



Jasper German Club  
**Deutscher Verein**

# Die Zeitung

November 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 Embassy Teacher of Excellence Award

Recipient  
Daniel Otto



This award is given annually in recognition of outstanding up-and-coming teachers who may have started a new program or revitalized an existing one and contribute to their AATG chapter.

Daniel will be honored as one of the 2023 German Embassy Teacher of Excellence Award recipients at the AATG/ACTFL convention in Chicago in November.

---

### **Note from Patti.....**

We will have a newsletter in December  
We will NOT have a newsletter in January  
We will have a newsletter in February

Sorry for any inconvenience!!!!

## Sandy Wehr

2023 German Heritage Award Winner



The Jasper Deutscher Verein, Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc., and the Jasper Partnership Commission sponsored a German-American Day Dinner and Program on Thursday, October 5th, at KlubHaus 61 in Jasper.

Mary Leah Siegel, president of Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc, presented the 25th 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.

The 2023 German Heritage Award was presented to Sandy Wehr. Mrs. Siegel noted that "About tonight's recipient, the phrase "Driving Force of Diplomacy" pretty much sums it up. Family tradition and commitment to community and German heritage are also a big part of this individual's life. Additionally, the words, "foundation", "cornerstone", and "passion" were included in her nominations."

Mrs. Wehr has been a member of the Jasper Deutscher Verein/Sister Cities of Jasper for many years.



She was president of Sister Cities of Jasper from 2013 to 2018 and presently serves as vice-president and Student Exchange Chairperson and continues to serve as the student exchange liaison on the Jasper Partnership Commission.

She has met with JHS principals, the Greater Jasper School Board, and Superintendents to assure the German Language Program at JHS would continue with a trained German teacher.

Thru the years, Mrs. Wehr became engaged with the JHS German Student Exchange Program. Since 2007, she has accompanied the bi-annual exchange to Pfaffenweiler/Staufen Gymnasium at least 7 times and with over 95+ total students, including at least 5 times with our second partner school in Poessnek in the former East Germany. In addition, she has facilitated and arranged excursions and city visits in Berlin, Dresden, Munich, and many other wonderful places in Germany while providing between 12 – 18 students on each trip with supervision, education, mentorship, and friendship. And when students and teachers from Germany come to Jasper, she arranges for housing, plans activities, and transportation for those individuals.

Mrs. Wehr and her husband, Dave, have opened their home on numerous occasions for visitors from Germany or Austria.



**2023 German Heritage Essay Winners and Representatives of German American**

L-R are Martha Mitchell-GA, Brooklyn Kiefer-Northeast Dubois Jr./Sr. High School, Kate Durcholz-Southridge High School, Sarah Smith-GA, and Steffi Schmueker-GA. Unable to attend in person, Gus Hagedorn-Forest Park Jr./Sr. High School, and Emma Pryor-Jasper High School but they sent videos of themselves reading their essays.

**My Ideal Trip to Germany Would Include  
By: Kate Durcholz**

**Daughter of  
Zach and Lisa Durcholz  
Southridge High School**

My ideal trip to Germany would include many different things. Coming from a German community and heritage, there would be many stops on my visit. The first and most important stop has to do with my heritage and last name. My family, a long time ago, immigrated to the United States from west Germany. This trip required them to adopt a newer version of their last name. They chose Durcholz. Through my German classes at Southridge, I learned that “durch” means through. With a deeper look into my genealogy, I learned that my ancestors chose Durcholz because it means “through the woods.” With this in mind, my first stop on my trip would be to the Black Forest. There are many different attractions from museums to hiking trails and waterfalls to food! Many dishes are based off of the places they originated from. Many dishes originated in the Black Forest so where better to stop for food than the Black Forest itself. My next stop would be Munich, more specifically the Theresienwiese. This is a large open area in the middle of Munich. I chose this area because this is where Oktoberfest takes place. Oktoberfest is a great time to visit Germany because the whole country is exploding with culture. There is not a better time of the year to see just how culturally diverse different parts of Germany are than during their version of what we celebrate as Halloween. A third place I would visit would be Berlin. I am a huge history enthusiast and Berlin contains a bunch of history. Along with Berlin, I would travel to Dachau. It is a hard subject for many people, but it is an important piece of history. Today, kids only learn about what happened during World War II in history textbooks. It would be eye opening being able to experience what I constantly read about in books in person. Being able to travel to Germany to see some of these wonders would be an amazing opportunity. One day I plan to travel to Germany, but until then I can plan every place I want to visit. There are many places I would like to visit, but these three are at the top of my list.

**My Ideal Trip to Germany Would Include...  
By: Gus Hagedorn**

**Son of  
Andy and Amy Hagedorn  
Forst Park Jr./Sr. High School**

Traveling has always been a major interest of mine. I have always enjoyed experiencing different cultures as well as how people go about their way of life in the world around me. Experiencing new types of cuisine is also a definite plus. Germany has always been an intriguing travel destination for me. From its beautiful landscape to



its stunning architecture, Germany is definitely at the top of my travel radar. Another major reason I would like to travel to Germany is that I have a large amount of German ancestry. I have always enjoyed learning about my ancestors, but traveling to where my roots began would definitely be an unforgettable experience for me. If I were to travel to Germany, how I would go about my trip is quite simple.

