



Jasper German Club
Deutscher Verein

Die Zeitung

March 2025

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.

Kathy Tretter, Editor of the *Ferdinand News*, sat down with Dan and Linda Wehr, Ron Keusch, Landen Weidenbenner, Laura Grammer, Mike Ackerman, and Patti Goepfrich and reviewed 45 years of the Deutscher Verein. She wrote an article of the Deutscher Verein and it was published with pictures in the January 23, 2025 edition of the *Ferdinand News*. The following is the article.

Thank you, Kathy, for capturing our club!!!!

Ja das ist ein Deutscherverein! — celebrating 45 years

By Kathy Tretter

Editor n ferdnews@psci.net

A brilliant idea can germinate into something meaningful with long lasting results.

Such was the case with the establishment of the Jasper Deutscher Verein, now in its 45th year.

According to the official record, 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.*

That's all well and good, but this writer suspects the organizers just really knew how to have fun!

Having fun and reaping exceptional benefits for the community are not mutually exclusive, which is what has made the Jasper Deutscher Verein such a welcome addition to the city and region.

Dave Buehler called that very first meeting in 1979. Attendees included Dave and Judy Buehler, Ron and Dellie Keusch, Ron and LaVerne Kieffner, Gary and Rita Egler, Jim and Jeanne Holler and Dan and Linda Wehr.

Buehler had recently visited Germany and it sparked the idea to start a German club.

During a recent afternoon the Wehrs, along with Ronnie Keusch, gathered with some later additions (Landen Weidenbenner, Laura Grammer, Patti Goepfrich and Mike Ackerman) and yours truly to share a little history

and a lot of memories from the Jasper Deutscher Verein's first 45 years.

There was a little disagreement on the year discussion began to create this new club. Dan Wehr was certain that in 1978 the Jaycees Summerfest was moved to the Jasper Square. This was a prelude to Strassenfest and no dirndls or lederhosen could be seen.

"The dance floor was a gravel parking lot," Wehr explains. "There was no color coordination or special dress of any kind except Killer [Bill] Seng had on a green vest. It was a very hurried, put together thing."

Wehr said 1979 was the second year, not for the Jasper Deutscher Verein but for the festival. "Instead of dancing on rocks and weeds, Arlo Breidenbaugh put a 20 by 40 foot concrete pad to dance on."

No matter whether the founders began talking in 1978 or '79, the first official meeting was held in January of 1980 with 320 paid charter members.

Wehr served as the first president with Gary Egler as vice, Jeanne Holler in the secretary's role and Ron Kieffner as treasurer.

The newly organized group (designed as a social club) lost no time in planning their first big event — Fashnacht — held in February of 1980.

Not familiar with Fashnacht?

It's the party Germans hold on Shrove Tuesday — the day before Ash Wednesday. Think Mardi Gras with a German twist.

This was apparently a huge hit as the newly formed club raised \$1,400 which they used to purchase German-themed decorations to adorn downtown Jasper for the inaugural Strassenfest.

Now this is a bit confusing. According to Grammer, if the Deutscher Verein didn't exist, Strassenfest would not be what it is today. However, the two are mutually exclusive. While the club supports the festival the two are, indeed, separate entities.

The group lost no time in organizing committees for a community band, Mannerchor (men's chorus), programs and social events, costumes and historical research.

Linda Wehr took charge of costuming and began designing the iconic dress associated with Strassenfest and traditional German attire. Initially she created vests which were available for purchase, along with pins.

Eldena Voelkel helped, making more vests and later crafting dirndls for the ladies.

In addition, Linda made bunting to replicate the German flag in red, gold and black which adorned many businesses on the square.

The Wehrs also created the club logo, starting with the coat of arms of Germany, also known as Bundesrepublik Deutschland — a black eagle with a red beak, a red tongue and red feet on a golden field. This is the Bundesadler (German for 'Federal Eagle'), formerly known as Reichsadler (German for 'Imperial Eagle'). It is one of the oldest coats of arms in the world, and today the oldest national symbol used in Europe.

By-laws were written and the process to incorporate began. Meanwhile, club members built the very first Strassenfest float, a chalet crafted from locust supplied by Indiana Hardwood, perched on a United Cabinet trailer.

It may be safe to assume a few schooners were consumed as the float wended its way through Jasper (just saying, remember, one of the goals was fun).

Club members also planned a trip to Germany, Austria and Switzerland for June of 1981, in which 39 individuals took part.

Possibly on this journey the idea was sparked for a sister city, although it would take a few more years to become a reality. After much research two possible cities were under consideration, Lofer, Austria and Pfaffenweiler, Germany. The latter won out and it became official in November of 1984.

