



DEUTSCHER VEREIN

# Die Zeitung

December 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.

**Thank you to Chip Kugler for doing an excellent job as Auctioneer of the annual DeutscherVerein Auction to benefit the JHS German Exchange Program.**

**Thank you also to the DeutscherVerein members, exchange students, and exchange parents for donating items and also buying items.**



**Merry Christmas to All!!!!!!**

## **November Jasper Deutscher Verein in Review**

The Jasper Deutscher Verein met Thursday, November 21st at the VFW #673 in Jasper.

President Bridgette Bartley welcomed the approximately 75 members and guests. She recognized our latest new members Mary and Melvin Feller and Lucille Kleeman.

She introduced the German Exchange Students who were there to assist in the auction to raise funds for the German Exchange Program. . Bridgette then turned the meeting over to Mike Ackerman who then led the

members in The Pledge of Allegiance, God Bless America, and the prayer before the meal which was recited in German. He asked for a moment of silence in honor of Lora Lou Eckerle, one of the founding members of the Jasper Deutscher Verein, who passed away last week.

He then led in the toast , Ein Prosit.

There was a short meeting after the meal. Bridgett informed the members of the sale of Advent Calendars by the German Exchange students at the welcome table.

She also informed members of the December 19th Christmas Dinner which will be held at the VFW #673 in Jasper. Doors will open at 6:00 pm, a short meeting will start at 6:30 pm dinner will be served shortly thereafter.

Cost of the meal will be \$10.00 per person.

Reservations can be made by calling Barb Schmitt at 482-9063 or email at [b.schmitt@insightbb.com](mailto:b.schmitt@insightbb.com) by December 17th. The meal will consist of Roast Beef, mashed potatoes/gravy, salad, green beans.

Dessert will be furnished by the Board and Officers.

Entertainment will be members of Strings, Vince Lueke will do a presentation about the chapel that he constructed on his family homestead that is based on designs from the Basilica of the Fourteen Helpers in Germany, and a visit from **Santa!!** Members were encouraged to bring children and grandchildren. Please include them in your reservations.

Mike gave information on the January and February meetings. On January 16<sup>th</sup>, we will have our annual Wine tasting. We will be doing something a little different.

We usually have Wine and Beer tasting in January, but we are going to have only Wine in January along with a pie baking contest. Ladies and gents get out your aprons and your best pie recipe and enter it in the contest. If you know any friends or family members who bake some pretty amazing pies, please encourage them to enter the contest as well! We will be in need of some judges for the wine and pies. Any volunteers??

On February 20th we will have the Beer tasting. Along with that we are going to have a Home Made Bread contest. Again, if you know anyone who can bake a great loaf of bread, or rolls from scratch, please encourage them to enter as well. We will probably need judges for the beer and bread also. Any volunteers??

Barb Schmitt and her assistant, Grace Jarboe did the drawings. Door prize winners were Charlie Knust, and Monica Knies. Special prizes went to Betty Hoffman and Rita Egler.

The auction was then held. Chip Kugler was the auctioneer for the evening. He did a great job again! Thanks Chip!! The rest of the evening was spent socializing.

Next meeting is December 19th. Please get reservations in by December 17th.

Submitted by

Barb Schmitt  
Secretary

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**Message from Mike.....**

Thanks to all members at our November meeting for bidding often and vigorously for our auctioneer, Chip Kugler. It was a successful fund raising event for German High School students.

As is customary, our Christmas meeting is a paid event. Cost is \$10.00 per person. Reservations should be made by contacting our club secretary Barb Schmitt at 482-9063 or email [b.schmitt@insightbb.com](mailto:b.schmitt@insightbb.com).

Entertainment for our December meeting will include a visit from Santa Claus. If you want to share your German Heritage with children or grandchildren, please bring them as guests.

Our first program will feature Christmas music from the talented violins of members of Strings, Inc. Start warming up your vocal chords to sing along when they stike up Stille Nacht.

