatively impacted margins. Thanks Bridgette for the planning and coordination that goes into this.

An interesting fact is the continued shift on percentage of sales by night. Historically, the sales were about 20% on Thursday, 30% on Friday, and 50% on Saturday. 2021 sales were 25.75% Thursday, 4.75% Friday Lunch, 27% Friday evening, and 42.5% Saturday. I believe that this shift of sales was largely influenced by efforts to increase the number of German Heritage events on Thursday evening bringing out larger crowds. Thank you Laura and Paul Grammer for leading the efforts to keep Strassenfest rooted in its German Heritage

2018 and 2019 were both strong sales years, and 2021 was even better. Total sales were \$46,872

Log Sawing contest is one of the oldest continually operated events at the Strassenfest, and is part of our German Heritage efforts. Shout out to Dan Wehr and the crew for working the Log Sawing Event. On Monday evening 08-02, a crew of Dan Wehr, Noah Whalen, Paul Siegel, and Fred Roeder prepped the saws and pre-notched the logs for the contest. A shout out to Werner Sawmill and Fred Roeder for assisting with lumber, saw buck, saws, and manpower.

After 40 years, Dan who has been organizing and serving as MC for this event will be turning over the reins. Transition plans for keeping this event going are to have our club President (Host/Hostess) to head this event. Birnie Jeffries has also volunteered to serve as MC for us to have a core group to get started. As time goes on, past presidents who have been involved will be able to be on stage to help and keep this event going for years to come.

Linda Schroering, the person who ran the Sheephead tourney passed in 2021. Mike and Phyllis Ackerman ran the tourney in 2021. There is a need for someone to take over the Sheephead tourney for Saturday at Noon for future years. Please contact Mike Ackerman to volunteer for this service.

Thanks again to all who helped. For our club to remain financially viable, it is important that members are available the week of Strassenfest to help. Strassenfest 2022 will begin with stand setup on Tuesday August 2 through Sunday August 7 for stand tear down. Please mark your calendars to keep this week open in your schedules to help your club.

Mike Ackerman
Treasurer

NOTE: There will NOT be a newsletter in October, 2021. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Patti

Jasper DeutscherVerein Family Picnic in Review

The Jasper DeutscherVerein gathered on August 29th for the annual summer picnic at Jasper Outdoor Recreation. We had 72 members and guests in attendance. Members signed in at the door and were able to RSVP to the German American Day dinner on October 7th as well.

Sandy Wehr also sold Sonntag-Mittagessen Dinner tickets for the JHS German Exchange fundraiser on Sunday, September 26th. If you would like tickets, please contact Sandy at skwehr69@gmail.com or (812) 630-2621. The deadline to pre-purchase tickets is September 16th. Dinners for non ticket holders will be available on the 26th while supplies last.

Paul welcomed the club and members chatted and played cards until dinner was ready. DJ Vicky Mann from Music Mann DJ spun records and members were able to request songs.

Mike Ackerman, Kenny Schnell, Birnie Jeffries, and Kevin Mullen grilled pork chops, chicken, and hot dogs, and members brought side dishes and desserts. The club provided drinks and beer. Thank you Mike Hochgesang for donating the use of his portable grill.

Once dinner was ready, Ross Halvorsen led the prayer in German and released the tables to eat.

Later in the day Mike Ackerman gave the update on the results of the German Club Booth from Strassenfest. Another great year! Mike wanted to especially thank Booth Co-Chairs Ann Ackerman, Bridgette and Mike Bartley as well as day chairs, Kevin Bartley, Kevin Mullen, and Mike Jahn for their leadership for helping make the booths such a success. A special shout out went to Bridgette who did a phenomenal job ordering the food. We sold out of everything! He also acknowledged the two students who came down and helped from

Carmel, as well as all the Jasper exchange students who helped to fill over 20 volunteer positions in the booths. Their help was greatly appreciated.

An Ein Prosit was sung to honor the hard work of the club. Mike then thanked Danny Wehr for running the log sawing event for the past 40 years. It's a very popular event that draws a nice crowd each Strassenfest and the club is very grateful for all the work Danny has put into making the event what it is today. Another Ein Prosit was sung in honor of Danny.