The number one location I would love to visit would definitely be Berlin. I would love to witness all of the city's beautiful architecture. A major priority of mine would be visit some of Berlin's churches and cathedrals. This includes but is not limited to the Berlin Cathedral and the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church. Throughout my time in Berlin, I would also try to familiarize myself with German culture by eating at authentic German restaurants during my stay. I would wrap up my time in Berlin by visiting the one and only Berlin tower. While Berlin would likely be the highlight of my trip, this would be just the beginning of my stay.

My next location of interest would be Munich. In Munich, I would not only visit more churches and cathedrals but also the town hall. Munich's New Town Hall has very unique architecture that would be very cool to witness in person. Because Munich is known for its Oktoberfest, I would further my cultural experience by attending Oktoberfest events. The final thing on my bucket list would be experiencing an FC Bayern soccer game. Being a soccer player myself, going to a German soccer game is something I would love to do. From here, I would continue to travel the beautiful country and move on to my third and final stop.

My last stop would be the city of Hamburg. While in Hamburg I would take it easy and try to enjoy my final days in Germany. I would spend my evening walking around to experience the city's landscape. I can see myself spending hours relaxing at the water's edge to soak everything in. Hamburg would give me a great opportunity to familiarize myself with German culture as well as enjoy my final days in the country. After my short stay in Hamburg, this would conclude my trip to Germany.

In my life, I would love to experience everything that Germany has to offer. Traveling to Berlin, Munich, and Hamburg would leave me with an unforgettable experience. A trip of this magnitude would be nothing short of amazing. Touring Germany would definitely be a once in a life time vacation.

## **Adventure in History** **By: Brooklyn Kiefer**

### **Daughter of** **Frank and Ashley Kiefer** **Northeast Dubois Jr/Sr High School**

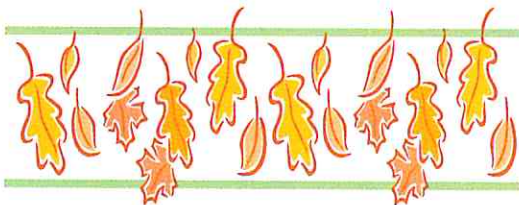
My ideal trip to Germany would consist of a great deal of history, the country's and my own, along with a taste of some good food during my adventure. The country of Germany has a special place in my heart, and over ninety percent of my familial roots derive from there. Although I have never visited the country, I would like to go experience some of the country's culture and history, along with everything that ties me to Germany.

Starting out, I would visit the Stenftenagel Family Home in Pfaffenweiler, Germany. Pfaffenweiler is the sister city to Jasper, Indiana; most of my extend family, who came from Germany, still live in Jasper. However, in Pfaffenweiler, Germany there stands a hotel/bed and breakfast that is still owned and ran by my distant family. A few of my great aunts and uncles have visited this home and experienced some of the culture we left behind. I'd like to follow in their footsteps.

While I am there, I would like to visit a few major landmarks in Germany. I have always been interested in World War II and have read numerous books about the war. A few places I would like to visit is the Holocaust Memorial, along with the Brandenburg Gate. The horrors of the Holocaust and the books derived from it, have always sparked my attention because I cannot fathom the thought of something that cruel could be real. The idea of truly understanding what those people went through in their day-to-day life haunts, me and I feel that to maintain a complete understanding, I need to see it for myself.

Lastly, I would like to experience some of the culture, especially the food, in Germany. One thing I would like to do during my stay in Germany, is attend the Oktoberfest. The fun and enjoyment of the fest is something that I feel I need to experience before I can officially say I experienced the German culture. I would also like to try some of their foods. I would love to see how their food compares to the food we can get at the Schnitzelbank, or the foods my family makes at home. The pretzels with beer cheese and sausages have become my favorites and I would love to see how much they have changed over time.

All of these interactions, I feel, really tie together the "German experience", and I would be open to any guidance and suggestions to gain more knowledge about my heritage. Because my heritage is mostly German, I feel that I have to learn and experience Germany sometime in my life.



**Home Away From Heim**  
**By: Emma Pryor**

**Daughter of  
Matt and Natalie Pryor  
Jasper High School**

Just imagine, your nostrils gather a whiff of freshly harvested bread from the bakery. The sizzle of smoked sausages crack on the grill as a breeze causes goosebumps to trickle down your arms. The marigolds lining the windows of pastel cafes are blooming. Old brick streets that you wonder about hold stories of ancestors who have walked over them before you. Streets filled with festivals, where girls in dirndls wore flowers in their braids. Where men in hats always have a beer in hand and where kids bike down the sidewalk. Germany has a multitude of rituals that celebrate their heritage. The unique country cherishes a variety of alluring landmarks, cultural riches of architecture, and authentic foods.

