



DEUTSCHERVEREIN

# Die Zeitung

January 2013

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.

**Happy New Year To All!!!!**



## Thank You from the JHS German Exchange Program

A huge thank you from the German Exchange Program for your support of the auction, advent calendars, and quilt raffle. We have about 6 months until our departure and are excited to visit Pfaffenweiler and all the other sights Germany has to offer.

The German Club visited Brookside Village on December 10<sup>th</sup> to sing German Christmas carols to the residents. We were pleased to see so many residents come listen to us and had the opportunity to speak with a few after it was over. It was very enjoyable for us to connect with community roots and allow them to sing these familiar songs along with us!

## Message from Pfaffenweiler Mayor Dieter Hahn

Here's wishing the residents of Jasper the true meaning of Christmas.

Advent season is marked by a never-ending mad rush. People hurry from day to day and from shop to shop to buy their gifts. In little shops and big cities there is pushing and shoving as if there might be nothing left after December 24. It would seem that a gift sometimes is more important than personal contact.

I ask myself: Does the way of celebrating Christmas not transfer to the rest of the year? Does our society suffer from an incurable syndrome of consumption? Doesn't almost all news consist of money, the euro, debt, financial crisis? And isn't it good news when the consumption index is growing?

The sense of Christmas and the sense of life are different. Christmas is a precious treasure of time with moments of real silence - These are gifts to mankind.

Greetings, personal contact, constructive and down-to-earth talks, praise, and a heartfelt smile are the gifts that enrich our lives. Being kind to people is a gift and strengthens our self-esteem. Doing volunteer work is a gift that deserves credit.

The British author Charles Dickens says: "I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to preserve it the whole year."

In this sense, I want to thank you for every single face-to-face greeting during the passing year. I am wishing all my Jasper friends the true meaning of Christmas and am looking forward to an exciting year 2013.

Bürgermeister Dieter Hahn  
Pfaffenweiler

## Deutscher Verein December Meeting in Review

The Jasper Deutscherverein met on Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at the VFW post #673 for their Christmas party with 144 members and guests signed in.

Social time started at 6:00 pm, with President Birnie Jeffries opening the meeting at 6:30 with the Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed all present.

Vice President Bridgette Jarboe then led the club in the prayer before the meal, the singing of Silent Night and Ein Prosit. After the prayer, Birnie announced the meal and thanked Betty and her crew for preparing the meal.

A short business meeting was held after dinner. He had everyone who had birthdays in December to stand and the members sang Happy Birthday.

At the welcome table were Patti Goepfrich, Linda Wehr, and Margie Jeffries. Barb Schmitt, Sydni, Trey, Ari, and Bri Wiseman, and Rita Egler.

Birnie thanked Rita Egler for her many years as Treasurer. Rita, we hope you serve many more years as Treasurer!!!!

He then explained that the minutes written by Barb Schmitt are in the monthly newsletter and in the Herald. He asked if everyone had read them and if they approved the minutes. They were approved.

He then thanked Patti Goepfrich for her dedication as editor of the club's newsletter.

Barb Schmitt, with the help of her elves, Trey, Ari, Bri, and Grace had the door prize drawings. Winners of poinsettias were: Vera Renner, Helen Gress, Alma Kreilein, Patti Goepfrich, Nancy Teder, Art Kapp, Lois Lechner, Joan Sunderman, Kenny Heim, Ann Ackerman, Jim Arvin, Rosina Schuler, Bernita Berger, and Carol King.

Special prizes were won by Rosemary Heim, Pat Dunkel, and Terry Seitz.

We were then entertained by Dance Central Academy, and Santa arrived from the North Pole and gave all the good little boys and girls candy canes. He didn't have to hand out too many!! Thanks! Santa!!

The next meeting will be January 17th at the Jasper VFW. Doors open at 6:00 pm. We will have our Wine/ Beer Tasting/ Judging. Cheese, Meat and Fruit Tray, and drinks will be supplied by the club. A-P bring appetizers, Q-Z bring desserts.

Submitted by

Barb Schmitt  
Secretary

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## Upcoming Event – Mark Your Calendars

### Januar Meeting

At the Jasper VFW  
Beer and Wine Tasting/Judging  
With Program by Nancy Eckerle  
Thursday, January 17, 2013

Time: 6:00pm Doors Open with

Wine and Beer Check In

The categories to be judged are: Grape Wine, Non-Grape/Other Wine, and Beer. Let's have a great turnout!