And finally, Mike gave an update on the Strassenfest Sheephead tourney. They had a good turnout this year, 36 players. He is still looking for an interested person to run the tourney next year.

Ross Halvorsen then offered to make Spaghettieis for those who were interested. He explained that Spaghettieis was originally made by an Italian man who lived in Germany, but since then it has become a very popular dessert that Germany is known for. It is made by extruding vanilla ice cream through a Spätzle press, then topping it with strawberry sauce and shaved white chocolate (to resemble Parmesan.) Fun! It looked awesome and tasted even better!

The rest of the afternoon was spent catching up with friends and playing games. Marcia Schnell and Bob Bleemel won the attendance prizes, and Clif and Pam Howard won the special prizes.

Our next meeting will be the German-American Day Dinner, October 7th at Klub Haus 61. The cost will be \$17 a person, collected at the door with check made payable to the DeutscherVerein. RSVP to Lacey at jasperdeutscherverein@gmail.com or (831) 201-8748.

Hope to see you all there!

Submitted by

Lacey Apple
Secretary

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, past German Heritage winners, and be sure to “like us” on Facebook at Jasper DeutscherVerein and Sister Cities of Jasper. The Jasper DeutscherVerein also has presence on Twitter and Instagram.

Die Jugend

The 2021/2022 school year has begun, we've held 's SchneckeHiisli (Jasper High School German Club) officer elections, 45 club members, and we'll begin planning events for this coming school year.

We're planning on another trip to the Evansville Museum of Arts, History, & Science, and one addition we may try to include is a tour of the Athenaeum in Indianapolis and lunch at the Ratskeller.

Grant money is slowly coming in for the annual fountain pen project for beginning students of German and after a fairly successful trial run at the German Club Picnic, we'll be preparing Spaghetti-Eis in all five of my German classes, before strawberries (Erdbeeren = earth berries) are no longer in season.

Our exchange student from Germany, Benneth Mayer, has arrived, after only a one-week quarantine, and has decided to enroll in my German 4 class. His German is already pretty good and he has agreed to teach us some card games like Schnauze, and Tellerwäscher (Arsch). He said that he does not yet know how to play the German national card game Skat, but it will be our goal to send him back to Germany with that skill.

Ross Halvorsen
JHS/JMS German Teacher

MEMBERSHIP

Dues for the DeutscherVerein are \$10 a person. Out of this \$10, a \$1 will go to the Jasper DeutscherVerein (German Club) German Heritage Endowment, \$.50 per member for dues to Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc., and \$8.50 to Jasper DeutscherVerein for postage and meetings.

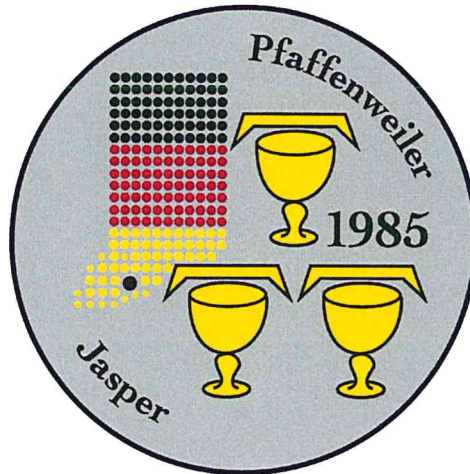
As a paid member of the Jasper DeutscherVerein, \$.50 of your dues goes to Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc. making each Jasper DeutscherVerein member a member of Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc.

Gifts to the Jasper DeutscherVerein

In Memory of Nancy Burton

Kathy Burton and the entire Nancy Burton family

Fred and Mary Jane Roeder



**Sister Cities of Jasper
September 2021 Update for Jasper German Club
By Mary Leah Siegel, President Sister Cities of Jasper**

Artisan and Craftsman Exchange Update

The details and planning for the Artisan and Craftsman exchange continue between the Jasper Partnership Commission in cooperation with Sister Cities of Jasper, with support from the Mayor's offices of both Jasper and Pfaffenweiler.