If I ever possess the opportunity to go to Germany, the gorgeous sites framing the country would be first on my list. From forests and mountains, to vineyards, meadows, and beaches, Germany is overflowing with beautiful landscapes. If I had the choice, I would attend Jasmund National Park to admire the clear ocean and lush forests. Germany's environment is maintained, therefore making Germany a popular tourist destination. However, there is significantly more to seek in the core of the cities as well.

Castles perched on hilltops and royal structures are dispersed throughout the country. Germany has antique cathedrals and historical building for people to relive the stories of their ancestors. The classic wooden edifices and German chalets border the streets. There are one-of-a-kind architectures such as the Brandenburg Gate and Eltz Castle. People ride along canals in gondolas to analyze a different perspective of the city.

Food also plays a dominant role in Germany's culture and influences other nations as well. German food is named after many famous places within their country. Food is always a main portion of countries. However, some of the top food they consume is currywurst, schnitzel, spätzle, sauerkraut, and bratwurst.

I admire how people in Germany impact my town and the way I live today. We celebrate our German roots through our annual Strassenfest. The festival brings people of all ages together and unites us in our heritage. From good food, music, and dancing, to rides, concerts, and games, my town honors our roots like no other. It draws me closer to my family tree and unravels stories from the past. If I was blessed with a trip to beautiful Germany, I would see all the different landscapes, visit ancient statues and buildings, and eat authentic tasty food. To see how much Germany partakes in just my small, showed town influenced me to write this essay. It has shown me that

no matter where we live, or the countries our families sprouted from, everyone comes from their own unique place filled with a variety of stories and traditions. I am blessed to live in a country and a town where not only can I honor my American flag but also pay tribute to my German flag that bleeds yellow, red, and black.

---

---

*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!*

---

---

**A message from Daniel Otto**

**GJCS German Enrollment Increases**

**Liebe Freunde,**

As you will probably know, the nature of world language classes means that enrollment numbers will change from year to year. If I want my program to maintain numbers or grow, then I need to make the case for why students should pick my class over Spanish, French, or one of the other amazing electives we offer in our schools. I cannot sit back and count on all the young Buechlein's and Hochgesang's and Sermersheim's to want to learn German because of their heritage, although I do get some.

No, the best route is to get active. I have to teach the kids about economic opportunities that are available to German learners. I need to help them develop a love for the culture and the desire to travel to Germany, Austria, Switzerland, or any of the other countries in Europe or elsewhere in the world where there is a German-speaking presence. I must create an environment where the kids feel confident speaking German and where they can have fun with it, even when they are learning grammar.

To that end, I have been introducing the kids in class on Wednesdays (Musik Mittwoch) to both traditional and new music. On Fridays (Film Freitag) we watch and discuss film trailers, and I also like to show movies. I frequently incorporate simple games with the goal of getting the kids talking to each other and using German. I show the kids lots of photo and video examples of sights and daily life in German-speaking areas so that they can all see that German-speakers look like them - that Germany is a diverse country as well - and so they can hear all the different dialects. I also have made promotional materials for my class in both English and Spanish with the goal of



increasing engagement with the Hispanic community in our area.

I am happy to report that this approach has borne some fruit. My student numbers for the '22-'23 school year were as follows:

**JMS**

German I: 20

**JHS**

German I: 3 (incl. 1 from Germany)

German II: 17

German III: 13

German IV: 2

**Total: 55, including 1 exchange student.**

And here are the numbers for '23-'24:

**JMS**

German I: 21

**JHS**

German I: 13

German II: 21

German III: 13

German IV: 4 (incl. 2 from Germany)

**Total: 72, including 2 exchange students.**

Not counting the students from Germany who attend my class to experience what learning German as a Foreign Language is like, I have 16 more GJCS students in my German classes now than I did at the close of the previous school year. I am positively over the moon that these 16 are taking this brave step to not only learn a new language and way to communicate, but they are also learning how to view the world from the perspectives of German speakers from across the globe, and that's a wonderful and powerful thing.

I want to end by saying that this is not The Dan Otto Show. No German teacher is an island. From the bottom of my heart - a huge thanks to the Deutscher Verein, Sister Cities, Partnership Commission, the City of Jasper and Gemeinde Pfaffenweiler, our GAPP Coordinator Sandy Wehr and everyone on both sides of the ocean who makes our student exchange possible, and the Greater Jasper school community. None of this is possible without a thousand moving parts which create the environment we have that promotes cultural exchange and creates a myriad of opportunities to engage my students. Vielen Dank allerseits!