Our second program will be provided by Vincent Lueke on his inspiration to erect the Chapel of the Vierzehheiligen on his family's farm near New Boston, IN. The chapel whose name is German for "14 Holy Helpers" is modeled on the well-known "Basilika Viersehnheiligen" adjacent to Bad Staffelstein near Bamberg, in Bavaria (Southern Germany). An early alter for this basilica was consecrated in 1448, with the construction of the basilica occurring from 1743 to 1772.

Pilgrimages to the Vierzehnheiligen continue to the present day. (<http://www.viersehnheiligen.de/>). Seeing his inspiration through actual construction, shows Vince's commitment that is built upon our strong German work ethic.

January will feature wine and pie competition. February will feature beer and bread making competition.

Mike Ackerman,

VP, Deutscher Verein

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**Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars**

**Dezember Dinner Meeting**

**At the Jasper VFW**

**Donnerstag (Thursday), Dezember 19, 2013**

**Time:**

6:00pm - Doors Open

6:30pm –Welcome and call meeting to order

The meal will consist of Roast Beef, mashed potatoes/gravy, salad, green beans.

Cost of the meal will be \$10.00 per person.

Reservations can be made by calling Barb Schmitt at 482-9063 or email at [b.schmitt@insightbb.com](mailto:b.schmitt@insightbb.com) by December 17th.

Dessert will be furnished by the Board and Officers.

Entertainment will be members of Strings, Vince Lueke will do a presentation about the chapel that he constructed on his family homestead that is based on designs from the Basilica of the Fourteen Helpers in Germany, and a visit from **Santa!!** Members were encouraged to bring children and grandchildren. Please include them in your reservations.

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**Januar Meeting**

**At the Jasper VFW**

**Donnerstag (Thursday), Januar 16, 2014**

**Time:**

6:00pm - Doors Open

6:30pm –Welcome and call meeting to order

**Program:**

Wine Tasting and Pie Baking Contest

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**Februar Meeting**

**At the Jasper VFW**

**Donnerstag (Thursday), Februar 20, 2014**

**Time:**

6:00pm - Doors Open

6:30pm –Welcome and call meeting to order

**Program:**

Beer Tasting and Home Made Bread Contest



**Alisia Klemm and Laura Krall**



**2015 JHS German Exchange Students**

Alisia Klemm is the daughter of Hans and Christine Hilger Klemm and granddaughter of Franz and Baerbel Hilger.

Alisia is 15 years old and is from Maleck – Emmendingen, Germany. While in Jasper, she attended Jasper High School as a Junior. In Germany, she attends Markgrafen Realschule in Emmendingen and she is in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

On the weekends, she met with friends, slept in late, and went shopping. Alisia noted that JHS is bigger than her school in Germany, the classes, teachers, the language, and food are different.

But, in Jasper, she had homework and had to prepare for tests the same way she does in Germany.

Her reason to come to Jasper was to learn better English and to learn more about Jasper as it is the Sister City of Pfaffenweiler and she has family who lives in Jasper.

Laura Krall is 16 years old and is from Emmendingen, Germany and attended Jasper High School as a Junior.

In Germany, she attends Markgrafen Realschule in Emmendingen as a 10<sup>th</sup> grader.

She notes that in Germany, she has a different schedule each day. In Jasper, her school schedule is the same each day. Homework is the same in Germany as it is in JHS.

Her main reason for coming to Jasper was to learn better English.

Alisia and Laura were hosted by Matthias, Kathy, Amanda, and Alex Hilger.

Although they were in Jasper for a short time, they were very active. They attended many of the events prior to the Strassenfest and during the Strassenfest. They also attended the Tomato Festival in Nashville.

Alisia and Laura arrived in Jasper on July 25<sup>th</sup> and departed for Germany on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

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### **Address Changes for Newsletters – Also for “Snowbirds” With Temporary Address Change**

Would all members who are going to be gone for any period of time, please notify Rita Egler at P. O. Box 15, Jasper, IN 47547-0015 or call her at 634-9068 with your new address so we 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.

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**Please notify Patti Goepfrich of any email address changes. [pmgoepfrich@twc.com](mailto:pmgoepfrich@twc.com)**

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### **German Christmas Customs**

#### **The Christmas tree - Der Tannenbaum**

The German Tannenbaum is usually put up and decorated on Christmas Eve, though some families opt to erect their tree during the Advent season. Traditionally, the Germans used the fir tree, but nowadays the spruce is widely used. Decorations may include tinsel, glass balls or straw ornaments and sweets. A star or an angel tops the Tannenbaum, and

beneath the tree, a nativity scene might be set up and the presents next to it. Germans also usually continue to use real lit candles instead of electric lights on the tree.