6:30pm - Welcome and Call Meeting to Order

Club will supply Cheese, Meat, and Fruit Trays and refreshments.

Members with last names beginning A – P, please bring appetizers and those with last names beginning Q – Z, please bring a dessert.

Our program will be presented by Nancy Eckerle, Executive Director of the Jasper Chamber of Commerce.

Her presentation is on the 9 day trip to China that she experienced in the middle of October, 2012. She visited Beijing, Shanghai, Suzhou, and Hangzhou. The group toured the Great Wall, Tian An Men Square, the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace and Ming Tombs, the Lingerin Gardens, a Buddhist Temple and many other attractions. It was an experience of a lifetime and one that she looks forward to sharing with our members.

The slate of officers for 2013 – 2015 will be nominated and voted on.

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## MEMBERSHIP

Dues for the Deutscher Verein are \$10 a person. Out of this \$10, a \$1 will go to the Jasper Deutscher Verein (German Club) German Heritage Endowment, \$.50 per member for dues to Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc., and \$8.50 to German Club for postage and meetings. Dues are to be paid in January by mail to German Club, P.O. Box 15, Jasper, IN 47547-0015 or paid at meeting.

We are trying to build our membership and need many people to work at the Strassenfest and help with our meetings during the year. The Strassenfest is our **only** fund raiser of the year. We need everyone and I am asking all members to try to get new people interested in the German Club.

All members who are going to be gone for any period of time, I would appreciate if you would let me know when you are leaving and give me your new address so I can forward your newsletter to you. This keeps us from having to pay double postage and assures you to receive all newsletters while you are away from home. Having your mail forwarded while you are gone will not work, simply because of the "Return Service Requested" stamped on our newsletter. This is stamped to let us know when someone has moved. The Post Office informs us of new addresses if you have permanently moved.

Thanks for your help and please let me know if you have any questions regarding membership or if you know of someone interested in the German Club.

Thanks again,  
Rita Egler, 634-9068

## News from the Dubois County Suds Club

The Dubois County Suds Club is a group of local home-brewers. Anyone who home-brews or wants to learn how to home-brew is invited to attend.

In addition to monthly meetings, the club also holds group brew sessions and live demonstrations throughout the year. Anyone wanting more information about the club is invited to call 630-8433 or attend a meeting.

The following is a slate of some of the activities of the Dubois County Suds Club for 2013. There are still some dates to be determined.

6.

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!

### 2013 Schedule

Jan 8 - Schnitzelbank 7pm  
Feb 5 - Millhouse - pm  
March ? - Louisville trip - TBD  
April 2 - Snaps 7pm  
May 5 - Big Brew Day at Patoka 11am  
June 4 - Snaps 7pm  
June ? - Bloomington trip - TBD  
July 2 - Snaps 7pm  
Aug 3 - Strassenfest contest  
Sep 3 - Millhouse 7pm  
Oct 6 - Learn To Homebrew Day 11am  
Nov 5 - Schnitzelbank 7pm  
Dec 7 - Holiday Party @ Jaycee's clubhouse

Justin Rumbach

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## 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, 2013. If any questions, please contact Linda Wehr at 482-4432.

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, 2013 to:

Jasper Deutscher Verein Scholarship Committee, P.O.  
Box 15, Jasper, Indiana 47547-0015

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**Christmas Pictures of St. Columba Church in Pfaffenweiler (Thank You Ilse Haderer)**



### **Reflections on Steuben Recognitions**

Gathering at the Steuben Monument is a great opportunity to reflect on this great Prussian disciplinarian who molded the sturdy pioneers of this country into soldiers.

The 8-foot tall bronze status of General von Steuben rests on a 6-foot pedestal, and depicts von Steuben drilling the droops and overlooking the Grand Parade Ground. I venture to say that the hilltop on which the statue is located has the most imposing view of the entire National Park. You can let your emotions roam around, gazing at the nearby woods and meadows stretching to the horizon. As far as the eye can see, there are trails where people on bikes or on foot stroll along in slow motion, which somehow made me lose my sense of reality. The landscape is so perfect that it resemble a naturalistic painting, a scene that does not exist in today's modern world.