Liebe Grüße

*Daniel Otto*

GJCS 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.*



Advent Calendars can be purchased for \$5 from any exchange student, Dan Otto ([dotto@gjcs.k12.in.us](mailto:dotto@gjcs.k12.in.us)) or Sandy Wehr ([skwehr69@gmail.com](mailto:skwehr69@gmail.com)) or at the Chamber of Commerce. Checks should be made payable to Sister Cities of Jasper.

**Just a Reminder!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**In addition to this newsletter, additional information on the Jasper DeutscherVerein can be gotten on the website – [www.jaspergermanclub.org](http://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.**





**Gary Egler**  
**1942-2023**



Gary died on September 14, 2023. Gary and his late wife, Rita, were founding members of the Jasper DeutscherVerein and were awarded the German Heritage Award in 2010.

Gary supported Rita during her 27 years as treasurer of the DeutscherVerein. He made daily visits to the Post Office to pick up the mail, he delivered checks to pay bills, and was her "right hand man"!! He helped carry the beer keg to the Beer Garden for the official keg tapping on Thursday night of the Strassenfest.

Gary was proud of his children, Debbie, Jennifer, and Tom but his pride and joys were his grandchildren, Chloe, Eli, Gavin, Brynlee and Hank.

As his children wrote in a thank you note, "Our parents put their heart and soul into the German Club and it is nice to see it live on!"

We extend our sympathy to his family and thank them for naming the Jasper Deutscher Verein (German Club) German Heritage Endowment at the Dubois County Community Foundation as a recipient of memorial gifts following Gary's passing. How special that German heritage will be remembered in Gary's name.

**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.

---

---

**"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!!

---

---

**Wanted: A Portable Keyboard for the December Christmas Meeting**

If anyone has a portable keyboard that can be borrowed to be used at the December Christmas Meeting, please contact Nancy Litteken at 812-631-3334 or Van Ziegler at 812-482-6228. Thanks.....

---

---

**DeutscherVerein September Meeting in Review**

The Jasper DeutscherVerein held its Post Strassenfest Picnic on Sunday, September 10th at the Jasper Moose Lodge. President Landen Weidenbenner welcomed the members and guests, then Vice President Laura Grammer lead the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Next the Gesangverein sang God Bless America led by director Nancy Litteken.

Landen then released the tables for dinner of hamburgers, brats, sauerkraut and German fries prepared by the Moose, as well as salad and desserts brought by club members.

The September program was a recap of the German Heritage events during the Strassenfest and a German Club Booth Report out. Secretary Valerie Heim reported that there were over 65 German Heritage Performers for this year's Strassenfest. In addition to the performances, the Glockenspiel Stage held more events and performances than it did last year. Some of the successful



events were the new brat eating contest, the fan favorite mug holding contest, learn the Chicken Dance and the Schnitzelbank Sing-a-Long. She also showed pictures and talked about the new Mai Pole that was used this year. Then Treasurer Mike Ackerman gave a recap on this year's German Club Strassenfest Booth.

Jasper German teacher, Dan Otto, updated the club on what his students have been learning and a few of them were in attendance at the meeting. Sandy Wehr, updated on upcoming fundraisers for the German Exchange program. At the November meeting, the German Exchange Program students will hold an auction to raise funds for their trip so come prepared to bid and support the program. Special Prize winners for the meeting were Linda Wehr and Bob McCarty.

Landen called the meeting to a close. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 15 at the Jasper Moose Lodge. Doors open at 6:00pm, and dinner is at 6:30pm.

Submitted by  
*Valerie Heim*  
Secretary

---

---

### **A message from our president**

Happy Fall to all! I am excited to share that we as a Club have had an exciting year, and have shared in many successes. These successes could not have been had without each and every one of you, our club members. I know I have said it before; however, I am going to say it again. Thank you, thank you to each and every one of you for getting out and working at the Strassenfest Booth, attending meetings, and other German Heritage events throughout the year. I also want to thank everyone who may have brought a guest or two to our meetings and events - we need you all to keep doing this. As we plan for 2024 and beyond, we are going to try some new things, and our goal is to get more members. Our club is alive and thriving, and we need to keep the momentum strong.

Finally, I want to congratulate our 2023 German Heritage Winner, Sandy Wehr. Sandy has been and continues to be an asset in helping promote and preserve our German Heritage. Sandy has led countless exchange trips to Germany and has also hosted just as many exchange students in Jasper. Sandy, a heartfelt congratulations, we are all so proud of you.

*Landen Weidenbenner*  
President

---

---

### **A message from our vice president**

#### **Action Steps from May Meeting Membership Feedback**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the May Meeting where club members shared ideas about

1. Things the Club is doing that are awesome and we need to keep them.
2. Things the Club is doing that is no longer value added.
3. Things the Club currently isn't doing but might do in the future.

Landen and Laura discussed the information from this meeting and have created the following action plan.

#### **Things to keep doing**

1. Monthly Meal & Meeting
2. Free Beer. Can we add Wine or something else at some meetings?
3. Strassenfest German Club Booth.
4. Supporting German Heritage Events and Activities.