Dan Wehr shared a little Pfaffenweiler history. He said that around 1847, during the great German migration, two large groups left the city. Half were bound for Africa, and they were never heard from again. The other half migrated to the United States and these people split into two groups. Half settled in Fredericksburg, Texas.

Those who learned about Jasper, Indiana, likely from Fr. Kundek, headed for Dubois County.

"They were paying people to leave Germany," Dan says, "Kundek returned to Germany and told them there was much land in Indiana."

After Jasper and Pfaffenweiler became partners Dubois

County Hoosiers with German roots began reconnecting with family who stayed on the other side of the Atlantic.

Back in 1981, during that first trip, Wehr remembers a few communications snafus.

"Betty Hanselman knew some German and we took some little desks made of wood. Betty was going to present one to a waitress named Fifi, who didn't understand a word of English. Betty was trying to say 'made of wood,' but what she actually said translated to 'a pile of wood' which had Fifi giggling."

Meanwhile Linus Lechner and his wife Sally, were on a mission. Linus had been a driver for General George Patton during WW II and he was in possession of a photo taken with two German women as the conflict was winding to a close.

His mission was to find those women more than 35 years after the fact — and he did. They recognized him as well.

That trip (and every trip since) has been a blast, fulfilling the "fun" side of the organization.

Club members have also taken in some rather unique activities. In 1988 they attended a butchering at Leonard and Viola Wehr's farm, helping make blood sausage.

Dan Wehr distinctly remembers they started at 4 a.m. "and started drinking at 6 a.m." He also recalls Viola dipping her finger in to taste the concoction, only to report, "It needs more salt."

"We did this to show the old heritage," Dan explains. Part of the Deutscher Verein's mission is to preserve knowledge from the past.

But in addition to fun the group also fulfills philanthropic ideals, incorporating as a 501c4 that first year, adding an endowment in 2002 and finding all sorts of ways to give back, including through a scholarship program sending students to Germany to study (or for college here in the US), donating books to the library, adding a maypole in 1985 (built by Jim Corn), supporting ROJAC, paying for the mural at 6th and Newton, adding a Glockenspiel and holding German Heritage events at Strassenfest — the list is immense and would fill all the pages of this newspaper.

Suffice to say the group has been busy!

Meanwhile Deutscher Verein members often welcome visitors from Germany, some of whom are dignitaries. These include Consul General Wolfgang Moessinger, who has led the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Chicago since 2019 and the 2023-24 Wine Queen of Baden and Wine Princess of Germany, not to mention a plethora of scholars.

The club's efforts have not gone unrecognized. Just last October the Indiana German Heritage Society recognized the Jasper Deutscher Verein and Patti Goepfrich as co-recipients of the 2024 Hoosier German-American of the Year.

"To be [an organization that is] 45 years old has taken a lot of commitment and loyalty," notes Goepfrich.

"It's love and pride in our community," echoes new president Laura Grammer. She said the club's membership spans multiple generations with the youngest in their early 20s. Both the Ackermans (Grammer's family) and Wehrs can boast involvement from three generations.

"Most people sign on for life. The dues are \$15 per year and it's fun!" Grammer adds.

The Jasper Deutscher Verein meets the third Wednesday of the month and the programs are always lively. The next meeting on February 19 will be at the Jasper Moose Lodge with doors opening at 6 p.m. for fellowship (i.e. happy hour), the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and the meal at 7 p.m.

And just because Jasper is part of the name does not mean friends from neighboring communities are not welcome. While it began in Jasper the club truly encompasses and celebrates Dubois County's illustrious German history and heritage and all are welcome.

Become a member.

For more information just google Jasper Deutscher Verein (there is a website and a Facebook page), or contact any of the people in this article.

Dues are \$15 per person/\$30 per couple. Of this \$1 goes to Sister Cities for membership and another \$1 goes to the Jasper Deutscher Verein German Heritage Endowment. Dues can be mailed to: Jasper Deutscher Verein, PO Box 15, Jasper, IN 47547-0015.

(Additional information from the article are later in this newsletter.)

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

In addition to this newsletter, additional information on the Jasper Deutscher Verein can be gotten on the website – www.jaspergermanclub.org. The website features information on German Heritage info of the Deutscher Verein 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 Deutscher Verein and Sister Cities of Jasper.

Also, remember to check out Sister Cities' website at www.sistercitiesofjasperin.org and keep up on their latest activities.

Thank You

Thanks to Trish Nicholson and Stephanie Armstrong who stepped up to do the Setup and Teardown at the January and February meeting. And thanks to Irene Kapp for doing the March Meeting and Amy Ruxer who will be doing the April Meeting.

