



Jasper German Club
Deutscher Verein

Die Zeitung

April 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.

Indianapolis Liederkrantz Band Coming to the 2025 Strassenfest



At the Spring Konzert of the Indianapolis Liederkrantz Band, it was announced that they will be performing for the first time at the 2025 Strassenfest. They will be performing in the Bier Garten on Saturday, August 2nd beginning at 1pm. Must be 21+ and a Strassenfest button is required for admission.

The band is very excited to be coming to Jasper and the Strassenfest. Two of the band members, Katie Birge and Carrie Birge Caito, are from Jasper!!!!!!



L to R Katie Birge, Patti Goepfrich, and Carrie Birge Caito



Carrie Birge Caito uses her instrument to point out the German images during the Schnitzelbank song at the Spring Konzert.



Katie Birge leads everyone at the Spring Konzert in the Schnitzelbank song.

Thank you Katie and Carrie for taking your Jasper German Heritage to Indianapolis!!! Katie and Carrie are the daughters of John and Lisa Birge.



The following article was written by Kathy Tretter and Diane Hoppenjans and was published in the March 6, 2025 edition of the *Ferdinand News*. Reprinted with permission.

**Christmas Pyramid to look down 32 feet and
two centuries upon Ferdinand
by Kathy Tretter and Diane Hoppenjans**

For many years it has been the dream of Ferdinand Tourism Commission members — the philanthropic body behind Christkindlmarkt — to add a Christmas Pyramid to the Main Street vista in Ferdinand.

"A what?" you might ask.

A Christmas Pyramid, known in Germany where they originated as Weihnachtspyramide, is a tiered Christmas decoration normally placed on a tabletop during the holidays. Each tier is adorned with figurines and candles. The lit candles cause the tiers to spin slowly. A large household Christmas Pyramid would measure around two feet tall with four or five tiers.

Thanks to grants, donations, pledges and copiously guarded savings through the years, Ferdinand will have its very own Christmas Pyramid — majestically standing 32 feet high in the center of town.

The grant, by the way, came through the Dubois County Tourism Capital Improvement Fund.

According to Executive Director Whitney Lubbers, "We wanted to put money into having really great tourism assets for our communities." She explained that something of this caliber hits all the marks and is sure to be a huge draw. "We are very excited about the pyramid," she added.

Mary C. Lange was then the first person who stepped up and made a sizable donation to fulfill this dream. Mary and her late husband, Clem, have long been two of the most generous philanthropists regionally, not just for the benefit of Ferdinand but for the betterment of Dubois County.

Others soon followed and fundraising continues.

Ferdinand's Christmas Pyramid, the fourth U.S. outdoor pyramid to be built in Germany by Erzgebirgische Holzkunst, will stand north of the Historic Wollenmann Home on Main Street in Ferdinand, three minutes off I-64, on a raised knoll of land that feels like the center of town.

Crafted of German Spruce and steel, each tier will feature wood-crafted images.

The first tier will contain the Nativity.

The second tier will include figures near and dear to the community, from founder Rev. Joseph Kundek, Emperor

Ferdinand I of the Habsburg Empire for whom the community is named, and Mother Benedicta Berns, the first prioress of what would become Monastery Immaculate Conception, along with the fifth pastor, Father Eberhard Stadler, standing next to a chair symbolic of the craftsmanship of Clem Lange and Best Home Furnishings of Ferdinand.

The third tier will feature figures representing the occupations of Ferdinand's earliest settlers, and the fourth will include a choir of angels.

While the Christmas Pyramid will be on display from November 1 to early January, the base will be permanent. In Germany it would be called a hut, but the actual structure will be more like a vendor style booth. This space will be available for rent year-round.

The German Christmas pyramid in Fredericksburg, Texas was the first large-scale German Christmas pyramid in the United States. It was initially displayed at their Marktplatz during the 2009 holiday season. Cullman, Alabama's pyramid followed next in 2019 and is North America's tallest Christmas Pyramid, proudly standing 40 feet tall. Dallas, Texas added a pyramid in 2020, and Erzgebirgische Holzkunst Gahlenz also built large indoor pyramids for a shopping mall in Cripple Creek, Colorado and a church in Southlake, Texas.

These traditional decorations have roots in the Erzgebirge region of Germany and feature rotating scenes of Christmas and everyday life.

With the addition of the Christmas Pyramid, Ferdinand will serve as the gateway to Dubois County and its rich German heritage throughout the Christmas season, enhancing the holiday spirit displayed at Christkindlmarkt and beyond.

With over 200 booths in six market locations throughout town and no admission fee, Ferdinand's Christkindlmarkt, held annually on the third full weekend in November, draws 10,000-12,000 visitors a year. The pyramid's assembly will take place at the end of October in time for Ferdinand's Christmas Open House and Huntingburg's Christmas Stroll the first weekend in November. It will stand throughout the Christmas season, including during Jasper's O'Tannebaum Days along with other community events, and Visit Dubois County's Olde World Christmas promotions.

