



DEUTSCHER VEREIN

# Die Zeitung

April 2011

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.

## **Looking for Email Addresses!!!**

The Die Zeitung is mailed under a Non-Profit Organization Permit. There are restrictions to the content of the Die Zeitung that need to be adhered to.

Any information that cannot be included in our Die Zeitung will be released as a press release in the local media. If you would like to have this information emailed to you, please send an email to Patti Goepfrich at [pmgoepfrich@insightbb.com](mailto:pmgoepfrich@insightbb.com). If you would like to receive your Die Zeitung via email instead of Postal Mail, please send Patti an email with your request.

Please watch the local newspaper or listen to the local radio stations for any information on the Deutscher Verein or Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc.

Announcements will also be made at club meetings.

Please contact Patti at 482-4821 or [pmgoepfrich@insightbb.com](mailto:pmgoepfrich@insightbb.com) if you have any questions or want additional information.

Thanks for your understanding!

---

---

## **Golf Scramble to Benefit Student Exchange Program**

Sister Cities of Jasper is asking your help in keeping the German Heritage alive in Jasper. In June, seventeen Jasper High School students and two chaperones will travel to Germany, including the city of Pfaffenweiler, to experience first-hand the language and culture of many of our ancestors. This exchange, which began in 1987, is funded through donations and the fund raising efforts of the students and parents.

Sister Cities of Jasper, a tax-exempt organization, is sponsoring a golf scramble on May 14 at Jasper Municipal Golf Course. All proceeds from this event will benefit the JHS German Exchange Program. We invite you to be a hole sponsor for \$100, or in lieu of a hole sponsorship, consider making a monetary donation, providing promotional products, or making a prize donation. Your contribution will be recognized in the

program, which will be given to all participants. We also plan to use signs to recognize the hole sponsors.

Entry forms are available at area golf courses. Please contact Sandy Wehr at 482-2055 if you would like to sign up your foursome or would like to make a contribution.

---

---

From *The Herald*  
By Jason Ragan  
Herald Staff Writer  
April 9, 2007

## **Shake, rattle for dough**

Mariah Hill – With a loud clack of wooden rattlers, a group of altar servers from Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church continued a decades-old tradition of egg rattling Saturday morning.

More than a dozen servers, divided into three groups, went from home to home spinning the wooden rattlers.

Each home owner knew exactly what the rattle-wielding altar servers were after.

“You lay your money out the night before,” said Ruthie Koenig, who walked to the door holder her dog, Rusty, and money for the kids.

“They really give us a lot during the year,” she said of the dedicated servers.

The kids said it is an opportunity to be with their friends, ride their bikes and raise a little money. The money is used for trips for the servers, and they also were given some cash to spend at the summer picnic.

“We usually go 13 miles,” Eric Kern, 16 said.

His group usually makes it almost to Santa Claus and has been out as long as six hour before. Others, especially those who stay a little closer to town, are usually done in three or four hours.

Matt Kern and cousin Valerie Kern, both 19, are too old to be altar servers, but they still enjoy the tradition and went out Saturday.

Their visit to the home of Louie and Vernida Jochim revealed that the annual event goes back nearly a century. Louie, 82, who has lived in Mariah Hill all his life, remembers egg rattling in the mid-1930s. It was already an entrenched tradition at that time, he said.

Back then it was all done on foot. Other than that, very little has changed except maybe “the amount of money,” Bernida said.

A quarter was the norm and a dollar was rare back then. Last year, the servers gathered nearly \$500.

Some of the rattlers have been used for years and the newer ones are patterned after the older ones.

Each handmade rattler consists of a slotted wheel. A thin piece of wood smacks on the grooves when it is spun around and produces a very loud noise.

LeRoy Dilger, who grew up in Mariah Hill and now lives in Evansville, recently gave his rattler to one of his nephews. He wrote down the meaning and purpose of the custom and attached it to the rattler so it would not get lost.

He was an altar server from 1944 to 1951. He told The Herald by e-mail that the servers used to receive eggs that they would sell and the money was given to the pastor and then used at the picnic. The donation of eggs turned into just a monetary donation but the tradition kept its name of egg rattling.

Bobby Gogel, 75, also remembers going egg rattling in the 1940s and those seeking donations say a phrase in German. He remembers it to this day.

Translations vary but the key elements of the phrase are always the same. “We have watched the entire night, this holy Easter grave, for three dozen eggs or 6 pounds of bacon, or we’ll not leave this house.”