While the work is easy and only takes a little time, it makes a big difference to the people running the meeting to have it be more effective and more fun for all.

Reach out now to Laura at laura@ackoil.com to sign up for future meetings.

"Ein Prosit"

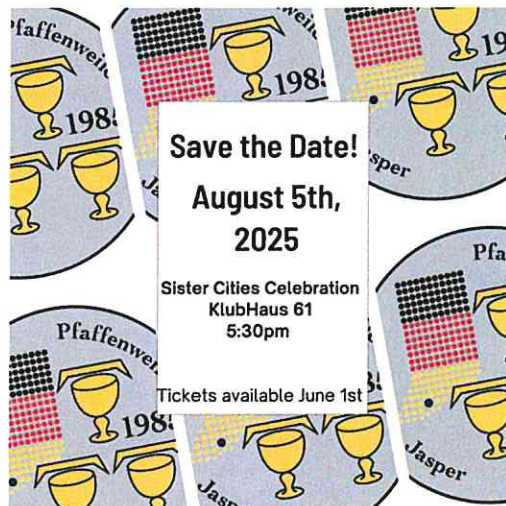
Ein Prosit Ein Prosit
der Gemütlichkeit
Ein Prosit Ein Prosit
der Gemütlichkeit
Eins, Zwei, Drei, G'suffa!
Zicke, zacke, zicke, zacke
Hoy, Hoy, Hoy,
Kinder machen, Kinder machen
Ya Ya Ya
Motorcycle, Motorcycle
Vroom, Vroom, Vroom
Der Deutscher Verein is Wunderbar!!

Postal 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 Mike Ackerman at 812-630-8756 or mike@ackoil.com with your new address so we can update our records. Thank you so much!!!!

*****Membership*****

As a paid member of the Jasper Deutscher Verein, \$1.00 of your dues goes to Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc. making each Jasper Deutscher Verein member a member of Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc.



Ashlyn Ackerman
Board Chair/Ladies Auxiliary President
The German American Club of Louisville, KY



The following information was taken from the February, 2025 German American Club of Louisville, KY newsletter.

Why Ashlyn Joined the GAC: Growing up in Jasper, IN, Ashlyn celebrated her family's German and Swiss heritage frequently. Inspired by her parents' involvement in the Jasper Deutscher Verein, she developed a passion for engaging with her community in way that are fun, social, and meaningful.

Ashlyn and her husband, Alex Hoffmann, are also members of the Jasper Deutscher Verein. Ashlyn is the daughter of Mike and Ann Ackerman.

Congratulations to Ashlyn for all she does to celebrate her heritage!!!!!! And to her parents!!!

Erinnerst Du Dich?

From The Herald
April 3, 1979

'Name Festival' contest begins

Come up with a good name for Jasper's summer festival and you'll win a \$25 savings bond.

The Jasper Tourism Committee today announced details of the "Name Our Festival Contest."

The festival, which is proposed to be an annual event, is scheduled this year from Aug. 2-5.

"A good name will be very important this year and in years to come," Charles Stenftenagel, tourism committee chairman, said.

The contest begins immediately. All entries must be submitted to the Jasper Chamber of Commerce Office, 710 Newton St., Jasper, IN, 47546, and be postmarked no later than midnight, April 15.

The name should be brief and should reflect Jasper's cultural heritage, the committee said.

To enter, use the "Name Our Festival Contest" entry blank above or send a postcard with the festival name, entrant's name, address and phone number. Only one name is allowed per entry, but there is no limit on the number of entries.

"For the festival to be a success, we need everyone involvement. The contest should give us a good start," Stenftenagel said.

The winner of the contest will get a \$25 savings bond and will be honored at festival events. In case of duplication of the winning name, the entry with the earliest postmark will win.

From The Herald
May 25, 1979

Jasper "Strassenfest" Aug 2-5

Jasper's summer festival, planned for Aug. 2 through Aug. 5, is to be called "Strassenfest," meaning "Street Festival" in German.

The Jasper Festival Committee announced the name, along with the schedule of events for the new festival, in a press release today.

Monica Jahn, 504 Mill Street, Jasper, was awarded a \$25 gift certificate for her entry in the committee's "Name Our Festival Contest."

The festival committee also accepted a festival logo to be used on buttons, t-shirts, and festival programs.

(Monica and her husband, Jerry, have been long-time members of the Jasper Deutscher Verein.)



Jasper Deutscher Verein **Taking Scholarship Applications**

The Jasper Deutscher Verein is offering a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to a German student of Dubois County. If you have a child, grandchild or know of anyone who would like to submit an application, please inform them to contact their Guidance Counselor at their school. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2025. If there are any questions, please contact Shelley Whalen at 812-827-1027.