#### **Changes that we heard and are trying to resolve with future events:**

1. Don't need attendance prizes. This has been stopped.
2. No more Pie or Bread contests. This has been stopped.
3. More Field Trips to Wineries or Bus Trips to German Festivals.
4. More ways to get existing members involved in the meetings.
5. Find a fair way for people to get to go first through the Food Line.
6. More ways for members to get to know more people and feel accepted.
7. More ways to advertise our club and grow our club.
8. Review the Board of Directors and get new people involved.

#### **Changes to the Meal Process**

Everyone can feel the hush go over the room when the President announces who gets to eat first. Then the sighs from those left for the end versus the hoots of joy by those that get to eat first.

In the past, when members to through the Food Line they got both first shot at the Meal & Salads & Vegetables & Desserts. When the last people went through the line, everything was picked over. We are going to try a few new food processes starting for the November meeting.



1. The Club will start to provide a vegetable along with a Protein and a Starch.
2. Members will bring either a Salad or a Dessert.
  - a. No one brings a Vegetable.
  - b. More Salad & Dessert options for everyone.
3. Splitting food lines into the normal Double Sided Meal Line and adding a Double Sided Dessert Line.
  - a. Members do not get their Meal and Dessert at the same time.
    - i. Members will get up 2 times to get food.
    - ii. One time for the Meal Table.
    - iii. One time for Dessert table.
  - b. The original 2 Meal Food Lines go down both
    - i. The First table released for the Meal Line will exit their seats and return to their seats toward the front of the hall. Just the same as it always is.
    - ii. The first members through the Meal line get first choices of Salads.
  - c. Adding 2 Dessert Lines that go down both sides of the Dessert Tables.
    - i. Members will go through the Dessert line starting with the table that will be last going through the Meal line
    - ii. These members get first choice of all Desserts.
    - iii. Dessert line members will exit their tables toward the back of the hall.
    - iv. Desert Line members will use the Hallway to go to and from the Dessert Line while members are still in the Meal Line.
    - v. Utensils are not available at the Dessert Line.
4. To prevent people from walking into each other, please remain seated at your table until the prior row of tables is about to start the Meal Line or Dessert Line.

**Show off your Stein at Every Meeting**

Show off your German Pride. Bring your Stein to the German Club meeting. Drink your beverage of choice using your Stein: beer, wine, pop or water.

1. Share your story about where you found your stein.
2. Use your Stein instead of having it collect dust sitting on a shelf.
3. It is environmentally friendly to not use all the plastic cups.
4. Celebrates our German Heritage.
5. Creates great promotional pictures of members toasting using their Steins.

**Wednesday, November 15, 2023, Auction to Benefit Sister Cities Students going to Germany**

**NOTE: Meal will be Chicken Alfredo & Breadsticks & Broccoli.**

Members with last name beginning with A – K bring a Salad.

Members with last name beginning with L – Z bring a Dessert.

The Sister City Auction will be held on this night. Sister Cities greatly appreciates that every family brings an item to the auction. Bake something. Make Something. Buy Something. Go through your closets and cabinets and find that really cool bowl that you never use anymore and toss in some Chocolates or Cookies or other goodies.

Remember all money collected at the auction goes straight to help students get to Germany on the Exchange trip.

**Thursday, December 14, 2023, Christmas Party**

NOTE: Members don't bring any food to this event. The cost is \$15 per person.

Ace and the amazing cooks at the Moose will be preparing Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Dressing, Green Beans & Rolls.

The German Club Officers will pick-up cookies.

If we are all Good Boys and Girls, Santa Claus might come to visit us all.

Our very own Jasper Deutscherverein Gesangverein is preparing to lead a sing-along in German Christmas Caroles.

\*\*\*\*\* Deadline for reservations is December 5.

\*\*\*\*\* Cost for the meal is \$15 per person.

For Reservations

contact [JasperDeutscherverein@gmail.com](mailto:JasperDeutscherverein@gmail.com) or call Valerie at 812-639-6224.

**Wednesday, January 17, 2024: Field Trip to the Patoka Lake Brewery**

Facility Tour & Beer Tasting

NOTE: No Meal will be served, just snacks and maybe a small sandwich.

Because of State Fire Marshall rules, we can only have 42 members at a time. To accommodate all German Club members, we are breaking up the group into 2 sections.

Section 1 will meet at JHS Parking lot at 4:45pm. Create carpools and caravan up to Patoka Lake Brewery to start the tour at 5:30pm. This group will need to leave the brewery before 6:50pm.

Section 2 will meet at JHS Parking lot at 6:15pm. Create carpools and caravan to arrive at 7pm. This group will need to leave before 8:30pm.



1. Use this  
Link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8YDKRJW>
2. Sign up at the German Club Meeting in November or December
3. Email Laura at [laura@ackoil.com](mailto:laura@ackoil.com).