Eight applications were submitted by individuals interested in the exchange from Jasper. A selection committee of members from the Partnership Commission, Sister Cities of Jasper, and the Jasper Arts Commission was formed to select the individuals to travel to Pfaffenweiler. The committee selected three individuals to travel to represent Jasper in November:

Jay Hamlin
Curtis Uebelhor
Monte Lee Young

The three selected individuals will travel to Pfaffenweiler from the middle of November to the beginning of December to demonstrate, produce, and sell their products at various locations and at the "open air market" in Pfaffenweiler to be held November 27, 2021.

We are still hopeful that at least one individual from Pfaffenweiler will be able to travel to Jasper in November 2021. Plans are pending based upon the CDC and U.S. travel guidelines. We hope to know more later in the coming month.

Sister Cities of Jasper Wins Best Overall Program from Sister Cities of Indiana

Sister Cities of Jasper has been awarded Best Overall Program by the Sister Cities of Indiana. The award was presented on September 11th during the Sister Cities of Indiana Symposium held virtually in recognition of the outstanding student exchange held during the 20-21 school year.

"It was quite an accomplishment to be able to successfully implement a student exchange during the pandemic! Everyone who was involved should be proud of this accomplishment and the award," stated Lyndi Grubb, member of the Sister Cities of Indiana Council.

News from the Jasper Partnership Commission

The Partnership Commission is excited to announce that the details for the 2022 Partnership Anniversary Trip have been finalized. We have worked with Jackie's Travel to put together an exciting 10 day trip to Germany with 5 nights in Pfaffenweiler. The first part of the trip will include some touring of Germany before heading to Pfaffenweiler. We believe the highlight of this trip will be the celebration in Pfaffenweiler to recognize 37 years of partnership between our two communities. A unique part of next year's celebration will be that the JHS German students will be on their exchange to Pfaffenweiler and also have an opportunity to participate in the event. We'd love to fill all of the seats on this tour so that we can have a strong contingent at the Anniversary Celebration.

The cost per person for the trip is \$2950. Please refer to the attached flyer for all of the details on the trip and what is included with the cost. If there are questions about the trip, please contact Jackie at Jackie's Travel at 812-482-7158.

Max Verkamp
President, Jasper Partnership Commission

Agenda of 2022 Partnership Anniversary Trip

<i>Day 1 (6/26) Sunday</i>	<i>Leave Jasper by motor coach transfer for flight to Frankfurt Germany</i>	<i>Overnight flight</i>
<i>Day 2 (6/27) Monday</i>	<i>Arrive in Frankfurt</i>	<i>Dinner Included</i>
<i>Day 3 (6/28) Tuesday</i>	<i>Rhine River Cruise from Mainz to Rudesheim After cruise, travel to Rothenburg for overnight stay.</i>	<i>Breakfast & Dinner included</i>
<i>Day 4 (6/29) Wednesday</i>	<i>Travel to Stuttgart and enjoy a tour of the Mercedes Benz Museum. Stay in Stuttgart overnight.</i>	<i>Breakfast & Dinner included</i>
<i>Day 5 (6/30) Thursday</i>	<i>Travel to Hohenzollern Castle for a visit and then travel to Pfaffenweiler</i>	<i>Breakfast included Arrive in Pfaffenweiler in the early evening</i>
<i>Day 6 (7/1) Friday</i>	<i>Free day with host family</i>	<i>Explore Pfaffenweiler and the surrounding area</i>
<i>Day 7 (7/2) Saturday</i>	<i>Official Partnership Celebration</i>	<i>Evening program celebrating the partnership with the Jasper guests and the Pfaffenweiler residents</i>
<i>Day 8 (7/3) Sunday</i>	<i>Free day with host family</i>	<i>Explore Pfaffenweiler and the surrounding area</i>
<i>Day 9 (7/4) Monday</i>	<i>Free day with host family</i>	<i>Explore Pfaffenweiler and the surrounding area</i>
<i>Day 10 (7/5) Tuesday</i>	<i>Leave Pfaffenweiler via motor coach for flight from Zurich. Transfer from US airport back to Jasper.</i>	



37TH Anniversary Trip

Jasper Sister Cities

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!!!