It is hard to say exactly how old this tradition is, or exactly where it came from.

Father Bill Dietsch, pastor at Mary, Help of Christians, has a few ideas. Until 1979 the parish was served by Benedictine priests from Saint Meinrad Archabbey. The German Benedictines brought some customs with them. This was probably one of them.

Erika Brady, professor of folk studies at Western Kentucky University, has never heard of this specific custom but said it is in line with many mendicant, or begging, customs. The most common of these traditions is trick-or-treating on Halloween.

All of these types of customs usually have certain similarities, one being a reversal of roles. Altar servers usually don’t go out to beg for money. It often involves some kind of saying or phrase and it is almost always connected to a certain event or day.

The rattlers also speak to a tradition in the Catholic Church.

Between Holy Thursday and Easter, the church bells aren’t used and songs are sung a cappella. Fr. Dietsch remembers prior to the 1960s a wooden clacker was used during Mass to symbolize the sadness of the death of Christ.

He believes that may be how the rattlers factored in.

Ray Kern participated in egg rattling in the late 1960s. On Saturday, four of his and wife Sylvia’s eight children – Valerie, Eric, Kevin, 15, and Emily, 12 – carried on the tradition.

As Valerie and her group canvassed town they ran into Brian Peters, 35, Lamar, who was out reading meters. He grew up in St. Meinrad and also went egg rattling.

He gave them a couple of bucks and shared with them the saying he and his friends used to recite: “We are the altar boys. We come to bring you Easter joy.”

They then asked for food, candy or any donation – and if a contribution wasn’t forthcoming, “We’ll rattle, rattle, rattle until your ears ring.”

---

---

### **Strassenfest 2011**

Strassenfest 2011 will be held August 4th to August 7th. We encourage all members to begin thinking about working a shift or two in either the food or pastry booth.

We will be at the May meeting to take shift assignments. Please be sure to stop at our table and sign up. We need everyone's help to make this a successful fundraiser!! If you cannot attend the May meeting, please feel free to call us at 482-2373.

Thanks again for your wonderful support.

Pat and Phyllis Schuler

---

---

## March Deutscher Verein Meeting

The Jasper Deutscher Verein met Thursday March 17th at the VFW in Jasper. There were 89 members present. President Birnie Jeffries opened the meeting by welcoming new members Steffi Schmuecker, Virginia and Jim Kapp and Mark and Kim Messmer.

Vice- President Bridgette Jarboe asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. We then sang God Bless America and Bridgette led in the prayer before the meal which consisted of Irish Stew and appetizers and desserts supplied by the members.

After the prayer, Birnie led the members in Ein Prossit.

After the meal, Birnie continued the meeting by thanking the welcoming committee which consisted of Rita Egler, Pat Dunkel, and Barb Schmitt. Elle Humbert and Taylor Reutman were selling BR Bucks for the German Exchange Program. Pat and Phyllis Schuler and Linda Wehr signed up members to work the Strassenfest Booths. Birnie also thanked Margie Jeffries and Phyllis Ackerman at the food table.

Barb Schmitt asked if anyone wished to make additions or corrections to the minutes of the February meeting. Dan Wehr made a motion to approve minutes and Raymie Eckerle made second motion. Membership approved the minutes.

Rita Egler gave the treasurers report. Patti Goepfrich gave an update on the mailing requirements for the newsletter. She also promoted the German Exchange Students fundraisers March is BR Bucks, April is Texas Roadhouse Rolls and May there will be a golf scramble.

Birnie then had everyone who had a birthday recently to please stand. The membership sang Happy Birthday to them. He announced that we are still searching for chairpersons for the Sheephead Tourney at Strassenfest.

Members then sang In Heaven There is no Beer. Birnie then announced the entertainment for the evening. Performing for us was the Jasper High School Jazz Band, directed by Pat Keely. They gave an excellent performance.

After the entertainment, the drawings for the door prize was held. Eileen Scherle and Pat Schuler won shamrock plants supplied by Green Thumb. Special prizes were won by Pat Dunkel and Linda Wehr.

Edelweiss and Happy Trails was sung to close the meeting.

The next meeting will be April 7th at 6:00 p.m. at the Jasper VFW. The rest of the evening was spent socializing.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barb Schmitt, secretary

---

---

## Up Coming Events – Mark Your Calendars

### August

Strassenfest – August 4<sup>th</sup> to August 7<sup>th</sup>

### September

Family Picnic – Oktober Fest – September 17th at the Jasper Outdoor Recreation Club

### Oktober

Oktober Fest – Date to be determined – Sponsored by Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc. at the Schnitzelbank

German American Day Celebration – Oktober 6<sup>th</sup> at the Schnitzelbank

---

---

## A thought from your President

Guten Tag. Konnen sie mir helfen?  
Hello. Can you help me?

