

DEUTSCHERVEREIN

Die Zeitung

November 2019

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.



Rosie Stewart
2019 German Heritage Award Winner

Rosie Stewart has made invaluable contributions in the background for many years towards German Heritage and genealogy. She has been employed by Dubois County in the Records Library since 1994. But Rosie has always gone above and beyond her employment boundaries in helping many people and groups find out about their relatives and land information.

She has been active in the Dubois County Genealogical Society having been on committees complying information that has led with the publication of books. She was part of the Celestine Sesquicentennial Historical Committee of 1993 and supported the Fest in 2018. Rosie is very active at the Dubois County Museum in telling the story of our German ancestors. It was Rosie who created the 10 ft square wall exhibit with 1" squares depicting "The Purchasers to Whom Land Patents Were Issued".

She has been the driving force behind micro filming documents for our county, assuring that the information will be available to future generations. Rosie has also been a great source of information for the Stone Carvers Group in their quest to make sure tombstone restoration information and dates are accurate.

As one nomination stated, "She is a quiet steward of preserving and promoting our German Heritage in Dubois County." Rosie also loves gardening and being outdoors.

Rosie is the daughter of Dorothy and the late Frank Merter, was married to the late Elmer Stewart, and has a son, Matt. Another son, Joseph, is deceased.

Rosie will retire from the Records Library at the end of 2019.



2019 German Heritage Essay Winners and Representatives of German American

L-R are Rachel Levin-GA, Breann Mehringer-Jasper High School, Elizabeth Recker- NE Dubois High School, Kaitlyn Witte-Southridge High School, Jazlyn Johnson-Forest Park JR-SR High School, and Steffi Schmuecker-

A message from our president

2019 was a great year for our German Club! With record attendance at meetings, our picnic, and new events like StrassenVORfest and German-on-the-Water, excitement continues to grow. Best of all, the addition of over 40 new members to our club is the most exciting news of all!

Next year, we have even more exciting events we're working on for you as part of our 40th anniversary of the

German Club. I want to say a major "thanks" to everyone who worked hard to bring us great events that support the German Heritage we share. It's only through your efforts that we can provide these fun activities and support of this great Club! Ideas? We want to hear them!

Van Ziegler President

A message from our treasurer

Your club's financial condition remains healthy and adequate to continue to support our mission to promote, preserve and celebrate our proud German Heritage.

Past member contributions to the DeutscherVerein Endowment allows this fund to generate adequate income to support our annual scholarship to a graduating High School Senior who is planning to continue their German language studies in college. The foresight of past club leadership to establish the endowment will ensure that our club is able to carry out this support of our German Heritage for the foreseeable future. Club members are encouraged to consider a donation to the DeutscherVerein Endowment as part of their charitable giving.

Thanks to all who attended the German American Day celebration at the Schnitzelbank on October 3rd. Those in attendance enjoyed a delicious German meal. With over 80 reservations, we had a nice crowd on hand to celebrate with this year's German Heritage award winner, Rosie Stewart. We were also treated to four well written essays which were read aloud by students of our county schools. Thank you German American for your support of scholarship dollars to reward these students for their hard work. This year's winners included: Elizabeth Recker, NE Dubois; Jazyln Johnson, Forest Park; Breann Mehringer, Jasper; and Kaitlyn Witte, Southridge. These students exemplified why the future of our proud German heritage will continue to shine for generations to come. Thank you Amanda Schnell and Lauren Verkamp for sharing your Video Blog of your group's 2019 trip to Germany and providing details about your experiences.

Ann and I want to thank all members who participated in our summer/fall wine trips this year. These events give our club members a chance to socialize during months that we do not have regularly scheduled meetings at the Moose. Thank you Van and Nancy Ziegler for taking the wine trip experience to a new height with the Patoka Lake wine cruise held on September 29. A great time was had by all.

The November 20 meeting features our club's annual benefit auction, a key part of our financial support of students. This gives our members a chance to see the

students who are working the auction to help them earn funds for the next trip to Germany. Members are encouraged to bring an item for the auction and to be generous in your support of this auction with your bids. Club member Ed Boeglin has volunteered to serve as our auctioneer again this year. Thank you Laura Grammer for developing a nice tool to track bids and tabulate the totals by bidder to help our check out process at the end of the evening to be as efficient as possible.