The first known Christmas tree was set up in 1419 in Freiburg by the town bakers, who decorated the tree with fruits, nuts, and baked goods, which the children were allowed to remove and eat on New Year's Day. The town guilds and associations first brought evergreens inside their guild houses and decorated them with apples and sweets. Candles were eventually added to the decorations. Already since the Middle Ages, ordinary Germans had been bringing yew, juniper, mistletoe, holly, evergreen boughs - any plant that maintained its green color through the lifeless and dreary winter months - into their homes. Even in areas where forests were sparse, the tradition took hold; people in Northern Germany, for instance, used Christmas pyramids (Weihnachtspyramiden) in lieu of Christmas trees. The pyramid form was created using sticks that were then decorated with fir branches. By 1800, the custom of bringing a tree into the home was firmly established in many German-speaking regions and continued to spread throughout Europe, and eventually, around the world. The custom was brought to North America by German-speaking immigrants to Pennsylvania and Ohio in the 18th century.

The Tannenbaum is taken down on New Year's Day or on January 6th, Three King's Day, at which time the children can ransack the tree for the sweets and treats that decorated it.

(information taken from [VISTAWIDE.COM](http://VISTAWIDE.COM) – German Christmas Customs)

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### **Christmas Eve - Heiliger Abend (also Heiligabend)**

December 24th begins as a regular workday. But by 2:00 pm, often even earlier, businesses close in preparation for the holiday celebration, a large part of which occurs on Christmas Eve in Germany. The traditional evening meal includes carp and potato salad. Families sing Christmas carols together and may read the story of Christ's birth aloud. Family members exchange gifts; children are typically the focal point of the gift exchange. The tradition of opening gifts on Heiliger Abend (rather than on December 6th in honor of St. Nicholas) was started by Martin Luther in the 16th century in favor of a celebration that honored Christ rather than a Catholic saint.

On Christmas Eve, German families - whether Protestant or Catholic and even those who are not regular church-goers - often attend mass or a church service. While the mass traditionally takes place at



midnight, in recent times the services have moved into the earlier evening hours.

(information taken from VISTAWIDE.COM – German Christmas Customs)

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### **Vanillekipferl**

These crescent-shaped cookies are a traditional Austrian holiday specialty.

#### **Ingredients**

1 1/2 cups flour  
2/3 cup butter  
1/2 cup powdered sugar plus 1/3 cup for dusting  
3 Tbsp. vanilla sugar\*\*  
1/2 cup ground hazelnuts, walnuts, or almonds  
1 egg

#### **Preparation**

Sift the flour into a large bowl. Cut the cold butter into the flour. Add the 1/2 cup of powdered sugar, ground nuts, and egg. Dampen hands with cold water and knead mixture into a dough. Chill for 1/2 hour.

Roll chunks of the chilled dough between your palms to form 1/2-inch thick ropes. Cut and form crescents and place on baking sheet. Bake at 325° F for 10 to 15 minutes or until the tops are lightly golden brown. Roll the crescents in powdered sugar while still hot.

Mix the 1/3 cup of powdered sugar together with the vanilla sugar. Roll the crescents in this mixture while they are still hot.

\*\* If vanilla sugar is unavailable where you live, you can make your own by placing a vanilla bean and 1 lb. of granulated sugar in an airtight container for 1 week.

(information taken from VISTAWIDE.COM – German Christmas Recipes)

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### **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.

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!

Dec 7 - Holiday Party @ Jaycee's clubhouse

Justin Rumbach

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**At this time of Christmas, let us remember the less fortunate of our communities. This would be a great time to make a donation to any organization helping those in need.**

**Your generosity will be appreciated.**

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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.

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| Die Zeitung<br>Editor: Patti Goepfrich<br>Phone: 812-482-4821<br>e-mail: pmgoepfrich@twc.com                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                        |
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