***Will take the first 40 people for each time slot. If someone decides to just show up and is not on the list, they risk not being allowed to enter.***

**February Meeting – Date unknown: Field Trip to French Lick Winery or Wine Tasting at the Moose.**

Considering 2 options for this meeting

1. Working with French Lick Winery to have a Pasta Bar, Wine Tasting and Facility Tour.
  - a. If we make the field trip, might need to have a cost per person.
2. Having French Lick Winery or Patoka Lake Winery bring their wine to the German Club meeting at the Moose.

**Wednesday, March 20, 2024, Indiana Barn Foundation**

NOTE: A meal will be served at the Moose; Members bring either Salad or Dessert

Do you love old seeing old barns? Do you have an old barn? Kent Yeager from the Indiana Barn Foundation will attend the meeting to share pictures of some of Indiana's most interesting old barns and preservation efforts to save other barns.

**Wednesday, April 17, 2024, German Club Game Night or Card Party**

NOTE: A meal will be served at the Moose; Members bring either Salad or Dessert

What started as a Sheephead tournament to honor our German Heritage, has grown into an all-out game night. We are looking to have tables for Sheephead, Cinch, Euchre or ????. But maybe you prefer to play Operation, Mousetrap, Pictionary or Trivial Pursuit.

What a great way to get to know other members by mixing members together and let them play a game with other members. The winner at each table will receive a small prize. We will have a sign-up sheet for this meeting at the November & December & March meetings.

What was that sound? Yes, I hear the warning bells. Members will be able to sit together with the same people and play games or just chat. It is not required to move and get to know other members.

**Wednesday, May 22, 2024: Strassenfest Preview**

NOTE: A meal will be served at the Moose; Members bring either Salad or Dessert

What will be happening at the Glockenspiel & at Opening Ceremonies?

What are the plans for the booth?

How will things look when we are moving back to the square?

Signup Sheets for the Strassenfest will be available.

**June 5, 2024: Paint Ornaments to Hang on Dubois County Museum Christmas Tree**

NOTE: No Meal will be served, just snacks. BYO Beverage or cooler.

Put on some old clothes, bring a drink, a chair, a favorite paint brush and your creativity. Members will have the opportunity to paint an ornament for the German Club Christmas Tree at the Dubois County Museum for November 2024.

**Wednesday, September 18, 2024: Strassenfest Wrap-up Meeting**

NOTE: A meal will be served at the Moose; Members bring either Salad or Dessert

*Laura Grammer*

Vice President

---



---

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

July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023

**Jasper DeutscherVerein**

**In Honor of Paul and Mary Leah Siegel**

Sally Gaines

**In Memory of Gary Egler**

Mike and Ann Ackerman  
Jason and Susan Ahlbrand  
Becky Beckman

Tom and Patti Goepfrich  
Paul and Laura Grammer  
Don and Mary Ann Hayes  
Mike and Pat Hochgesang  
Charlie and Lou Hopf

Indiana Furniture Industries  
Dave and Nancy Prechtel  
Jim and Margaret Seifert  
Dennis and Marge Ulsomer  
Danny and Linda Wehr  
Steve and Shelley Whalen



## A Message from Brandon Ferguson – ACES Coordinator

Have you or someone you know considered hosting an exchange student from Germany? If so, please contact Brandon Ferguson at 812-604-3893 to learn more. There are semester and year-long opportunities available to host a German Exchange Student in 2024.

### **Exchange Student Spotlight - Linda Mayer**

**Who are your host parents?** Brandon Ferguson & Landen Weidenbenner

**Where are you from?** Pfaffenweiler, Germany

**What is your favorite class in American high school?** Strength & Conditioning - it is nice to do your workout at school. In Germany, we do not have any classes to improve your fitness during school.

**What is your favorite American food?** Taco Bell

**What is your least favorite American food?** Ranch Dressing

**What is your favorite place you have visited in America so far?** Laguna Beach, California

**What activities with friends have you enjoyed the most?** Driving around and checking out everything in Jasper and Dubois County.

**Other than German and English, do you speak any other languages?** I speak French and a little bit of Spanish.

**What is one major cultural difference in America?** Free refills at restaurants in America is one major difference. The second difference is how important religion is to young people in America.

**What was your favorite part of the Strassenfest?** I enjoyed walking around and making new friends. I also had fun working in the German Club booth and meeting new people.

**What activities are you involved with at school?** Cheerleading and the Ping Pong Club

**What do you miss in Germany the most?** My family

**Next month, we will learn more about Felix Eckerle.**

---

---



## Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

### 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 Alfredo and Breadsticks and Broccoli will be provided by the Club.

Requesting members with last names A – K bring a Salad and L – Z a Dessert.

The Sister City Auction will be held on this night. Sister Cities greatly appreciates that every family brings an item to the auction. Bake something. Make Something. Buy Something. Go through your closets and cabinets and find that really cool bowl that you never use any more and toss in some Chocolates or Cookies or other goodies.

Remember, all money collected at the auction goes straight to help students get to Germany on the Exchange trip.