A 5-10-minute audio, professionally prepared by BBFocus 1, will be available by way of a QR code to share the story of how a missionary priest from Croatia came to found the town in 1840 hoping to establish a German Catholic community in the primeval forests of Southern Indiana.

With loads of Christmas spirit, holiday shopping opportunities in local shops that offer unique gifts and

personalized shopping, warm and inviting dining experiences, breweries with custom craft brews, and historic sites to visit, discover Ferdinand and Dubois County in Southern Indiana for a special holiday experience.

For more on Dubois County tourism opportunities go to <https://visitduboiscounty.com> or call 812-482-9115 or 800-968-4578.



"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

Would all members who are going to be gone for any period of time or have a postal change of address, 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*****

Dues for the DeutscherVerein are \$15 a person. Out of this \$15, a \$1 will go to the Jasper DeutscherVerein (German Club) German Heritage Endowment, \$1 per member for dues to Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc., and \$13.00 will be retained for club operating expenses.

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

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 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 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.

The following is information concerning the film „Banished into Paradise“ which will be shown at the April Meeting!!!!!!

Erinnerst Du Dich?

From *The Herald*
March 21, 1997
In the News by Fred Smith

Film describes suffering that led to German migration

Most county residents know that during the early-to-mid-19th century, immigrants from Pfaffenweiler, Germany, traveled to Jasper and surrounding areas to settle, becoming the ancestors of many who live here today. But few, perhaps, know the depth of suffering that sparked that emigration.

The plight of these people was the subject of a German National Television film broadcast throughout Germany last year. Matt Hilger, the Pfaffenweiler native who now lives in Jasper, recently returned from Pfaffenweiler with several videos of "Verbannt ins Paradies."

On one, he has replaced the German narrator's voice with his own – in English. Terry Gobert, Jasper High School baseball coach, recreates the voices of several of the male characters on the video.

"Banished into Paradise" tells of the crushing famine and poverty that beset southern Germany in the 1840s and uses Pfaffenweiler as a case study. As was the case in Ireland at the same time, a severe potato blight destroyed the local basic food source in 1846, resulting in famine and a widespread disruption of the economy, including the loss of jobs for many. This led directly to the emigration of many from Pfaffenweiler to its future sister city in America.

Other factors made the crisis worse. Bizarre weather early that year disrupted the early growing season. February was "glowing hot," April was "ice-cold," and the hail in May destroyed the grape shoots that Pfaffenweiler depended on for the wine that was the integral part of its economy, as it is today. Flooding left the nearby Rhine River "an ocean," according to one account.

That summer, prices for grain skyrocketed and loaves of bread were small and expensive. Hunger revolts occurred. Many were forced to eat at government soup kitchens.

Famine and poverty so deprived the population that parents in some cases sold their children rather than watch them starve to death, giving them up to people who would employ them as farm laborers. Husbands abandoned their wives and children, hoping to find new lives in America or elsewhere. Unwed mothers and their illegitimate children were shipped out of the country without any preparation for life in their new homes.

Emigration became in fact the government's preferred solution to the famine, though no one expected it to get out of hand. But when the poorhouse in New York City overflowed with German immigrants, the U.S. government began requiring Germany to guarantee immigrants would not burden the government for two years after their arrival. This raised the cost of emigrating, but the number of emigrants accelerated anyway.

The journal of Fr. Joseph von Kleiser, the parish priest in Pfaffenweiler, was used for much of the film's story. He watched dejectedly as many in his congregation left for America.

First, travelers came through, saying that anyone with a skill in Germany would become wealthy in America.

Then, Alois Eckert, one of the young men in his parish, was sent to Dubois County to determine its suitability for a migration. He left that spring and returned in the fall, praising the new land.

When wavering Pfaffenweiler residents saw Eckert gather up his wife and children for the trip back to America, many decided to follow suit. Fr. von Kleiser was disappointed that Eckert, in a financial position to weather the famine, was so eager to leave.

But 30 years before, famine led another group to leave for America. They never made it out of the port of Amsterdam.

Those who returned to Pfaffenweiler, his own family included, had given up their citizenship and never fully regained it. When the famine of 1846 hit, the children of those 1816 would-be emigrants were the first to want to leave. Today, many Jasper residents trace their ancestry to Alois Eckert.

The film concludes with the account of the largest of the several Pfaffenweiler-to-Jasper in 1847.

Seventy-five Pfaffenweiler residents traveled to France to board the American ship, Tallahassee. On the voyage, water and good run short and illness came. Several, including children, died. But 63 days out, land was sighted and the immigrants eventually made their way to Jasper.