I'm going to use this space to seek your help. I need your help to please you --- how can you pass this up.

Our Deutscher Verein meetings are for all of us members. All of us want meetings to look forward to giving us the warm feeling that we need to be there ---- don't want to miss that.

That's where you can come in, all of us come in. I'm looking for your input on programs to put on for you. Here are some of my ideas.

A. An evening of comedy put on by us members. Bring along a joke to read or a story to tell.

B. Have a musical group in, or a soloist, or barber shop quartet.

C. An evening of Karaoke by the members. We have the equipment. I would appreciate having those of you who sing, would sing a song or two.

D. An interesting guest speaker on a topic we would enjoy.

E. Having dance groups perform. Such as square dancing, high school dance groups, dance school students, or a Zumba exercise presentation.

I believe we have the talent within our membership to share. Also, we can have a variety hour of all these things, jokes, singing, or storytelling with special talents all at one meeting.

Bis bald,  
See you soon,

President 2011 and 2012

Birnie Jeffries

---

---

**A German Easter - Ostern**

***Frohe Ostern! Happy Easter!***

**Easter Customs and Traditions  
in German-Speaking Europe**

**Ostern (Easter)**

**Easter in German-Speaking Europe**

The Germanic celebration of Easter (Ostern in German) is very much like that in most of the Christian world. It features the same fertility and spring-related icons—eggs, bunnies, flowers—and many of the same Easter customs. The three major German-speaking countries (Austria, Germany and Switzerland) are predominantly Christian and Easter is an important time for both Catholics and Protestants in the German-speaking lands. The art of decorating hollowed-out eggs (ausgeblasene Eier) for Easter is an Austrian and German tradition.

**Der Osterhase mit einem  
buntbemalten Ei.**

**Origins of Easter**

The Easter celebration goes back to the earliest days of the Christian church. But the date of this festival has been controversial from the very beginning. Even the origin of the name of the most important celebration in

the Christian calendar is unclear. But there is agreement on the fact that, like several other Christian holidays, most Easter customs can be traced back to pre-Christian, pagan rites and celebrations related to the arrival of spring. It is not by accident that Easter features such symbols of fertility as the egg and the rabbit, aka the Easter bunny (der Osterhase).

The Easter celebration (das Osterfest) takes on both religious and secular forms. The Christian religious celebration is the most important day in the church calendar, reflecting Christianity's very beginnings in the Resurrection of Jesus. In the western church, Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox (die Tagundnachtgleiche). (Eastern Orthodox Easter follows the same formula, but with the Julian calendar, so the date can fall one, four, or five weeks later.) Because this "movable feast" depends on phases of the moon (Mondphasen, Mondwechsel), Easter can be observed between March 22 and April 25.

(taken from about.com German Language)

<mailto:german.guide@about.com>

---

---

**News about Wagshurst, Germany**

Dear Waghurst Friends,

This year is the 875<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration for Wagshurst in July. I hope that someone from Dubois County will attend this 2 day event. I cannot go since I will be attending the wedding of Andrea Stueber – Reinhard Wiegert on Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, in Wagshurst. Andrea is the daughter of Werner and Marlene Stueber. If you remember, Werner was our contact with Wagshurst in 1993 and 1999. If you are interested in attending the event, I can make contacts for you to stay in Wagshurst. Enjoy the summer.

Sincerely yours,

Father John Boeglin  
Pastor of Holy Family Church

---

---

**OKTOBERFEST 2011 COMING!!!!**

Sponsored by Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc.

Details on the way.....

**German Heritage Day Program  
and German Heritage Award**

The 13th annual German American Day Program will be held on Thursday, October 6th, at the Schnitzelbank Restaurant. Social hour begins at 6:00 pm with the Program beginning at 6:30 pm. The thirteenth annual German Heritage Award will be presented.

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

More details of the German American Day Dinner and Program will be available after the Strassenfest.

---

---

**Sister Cities of Jasper  
Jasper Partnership Commission  
Jasper Deutscher Verein  
GERMAN HERITAGE AWARD**

"Honoring those who promote our German Heritage"

The annual German Heritage Award is presented to an individual or group who has contributed generously his/her or their time, talents or resources to maintaining, improving or building upon our German roots in Dubois County. Sister Cities of Jasper and the Jasper Partnership Commission created the award in 1999. The Jasper Deutscher Verein is sponsoring the award.