A speech by Dr. David L. Valuska, Professor of History at the University of Kutztown, PA, comes to mind in which he delivered an impressive account of General von Steuben and the enlightened King Frederick of Prussia, who was the first to acknowledge Washington's victory and American's independence from England. In the same manner, Dr. Valuska addressed the many contributions made by German-Americans to this country. His speech would make anyone feel proud of being an American of German descent.

Reflecting on when the Steuben statue was unveiled on October 9, 1915, newspapers in the Philadelphia area wrote about the revolutionary hero with an outburst of enthusiasm. All agreed that Steuben's contribution to the American Revolution warranted commemoration. The ceremony included music by the United Singers of Philadelphia, 1000 strong, who sang as the statue was unveiled. This burst of patriotic enthusiasm was a boost for German-Americans at this time of rising anti-German sentiment at the outset of WWI.

Comparing the scope and attendance of German-American events a hundred years ago with today leads to some troubling conclusions. This concern was already shared by the great German-American Carl Schurz when he spoke at a banquet given in his honor only a few years before his death in 1906. He said: "There has been a great deal of talk of late that the German element is in a state of decline because immigration has stopped, the old generation is dying off, and the children of German immigrants are getting completely Americanized." He also said: "The time may come when a new infusion of German blood into the American body politic may even appear to be highly desirable."

Schurz's concern was a valid in 1906 as it is today, more than 100 year later. Additional waves of German immigration after the two World Wars slowed the decline, but failed to reverse it. German-Americans have done so much for the country in cultural and material development, but have largely blended into American society without achieving the social and



political prominence commensurate with their numbers – 60 million.

The first wave of German immigrants to America came after the peace treaty of Westphalia was signed in 1648. It ended the Thirty-Year War, which had devastated the German nation and changed a flourishing country into a no-man's land. Towns and villages lay in ruins. The spirit of the people who were hunted, persecuted, robbed and murdered was utterly broken. Once proud and active, they and their land were considered personal property by their princes. The meaning of freedom and personal rights became unknown.

Sects spring up everywhere. Deep religious feelings found expression in Pietism, Mysticism, and sects like Mennonites, Amish, etc. They were persecuted, punished and banned for belonging to any organization not officially recognized. Only Catholics, Lutherans and Reformed churches were officially sanctioned. Soon, a mighty stream of German emigrants began to flow to the Atlantic coast where ships carried them to distant shores. For almost a hundred years, they came to seek new homes, liberty and peace in America.

The Napoleonic wars had hardly ended, when the old monarchies and aristocratic rules were restored at the Congress of Vienna in 1815. Absolutism continued, and princes were determined to root out any dissenters. After earlier religion persecution, this political persecution drove untold thousands of the very best and ablest across the Atlantic. This exodus of political refugees lasted from 1815 to the German revolution of 1848. These Germans arriving after the revolutionary movement had failed, were visionaries in their desire to unite the German nation under a liberal constitutional government. This movement was brutally suppressed, and professors and students suspected of liberal leanings were relentlessly persecuted. Thousands of the noblest and best spirits were compelled to flee in order to escape imprisonment or death.

After WWI, the severe inflation in 1923, combined with the worldwide depression contributed to a mass exodus of destitute civilians seeking to find a safe haven in America. Their dreams, however, did not always materialize because this country was facing its own economic calamity, and life for immigrants was hard.

Similarly, about one million emigrants left Germany after WWII to find a refuge from the devastation and misery in the New World. In addition to ethnic Germans, many of them were Displaced Persons (DP's) and refugees from Eastern Europe. They came in the early 1950's and are the last wave of immigrants to keep the German element in America alive. As Germany was rebuilt and established a peaceful, democratic and increasingly prosperous state, the steady flow of newcomers from

Germany came virtually to a halt. Citizens of the new Federal Republic no longer had to look across the ocean when they could find civil liberties and social justice in their new democratic state.

The magnitude of German immigration and the scope of its contributions is largely unknown to the American public. Rudolf Cronau, author of "Three Centuries of German Life in America" (1924), writes in his introduction: "Even if the immigrants see the success of their brothers, they lack the overall view of what the German-Americans have achieved. This fact has been publicized only on the surface. Neither they, nor other Americans of different ethnic backgrounds, know how much the splendid development of the United States is due to the tireless labor, entrepreneurial spirit and intelligence of the German immigrants." Unfortunately, much responsibility of this lack of public awareness must be placed at the doorstep of the German-American community, and the causes are rooted in the German character.