Míke Ackerman Treasurer

StrassenVORfest - 2019

Congratulations to Jeff Lechner for winning the grand prize at our StrassenVORfest in July! Jeff won a gift basket containing all sorts of goodies, including special "Strassenfest Popcorn", a large Strassenfest bow , a flowering plant, and European gardening tools. Jeff, we're hoping you enjoyed both the StrassenVORfest and your grand prize! July 12, 2020 is the date for next year's StrassenVORfest. Mark your 2020 calendars now!

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

November

November 20, 2019-Wednesday-Moose Lodge – This will be our annual auction of donations from our members, with proceeds helping to support our JHS German Exchange Group on their next trip to Germany. Bidding is fast and furious, and always fun to both participate and watch! Some suggestions are homemade cookies, cakes, pies, Thanksgiving and Christmas items, handmade items, gift certificates, gift baskets, snack mix, jelly, etc. The spirit of "German Competitiveness" comes out during this meeting. Doors open at 6:00pm. Activities begin at 6:30pm. Menu will be Chili dogs and tater tots. Members with last names A – H please bring a salad, I – Q – dessert, and R – Z – veggie.

Dezember

<u>Dezember 12, 2019-Thursday-Moose Lodge</u> – Annual Christmas Dinner buffet followed by a Christmas Dance featuring Adam Tenbarge of DJ Master Tunes. He will play waltzes, polkas, rock-n-roll, and maybe even a Chicken Dance or two!!! This is a "DO NOT MISS" event. Santa may even make an appearance!!! Buffet meal consisting of fried chicken, roast beef, dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, creamy slaw, and bread and butter, plus dessert. The price is \$10 per person. Check made payable to the Jasper DeutscherVerein. Doors open at 6pm. Reservations

will be needed by Friday, December 6th. Email Barb at barbschmitt12@gmail.com or call 812-309-3992.

Januar

Januar 15, 2020-Wednesday-Moose Lodge - January 2020 marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of our German Club! We're hard at work getting ideas on how to make this meeting special. This is also our annual homemade wine judging and pie tasting events, so there will be nothing to "wine" about at this meeting! And keep your forks from the meal...there's pie-tasting after the judging! More information coming soon.

Februar

Februar 19, 2020-Wednesday-Moose Lodge -. This time it's homemade beer and breads. Many people don't know this, but in ancient times, "Beer and Bread" was a common Egyptian greeting between people. Our evening will include a LOT of greeting!

Juli

Juli 12, 2020-Sunday-Moose Lodge -

StrassenVORfest - Noon to 3pm - More details to follow

August

July 30 - August 2, 2020 - Strassenfest

<u>August 30, 2020-Sunday-Jasper Outdoor Recreation</u>-Family Picnic – More details to follow

Welcome to all our New Members!!!!!!!!

In addition to this newsletter, additional information on the Jasper DeutscherVerein can be gotten on the website –

www.jaspergermanclub.org or be sure to "like us" on Facebook at Jasper DeutscherVerein and Sister Cities of Jasper

News from Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc.

VIELEN DANKE to all who bought dinners during Sonntag Mittagessen in October! It was our best year yet! Advent Calendars are now available from any exchange student, Ross Halvorsen (812-482-6050) or Sandy Wehr (812-482-2955).

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.

Pfaffenweiler, Germany and Jasper, IN will celebrate their 35th Anniversary as Sister Cities in June of 2020 in Pfaffenweiler. Call Jackie at 812-482-7158 for details of the trip.

German Conversation Group at Jasper High School

Dr. Ross Halvorsen has decided to have the German Conversation Group meet every two weeks, 3-4PM at the High School; the next meeting will be October 30th. Enter via the front door.

Any proficiency level is welcome. To be included on the Reminder App via text, send the code @8fb43b to the telephone number 81010, you answer a couple questions, and you'll be signed up to receive reminders about the conversation group. A great way to help your proficiency in German and make a few new friends!!!!

Also, German 102 will be offered at VUJC in the spring. The course is free to students over 60! More info to follow!!!!!

Wine Cruise - 2019

Many members participated in the "German on the Water wine cruise on September 29th, on the Patoka Reservoir. Thanks to all who made this event possible!!!!!



MEMBERSHIP

Dues for the DeutscherVerin 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. Dues can be mailed to DeutscherVerein, P.O. Box 15, Jasper, IN 47547-0015.