### Dezember

**Dezember 14, 2023-Thursday-German Club Holiday Party-Jasper Moose Lodge-2507 Newton Street. Doors open at 6:00pm – festivities begin at 6:30pm**

The Club will provide Roast Beef, Dressing, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Rolls, and Christmas Cookies.

Reservations are required and can be made by calling Valerie Heim at 812-639-6224 or emailing [jasperdeutscherverein@gmail.com](mailto:jasperdeutscherverein@gmail.com) by December 5, 2023. Price is \$15.00 per person-checks made payable to Jasper DeutscherVerein. Santa to visit, along with a performance by the Gesangverein German Club Singing Group with Singalongs.

### 2024

### Januar

**Januar 17, 2024-Wednesday-Field Trip to the Patoka Lake Brewery Facility Tour and Beer Tasting.**

**NOTE: No meal will be served, just snacks and maybe a small sandwich.**

Because of State Fire Marshall rules, we can only have 42 members at a time. To accommodate all German Club members, we are breaking up the group into 2 sections.



Section 1 will meet at JHS Parking lot at 4:45pm. Create carpools and caravan up to Patoka Lake Brewery to start the tour at 5:30pm. This group will need to leave the brewery before 6:50pm.

Section 2 will meet at JHS Parking lot at 6:15pm. Create carpools and caravan to arrive at 7pm. This group will need to leave before 8:30pm.

To make reservations, use this link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8YDKRJW>  
Or sign up at the November or December German Club meetings OR email Laura at [laura@ack.com](mailto:laura@ack.com).

*Will take the first 40 people for each time slot. If someone decides to just show up and is not on the list, they risk not being allowed to enter.*

## Februar

### February Meeting – Date Unknown: Field Trip to French Lick Winery or Wine Tasting at the Moose

Considering 2 options for this meeting.

1. Working with French Lick Winery to have a Pasta Bar, Wine Tasting and Facility Tour.

a. If we make the field trip, might need to have a cost per person.

2. Having French Lick Winery or Patoka Lake Winery bring their wine to the German Club meeting at the Moose.

## März

### März 20, 2024-Wednesday-Jasper Moose Lodge-2507 Newton Street. Doors open at 6:00pm-festivities begin at 6:30pm.

Meal will be served: Members bring either a Salad or Dessert

Program will be given by Kent Yeager – President of the Indiana Barn Foundation. Their mission is “Supporting the Preservation of Historic Indiana Barns”.

## April

### April 17, 2024-Wednesday-Jasper Moose Lodge-2507 Newton Street. Doors open at 6:00pm-festivities begin at 6:30pm German Club Game Night or Card Party

Meal will be served. Members bring either a Salad or Dessert.

What started as a Sheephead tournament to honor our German Heritage, has grown into an all-out game night. We are looking to have tables for Sheephead, Cinch, Euchre or ????. But maybe you prefer to play Operation, Mousetrap, Pictionary or Trivial Pursuit.

What a great way to get to know other members by mixing members together and let them play a game with other members. The winner at each table will receive a small prize. We will have a sign-up sheet for this meeting at the November & December & March meetings.

What was that sound? Yes, I hear the warning bells. Members will be able to sit together with the same people and play games or just chat. It is not required to move and get to know other members.

## Mai

### Mai 22, 2024-Wednesday-Jasper Moose Lodge-2507 Newton Street. Doors open at 6:00pm-festivities begin at 6:30pm. Strassenfest Preview

Meal will be served: Members bring either a Salad or Dessert.

What will be happening at the Glockenspiel and at Opening Ceremonies?

What are the plans for the booth?

How will things look when we are moving back to the square?

Signup Sheets for the Strassenfest will be available.

## Juni

### Juni 5, 2024-Wednesday: Paint Ornaments to Hang on Dubois County Museum Christmas Tree

No Meal will be served-just snacks BYO Beverage or cooler

Put on some old clothes, bring a drink, a chair, a favorite paint brush and your creativity. Members will have the opportunity to paint an ornament for the German Club Christmas Tree at the Dubois County Museum for November, 2024.

## August

### August 1 – August 4 Jasper Strassenfest

## September

### September 18, 2024-Wednesday-Jasper Moose Lodge-2507 Newton Street. Doors open at 6:00pm-festivities begin at 6:30pm. Strassenfest Wrap-Up Meeting.

Meal will be served. Members bring either a Salad or Dessert

---

---



**Sister Cities of Jasper November 2023 Update for Jasper German Club**

We are excited for a busy Fall of fundraising, exchanges and planning for the next student and culinary exchange programs in 2024!

Student Exchange 2024 Update

September: Thank you to everyone that participated in the Drive Thru dinners in September!

October – November: The students are currently selling Advent calendars. The calendars are \$5 each and can be obtained from any JHS exchange student, Dan Otto, or Sandy Wehr.

November: There will be an auction during the November Jasper DeutscherVerein meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Exchange students and club members will bring items for auction. It's always sure to be fun (and a little bit competitive) bidding!