"Respect our Past"
"Embrace our Future"



Apfle Strudel by Jasper Deutscher Verein

PLUMP the RAISINS (Rosinen) – Small Microwave Bowl

- 1/2 cup **Apple Juice** – Warm in microwave
- 1/2 cup **Golden Raisins** – (Cover with warm **Apple Juice** for minimum 30 minutes)

PREPARE STRUDEL DOUGH – Metal or Glass Bowl works best

- Mix dry ingredients in a bowl (bowl 2)
 - 1.5 cups **All-purpose Flour**
 - 1/2 teaspoon **Salt**
- Mix wet ingredients. Can use the 1 cup measuring cup to mix together.
 - 3/4 cup **Lukewarm Water**
 - 1.5 Tablespoons **Vegetable oil**
- Mix Wet & Dry ingredients with stirring spoon until combined.
- Dough should be wet but not sticky & able to stay in a rolled ball.
 - If too sticky, add more flour.
 - If too dry and won't keep ball shape, add more water.
- Knead 10 minutes until no veins are seen.
- Slam the dough on the counter to release gluten & knead for 3 more minutes
- Sprinkle counter with flour, place dough on flour and cover with plastic wrap.
- Rest the dough 30 minutes. **During 1st Resting Time**
 - Prepare Filling
 - Prepare Apple Seasoning mixture.
- After 30-minute rest (set plastic wrap aside) & Knead dough another 10 minutes.
- Sprinkle counter with flour, place dough on flour and cover with same plastic wrap.
- Let dough rest another 30 minutes. **During 2nd Resting time**
 - Place Parchment paper on cooking sheet (good if hangs over the sides a little)
 - Preheat Oven to 375 Degrees

CREATE FILLING – Bowl with minimum 6 Cups Markings

- Mix All items together
 - 6 cups **Apples** (about 4 Granny Smith) – Peel & Dice
 - 1/3 cup **Butter** – Melt & Coat Apples to keep from browning.
 - Plumped **Raisins** – (After draining apple juice from the raisins).
 - 1/3 cup **Chopped Pecans**
- **DO NOT MIX with SEASONING until right before placing Filling on the dough**

CREATE APFEL SEASONING (Würze) – Dirty Bowl from Dough Mixture

- 1/2 tsp **Salt**
- 1/2 tsp **Ground Cinnamon**
- 1/4 cup **Brown Sugar**
- 1/2 cup **Granulated Sugar**
- 1/3 cup **Breadcrumbs**

- **DO NOT ADD to FILLING until right before placing Filling on the dough**

STRETCH the DOUGH (Teig)

1. Dough should be soft and pliable. Correction Options:
 - a. Let it rest another 10 minutes.
 - b. Spray with Pam cooking spray.
2. Cut the dough in half and each person works on their own dough ball.
3. Sprinkle flour on counter and roll the dough to resemble a rectangle.
4. Spread out the Tea Towel and sprinkle a little flour on the towel.
5. Transfer dough to the Tea Towel
 - a. Can roll out again using Rolling Pin if desired.
6. Put a dusting of flour on your hands.
7. Using your fingertips, Gently stretch the dough from underneath
 - a. Trying to create something resembling a rectangle.
 - b. Should be able to read a newspaper under the dough.
 - c. If a tear happens, pinch dough together and move to another spot to let it stick together.
8. Brush top of dough with **Melted Butter**.
 - a. Stay about 2 inches away from all sides.

ADD FILLING (Füllung) to the DOUGH (Teig)

- Stir together the Apple Seasoning Mixture into the Apple, Raisin & Pecan Mixture.
- Evenly spread out half the Prepared filling on each stretched dough on top of the butter.
 - Stay away from the sides the 2 inches.

ROLL the APFEL STRUDEL

- Fold in the sides and top but not the bottom.
- Starting at the top, using the towel, roll the strudel together.
- Transfer dough seam DOWN onto Baking sheet with Parchment Paper,
- Brush with **Melted Butter**.

BAKE

- 375 degrees for 45 to 55 minutes
 - The thicker the roll, bake the roll longer.

- Should be Golden Brown and the Outside should be Hard (can knock on it).
- Sprinkle with **Powdered Sugar**
- Rest for 15 minutes to let the filling set inside the dough before cutting.

Making Strudel!!!!!!



Update to the 2026 Jasper Deutscher Verein Trip

The 2026 German Club trip is filling up quickly. There are currently (11) couples signed up for the trip. Travel by Design has received a few inquiries about single travelers. If you or someone is interested in the trip, but is on their own and would like to go, please call Brandon Ferguson at 812-604-3893. Travel by Design is creating a list of single travelers to potentially pair-up for the trip.

For questions, please contact Travel by Design (Brandon Ferguson) at 812-604-3893 for more information and to reserve your spot! The boat is filling up quickly, and we would like the majority of the occupancy on the ship to be the Jasper Deutscher Verein and friends!

Additional information is later in this newsletter.

A message from the Partnership Commission

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



Let's Meet Niklas Lais **Sister Cities Homestay-ACES Student**



Niklas Lais, age 17, is from Freiburg, Germany and attends Evangelisches Montessori Schulhaus in Freiburg. He arrived in Jasper just before the snow storm in January and will leave at the end of the school year in May. He attends JHS as a junior.