At their January Board of Directors' Meeting in 2008, the following adopted the following qualifications for the Dubois County Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.00.

1. Completion of the common scholarship application available from the School's Guidance Office.
 2. Successful completion of two years of high school German.
 3. Two years of active participation in German Club or German Civic affairs in other schools.
 4. Verification of enrollment in a German course at the college of their choice, or participation in an accredited German study abroad program such as the IU Honors Program.
 5. Submission of a one page or less essay stating your personal qualifications and intentions.
 6. GPA consideration.
 7. Participation in an exchange program or hosting an exchange student.
 8. Submission of two letters of recommendation from adults other than school personnel regarding personal character, etc.
 9. The scholarship will be awarded upon verification of enrollment in German at college or acceptance into another German study abroad program such as the IU Honors Program. A \$500.00 scholarship will be given for the first semester and will be renewable for the second semester.
 10. Parental membership in the Jasper Deutscher Verein will be considered.
 11. Submission of all completed forms by April 1, 2025 to: Jasper Deutscher Verein, Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 15, Jasper, Indiana 47547-0015
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A message from the Partnership Commission

40th Anniversary of our Sister City Partnership

The Partnership Commission is working with Sister Cities and the Strassenfest Committee on the plans to host nearly 60 visitors that will be coming to Jasper for the Strassenfest and the 40th Anniversary Celebration of our partnership with Pfaffenweiler. The individuals are not coming and departing as a single group on a set date. They will be coming in smaller groups, families and friends, and incorporating their visit to Jasper with other travels in the US. A majority of our guests will be arriving on Wednesday, July 30th, and departing on Wednesday, August 6th. Some may be in Jasper longer than that week.

We have secured host families for most of our guests but are still in need of a few host families. If you have an interest in hosting a family, please e-mail me, Max Verkamp, at max.verkamp@gmail.com that you have interest, how many people you'd like to host, and any other relevant considerations that we may need to know when making the connections. If you have questions regarding hosting, you can also e-mail me those.

Finally, I would like to let everyone know that the Partnership Celebration will be held the evening of Tuesday, August 5th at the KlubHaus. So please save the date and plan to attend. Tickets for the event will be available around June 1st.

Max Verkamp

President

Jasper Partnership Commission

Jasper Deutscher Verein Februar **Meeting in Review**

The Jasper Deutscher Verein gathered on Wednesday, February 19 at the Jasper Moose Lodge. Members signed in at the door and were able to pay dues for 2025 and picked up new packets to add to their German Club folders. President Laura Grammer welcomed the 70 members and guests to the meeting, and then led the club in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Janet Rydberg led the club in singing God Bless America.

Vice President Lonnie Nicholson stood up and introduced the special guest for the evening, the Wine Princess of Baden, Lucia Winterhalter. Everyone looked forward to her presentation later in the meeting. Laura thanked Stephanie Armstrong for setting up the meeting and asked for more volunteers to help with set up and take down. There are 5 more spots available for the Apfle Strudel making class. If you are interested, please let Laura know. Also, there will be a German night at League Stadium. Come enjoy a Bomber's game on June 18 at 6:30. Those interested are asked to wear their German gear.

The German Club will be taking a trip to Germany in 2026. We are still taking reservations. Those interested should get with Landen Weidenbenner or Brandon Ferguson. Eight couples have already signed up. The trip is slated for September 17 – 25, 2026 and will be a Viking Cruise. Sign up by June 1st if interested.

Lucia then said the prayer before the meal and then Laura released the tables for a dinner of fried tenderloin, brown mushroom gravy, and butter noodles. The meal was prepared by the Jasper Moose Lodge. Salads and desserts were brought in by club members.

After dinner, Lucia came up to help Laura teach the club German words. Using the sheet in the folders, we learned the German wine words. Lucia then moved into her presentation which highlighted her journey to becoming the wine princess. She was very honored to be selected and thrilled to be presenting wines from her region in Germany. She is a wine maker in her small village of Schlatt. Lucia gave a wine tasting for the club members, telling about each of the wines. She had us taste a Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir, Spatburgunder Weissherbst and Gewurtraminer wine. Sister Cities president, Mary Leah Siegal, thanked Allen Hanselman for getting the wines here from Pfaffenweiler. You can purchase and try these wines yourself at Schnitzelbank or the Northside Holiday Liquors. Mary Leah then led the club in an Ein Prosit for the club's 45th Anniversary and the Sister Cities Anniversary. Laura then led the club in another Ein Prosit to thank Lucia for her presentation. Everyone joined in for a group photo with the Wine Princess.

Following the presentation, the members socialized and played cards.