What Does My German Heritage Mean to Me? By: Kaitlyn Witte

<u>Daughter of Gary Witte and Kennetta Wagner</u> <u>Southridge High School</u>

In my short seventeen years of living, my home has been Dubois County. I have lived in multiple places and have many memories of growing up in every corner of this county. My roots in this region reach far and wide, but just like every European descendant in America, this isn't where it all starts for me.

Both sides of my family are heavily German. My father's side has a deeper, more rich German heritage though. The Witte family immigrated from Germany in the late 1800s and early i900s. Many of them settled in Cincinnati, Ohio; if you look in a Cincinnati phonebook, one of the most abundant names in it is Witte. From Cincinnati, many traveled to the San Antonio, Texas area and to areas such as Ferdinand and Fulda here in southern Indiana. There is actually a Witte Museum in San Antonio; it's a natural history museum.

My great great grandparents were all German immigrants and raised their children and grandchildren to speak German and English. My grandma was raised around it and studied it in school, but she's not completely fluent. I love to use my skills from my German class to have conversations with her in German. I love listening to her stories of her growing up and listening to the stories from her grandparents in German. My grandma and great aunts and uncles still bring out the German accordion and harmonica and play German music at family gatherings that their parents passed on to them.

Still to this day, my dad is still in awe of me and my grandma's shared love of the German language and heritage. When Grandma and I are talking in German, my dad just sits there in complete confusion and awe at how well we connect through German. If it weren't for them, I wouldn't know how great my family's history is. I even plan on taking my family's widely shared love of history to the professional level. After high school, I'm wanting to go to college to be a high school world history teacher. If I decide later on if I want to specialize in a certain area or become a professor, it would most definitely be in European history.

My German heritage means everything to me. It made me who I am, and it's making me into who I want to be. I'm so proud of my heritage and my family history in America and beyond the Atlantic. In my pursuit of wanting to learn about as many cultures as I possibly can, I have found many different cultures that have affected me in some way, but none of them are more valuable or more interesting to me than German culture.

My rich, hardy, and sometimes unconventional German family and history makes me more proud than anyone could ever know.

More Than Just Blood By: Jazlyn Johnson

<u>Daughter of</u> <u>Angela Johnson and Michael E. Johnson III</u> Forest Park Jr Sr High School

Growing up, my family taught me many customs and traditions. Without even knowing it, a vast majority of these cultural nominalizations are tied to my German heritage. Both sides of my family connect me to my German roots. I feel completely and utterly blessed to say I originate from German ancestors. I believe having, German heritage plays a large role in not only the person I have become, but also the person I hope to grow into one day.

Many of my earliest memories include learning recipes from my mother, grandmother, and aunt. Whether I was learning to cook sausage with sauerkraut on the stove or my mom was instructing me on how to cook bratwursts over an open fire, I always enjoyed the process (and eating the food when I finished). As a child, I did not realize some of the food my mother cooked at home was German. I assumed every family ate the meals we did.

The majority of my family on my father's side is made up of what most people would call mainstream Germans. They attend the Strassenfest every year, the Schnitzelbank caters most of their weddings, and they absolutely love to drink their beer. Hardworking, family-driven individuals make up both sides of my bloodline. I truly believe being surrounded by such devoted German elders molded me into the young woman I am today.

Most Germans set extremely high expectations for not only themselves, but also the people they love. My elders have told me since a young age I could do anything I put my mind to. They also said I should never satisfy myself with something good. My family showed me how to push through until I make sure that what I did was incredible. Surrounding myself with people who never did any work unless they put their pride and passion into it taught me valuable lessons. I realized at a very young age that sometimes the easiest road is not always the road to success. I also learned to never accept something I did not earn, and I am thankful and blessed they taught these lessons.

Words cannot express the gratitude I hold knowing I grew up with German men and women surrounding me and pushing me to do my best. To me, being German means I am strong, independent, and loved. I believe I

will keep my German heritage close to my heart, and I will cherish it forever. I also hope to pass down the recipes, memories, and lessons I have learned to my future children in hopes they will pass them along to theirs. There is a lot of pride I hold knowing that I am German.

German Heritage By: Breann Mehringer

<u>Daughter of Tammy and Mark Mehringer</u> <u>Jasper High School</u>

In Dubois county, it seems as if everyone knows about the Strassenfest. This is an annual celebration of the German heritage that has provided the outstanding foundation to our town's successful history. I exemplify some of the main qualities that Germans brought to Dubois County, when they started it.