June 26 – July 5, 2022

10 Days away

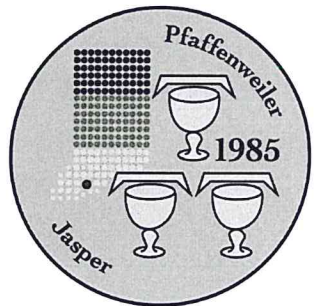
Details

A wonderful visit with our friends and even relatives in the scenic Black Forest area of Germany. Relaxing and exploring trip in Germany that will provide lasting memories, friendships and bonds with Jasper's Sister City residents.



Pfaffenweiler, Germany

Day 1 (6/26) Sunday	Leave Jasper by motor coach transfer for flight to Frankfurt Germany	Overnight flight
Day 2 (6/27) Monday	Arrive in Frankfurt	Dinner Included
Day 3 (6/28) Tuesday	Rhine River Cruise from Mainz to Rudesheim After cruise, travel to Rothenburg for overnight stay.	Breakfast & Dinner included
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Day 10 (7/5) Tuesday	Leave Pfaffenweiler via motor coach for flight from Zurich. Transfer from US airport back to Jasper.	



Sponsored by the Jasper Partnership Commission

Cost: \$2950* per person based upon a minimum of 30 travel participants.

*Trip Insurance is optional

Complete the Reservation Application to book place on this trip. For questions, call Jackie's Travel at 812-482-7158

RESERVATION APPLICATION

Please return to: Jackie's Travel Service, 507 3rd Avenue, Jasper, IN 47546 812-482-7158, jackiestravel@jackiests.com

Please reserve _____ place for me on 37th Anniversary trip to Pfaffenweiler Trip in 2022. A \$400.00 per person deposit is due with this completed in full reservation form along with a copy of your valid passport. Checks should be made payable to Jackie's Travel. Credit cards are accepted but will be an extra 5% to the cost of your trip.

Entire Name on your Passport _____ Passport Number _____

Passport Expiration Date: ____ / ____ / ____ Country of Citizenship _____

Address _____ Date of Birth _____

City/State/Zip Code _____ Phone # _____

Smoking Preference (circle one): nonsmoker smoker Frequent Flier Number _____

Roommate _____ Global Entry or TSA Number _____

Seating Preference on Flights _____ I accept/decline optional insurance (initial) _____

Emergency Contact Name and Phone Number _____

Health Problems such as heart trouble, diabetes, allergies, etc. _____

Please make us aware of any medical restrictions or handicaps _____

Email address _____

X _____ Date: _____

(Please sign above) I have read the Cancel/Reissue and Consumer Disclosure Notice Statement

Consumer Disclosure Notice: Jackie's Travel Service is acting as mere agents for suppliers in selling travel related services or in accepting or making reservations for services not directly supplied by this agency to include but not limited to ground transportation, hotel accommodations, meals, tours, etc. This agency, therefore, shall not be responsible for breach of contract or any intentional careless actions or omissions on the part of such suppliers which result in damage, loss, delay or injury to you or your companions or group members. Unless the term "guaranteed" is specifically stated in writing on your invoice or reservation itinerary, we do not guarantee against suppliers substitutions or product services and handling of personal effects. Jackie's Travel Service and consultants expressly reserves the right to withdraw any tour or make changes in the tour with or without notice that may become necessary including substitution of accommodations or transportation. Jackie's Travel and consultant shall not be responsible for any injuries, damages, or loses caused to any traveler in connection with terrorist activities, social or labor unrest, mechanical or construction failures, or difficulties, diseases, local laws, climatic conditions, abnormal conditions, or developments or any other actions, omissions, or conditions outside the travel agent's control. By embarking upon his/her travel, the traveler voluntarily assumes all risks involved in such travel whether expected or unexpected. Jackie's Travel Service and consultants are not responsible for cancellations of any services and/or refunds from any supplier or carrier that may cease operations. Traveler is hereby warned of the above risks as well as possible travel industry bankruptcies and medical and climatic disruptions and is advised to obtain appropriate insurance coverage against them. Traveler's signature on the reservation form shall constitute consent to the above and an agreement on his/her part to convey contents to his/her travel companions or group members.

Cost of Tour is based upon 30 paying: \$2950 per person. If the total required minimum number of participants is not maintained, the cost will be adjusted. Trip Cancellation insurance can be added and is optional. Baggage is limited to 1 piece per person. If individuals want to take more bags, this is possible at an extra expense.