Special prize winners were Irene Kraft and Paul Grammer. Jim Huebner won a special prize of pecans brought in by Gene Kieffner. Laura then called the meeting to a close.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 19 at the Jasper Moose Lodge. You will not want to miss this meeting! The new German Club logo will be presented as well as the new strategic plan for the club. Doors open at 6:00pm, and dinner is at 6:30pm.

Submitted by
Valerie Heim
Secretary

A message from our president

Seeking a Seamstress for JDV Vests

The Jasper Deutscher Verein is seeking to hire a seamstress for our iconic vests. Barbara Mohr has requested that we pick up all of our supplies. I have

checked with Keena Keusch and she only does alterations. And I have an appointment with Purple Cloth to see if she is interested.

Please contact Laura with ideas of people, including yourself, that can sew.

JDV Trip to German Speaking Countries

At the Club Meeting in May 2023, groups shared their list of important things for the German Club to continue doing and things the club might do differently. One of those items was trips to Germany.

We are planning a Viking River Cruise on the Danube River in September, 2026. (Yes, over a year away because the rooms for 2025 already have limited availability). We chose a river cruise over a bus tour because we visit 5 cities in 8 days and only have to unpack and pack 1 time, meals are included and at each port there is at least 1 excursion included.

The trip starts when we caravan to the Louisville Airport with an overnight flight to Budapest and arrival on the Ship. Visit Budapest arrival day and the next day, Vienna the next 2 days, Krems, Passau and Regensburg. There is an optional add-on to go to Nuremburg and Prague.

Travel by Design is coordinating the trip and everyone will be paying their own way to join us on the trip. To get the group discount and get a room, it is recommended that you book as soon as possible. The Ship is not only for JDV members and Rooms really do fill up quickly. Only JDV members will be signed up in our group by our travel agent until 6/1/25. After that date, others from the community will be allowed to sign up for the trip.

Come to the March Meeting

For the past 45 years, we have had founders on our board giving us guidance. The founders transition into a time where they are enjoying the fun of the club without the work of the club. When Vice President, Lonnie, asked about the Jasper Deutscher Verein Strategic Plan, it felt like the right time to discuss the future of the club.

The Jasper Deutscher Verein board approved the Strategic Plan for the JDV. That plan will be shared at the March JDV Club meeting. Along with this Strategic Plan, the brand refresh will also be unveiled.

We hope all members choose to attend the March meeting as we share our plan to "Respect our Past and Embrace our Future."

Laura Grammer
President

A message from our vice president

February Meeting Program – Wine Queen of Baden Presentation

On behalf of the entire club, a special thank you is extended to the Sister Cities organization and to Lucia Winterhalter, the Wine Queen of Baden. Lucia's presentation and the complementary wines provided by Sister Cities were greatly appreciated.

Stammtisch Event for March – Let's Make Apfel Strudel March 16th from Noon to 4:00pm

The upcoming Stammtisch event on March 16th from Noon to 4:00pm at Kimball International's headquarters building. An information flyer about the event was made available in the January club meeting. It includes the supplies you will need to bring.

German cooking in part of our community's heritage. What better way to learn and pass on this important tradition than to use an authentic from Germany and make apfel strudel together! Stammtisch events are friendly get-togethers for members who enjoy the same things, like cooking. Our first Stammtisch group are learning and playing sheephead together. It will be exciting to start a second group who enjoys cooking German dishes.

This event is limited to 20 participants. Members can sign up in pairs or solo and be matched with another individual. A list of items and ingredients to bring will be provided. As of February 20, we have 17 members signed up. If interested in attending the event, contact Laura Grammer via email at Laura@ackoil.com. Thanks in advance to Kimball International for allowing us to use their large kitchen space at their headquarters building at 1600 Royal Street.

Save the Date – A Night with the Bomber's 2025

The club's outing to a Dubois County Bomber's game will be on June 18th. Wear your German attire / colors, join us on field for an Ein Prosit, participate in the stein holding contest, and enjoy polka music between innings! More details will be announced as the date nears, including how to get tickets.

Lonnie Nicholson

Vice President



Sister Cities of Jasper March 2025 Update for Jasper German Club

Wine & Dine Event Update:

First, on behalf of the Board of Directors for Sister Cities of Jasper we thank you for your generous support of the 2025 Wine & DINE Your Valentine Event on February 15th! It was fantastic to see so many of our Jasper DeutscherVerein members in attendance and we hope you truly enjoyed the focus this year on the DINE portion of the event featuring our culinary exchange participants and food from the Baden region.