He notes that he often watches basketball games in the JHS gym. As a difference between school here and in Germany, is that here he has to walk to his next class. In Germany, he mostly stays in the same room and the teachers come to the students. He eats lunch around the same time in Germany and states he believes the cafeteria in Germany is much nicer.

Niklas has a brother, Lasse who is 13 years old. In Germany, he works at a youth center once a week and plays soccer with middle school kids and makes sure they don't get hurt!

He chose to come to Jasper because it is a Sister City to Pfaffenweiler where his grandparents live. He is learning to improve his English and is getting to know new people.

Niklas's host family is Matthias, Sarah, Ava, Madi, and Sammy Hulse.

Jasper Deutscher Verein March **Meeting in Review**

The Jasper Deutscher Verein gathered on Wednesday, March 19 at the Jasper Moose Lodge. Members signed in

at the door and were able to pay dues for 2025, pick up new packets to add to their German Club folders and sign-up to work the German Club booth at the Strassenfest. President Laura Grammer welcomed 60 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.

Treasurer Mike Ackerman led the club in the German Prayer before dinner. Laura thanked Irene Kapp for setting up the meeting and then updated the club members that we had 17 participants that made strudel. Some of them brought in their strudel for everyone to try.

Laura released the tables for a dinner of baked boneless chicken breasts, fettuccini noodles with alfredo sauce and broccoli. The delicious meal was prepared by the Jasper Moose Lodge. Salads and desserts were brought in by club members.

After dinner, announcements were made that the German Club trip to Germany in 2026 still has spots open. If you are interested, please get with Landen Weidenbenner or Brandon Ferguson. Sandy Wehr announced the Sister City Golf Scramble to support the German Exchange Program will take place on April 27. Then Vice President Lonnie Nicholson told the club that April 26th is the Wine & Wilderness Stammtisch. We will be visiting Winzerwald Winery & Whiskey Run. Please RSVP to Lonnie. Also, don't forget about the German Night at the Bomber's Game coming up on June 18. Laura then led the club in learned German words for strategic planning since the program was about our new strategic plan.

The Officers came up to present the new strategic plan. Laura reviewed our new updated mission and vision for our club. It aligns us to be prepared for the future while respecting the foundation our club was built on. Next Mike spoke about our financial pillars. Lonnie then went over our membership pillars. Valerie reviewed our German heritage pillars and Laura went over the alignment and collaborate pillar. The strategic plan was passed out to add to the folders. Please be sure to pick your packet up at the next meeting so you can read more about the strategic plan.

Next Jane Balsmeyer and Al Keller rolled out our updated logo. They went over what the previous logo looked like and vetted the new logo with several members before landing on a refreshed version of the logo. Koozies and playing cards with the new logo were given out at the meeting. We are very excited our new logo. Laura led an Ein Prosit to all the members for the past 45 years of dedication and the direction of the next 45 years.

Following the presentation, the members socialized and played cards.

Special prize winners were Sandy Wehr and Kurt Hedinger. Linda Strosnider won a special prize of a

German puzzle brought in by Sheryl Hauser. Laura then called the meeting to a close.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 16 at the Jasper Moose Lodge. We will be viewing "Banished to Paradise" video in preparation of our visitors arriving from Pfaffenweiler and we will continue sign-ups to work the Strassenfest booth. Doors open at 6:00pm, and dinner is at 6:30pm.

Submitted by
Valerie Heim
Secretary

A message from our president

Respect Our Past, Embrace Our Future & Energize our Members

The March Jasper Deutscher Verein (JDV) meeting was a little like a twin baby gender reveal party. The First Reveal, the Officers revealed the Strategic Plan that lays out the club's direction for the next 45 years of success. The Second Reveal was the refreshed Logo.

Many thanks to the Officers and Board members for the dedication to the Club as we defined our Mission, Vision, Pillars for Success and Word of the Year that Respects the Success of our Past and Embraces a Future that sticks to our German Roots. The Strategic Plan is attached later in the newsletter. Contact any board members if you have questions about the Strategic Plan for the JDV.

The Strategic Word of the Year is "Energize". The goal is to have members feel **Energized** to be part of our club. As **Energized** members share the fun club activities, existing members become **Energized** and sparks an interest for New Members to Join. So proudly wear your club Logo and share how you are **Energized** about the Jasper Deutscher Verein.

During the Strategic Planning process, we realized that a small number of members do a large amount of the work for the club. We would like to ask all members to take on small roles in the club.

Thanks to the Officers who are working at each meeting: Kurt and Valerie Heim are the Audio Gods, Paul and Laura Grammer setup the room and provide the projector equipment, Lonnie & Trish Nicholson tote the tablescapes, clean serving utensils & coordinate with presenters, and Mike & Ann Ackerman handle all the accounting.