Germans are hardworking and have brought a strong work ethic to the community. I live this out by having a good work ethic myself. My German heritage provided the drive to work three jobs, while excelling in high school. This is extremely rare during this day in age. Being German means I also know the value of hard work. The Schnitzelbank is a German restaurant where I have worked for the last four years. This job has taught me to work hard even when the end does not seem within reach. My other two jobs have taught me some of the same lessons and much more. They have made me realize that I want to continue working in this small town environment where everyone knows everyone which leads to better teamwork and mutual respect. Together, these jobs have made me into the person that I am today. I am a person with an excellent work ethic who is willing to use my talents and give back to the community with my time and talents.

This is another way that I am involved in preserving the community heritage. I've been an active member of Key Club, which helps to preserve the cleanliness that the community is known for. Even if people do not have a lot, they are proud of what they have and want to keep it looking nice. It has made me appreciate the cleanliness of Dubois county. Another thing that Germans are known for is being a slight bit stubborn, which helps us not to give up when times get tough. This stubbornness is something to be proud of when it comes to the right way of doing things. In today's world, everyone wants to get the benefit but no one wants to put in the time or effort. This German stubbornness has taught me that doing things the right way is always best, even if it does take more time. For example, in Peer Mentors, there can be shortcuts to get things done quicker. However, putting in the time and effort makes it more memorable for the students that we are trying to guide through high school.

In conclusion, my role in preserving and promoting the German heritage of our community, is taking an active part in living out the heritage. My actions will help pass the German heritage down for future generations. They will learn from my generation in working hard for what they have and taking pride in it, as well as being a slight bit stubborn, but in a good way.

German Heritage By: Elizabeth Recker

<u>Daughter of Fred and Lisa Recker</u> Northeast Dubois High School

Last year, I was asked to do research over and make a presentation about my heritage. For this project. I chose to research my paternal grandfather's side of the family and learn more about where they came from. In doing so. I was able to go back ten generations and learn much more about my family's German history. I was also able to learn more about my heritage and what it truly means. To me, German heritage means having faith, strong family bonds, and a hard work ethic.

Faith has always been a very important aspect of my family's German heritage. My ancestors were German Catholics and brought their beliefs with them to the United States. Over time, the majority of my family has continued to practice Catholicism and our faith has remained strong. When I attend mass with my family. I feel that I not only grow closer to the Lord but also with my community.

Another important aspect of my German heritage is strong family bonds. From generation to generation, my ancestors have passed down the belief that family is a top priority. This means that we make time to be with each other and help one another when it is necessary. To this day, my family still hosts a family reunion in which we come together to be with relatives that we may not see many other times throughout the year. In doing so, we continue to carry on the belief that a strong family bond is one of the most important aspects of German heritage.

One other important part of my German heritage is a hard work ethic. I know that a strong work ethic is a part of German heritage because it reflects not only within my family but also within Jasper, the city that our German forefathers built. My grandfather, who was a carpenter, carried on the craftsman tradition that many of his ancestors brought with them to this country in order to establish many places such as Jasper. Without the hard work of the Germans who came before us, we may not have the same community that we have today.

In conclusion, I feel that these aspects of my German heritage have played an important role in shaping me

into the person that I am today. My faith, family bonds, and hard work ethic are all reflective of those who came before me and sacrificed so much to establish much of what we have today.

Scenes from Pfaffenweiler, Germany – Sister City of Jasper, IN since May, 1985



Jaspis Pension - Hotel



Rathaus - City Office Building





Pfaffenweiler Museum



Pfaffenweiler Weinhaus



Home Being Remodeled



Kindergarten Building



Sign outside Hug Winery letting everyone know that the restaurant is open for the season.

The following is the history behind the display cases in the northwest room – DeutscherVerein Room of the Schnitzelbank. These cases store many items on loan from a number of individuals depicting items of interest from Pfaffenweiler, Germany, or have been given to the DeutscherVerein. One also houses the plague listing all German Heritage Award winners.

Erinnerst Du Dich?

Taken from minutes of the March 21, 1991 meeting of the Jasper DeutscherVerein The Jasper German Club (DeutscherVerein) held their regular meeting at the Schnitzelbank on Thursday evening, March 21, 1991, at 7:30p.m.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Norb Kreilein. The minutes were read by the Secretary and the Treasurer's Report was given by the Treasurer, Rita Egler. Both reports were consensus approval by the club members present.