A very special thank you to the Wine Queen of Baden, Lucia Winterhalter, and Jasper DeutscherVerein member, Dr. Kim Gunderson, sommelier, who led us through the wine pairings/tastings. We fundraised with some fun activities during the event, including a wine pull, silent auction, and "heads & tails" game to support additional exchanges and events in 2025, 2026, and beyond.

Next month we hope to provide further details on the overall success of the event. Overall, it was an especially fun evening celebrating the partnership between Jasper and Pfaffenweiler and showcasing the wonderful wines of Pfaffenweiler Weinhaus!

Wine Queen Visit Update:

Lucia Winterhalter, 74th Wine Queen of Baden, has completed her visit! We were very sad to see her go and hope she returns soon for another visit to Jasper! She has captured the hearts of all of those that had the pleasure of hosting her during her stay. While in the United States, Lucia visited Jasper and the surrounding area and headlined multiple events. She was graciously hosted by Sandy and Dave Wehr for her stay in Jasper.

Just a few "figures of merit" regarding Lucia's visit...

Duration of Visit: 13 Total Days

Cities Visited: Jasper, French Lick, Bloomington, Indianapolis, Louisville, Chicago

German Wine Queen of Baden - Related Events:

Sister Cities of Jasper Wine & Dine, Sunday Tasting at Holiday Liquors North – Jasper, Sunday Evening Tasting at Louisville German American Club, Monday JHS School Visit, Tuesday Oliver Winery Visit, Tuesday Evening Tasting and Dinner with German American Club of Indianapolis, Wednesday Evening Jasper DeutscherVerein Meeting - Presentation and Tasting, Thursday – Jasper Area Sightseeing, Friday Evening Dankhaus (German Cultural Center) Chicago Tasting Event.

Total Number of German Wines Presented: 42

Total Wines Presented or Tasted from Germany

Total Number of People at Events During Visit:
270+

A very special thank you to the Indiana German Heritage Society (IGHS) for the generous grant to help with the cost of Lucia's visit to the United States, to help support our continued promotion of the Wine & Dine event, and for supporting our tie to the winegrowers in Pfaffenweiler and the Pfaffenweiler Weinhaus.

For 2025, we are currently applying for additional grants and examining our 5-to-10-year plan to sustain and manage additional programs and exchanges. We plan to celebrate this 40th Year of the Jasper - Pfaffenweiler partnership with several activities and fundraising efforts "For the next 40..." to sustain the partnership and activities for the next 40 years.

Feel free to contact me with any questions, and as always, a HUGE THANK YOU to the Jasper Deutscher Verein members for their support for Sister Cities of Jasper and our partnership with Pfaffenweiler!

Mary Leah Siegel

President, Sister Cities of Jasper



Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

Please note the following information may change due to the fact that we are publishing many months ahead!!!

Stammtisch

Sheepshead - meeting 2 times a month to play. Playing - 2nd & 4th Mondays to play Sheepshead at Headquarters- 201 Main Street, Jasper.

Stammtisch

Sunday, März 16th from Noon to 4pm

Learn to bake Apfel Strudel – Kimball International
Up to 20 people. Will bring one Strudel to the March meeting. As of February 20, we have 17 members signed up. If interested in attending the event, contact Laura Grammer via email at Laura@ackoil.com.

März

März 19, 2025-Wednesday-Jasper Moose Lodge-2507 Newton Street. Doors open at 6:00pm-festivities begin at 6:30pm.

Strategic Planning & Introduce new Logo

Baked Boneless Chicken Breast, Fettuccini Noodles with Broccoli & Alfredo Sauce will be served. Members bring either a Salad or Dessert.

April

April 16, 2025-Wednesday-Jasper Moose Lodge-2507 Newton Street. Doors open at 6:00pm-festivities begin at 6:30pm.

"Banished into Paradise" a documentary film about the emigration from Southwestern Germany (Pfaffenweiler) to Dubois County in the 1800's will be shown and Strassenfest sign up.

Fried Chicken Tenders, Au gratin Potatoes, and Green Beans will be served. Members to bring either a Salad or Dessert.

Stammtisch

**Saturday, April 26-Visit Winzerwald Winery & Whiskey Run (6853 E Pilot Knob Road, Milltown)
Forestry Walk 1-to-2-mile(s) hike (BYOB, Deutscher Verein provides Charcuterie Boards, Snacks)**

Mai

Mai 21, 2025-Wednesday-Jasper Moose Lodge-2507 Newton Street. Doors open at 6:00pm-festivities begin at 6:30pm.

Strassenfest Preview & Strassenfest Signup

German Tenderloin (Grilled Tenderloin, Swiss, Sauteed onions, bacon) Potato Wedges, and Green Beans will be served. Members to bring either a Salad or Dessert.

