



Jasper German Club
Deutscher Verein

Die Zeitung

May 2023

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.

German Exchange Student Opportunities

Do you know anyone who has considered or is interested in hosting an exchange student from Germany? If so, opportunities are available for the 2023-2024 school year to host a student! For more information, please reach out to Brandon Ferguson (Local ACES Coordinator) at 812-604-3893 or brandon_ferguson85@yahoo.com.

Jasper Deutscher Verein Gesangverein

Do you like to sing? We are starting a German Club Choir.

The initial goal for the choir is to lead the National Anthem and the birthday song at meetings. Nancy Litteken has agreed to organize the group. Maybe in the future, the Deutscher Verein Gesangverein might lead the club in some Christmas Carols at the December meeting. Things might grow from there but they might also just stay the same.

To be part of this group, contact Nancy by email at litteken@twc.com.

Deutscher Verein April Meeting in Review

The Jasper Deutscher Verein gathered on Wednesday, April 19th at the Jasper Moose Lodge. President Landen Weidenbenner welcomed the 93 members and guests, then Vice President Laura Grammer led the Pledge of Allegiance. Laura then introduced the members of the newly formed German choir, the Gesangverein, who sang God Bless America. The director is Nancy Litteken and the choir members are Al Bennett, Dan Otto, Grace Bartley, Van Ziegler, Nancy Ziegler, Kevin Mullen, Dave Gudorf, Birnie Jeffries, Phyllis Schuler, and Janet Rydberg. If you are interested in joining the choir please contact Nancy.

Next, Laura asked anyone celebrating a birthday to stand and introduce themselves. Club members celebrating April birthdays were Judy McCarty, Amy Ruxer, Birnie Jeffries, Donna Humbert and Jackie Braunecker. The Gesangverein lead everyone in singing Happy Birthday in both German and English.

Landen then released the tables for dinner of Brats, Kraut, and mashed potatoes that was prepared by the Moose, as well as salad and desserts brought by club members. After dinner, Mary Leah Siegel gave a brief Sister Cities update on the German Exchange program golf scramble and Dan Otto and Jen Verkamp were voted in as new Sister Cities board members. Dan Otto and Tyla Rasche then led everyone in practicing German phrases.

The program for April was a 2023 Strassenfest update. Strassenfest Committee Chairwoman, Laura Grammer, gave an overall update on the fest location, parade route and booths. Next, Sherri Uebelhor announced the open ceremony line up. Then Valerie Heim gave an update on the German Heritage events and the Glockenspiel stage schedule for the Strassenfest weekend. Kurt Heim demonstrated the new audio equipment purchased for the Glockenspiel stage and the German Club meetings. Mike Ackerman followed up with an update on what the German Club booth will be servicing this year and reminded everyone to sign up to work a shift. Then Laura and Jim Corn announced the new addition of carved wooden trees to the Glockenspiel this year. Following the presentation, Laura led the club in an Ein Prosit for the presenters.

Attendance prizes were drawn next. Winners were Kim Klein, Ginger Hedinger, Michelle Reller, Bob McCarty and Alan Brenner. Special Prize winners were Pat Hochgesang and Ronnie Keusch.

Landen called the meeting to a close. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 17 at the Jasper Moose Lodge. Doors open at 6:00 pm, and dinner at 6:30. There will be a flower arrangement contest at the May meeting so be sure to attend to see all the beautiful arrangements.

Submitted by

Valerie Heim
Secretary



A message from our president

***Alles neu macht der Mai! The sun is shining, it is finally starting to warm up, and the flowers and plants are all coming back to life - all is made new in May! We are approaching the half-way point of 2023, and there are a lot of exciting times ahead for the Club, including the Strassenfest, so please be sure to take to Ann Ackerman about signing up to work in the booth. Some of my favorite memories of the German Club are working shifts in our food booths - yes, it is hard work, but it is FUN work. All help is greatly appreciated.

Both Laura and I were invited by Consul General Moessinger in Chicago to attend a workshop in Chicago April 21 - 22. Workshop topics included how to sustain, expand, and embrace new audiences of German-American clubs and societies. There were approximately 36 folks in attendance from organizations throughout the Midwest, along with others from the Embassy of Germany and members of the Consul General's office in Chicago. I want to share many key-takeaways from this workshop.