Tips for driver, guides, escorts, hotel and restaurants, airline baggage fees, preferred seat requests on flights and beverages with all provided meals are not included.

Deposit Information: \$400.00 per person due with reservation plus optional insurance if desired. Reservation deadline: March 30, 2022.

Balance due March 31, 2022.

Cancel information: Cancel after deposit until March 30, 2022 - \$100 fee. As of March 31, 2022, cancellation fee increases to \$400 per person. As of April 12, 2022, all funds are not refundable.

- Very Important: In the event of fluctuations in currency, we reserve the right to amend the tour price accordingly. Tour Pricing: this is a package tour in that land tour costs and special group air fares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to take the land tour only or deviate from package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates of travel, this will eliminate the advantages of the package tour price and special group air fares. There will be a service charge of \$100.00 per person for any changes requested, plus the additional cost for any change in airfare. Total cost is based upon taxes, fuel surcharges, and fees in effect on August 16, 2021. If these costs change prior to trip departure, the difference must be added to the total tour cost.
- **Travel insurance is strongly recommended and price is determined by your age and trip cost.**
- **As of August 30, 2021, Germany requires a COVID vaccination to enter the country.**

Fun Times at the Strassenfest!!!!



“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!!



Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

Oktober

Oktober 7, 2021-Thursdays-Klub Haus 61-German American Dinner - The cost will be \$17 a person, collected at the door with check made payable to the Jasper Deutscher Verein. RSVP to Lacey at jasperdeutscherverein@gmail.com or (831) 201-8748.

November

November 17, 2021-Wednesday-Moose Lodge- Auction to benefit students in Exchange Program-Club will provide Chili Dogs and Tater Tots. Requesting members A-H bring a salad, I-Q a dessert, and R-Z a veggie.

Dezember

Dezember 15, 2021-Wednesday-Moose Lodge-Christmas Dinner/Dance-Club will provide Chicken, Roast Beef, Dressing and Gravy, Green Beans, Corn, Bread and Butter, and Creamy Slaw.

2022

Juni – Juli

Juni 26 – Juli 5 – 2022 Partnership Anniversary Trip to Germany – This trip is open to the public.

August

August 2, 2022-Tuesday – Booth set up for Strassenfest – 5:30pm

August 7, 2022-Sunday – Booth tear down immediately following Strassenfest parade

August 4, 2022 – August 7, 2022 – Strassenfest

Taken from **The Herald** – April 9, 2002
By Jason Ragan, Herald Staff Writer

Picture by Sarah Orr

Exchange favors good return

Patricia Keller used to go to work at the German American Bank in the mornings and buy a soft drink.

She would let the drink sit until became warm. Then she drank it. Warm soda was what she was used to back home in Pfaffenweiler, Germany.

Keller was the eighth person from Pfaffenweiler to participate in a work exchange program as part of Jasper Sister City program with the German town.

Keller spent six months working at GAB. Her internship ended March 29.

Jasper and Pfaffenweiler have been sister cities since 1985. Besides work exchange program, there is also a student exchange of high-schoolers, and every two or three years groups of people from Jasper or Pfaffenweiler make a trip to the other destination.

Keller, 20, is studying in accounting and marketing in Germany. She wanted the hands-on experience of working in the States.

“It was always a dream for me to come to the United States,” Keller said.

When she arrived in Jasper she did have some things to adjust to: a new country, a host family and working every day. Keller said she enjoyed all aspects of her stay.

“I really would have stayed longer if I could,” Keller said.

Her co-workers at German American Bank wished she could stay too.

“I’m really sorry to see her go,” said Tonya Brothers-Bridge, a senior vice president and director of marketing and training, who was Keller’s supervisor at the bank.

“She was willing to do everything we asked,” Brothers-Bridge said. “She taught us a lot about the German culture and the language.”

Keller said her English improved during her stay here.

She said she felt comfortable at GAB and in Jasper from the beginning.

Keller stayed with David and Janet Kluemper in Jasper. She was the third work exchange participant they have hosted.

“We enjoyed having younger people here to have the experience,” Janet Kluemper said.

Matt Hilger, president of the Jasper partnership commission, was the first person to participate in the work exchange. He has lived in Jasper since 1987.