Juni

Juni 18, 2025-Wednesday League Stadium, Huntingburg City Park, 203 South Cherry Street, Huntingburg. The club's outing to a Dubois County Bomber's game will be on June 18th. Wear your German attire / colors, join us on field for an Ein Prosit, participate in the stein holding contest, and enjoy polka music between innings! More details will be announced as the date nears, including how to get tickets.

Stammtisch

Learn to Dance the Landler (TBD)

August

Strassenfest will be held July 31st – August 3rd!!! And we will celebrate 40 years of the Sister Cities Partnership between Jasper and Pfaffenweiler!!!!

Strassenfest Setup: July 28 or 29.
Teardown: August 3

Work at least 1 shift and help with either
Setup or Teardown

**August 5, 2025-Tuesday-KlubHaus61-2031
Newton Street. Save the date for the Sister
Cities Celebration at 5:30pm being
planned by the Jasper Partnership
Commission. Tickets around June 1st
More information will be forthcoming from
the Partnership Commission!!!**

September

**September 17, 2025-Wednesday-Jasper
Moose Lodge-2507 Newton Street. Doors
open at 6:00pm-festivities begin at
6:30pm.**

Strassenfest Wrap-up and Workers' Party

Pork Chop, au gratin Potatoes, and Baked Beans will be
served. Members bring either a Salad or Dessert.

Oktober

**Oktober 15, 2025-Wednesday-Jasper
Moose Lodge-2507 Newton Street. Doors
open at 6:00pm-festivities begin at
6:30pm.**

German American Day & silent or small auction
Schnitzelbank Catering - German Buffet
Exchange kids bring desserts??

Stammtisch

Saturday, November 15

Make Cardboard Gingerbread Houses – bring spouse or
kids or grandkids. Reservations required. Email
reservations to Laura at laura@ackoil.com. Deutscher
Verein provides Houses, Hot Cocoa & Gingerbread
Cookies. Bring to November German Club Meeting to
show members.

November

**November 19, 2025-Wednesday-Jasper
Moose Lodge-2507 Newton Street. Doors
open at 6:00pm-festivities begin at
6:30pm.**

History of Gingerbread Houses – Maybe recipe &
example from a member

Fried Boneless Chicken Breast & Country Gravy, Mashed
Potatoes, and Green Beans will be served. Members to
bring either a Salad or Dessert.

Dezember

**Dezember 11, 2025-Thursday-Jasper
Moose Lodge-2507 Newton Street. Doors
open at 6:00pm-festivities begin at
6:30pm. PLEASE NOTE DAY CHANGE to
Thursday!!!!!!**

Christmas Party

Santa & Christmas Tree history & Wine Tasting with Kim
Gunderson, sommelier

Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Cooked Carrots, 7 Layer
Salad, and IGA Cookies will be served.

**Endowments at the
Dubois County Community Foundation**

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

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

**Claude and Martina Eckert
Sister Cities Endowment**

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

A gift to the Jasper Deutscher Verein (German Club)
German Heritage Endowment or to the Claude and
Martina Eckert Sister Cities Endowment is a wonderful
way to remember that special someone. A gift in honor of
someone or in memory of someone may be given.
Envelopes are 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:



Information from the article written
By Kathy Tretter in *The Ferdinand
News* – January 23, 2025

The Jasper Deutscher Verein is turning 45 this year — and the celebration is ongoing. The club was created in recognition of the important connections to Dubois County's German heritage thanks to Rev. Joseph Kundek, who wanted to replicate a little bit of Europe in the country he moved to as a missionary priest.

Pictured clockwise from upper left: Danny Wehr, of Jasper, was the first president of the Deutscher Verein and he's still going strong.

He wore his vest, buttons and Tyrolean chapeau to a gathering at the Jasper Library where founding members and later generations gathered to share memories of the club's first 45 years.

While the Strassenfest and the Deutscher Verein are not one and the same the two have been intertwined since the beginning. According to incoming President Laura Grammer the Strassenfest would not be the same without the Deutscher Verein





The official logo, designed by Danny and Linda Wehr.