1.) I was able to hear a young lady by the name of Feli Hofner speak about her social media and YouTube platforms. Feli was born and raised in Munich, Germany and has since moved to the United States. Feli's message is fun, vibrant, and really gets everyone engaged in the German Culture. Topics include myths about Germany, German Pop-Culture, Sites of Germany, and many other fun topics. I encourage our club members to check out and follow Feli from Germany on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Finally, Feli gave some great "tips and tricks" of how to effectively use social media and reach a new and larger audience.

2.) The Embassy of Germany spoke on topics regarding the image of Germany in the United States. While they spoke about embracing and celebrating tradition, the Embassy would like German-American Heritage organizations to also focus on the new and modern Germany of today. This can be done through a variety of ways which including keeping up with German Pop-Culture (music & TV) and sustainability efforts. Finally, the Embassy discussed preserving our heritage in our organizations keeping record of oral stories and having members record their stories and history that is relevant to our organizations.

3.) Engaging New Members was a constant theme from the workshop. How do we get the next generations to be engaged and interested? This was a long session that I could write many pages on. Some key takeaways included shifting from a "Who are you?" culture when new members join our meetings to a "We are so glad you are here." and welcoming culture. It is so important we engage with everyone in the club, including new members. (I learned the German word for engagement is "Austausch.") Beyond our monthly club meetings, how do

we engage with members in an even greater way, AND bring in new members. Some ideas included "Stammtisch: Open Haus" which is a "standing meeting" at a location that is open to all. Other ideas included "Kaffee und Kuchen" or coffee and cake. The list goes on and on. While some of these ideas may cost the club some money, it is so important that we understand that our Return on Investment can be great.

That was a lot of information, and as mentioned earlier, I will talk more about my time in Chicago representing the Jasper DeutscherVerein at the May Meeting. We have a great club going, and we had many compliments and lots of interest in the many activities and projects we have and continue to work on. Without our founding members and their vision for a club to continue on our German-American Heritage, we would not be where we are today. Thank you all again for your engagement, participation, and patience as we continue to try new things and thank you for bringing new members to our meetings!

Landen Weidenbenner
President

A message from our vice president

Guten Tag meine Freunde

While attending the Indiana German Heritage Society's event at Oldenburg, Paul and I had the opportunity to hear Anneliese Krauter speak about her life. After presenting the idea to the German Club Officers and the Dubois County Museum Board, both groups agreed to provide this speaker free of charge. Please see the included flyer.

If you haven't been to a German Club meeting in a while, the May meeting might be a great meeting to attend. We are calling it "Move & Improve". After sharing our meal together, we will move everyone to a different table. The goal is to allow people to get to know more people in the club. With our new groups and hearing from different perspectives, we will discuss what we like about German Club and ideas of what might make the club better.

Laura Grammer
Vice President

Members of the Gesangverein at the April Meeting



A message from our treasurer

Thanks to those who signed up at our April meeting to work a shift at our Strassenfest Booths. To sign up to work for 2023, please contact Ann Ackerman at cell 812-630-7241, or via email ann@ackoil.com . We will be taking signups at the May meeting as well.

A great time to get another generation involved in German Club can be having fun through working at the Strassenfest Booths. If you have children or grandchildren that you would like to work with at the booths, please invite them now so that when you sign up to work that we can keep your group working together.

Thanks to all members who have updated their email addresses and phone numbers when mailing their dues payments. If you are not sure if the club has valid phone and email information for you, please drop an email to mike@ackoil.com or call Mike at 812-630-8756 to provide current information.

2023 Dues collection continues. Members may pay 2023 dues of \$10.00 per person (\$20.00 per couple) at our meetings or via mail to P O Box 15, Jasper, IN 47547.

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

Regards,

Mike Ackerman
Treasurer

Laura Grammer explaining the new trees to be added to the Glockenspiel



April Birthdays celebrated at the April Meeting



Amy Ruxer, Birnie Jeffries, Judy McCarty, Donna Humbert, and Jackie Braunecker

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. The Jasper DeutscherVerein also has presence on Twitter and Instagram.

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.

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!!

German Heritage Award Nomination

The Jasper DeutscherVerein, Jasper Partnership Commission, and Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc. will celebrate German-American Day in October at KlubHaus 61 with an Oktoberfest themed dinner with drinks and dancing. In addition, there will be the High School Essay Contest Awards and Band/Entertainment. The event will honor the contributions made by German immigrants to the life and culture of the United States.