“If you look at today’s world, the world is very close,” Hilger said. He said having international experience is looked upon very favorably by European companies.

Hilger also said the work exchange program makes it easier for young people to come here.

“For us (in Pfaffenweiler) to have the sister city is kind of a safe haven,” Hilger said.

Parents in Germany feel comfortable with letting their kids make the trip to Jasper, he said.

Brothers-Bridge said that when the possibility of getting an employee through the work exchange program came up, the bank quickly took up the opportunity.

"Absolutely, to support the program and because of our interest in German heritage," Brothers-Bridge said.

Thursday, employees of GAB surprised Keller with a going-away party.

Keller thought she was going into the office to sign paperwork.

Nearly 50 bank employees, members of the Jasper DeutscherVerein and Keller's parents, who had spent the week in Jasper, were there to show their appreciation for Keller's work.

"I thought something was going on. To sign paperwork at 8 in the morning seemed odd, she said.

She was greeted with hugs, gifts, and a cake decorated with both the German and American flags.

"Thanks again for the opportunity," she said.

Caption under picture

Patricia Keller, 20, received a surprise going-away party at the German American Bank in Jasper Friday. Keller is from Pfaffenweiler, Germany, and has worked in Jasper for the past six months through a Sister City work exchange program.

Taken from "The Herald" – April 6, 2002
Pfaffenweiler by Matt Hilger

Pfaffenweiler resident gets hands-on experience

Since September 26 of last year, Pfaffenweiler's Patricia Keller has been residing and working in Jasper.

She is the daughter of Pfaffenweiler City Councilman Albert Keller, who has been trying to encourage more young people of Pfaffenweiler to take advantage of the opportunity for the unique work exchange possible between Jasper and Pfaffenweiler.

Through Ken Sendelweck and Tonya Brother-Bridge of the German American Bank, Patricia Keller had the chance to work the past six months at this local financial institution.

The groundstones for her visit were laid during a Jasper Partnership Commission meeting with Pfaffenweiler Bürgermeister Fritz Gutsell and Councilman Keller in 1998; Patricia also attended that meeting.

After finishing her schooling in Germany last summer with the "Abitur," which is regarded as having finished a

junior college degree, she felt it to her advantage to have some international work and life experience before moving on with her education.

The work permit for the United States presented some difficulty because of some changes in the set up of receiving it, but with Patricia's eager efforts in Pfaffenweiler and the help of Sister Cities of Jasper President Bob Dilger, all the details were worked out just in time for her departure.

After Patricia arrived in Jasper: her host family, Janet and Dave Kluemper, immediately took her under their wings and gave her a home.

Communicating with her parents in Germany via e-Mail or phone, she continuously is telling them how wonderful her stay in Pfaffenweiler's Sister City is and what all she is experiencing.

Her friendly and rather quiet personality has gained her many new friends in Jasper, and her co-workers at German American Bank make very effort to include her in many activities before, at and after work.

At the end of March, her parents arrived in Jasper to pick up their daughter. They will travel for a few weeks and fly back to Germany in mid-April. At that time, Patricia Keller will plan her next steps of life, which will include an education in marketing and accounting.

Back in Pfaffenweiler, she is planning to help future work exchange students with their visa applications, thanks to the experience she gained while doing the same thing for herself prior to her adventure in Jasper.

Patricia Keller was married to Thomas Lehmann in July, 2009. Dave and Janet Kluemper attended the wedding.

Patricia and Thomas are the parents of two daughters, Sophia and Jule and reside in Freiburg.

Taken from **The Herald** – May 17, 1985 – In Looking Back – Saturday, May 15, 2010

The immigrants who became founders of Jasper have been survived by people curious about their foreign heritage. Because of this curiosity, the Jasper Chamber of Commerce Committee on German Heritage and then the independent DeutscherVerein, or German Club, were born. An offshoot of the German Club now has been developed to maintain contact with Pfaffenweiler, West Germany, the town that next week will formally become Jasper's sister city. That offshoot has been named Sisters Cities of Jasper Inc. Its officers include Claude Eckert, president; Danny Wehr, vice chairman; Vic Knies, secretary; and Rita Corn, treasurer. Directors of Sister Cities of Jasper are Linda Hopf, Mary Leinenbach, and the Rev. George Meunich.

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