A shout out to our first **Meeting Coordinators**: Stephanie Armstrong, Irene Kapp, Amy Ruxer & Phyllis Schitter. A single Meeting Coordinator arrives at 5:30pm and sets up the tablescape, cuts desserts & tosses

salads, then tears down at the end. This allows the Officers to focus on presenting an effective meeting.

We are looking for a few more Meeting Coordinators to volunteer for a future meeting. Please contact Laura to become a Meeting Coordinator for a future meeting.

A big thank you to Dan Otto, the JHS German Club Teacher. He has agreed to do the 5 minute German Language segment at each Club Meeting. We all look forward to his teaching pages and the proper pronunciation of the German words.

The Strategic Planning process helped to solidify the reason to look at adding a refreshed Logo for the Jasper Deutscher Verein.

The JDV Marketing Team, led by Jane Balsmeyer and including Landen Weidenbenner, Al Keller, Brandon Ferguson and Laura Grammer, worked for over a year to select and tweak the refreshed Logo. Lonnie Nicholson and Patti Goepfrich joined the group to help with the rollout and creation of an annual marketing campaign.

The group chose to keep the crest, the German colors, German fonts for German words and the Eagle. From my perspective, we might be the only club logo in Dubois County boasting a Crest shape. What a great way to stand out. Personally, I like that the logo still contains half of the German Eagle and prefer that the half that we are showing does not include the Eagle's tail & talons.

There is plenty of room in the JDV to have 2 logos that respect our past and embrace our future. The treasured iconic vests are like a dress uniform that is still expected to be seen at Club Meetings and the Strassenfest. For a more casual trip to the grocery store or meeting friends, the refreshed JDV Crest Logo on a t-shirt is a great conversation starter about why the Jasper Deutscher Verein is important to the community and how others can be involved.

With much relief from the members at the meeting, Jane, Al and Laura only took off their sweaters to reveal their t-shirts with the refreshed Logo. Contact Sports Garden for logo apparel.

With much joy from the members, Koozies and a Decks of Cards with the new logo were distributed at the meeting. We will distribute again at future meetings while supplies last.

Mark your calendars for July 16th, when the downtown Shop & Sip event is expected to include a reintroduction of the German Club with the new Logo!

Laura Grammer
President

A message from our vice president **March Stammtisch – Apfel Strudel**

18 club members learned to make apfel strudel from an authentic German recipe. Each group of bakers made two strudels, sharing one with the entire club in the March meeting. Thank you for sharing your wonderful dessert. And a special thanks to Kimball International for hosting us at the beautiful corporate headquarters.

The recipe is included in the newsletter.

If a group of members is interested in a continuing Stammtisch culinary group, all we need is a volunteer to be the coordinator!

April JDV Meeting – German Heritage – “Banished to Paradise”

Please join us in the next club meeting on April 16th when we will be viewing the “Banished to Paradise” video about Jasper's ancestors' journey to America. It will be a great way to prepare to welcome our visitors from Pffanweiler for the 40th anniversary of the Sister Cities & Partnership. They will be here for Strassenfest this year.

April Stammtisch – Winery & Woodlands Adventure – April 26th 12:30-5:30pm

If you love wine tasting or just glass of your favorite and enjoy the great outdoors, the April Stammtisch event is for you!

Dan Wehr's Whiskey Run, a wooded property with Black Forest vibes, is a great place to celebrate spring and Earth Day and to recognize our German Heritage's proud history in forestry, woodworking, conservation. Danny has a lot of passion and experience in these areas and the club thanks him in advance for hosting us!

May Stammtisch – Landler Dance

We are beginning to plan a Stammtisch to learn the traditional Lander dance. We have a group of experienced dancers and welcome others to join. We will have the opportunity to dance between innings at the June Bomber's game and then again at the Strassenfest opening ceremonies. Believe me, no dance experience is required. If I can do it, anyone can!

Ongoing Stammtisch Groups

We currently have one ongoing Stammtisch Group – the Sheepshead Card Players. They meet twice a month on Monday evening. The graduates of this year's training class are joining us also, and if they are not in the club, we are actively recruiting them to join! An important note: all expenses associated with ongoing Stammtisch get-togethers are paid by the individuals participating.

German Night with the Bomber's - June 18th at 6:30pm

Join us for summer fun and wear your German attire / colors. Cheer on die Bombers and Mark Balsmeyer as he throws out the first pitch! To get tickets, sign-up at the April meeting or send me an email at Lonnie.Nicholson@gmail.com. I will request the tickets and distribute them before the game. The tickets are free and food/beverage voucher will be provided, but I need to have your ticket request in advance.

Lonnie Nicholson

Vice President

A message from our treasurer

Thanks to everyone who has paid their 2025 dues. To remain a member in good standing, we ask that you pay your 2025 dues before 4/30/2025.