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

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

Nominations need to be sent to Jasper DeutscherVerein, German Heritage Award, P. O. Box 15, Jasper, IN 47547-0015 and should include a letter of up to one page listing the reason for the nomination, a biography, up to two pages, listing the service or efforts of the nominee along with the Nominee's Name, Home address and whether the nominee's service is voluntary or paid. The Nominator's name and address must also be included and must be postmarked by September 1, 2023.

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

The Jasper DeutscherVerein is sponsoring the award.

Past recipients of the German Heritage Award are Mary Jo Meuser, Claude and Martina Eckert, Dave Buehler, Linus and Sally Lechner, Joe and Irene C. Eckerle, Danny and Linda Wehr, Leo and Lora Lou Eckerle, the late Lowell and Joan Glendening, Dave and Janet Kluemper, Rafe and Phyllis Ackerman, Vic and Monica Knies, Gary and Rita Egler, Patti Goepfrich, Larry and Betty Hanselman, Ron and Delli Keusch, Jim and Rita Corn,

Lois Kuntz, Stan Jochum, Mike and Ann Ackerman, Father John Boeglin, Rosie Stewart, Al and Judy Bennett, Paul and Laura Grammer, and Joe Rohleder.

Lifetime Achievement Award Winner is Matthias Hilger.

Nomination for the 2023 German Heritage Award

Nominee's Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

ZIP: _____ Phone: _____

Occupation: _____

Nominator's Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

ZIP: _____

Relationship to nominee:

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

Nominations need to be postmarked to
Jasper Deutscher Verein, German Heritage Award,
P. O. Box 15, Jasper, IN 47547-0015,
By September 1, 2023)

Results from the Sister Cities of Jasper Golf Scramble held on April 23rd

1st place: Luke Gunselman
 Ryan Heim
 Brent Knies
 Scott Hohler
2nd place: Clyde Harper
 Mike Western
 Jacob Western
 TJ Hall

Longest Putt #9-Joe Merkley
Closest to the Bratwurst #18-Sam Ruckreigel

What is Maifest?

Maifest celebrates the end of the long dark winter, and the beginning of warm weather and light. It's a time of reawakening and joy! Best of all.... it's a fun reason to have a party, now that Karneval is behind us. And Oktoberfest is still a few months away. Celebrating the end of winter dates back to the Pagan times, and while the celebrations have changed a bit, there is still dancing! Cities and small villages across Germany, but primarily in Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria, set up a Maibaum to mark the day (those tall "trees" with signs and symbols hanging from them, like the one in the Viktualienmarkt.) There are streamers, wreaths and ribbons....and of course, Maibowle? So, what is Maifest?

Maifest (Mayday) May 1st, is the official celebration that marks the arrival of spring. Early Germans called Mai/May "Wunnimanoth" meaning pasture month (the old traditions named months after seasonal activity). A time of returning animals to pasture after a cold Winter indoors. (The Romans introduced the name Maia, for their goddess of fertility). The Pagans saw it as a time of dancing and celebration, of tossing off the darkness and cold of Winter. Today it's mostly a secular celebration. People of the cities and villages will decorate with ribbons and flowers. (In the Rhineland, it was custom for a young man to tie colorful ribbons in the garden of a girl he fancies.... during leap years, girls would do the ribbon tying). Most towns will erect a Maibum (May Pole). There are bonfires to chase the darkness, and dances to celebrate. As with every German celebration, there are foods and special drinks like Maibock (strong spring beer) and Maibowle (a wine punch with Waldmeister).

While people may do their dancing and celebrating on May 1, April 30 is left for the Witches. Walpurgisnacht (April 30) kicks off the Spring Awakening with their annual gathering on the Brocken in the Harz Mountains.

What is a Maibum?

Around the 10th Century, the custom of the Maibaum/Maypole began. The young men from the village would go into the woods and find a tall tree, strip it of its branches and leaves, then haul it back to the village where it was paraded through town to the main square. Craftsman carved shields or symbols depicting the various town guilds, or clubs that would be attached to crossbeams on the Maibaum. A wreath is added to the top, and long ribbons tied to it. The Maibaum would be guarded very carefully, since young men from other villages would try to "steal" it and hold the Maypole for ransom. Usually, they could be paid off with beer or a nice lunch in a Gasthaus).

On the first day of May, the Maibaum is erected in the center of the town square or marketplace. In some places, the local Schützenverein (shooting club) will wake

everyone up wit cannon or gun fire! Once the Maibum is secure, there is dancing, singing and games.

The Maibum stays up until at least the end of the month ...although in some places it remains in place all summer. When it comes down, generally the pieces are cut up, and the wood is either auctioned or raffled off.