This recognition is open to all individuals, not just residents of the City of Jasper, who give what they can in order to make a difference.

Because the efforts of these individuals are sometimes known only to a few, a nomination will recognize the work of those who generously support our German Heritage.

A committee, consisting of the Presidents of the Jasper Deutscher Verein, Sister Cities of Jasper, and the Jasper Partnership Commission, will judge all nominations. The Presidents will present the German Heritage Award during the German American Day Dinner celebration on October 6th at the Schnitzelbank.

**How you can nominate:**

The nominee must be an individual or group, nominated by any individual or group. Please submit the official form (copy is accepted), along with the following:

1. A letter of up to one page listing your reasons for the nomination.
2. A biography, up to two pages, listing the service or efforts of the nominee.
3. Mail or deliver your nomination to: Jasper Deutscher Verein

German Heritage Award  
P.O. Box 15  
Jasper, IN 47547-0015

\*\*\*\*\*

**Nomination for the 2011  
German Heritage Award**

Nominee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to nominee:  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

**(Remember, nominations need to be  
postmarked to**

**German Heritage Award, P. O. Box 15, Jasper,  
IN 47547-0015,**

**by September 1, 2011)**

---

---

## Cheesy Pretzels

Prep Time – 20 minutes  
Total Time – 45 minutes  
Servings - 16

1 1/2 cups Gold Medal® all-purpose flour  
2/3 cup milk  
1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese (2 ounces)  
2 tablespoons butter or margarine, softened  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1 teaspoon sugar  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 egg  
Coarse salt

Heat oven to 400°F. Grease cookie sheet. Mix all ingredients except egg and coarse salt in medium bowl with fork until soft dough forms. Smooth dough gently into ball on floured board. Knead 10 times. Divide dough in half.

Roll half of dough into 12x8-inch rectangle. Cut rectangle lengthwise into eight 1-inch strips. Fold each strip lengthwise in half into 12x1/2-inch strip; pinch edges to seal. Twist each strip into pretzel shape. Place seam down on cookie sheet.

Beat egg in small bowl with fork until blended. Brush pretzels with egg. Sprinkle lightly with coarse salt.

Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from cookie sheet to wire rack. Repeat with remaining half of dough.

(taken from BettyCrocker.com)

## Address Changes for Newsletters

If a member has an address change, please notify Rita Egler at P. O. Box 15, Jasper, IN 47547-0015 or call her at 634-9068.

Any help you can give in maintaining postage costs is greatly appreciated!!!!

---

---

## Dubois County Suds Club Meeting Information

The following is a slate of some of the activities of the Dubois County Suds Club for 2011. There are still some dates to be determined.

Even if you have no interest in learning how to homebrew, members of the Deutscher Verein are ALWAYS invited to stop by a meeting or event to simply enjoy some good beer! Thanks!

May - Big Brew Day (exact date TBD)

June 7 - meeting at Schnitzelbank - 7pm

July 5 - meeting at Snaps - 7pm

August 6 - Strassenfest contest

September 6 - meeting at Schnitzelbank - 7pm

September 17 - German Club Picnic

October - Learn to Homebrew Day (exact date TBD)

November 1 - meeting at Schnitzelbank - 7pm

December - Holiday party (exact date TBD)

Justin Rumbach

---

---



## Deutscher Verein

### Officers:

**Birnie Jeffries – President**

[greentmargie@yahoo.com](mailto:greentmargie@yahoo.com)

**Bridgette Jarboe – Vice President**

[clerk@duboiscountyin.org](mailto:clerk@duboiscountyin.org)

**Rita Egler – Treasurer**

[regler@frontier.com](mailto:regler@frontier.com)

**Barb Schmitt – Secretary**

[b.schmitt@insightbb.com](mailto:b.schmitt@insightbb.com)

Die Zeitung

Editor: Patti Goepfrich

Phone: 482-4821

e-mail: [pmgoepfrich@insightbb.com](mailto:pmgoepfrich@insightbb.com)

### Directors:

Al Bennett

Fr. John Boeglin

Dave Buehler

Bob Dilger

Raymie Eckerle

Patti Goepfrich

Virgil Gress

Dan Gutsell

Matthias Hilger

Janet Kluemper

Linus Lechner

Danny Wehr

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

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

Return Service Requested