Newsletters can stop arriving for a variety of reasons, including membership expiration, or a problem with our database. If you are unsure if you have paid your dues, or need to verify your email, phone number, etc., you may email mike@ackoil.com or phone Mike at 812-630-8756.

Strassenfest 2025 is nearly here. The reconfiguration of the intersections has pushed our food booths further south on Main Street. Our club will start with booth set up on Monday evening 07-28-2025, and conclude with teardown on Sunday afternoon 08-03-2025. Our Strassenfest food booths are our club's largest fundraiser each year, and we need your help to work one or more shifts. There are also opportunities to be involved in non-standing roles including support for our German Heritage events each evening of the Strassenfest with participant registration. Contact Ann at 812-630-7241 to volunteer to work one or more shifts.

Mike Ackerman

Treasurer

mike@ackoil.com

812-630-8756

Sister Cities of Jasper April 2025 Update for Jasper German Club

Board of Directors Update:

A regular quarterly meeting of the Sister Cities of Jasper Board of Directors was held at The Schnitzelbank on Saturday, March 8th from 9am to Noon. All previous business as well as ongoing exchanges and projects were discussed. Most notably, several upcoming events and projects were discussed including a golf scramble fundraiser benefiting the student exchange and the permanent stone historical marker for the celebration of 40 years of partnership between Jasper and Pffanweiler. Additionally, on March 21st and 22nd, President, Mary Leah Siegel, and Vice President, Sandy

Wehr, attended the Annual Indiana German Heritage Society (IGHS) Meeting & Symposium held at the Athenaeum in Indianapolis. It was a great meeting where we learned a lot about several aspects of Indiana German heritage and individual immigrant stories and overall emigration to Indiana.

Student Exchange Update:

Fundraising and planning continues for the 18 students that will be going on the exchange in the summer of 2026. The next fundraising event is the GOLF Scramble on April 27th at the Buffalo Trace Golf Course.

Spring is in the air, and it's time to hit the links for the **Sister Cities Golf Scramble** in support of the JHS German Exchange program!

Sunday, April 27th

11:00 - Lunch & Check-in

12:00 - Shotgun Start

Ways to participate & help the students experience Germany:

- Grab your clubs & three friends and joins us for the scramble!
Foursome + Hole Sponsorship - \$440
Foursome - \$320
- Hole Sponsorship Only - \$140
- Make a monetary donation to the exchange – any donation is appreciated!

Register early to assure your team can join in the fun!

Registration deadline: April 20, 2025.

Link to registration: <https://www.zeffy.com/.../golf-scramble-benefiting-jhs>

Thank you for supporting Sister Cities' student exchange!

Permanent Stone Historical Marker for 40 Years of Partnership:

The Dubois County Stone Carvers Group in conjunction with the Stone Carvers Group of Pfaffenweiler Germany are planning to erect a permanent historical monument in each community, a testament to the strong relationship between the two communities and marking the celebration of 40 Years of the partnership.

The stone will include the founding years for each of the communities (Pfaffenweiler 1094, Jasper 1830) and the founding year of the partnership (Sister Cities Partnership 1985). The monument will also include a visual listing of the various activities and milestones of the partnership over these past 40 years and serve as a place to add more milestones in the future. The placement of the stone monument will be near the Jasper Train Depot. This will be a capstone statement for our 40th year celebration and will be unveiled on Saturday, August 2nd, during the Strassenfest and visit of individuals from Pfaffenweiler

during their anniversary trip. We will provide details for the dedication and extend a formal invitation to all DeutscherVerein members to attend the unveiling in the next newsletter.

We are currently fundraising for this project expected to cost approximately \$20,000 including granite stones, setting of the monument, the foundational base for the monument, machinery to place the monument, the bronze Sister Cities Crest, and lettering in the stone. To date several grants have been received as well as individual donations. If you wish to donate to this amazing project, please contact Stan Jochum: stanjochum@gmail.com or 812-630-0466

Additional Information:

- For 2025, the Sister Cities of Jasper is continuing to apply for additional grants and examining our 5-to-10-year plan to sustain and manage additional projects, 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.

We look forward to viewing the movie 'Banished to Paradise' with you at the April meeting. We hope this will provide Jasper Deutscher Verein members with even more insight into our special partnership with Pfaffenweiler.

Feel free to contact me with any questions, and as always, a HUGE THANK YOU to the Jasper Deutscher Verein members for their continued 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. Play begins at 6:30pm!!!!

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, 2025-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)

Sunday, April 27, 2025-Sister Cities Golf Scramble-Buffalo Trace Golf Course-Registration is due April 20, 2025

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.

Stammtisch

Learn to Dance the Landler (TBD)

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.

Juli

Juli 16, 2025 – Downtown Jasper Shop and Sip Event – Reintroduction of the German Club with the new Logo!!!

Strassenfest Setup: July 28.

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.

Teardown: August 3

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

August 2, 2025-Jasper Train Depot-Unveiling of Stone Carvers stone

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.