From the earliest beginning of German settlement in America, they have displayed great reluctance to take on the burdens of government and political leadership roles. Francis Pastorius, the gifted and capable leader of the Germantown settlers, complained bitterly about their unwillingness to get involved in the municipal self-government which he had patterned after his free hometown of Frankfurt. Throughout American history, the assertiveness and gift for leadership displayed by the English and Irish have made the Germans appear politically withdrawn and apathetic. To this day, this lack of political involvement has caused them to melt into the "Silent Majority", secure in the knowledge that they belong to the core of the American people and can afford to live with a low profile. This trend was further intensified by reaction to the anti-German sentiments in the aftermath of the two World Wars which, under the surface, persisted for many years.

The lack of leadership, coupled with a tendency to split up over seemingly trivial differences, is also manifested in the German-American social and cultural organizations. There is no single organization which represents German-Americans nationwide. There are numerous societies of limited scope and size, all of which claim to speak for the German-American community – and of course, none of them do. The hundreds of local German-American social clubs all concentrate on food and entertainment, and have done little to promote political and cultural awareness of the German-American community in the eyes of the American public.

Religion, which has done so much to maintain a public image of the Irish and Italians, has been of no help to the Germans. Although a sizeable percentage of German

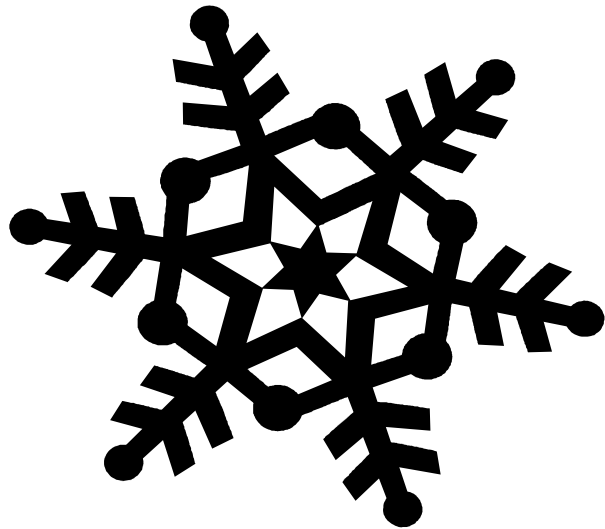
immigrants was Catholic, the Protestant majority spread over numerous Protestant denominations and was absorbed by them. Again, we are invisible.

Little wonder then that the vast majority of history books treat American history as an exclusive Anglo-Saxon achievement, and make little if any mention of German-American contributions. It is small consolation that most Other immigrant nationalities share this same fate of historical anonymity. The true history of America, including contributions of not only Germans but all the other immigrant nationalities, still remains to be written. Until this is accomplished and disseminated to the American public, we must rely on a few cultural and educational organizations to maintain public awareness of the German presence in this country. For this reason, the Steuben Society, the Steuben Parade Committee, the German Heritage Foundation, German language schools and others like them deserve our whole-hearted support.

(Article written by Charlotte Arndt and was published in the *AMERIKA WOCHE* 15.September 2012)

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**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. The Dubois County Community Foundation will send a letter of acknowledgment to the individual being honored or to the family of someone being remembered. Send your gift along with the appropriate information to the Dubois County Community Foundation, P. O. Box 269, Jasper, IN 47547-0269. Envelopes are also available at the greeting table at each club meeting.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

to the \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please specify appropriate Endowment)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

I want my gift to be in memory of / in honor of:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please acknowledge my gift to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Dues**

It's that time of year again! Please submit your dues for 2013 by March 31, 2013 by completing and sending in the following form. Thanks!

SEND TO: Jasper Deutscher Verein, ATTN: Rita Egler, P.O. Box 15,  
Jasper, IN 47547-0015

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Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Please note if you would like to receive your newsletter via E-mail. Please note your email address: \_\_\_\_\_

[circle one]  
Single Membership (\$10.00) or Couple Membership (\$20.00)

[circle one]  
New Membership or Membership Renewal

Please indicate the year which dues are to be applied: \_\_\_\_\_



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

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