Celebrating Maifest

The dance around the Maypole symbolized spring, and the awakening of the earth. In smaller towns, the entire village might be involved in singing and dancing! In addition to the Maypole, there is dancing, eating and lots of drinking! Some towns burn bonfires. And several beverages like Maibock beer brewed especially for this celebration and Maibowle (a champagne punch) are served.

In 1933 Maifest became a German National Holiday. Towns still celebrate the old traditions, but now May Day has taken on a new meaning. It's become a celebration of International Worker's Day, so Unions and Political groups will hold events on May 1 as well.

(taken from: [What is Maifest? What is a Maibaum? Germany Celebrates May Day! \(germangirlinamerica.com\)](#))

(As you read the above information, did you recognize that the DeutscherVerein has kept a few of the traditions mentioned? Our Maibum at the corner of 6th and Newton Street and dancing around the Maibum at the Strassenfest????)

Pineapple Casserole Recipe

Ingredients

2 (20-oz.) cans pineapple chunks in juice, drained (reserve 6 Tbsp. juice)
1 1/3 cups sugar
5 tablespoons flour
1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
1/4 cup butter, melted
1 sleeve Ritz crackers, crushed

Directions

Step 1 Preheat oven to 350°F. In a medium size bowl, combine sugar, flour, and reserved pineapple juice. Add pineapple chunks and toss well to combine. Spoon pineapple mixture into casserole dish and top with shredded cheese.

Step 2 Combine crushed Ritz crackers and melted butter. Spread Ritz cracker topping evenly on top of pineapple mixture.

Step 3 Bake at 350°F for 30 minutes, or until bubbly.

(taken from: <https://www.southernliving.com/recipes/pineapple-casserole-recipe>)

Sister Cities of Jasper May 2023 Update for Jasper German Club

The Sister Cities of Jasper Board of Directors added two new members to their board after approval by the membership of the DeutscherVerein at their April meeting. Jen Verkamp and Daniel Otto will both be joining the Sister Cities of Jasper Board of Directors. We are excited to have them on board and working with us. Additionally, the board held a strategic planning meeting on Saturday, April 22nd to discuss more events for the rest of the year and into 2024. We are excited to continue to bring new events and ways to strengthen and showcase our thriving partnership with Pfaffenweiler!

Student Exchange 2024 Update

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

Thank you to members of the DeutscherVerein for playing in the Sister Cities of Jasper Golf Scramble and supporting the JHS student exchange on April 23rd! Despite the chilly weather, the event was a success!

University Student from Pfaffenweiler here in Jasper from April to October

Lea Thoma, a student at Heilbron University in Germany (originally from Pfaffenweiler), arrived in Jasper for an international internship on April 12th. Lea is working from April 14th to September 30th as a Human Resources and Marketing Intern at Kimball Electronics World Headquarters. She is staying with host family Mike and Bridgette Bartley (and Grace). Special thanks to Bridgette and Mike for volunteering to welcome Lea into their family and opening their hearts and their home to make Lea's international internship possible!

SAVE THE DATE! GERMAN HERITAGE AWARD, DINNER, AND OKTOBERFEST EVENT!

The German Heritage dinner, award ceremony, and celebration will be held on Thursday, October 5th at the Klubhaus61. The theme for 2023 will be a "German Oktoberfest". We will be awarding the annual German Heritage award during the evening as well as scholarships for the winners of the high school essay contest. Additionally, we are planning to have a German themed band/entertainment, dinner, dancing and lots of fun Oktoberfest style! SAVE THE DATE FOR OCTOBER 5TH, 2023.

German Heritage Award nominations are being sought for 2023! If you would like to nominate a person or persons for this award, please submit a letter stating why you feel the person or persons deserves this award and how they have contributed to the preservation of our German Heritage in the community. Please send nomination letters to Mary Leah Siegel, President of Sister Cities of Jasper in person or via email to: siegel.maryleah@gmail.com or you may call (or text) 812-309-3468 to submit hard copy nominations. Nominations may also be submitted to Landen Weidenbenner,

President of the DeutscherVerein at P. O. Box 15, Jasper, IN 47547-0015.

Mary Leah Siegel,

President, Sister Cities of Jasper



Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

Mai

Mai 17, 2023-Wednesday-Jasper Moose Lodge-2507 Newton Street. Doors open at 6:00pm – festivities begin at 6:30pm.

Move and Improve

Group discussions on what makes German Club great and ideas for improvements.