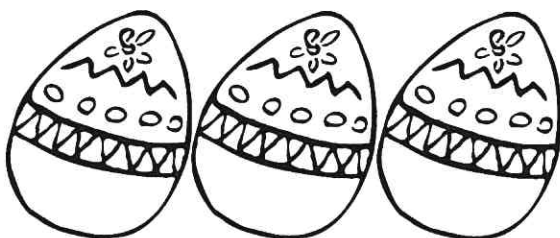
Dezember

**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:

**Dubois County Community Foundation,
P. O. Box 269, Jasper, IN 47547-0269**



Indianapolis Liederkrantz German Band

Jasper Deutscher Verein (JDV) "Strategic Plan on a Page"

Mission Statement (rooted in original JDV Purpose)

We bring people together to Promote, Preserve and Celebrate our History, Traditions, Language, Work-Ethic, Craftsmanship and Entrepreneurial Spirit that represent our German Roots.

Vision Statement - what Success Looks Like

Build a broader, more vibrant community that **Proudly** embraces, showcases, honors & invests in our Generational German Heritage.

PILLARS

Embrace our German Heritage	Engage & Grow our Membership
Focus Programming on German Heritage	Involve Members
Teach German language at Club Meetings	Form Committees & Groups
Keep Meeting programs related to German Heritage	Conduct Quarterly Stammtisch Events
Continue teaching Sheepshead, German Recipes	Enhance Perception of our Club
Maintain & Enhance German Heritage Events	Provide Brand Identity for all Generations & Occassions
Keep German Heritage in Strassenfest	Develop a Marketing Plan to Guide us
Identify new events to support	Launch New Web-Site
Connect with youth in German Traditions	Attract New Members via Recruiting Program
Continue Youth performances at Strassenfest	Develop a recruiting Elevator Speech
Identify ways to strengthen JHS German Club	Engage all Members in Recruitment
Reimagine Scholarship Program	Offer Social & Relationship Building Opportunities
	Add Social Hour at Club Meeting
	Recurring Germany Trips starting in 2026
Align & Collaborate	Invested in our Community
Live our Mission & Focus on Strategic Plan	Diversify our Revenue Sources
Rollout Plan on a Page to Members	Consider ideas for new fundraiser
Identify our Priorities for 2025-2029	Build ability to Seek & Achieve Grants
Share Progress on 2025 at Club Meetings	Share Strategic Plan with DCCF & Businesses for Grants
Collaborate with SC, PC & SFC to maximize our	Obtain Membership commitment for
Keep Identities but weave similar ideals	All members capable, work 1 Strassenfest shift
Conduct joint Strategic Planning Meeting	Obtain Funding for Impactful Projects
Collaborate on German Heritage Events	Obtain funding for web-site & other JDV Projects



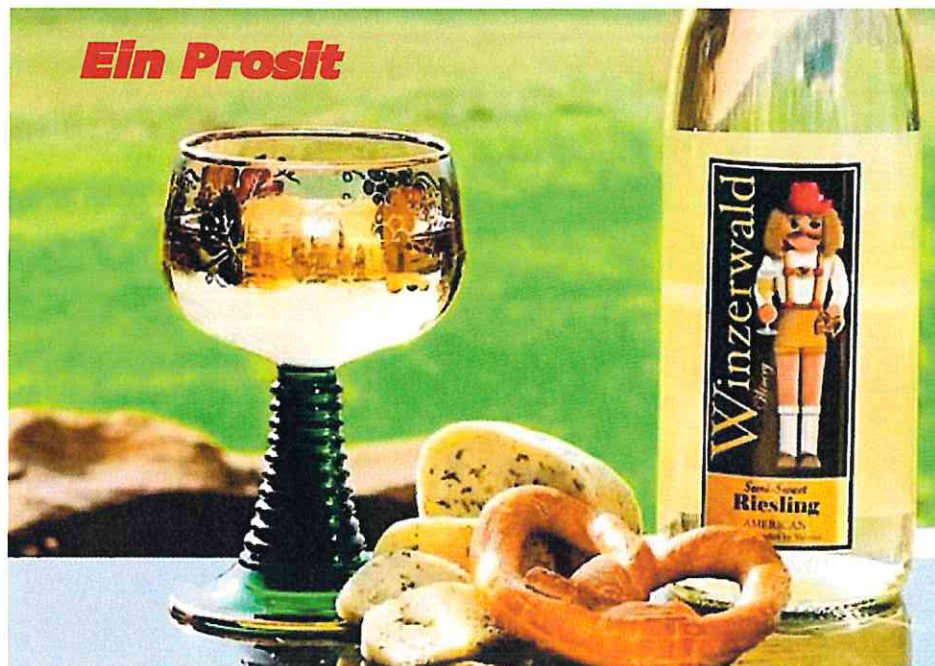
Respect our Past & Embrace our Future

Save the Date

April 26th 12:30-5:30pm

Winzerwald Winery & Whiskey Run Woodlands Stammtisch

- Meet at Mehringer Plumbing (former Kmart) parking lot at 12:30pm for carpool and caravan to Winzerwald Winery
 - Address: 26300 North Indian Lake Rd, Bristow, IN
- Depart at 2:30pm for a 30-minute drive to Dan Wehr's Whiskey Run property (or meet directly there if not interested in enjoying the winery)
 - Address: 6853 E Pilot Knob Rd Milltown, IN
 - Charcuterie board snacks will be provided by the club. You are welcome to bring additional snacks for yourself if desired.
 - Bring your own drinks and lawn/camp chairs
 - Enjoy a walk through the forest or hang out, socialize, and make new friends