Teacher Exchange Update 2023

We are Excited to Welcome Staufen Gymnasium Teachers to Jasper! Brianna Lammers, Agricultural Sciences Teacher, and Daniel Otto, German; French Teacher, both from Jasper High School participated in an exchange with the Staufen Gymnasium this past summer. Now it's our turn to reciprocate! We are excited to host Bettina Schwentker and Heike Duerr from Staufen Gymnasium from October 20<sup>th</sup> to November 4<sup>th</sup> in Jasper! When in Germany, Bettina teaches Ethics, Cooking, and Protestant Studies and Heike teaches French and Physical Education. In addition to the two teachers, the children of Heike Duerr, Levin and Lou are also visiting Jasper and participating in the exchange while they are here. Special thanks to the entire group that planned for this exchange and all of the hosts that are making this exchange possible!

Congratulations to Sandy Wehr, 2023 Winner of the German Heritage Award!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Sister Cities of Jasper, we want to congratulate Sandy Wehr, Vice President of Sister Cities of Jasper, on being awarded the German Heritage Award! Sandy does so much for the Sister Cities of Jasper and is always a willing hostess for any and all exchange programs! Thank you, Sandy, for all you have done and continue to do!

**NEW Sister Cities of Jasper WEBSITE**

After many, many months of planning and work, the Sister Cities of Jasper new website is now live! Check it out at <https://www.sistercitiesofjasperin.org/home>

*Mary Leah Siegel*

President – Sister Cities of Jasper

**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:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_







Sandy and Dave Wehr, and their daughter, Jayma



Landen Weidenbenner, Sandy Wehr, and Mary Leah Siegel



Bettina Schwentker and Heike Duerr, both teachers at Faust Gymnasium in Staufen, Germany, were in Jasper in October as part of the teacher exchange sponsored by Sister Cities of Jasper.

They attended classes at JHS, met with teachers, students and administration and observed the differences and similarities in education. While in Jasper, Bettina was hosted by Dave and Sandy Wehr and Heike was hosted by Clara Fromme. Dan Otto and Brianna Lammers were the JHS teachers who went to Staufen in July.



Left to Right  
Heike Duerr and Betty Schwentker  
Teachers from Faust Gymnasium enjoyed their first JHS school lunch experience.



Left to Right-Sandy Wehr, Betty Schwentker, Daniel Otto, Dave Wehr, Brianna Lammers, and Heike Duerr – Enjoying JHS Football Game





Heike Duerr and Betty Schwentker at the ISSMA State Band Competition to cheer on the JHS Marching Wildcats!!!!





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

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

Return Service Requested

### Jasper DeutscherVerein

Officers:

**Landen Weidenbenner – President**  
[lgweidenbe@gmail.com](mailto:lgweidenbe@gmail.com)  
812-309-1745

**Laura Grammer – Vice President**  
[laura@ackoil.com](mailto:laura@ackoil.com)

**Mike Ackerman – Treasurer**  
[mike@ackoil.com](mailto:mike@ackoil.com)

**Valerie Heim – Secretary**  
[jasperdeutscherverein@gmail.com](mailto:jasperdeutscherverein@gmail.com)

Die Zeitung  
Editor: Patti Goepfrich  
Phone: 812-482-4821  
e-mail: pmgoepfrich@gmail.com

DeutscherVerein Website:  
[www.jaspergermanclub.org](http://www.jaspergermanclub.org)

Search Facebook for Jasper  
DeutscherVerein and follow Jasper  
DeutscherVerein on Twitter and  
Instagram

Directors:

Al Bennett  
Bridgette Bartley  
Dave Buehler  
Brandon Ferguson  
Mike Hochgesang  
Patrick Schuler  
Paul Siegel  
Danny Wehr  
Sandy Wehr  
Van Ziegler

### Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc.

Officers:

**Mary Leah Siegel – President**  
[maryleah.siegel@kimballelectronics.com](mailto:maryleah.siegel@kimballelectronics.com)  
812-309-3468

**Sandy Wehr – Vice President**  
[skwehr69@gmail.com](mailto:skwehr69@gmail.com)

**Matthias Hilger – Treasurer**  
[matthiashilger64@gmail.com](mailto:matthiashilger64@gmail.com)

**Sheri Keller – Secretary**  
[thekellers1992@outlook.com](mailto:thekellers1992@outlook.com)

Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc.  
P. O. Box 95  
Jasper, IN 47547-0095

Jasper, IN – Pfaffenweiler,  
Baden-Württemberg, Germany

Sister Cities of Jasper Website:  
[www.sistercitiesofjasperin.org/home](http://www.sistercitiesofjasperin.org/home)

Search Facebook for Sister Cities of  
Jasper

Directors:

John Eckerle  
Alan Hanselman  
Stan Jochum  
Dan Otto  
Olivia Otto  
Kent Seger  
Jen Verkamp