There will be the opportunity to sign up for shifts in the booths at the Strassenfest.

Pork Steak and Baked Potatoes will be provided by the Club.

Requesting members with last names A – H bring Veggies, I – M – Dessert, and N – Z – Salad.

Plan to bring your flower arrangement in a vase that you don't want back. The flower arrangements will be given away as additional attendance prizes.

Juni

Juni 4, 2023-Sunday-Dubois County Museum-2704 Newton Street. 1:30pm

Presentation by Anneliese Krauter from the Heart's Closet. Free Admission to the Museum.

August 3rd to August 6th – Strassenfest – the time of the year when the Jasper DeutscherVerein shines!!!

September

Family Picnic – Date, location, and details to be determined.

Oktober

Oktober 5th-Thursday-KlubHaus61-2031 Newton Street-German American Day Dinner – German Oktoberfest Theme-Dinner-Drinks-Dancing-Presentation of German Heritage Award, High School Essay Contest Awards, and Band/Entertainment. More details in Mid-Summer Newsletter!!!!

November

November 15, 2023-Wednesday-Jasper Moose Lodge-2507Newton Street. Doors open at 6:00pm – festivities begin at 6:30pm.

Auction to benefit German Exchange Program.

Chicken Fettuccini Alfredo and Breadsticks will be provided by the Club.

Requesting members with last names A – H bring a Veggie, I – M Dessert, and N – Z Salad.

Dezember

Christmas Dinner - Date to be determined-Jasper Moose Lodge-2507 Newton Street. Doors open at 6:00pm – festivities begin at 6:30pm

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

January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023

In Memory of Ardella “Delli“ Keusch

- Al and Elaine Astrike
- Chuck and Linda Burk
- Jim and Rita Corn
- John and Robbi Lechner
- Danny and Linda Wehr
- Steve and Shelley Whalen

In Honor of Leo Eckerle’s 94th Birthday

Irene Eckerle

In Honor of David and Janet Kluemper’s 80th Birthdays

Irene Eckerle

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 DeutscherVerein (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 \$ _____

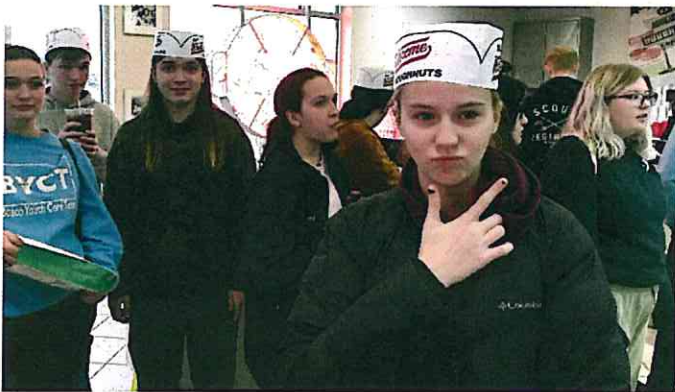
to the _____
(Please specify appropriate Endowment)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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



JHS Students during the Schneckehisli field trip



JHS Students showing off lovingly-handcrafted Strassenfest blanket



Anneliese Krauter

from the Heart's Closet
SURVIVING WWII

Published author, Anneliese Krauter, recounts her life's story as a US Citizen and daughter of German immigrants during the 1940's. Her tale begins in her youth during the joyful and innocent days that change overnight with the bombing of Pearl Harbor, to her father's suspicion of being a Nazi Spy, her time in an internment camp in Texas, returning to Germany as German citizens to witness the end of the war, escaping Russian occupation of Germany and concluding with her return to the United States.

June 4, 1:30pm Dubois County Museum

**Jasper German Club & Dubois County Museum
Sponsoring Free Admission 1pm to 4pm.**

Membership Dues

It's that time of year again! If you have not yet paid your 2023 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) \$10.00 per person (\$20.00 per couple)

2023 Jasper Strassenfest on 4th Street Please note the main stage location change!!!!



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

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
JASPER, IN
PERMIT NO. 149

Return Service Requested

DeutscherVerein	
Officers:	Directors:
Landen Weidenbenner – President lgweidenbe@gmail.com 812-309-1745	Al Bennett Bridgette Bartley Dave Buehler Brandon Ferguson Mike Hochgesang Patrick Schuler Paul Siegel Danny Wehr Sandy Wehr Van Ziegler
Laura Grammer – Vice President laura@ackoil.com	
Mike Ackerman – Treasurer mike@ackoil.com	
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