**Group Picture of members of Jasper Deutscher Verein / Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc. with Wine Queen of Baden, Lucia Winterhalter
February, 2025**



**Sister Cities of Jasper Board Members
with Wine Queen of Baden, Lucia Winterhalter
L to R Alan Hanselman, Sheri Keller, Lucia
Winterhalter, Sandy Wehr, Daniel Otto, and
Mary Leah Siegel**



**Jasper Deutscher Verein Officers
with Wine Queen of Baden, Lucia Winterhalter
L to R Valerie Heim, Laura Grammer, Lucia
Winterhalter, Lonnie Nicholson, and
Mike Ackerman**

Viking Cruise Details

WEBSITE to view the trip on-line. To be included in group for flights and transfers, should sign up with Group.
<https://www.vikingrivercruises.com/cruise-destinations/europe/romantic-danube/2025-budapest-regensburg/index.html>

Depart from USA 9/17/26 Overnight Flight from Louisville

Arrive back in USA 9/25/26

With the Cheapest Flight & room option, gratuities & excursions – starts about \$7k/person

Day 1 & Day 2 — Budapest, Hungary Friday 9/18/26 & Saturday 9/19/26



Hungary's capital straddles the banks of the Danube: traditional Buda on one side and modern Pest on the other. By day, stroll by art nouveau buildings, grand castles and palaces. By night, the shimmering lights of the Parliament building dance across the Danube with the Chain Bridge as a centerpiece.

Day 3 & Day 4 — Vienna, Austria Sunday 9/20/26 & Monday 9/21/26



The "City of Waltzes" & Europe's Classical Music center, Vienna set the scene as Strauss & Mozart composed. Ringstraße encircles the Inner City with Baroque, neo-Renaissance, Gothic-Romanesque structures, Hofburg Palace & Vienna State Opera. Must try the *Sachertorte*.

Day 5 — Krems, Austria Tuesday 9/22/26



Krems, in Wachau Valley, is surrounded by terraced vineyards. In the 12th century, Krems provided iron, grain, salt and wine. Later, Krems was Wachau's popular wine culture with excellent Riesling and Veltliner wines. Visit the city's cobblestone streets, taverns, wine bars and coffeehouses.

Day 6 — Passau, Germany Wednesday 9/23/26



Founded by the Celts over 2,000 years ago, Passau is one of Bavaria's oldest cities & rests between the Inn, Ilz and Danube rivers. The massive organ in St. Stephen's Cathedral is one of the largest outside the USA. Visit rural the rolling hills of rural Bavaria. Try some delicious hams and sausages, milk & alpine cheeses.

Day 7 & Day 8 — Regensburg, Germany Thursday, 9/24/26 & Friday 9/25/26 Depart for Airport



Regensburg is a well preserved medieval city, not bombed during WWII & the oldest city along the Danube as well as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The 12th century, Visit the Old Stone Bridge with its 16 arches, St. Peter's Gothic Cathedral & old town's Neupfarrplatz square with its cross section of history.



February 17, 2025

Landon Weidenbenner
Jasper Deutscher Verein (German Club)
P.O. Box 15
Jasper, IN 47547-0015

Dear Landon,

Enclosed you will find your 2024 Fund Summary for the Jasper Deutscher Verein (German Club) German Heritage Endowment.

We're excited to share that 2024 was a successful year for the Community Foundation's investment performance, achieving a return of 11.42%. Our total assets now stand at \$88.5M, a milestone made possible by generous donors like you who recognize the vital role philanthropy plays in building a thriving community.

Your Fund Summary depicts all financial activity for 2024 specific to your donor-advised fund, including market values, contributions, and disbursements. In addition, the total amount available to grant in 2025 is noted, which may include any remaining funds rolled over from last year.

You can request a grant disbursement from your fund at any time by emailing Kevin Smith, Director of Grantmaking, kevin@dccommunityfoundation.org, or by contacting him at (812) 482-5295.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you.

With warm wishes and gratitude,


Clayton Boyles
Executive Director



Jasper Deutscher Verein (German Club) German Heritage Endowment

Fund Established: May 17, 2002

Fund Type: Donor Advised

2024 Fund Summary

Beginning Balance	\$53,861.67
Contributions & Additions	\$4,130.55
Investment Returns	\$6,964.19
Grants & Distributions	\$-0.00
Ending Balance	\$64,956.41

Total Available to Grant in 2025	\$4,016.00
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Grant Disbursements	
Total Disbursements	\$0.00

Membership Dues

It's that time of year again! If you have not yet paid your 2025 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) \$15.00 per person (\$30.00 per couple)

Jasper Deutscher Verein

Officers:

Laura Grammer – President
laura@ackoil.com
812-630-7244

Lonnie Nicholson – Vice President
lonnie.nicholson@gmail.com

Mike Ackerman – Treasurer
mike@ackoil.com

Valerie Heim – Secretary
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Die Zeitung
Editor: Patti Goepfrich
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DeutscherVerein Website:
www.jaspergermanclub.org

Search Facebook for Jasper
DeutscherVerein

Non-Profit 501(c)(4)

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Patrick Schuler–
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Sister Cities
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Paul Siegel-German
Heritage Activities
Adult Coordinator

Open-German
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Youth Coordinator

Sandy Wehr-Legacy

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www.sistercitiesofjasperin.org

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