Jasper Deutscher Verein – 2026 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, KY to Budapest, Hungary

Arrive back in USA 9/25/26

With the Least Expensive Flight, Room Option, & Excursions – starts about \$7k/person

Open to all Jasper Deutscher Verein Members through June 1st, 2025.

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.

ROMANTIC DANUBE

Jasper Deutscher Verein | Budapest to Regensburg
River Cruise | September 17 - 25, 2026

Join the Jasper German Club on a journey down the Danube. A booking discount of \$125/person is available. Call to set-up an appointment & secure your spot.



Travel by Design
Brandon Ferguson & Landen
Weidenbenner (812)-604-3893

Visit Budapests Castle District and cross the famous Chain Bridge. Explore Göttweig Abbey, one of Austrias most revered monastic centers, and make dumplings with Wachau Valley apricots. Visit historic Salzburg. Spend two days in Vienna and celebrate the citys musical heritage at a concert featuring works by Mozart and Strauss. With medieval towns, grand cities and stunning scenery, this eight-day journey on the Blue Danube is one you are sure to love.

ALL THIS IS INCLUDED:

- One complimentary excursion in every port of call
- Free Wi-Fi (connection speed may vary)
- Visits to UNESCO sites
- Enrichment lectures & Destination Performances
- Beer, wine & soft drinks with onboard lunch & dinner
- 24-hour specialty coffees, teas & bottled water
- Port taxes & fees
- Ground transfers with Viking Air purchase

Stateroom Options

STATEROOM	CRUISE FARE*
EXPLORER SUITE (ES) 445 SQ. FT. 	\$11,499 \$9,999
VERANDA SUITE (AA) 275 SQ. FT. 	\$9,499 \$7,999
VERANDA (A) 205 SQ. FT. 	\$6,499 \$5,999
VERANDA (B) 205 SQ. FT. 	\$6,299 \$5,499
FRENCH BALCONY (C) 135 SQ. FT. 	\$5,499 \$4,999
FRENCH BALCONY (D) 135 SQ. FT. 	\$5,299 \$4,799
STANDARD (E) 150 SQ. FT. 	\$3,399 \$3,299
STANDARD (F) 150 SQ. FT. 	\$3,299 \$3,199

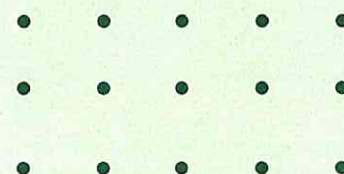
***Rates above are not inclusive of roundtrip airfare.

****The Jasper Deutscher Verein, its' officers, board of directors, and members & Travel by Design are not liable for any accidents, incidents or challenges that may arise.**

***Rates and availability subject to change.**



JHS GERMAN EXCHANGE



GOLF SCRAMBLE



SUNDAY, APRIL 27



11:00 AM – REGISTRATION & LUNCH
12:00 PM – SHOTGUN START



BUFFALO TRACE GOLF COURSE



Scan QR code to register!

(note: the registration website requests a donation to support the website at checkout. This is optional, but you must edit that section before checking out)

- Foursome – \$320 (green fees, cart & lunch)
- Foursome with Hole Sponsorship – \$440
- Hole Sponsorship – \$140

Email jenverkamp@gmail.com if paper registration is preferred

Membership Dues

To remain a member in good standing, we ask that you pay your 2025 dues before 4/30/2025. If you are unsure if you have paid your dues, or need to verify your email, phone number, etc., you may 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
jasperdeutscherverein@gmail.com
812-639-6224

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

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

DeutscherVerein Website:
www.jaspergermanclub.org

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DeutscherVerein

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Directors:

Jane Balsmeyer–
Marketing
Coordinator

Bridgette Bartley–
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Patrick Schuler–
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Youth Coordinator

Sandy Wehr-Legacy

Landen
Weidenbenner–
Immediate Past
President

Van Ziegler-Legacy

Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc.

Officers:

Mary Leah Siegel – President
maryleah.siegel@kimballelectronics.com
812-309-3468

Sandy Wehr – Vice President
skwehr69@gmail.com

Matthias Hilger – Treasurer
matthiashilger64@gmail.com

Sheri Keller – Secretary
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

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