The beautiful new trophy cases are now mounted in the Schnitzelbank. The project was begun under the supervision of now President, Norb Kreilein, and brought to completion by Dan Wehr and Bob Verkamp and their committee, who worked with Jasper Cabinet Co. to produce this beautiful finished product. The parties involved in the production and mounting of these cases are as follows:

- 1. Keusch Bros. (Ron Keusch) for fitting of the glass shelves.
- 2. Jasper Lumber Co. (Charlie Mendel) who picked up and mounted the finished product.
- 3. E & K Electric (Vince Erny and Tom Kunkel) who did all the wiring necessary.
- 4. Jasper Cabinet Co. (Dave Schwartz, Manager; Tom Jahn and Gary Horney, Artists) who designed and built the cases, and were responsible for the paintings appearing on the cases.
- 5. A special thank you to Larry and Betty Hanselman owners of the Schnitzelbank for allowing the DeutscherVerein to mount these cases in their place of business.

The secretary was instructed to send thank you notes to the above businesses on behalf of the German Club.

Linda Wehr and Rita Egler have volunteered to maintain the appearance of these cases.

Bob Verkamp inquired as to the cost of the new trophy cases. Dan Wehr stated he was unsure since he hasn't seen all final bills; however, all parties involved has stated all work involved is donated to the Germany Club. After a round of applause, it was commented upon that a thank you note just didn't seem enough to show our appreciation. It was the unanimous decision of the members present to refer this matter back to the Board of Directors to decide what would be an appropriate method of thanking these people.









Pretzel Crescent Rolls

Ingredients

10 cups water ¼ cup baking soda

1 egg

1 tablespoon water

1 can refrigerated crescent rolls

4 teaspoons sesame seed

½ teaspoon kosher (coarse) salt

Steps

- 1. Heat oven to 400°F. Spray cookie sheet with cooking spray.
- 2. In 5-quart Dutch oven, heat 10 cups water and the baking soda to boiling over high heat.
- 3. Meanwhile, in small bowl, beat egg and 1 tablespoon water with fork until well mixed. Set aside.
- 4. Unroll dough onto work surface; separate into 8 triangles. Starting at shortest side of each triangle and stretching dough slightly, roll up loosely to opposite point. Bring ends of dough together; pinch lightly.
- 5. Place rolls, 2 at a time, in boiling soda water; cook 30 seconds. With slotted spoon, remove from water; place on paper towel. Repeat with remaining rolls. Lightly brush tops with egg mixture; sprinkle each with sesame seed and pinch of salt.
- 6. Using metal pancake turner, carefully transfer rolls to cookie sheet. If necessary, reshape rolls into pretzel shape.
- 7. Bake 11 to 13 minutes or until deep golden brown. Immediately remove from cookie sheet.

Pretzels get their delicious, dark brown crust from being poached in a high Ph solution, and in this case it's the baking soda added to the water.

For a new flavor twist, substitute shredded fresh Parmesan cheese for the salt.

https://www.pillsbury.com/recipes/pretzel-crescent-rolls/

"Ein Prosit"

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

Past recipients of the German Heritage Award

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 Dellie Keusch, Jim and Rita Corn, Lois Kuntz, Mike and Ann Ackerman, Stan Jochum, and Father John Boeglin.

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!

Note: There will not be a newsletter in January, 2020. Watch for news releases and emails concerning club activities. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Patti

St Martin's Day Germany – What is St Martin's Tag and how is it Celebrated?

I visited Germany in November a few years ago, and was delighted to experience my first St Martin's Tag (St. Martin's Day Germany). Kids were out in the neighborhood after dark (which comes VERY EARLY in Nord-Rhine Westfalen in November) on November 11, carrying lanterns on poles, and singing as they walked down the street.

But what is St Martin's Day?

On November 11, the life of St. Martin of Tours is celebrated in Catholic regions in Germany with processions and bonfires, as well as a feast. (Like many "fun" holidays, this tradition has spread to Protestant regions as well...). Children make their own paper lanterns, fasten them to sticks, and walk the neighborhoods singing songs. Often they are led by someone dressed in a St Martin outfit (which looks very much like a Roman Soldier carrying a sword). The procession ends at a bonfire with more singing, and delicious foods. Some children will then go door to door collecting treats like candy or money as a reward for their singing and beautiful lantern (a bit like trick or treating in the US).

(taken from: https://germangirlinamerica.com/st-martins-tag)

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:
Please acknowledge my gift to:
Name:
Address:
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Die Zeitung

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