



DEUTSCHER VEREIN

Die Zeitung

November 2016

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.



Stan Jochum
2016 German Heritage Award Winner

Message from Mike.....

My term as President of Jasper Deutscher Verein will come to a close at the end of December 2016. I am truly thankful for the opportunity to have served the club and hope that the meetings and activities during my tenure have been interesting and met expectations. First and foremost, I want to thank my partner in life, my wife Ann, for all the extra time that she put in to help me in my role.

I appreciate the support of many others to help our club continue forward. Thank you especially to Barb Schmitt, our Secretary, and Laura Grammer our Treasurer, for extra efforts to ensure that club operations ran smoothly. Thank you to our incoming President, Steve Schmitt, and incoming Vice President, Mike Brescher, for stepping forward to assume the reins. For a club to remain healthy it is important for leadership to rotate. Steve and Mike bring a fresh perspective and a new level of energy that will serve our club well.

Congratulations to Stan Jochum, this year's winner of the German Heritage Award, and to the students who won the Essay Contest: JHS, Bryce Siegel; NEDHS, Bailey Hopf, SHS, Kru Allen, and FPHS, Serena Kelly. Thanks to all who participated in making this a successful event, especially to German American for their financial sponsorship of the essay contest. Haley Arthur's presentation for the evening helped to demonstrate her excitement to keep students engaged in German language studies at JHS.

Our next regular meeting will be the Auction meeting on Thursday November 17 at the Moose. Hopefully by now you have your items to donate to the auction to help raise funds to support our students, and make plans to attend to be able to support this worthwhile cause. Our young people are the future of our heritage and club. Be sure to come out and bid often at the auction to help raise money to support these students as they work to earn money for their trip across the pond to the homeland.

Our final meeting of 2016 will be our Christmas meeting on December 15 at the Moose. Vice President, Steve Schmitt, has a sub-group of talent from the Celebration Singers who will be providing the entertainment for the evening. Reservations for the Christmas meeting can be made at the November meeting or by calling our Secretary, Barb Schmitt.



2016 German Heritage Essay Winners and
Representatives of German American

1st row-L-R - Kru Allen, Serena Kelly, Bailey Hopf, and Bryce Siegel 2nd row – Jay Baker, Steffi Schmuecker, Rachel Levin, and Brittany Massey

Thanks for all you do to celebrate our German heritage.

Mike Ackerman
President

September Jasper Deutscher Verein in Review

The Jasper Deutscher Verein met September 10th at the Jasper Outdoor Recreation. Doors opened at 2:00 and dinner was served at 4:00.

There were 76 members and 13 guests in attendance. We had a challenge for who brought the most guests. The winner was Linda Casper. She brought a total of 5 guests. She won a special prize basket. Thank you, Linda!!

President Mike Ackerman, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. He led in the Pledge of Allegiance. He then introduced Vice President Steve Schmitt to lead the prayer before meal.

After the meal, Mike had Pat Schuler, General Chair Person of our Strassenfest Booths come up and give a report on the outcome of our booths. Pat thanked everyone for their efforts in making this Strassenfest a success. Mike thanked Pat along with his wife Phyllis Schuler for all the hard work they do in orchestrating the food and the workers. That was followed by an Ein Prosit in honor of Pat and Phyllis.

Mike reminded members of the German Heritage Dinner on October 6 at ClubHaus61. Sign-up sheet was at welcome table. He also reminded everyone of the fundraiser for the JHS German Exchange Program which will be held on Sunday, October 9th, 10:30 am-1:00pm, Schnitzelbank Restaurant. Drive through only. Menu: fried chicken, bratzen, pulled pork bbq, (choice of one meat) german fries, baked beans, slaw, dessert \$10 per meal. To pre-purchase tickets contact Sandy Wehr (812) 482-2055 or any member of the JHS German Exchange Program.

The drawing of prizes was then held. Winners of prize baskets and beer mugs were won by Fred Hollinden, Vera Renner, Pat Hopf, Nancy Prechtel, Clara Braunecker, Linda Wehr, Haley Arthur, Ray Lechner, Warren Casper, Nancy Krielein, Mark Schlechty, Gladys Knust, and Joe Wanninger.

Special prize drawings were won by Rosemary Heim and Bob Dilger. Kid door prizes were won by Bri Wiseman, Taylor Bachman, Judge Mararich, Jacob Patterson, Ari Wiseman, and Trey Wiseman.

Barb Schmitt thanked Judy Bennett, Nancy Ziegler, Pam Howard, Cliff Howard, Steve Schmitt, Bridgette Bartley, Grace Bartley in helping with the set-up, door prizes, preparing the food, etc.

The rest of the evening was spent playing cards and socializing.

Next meeting will be November 17th at the Moose Lodge in Jasper. Doors open at 6, meeting starts at 6:30. We will be having our auction to benefit the JHS German Exchange Program. Everyone is encouraged to bring an item or two to donate for the auction. Some suggestions are homemade cookies, candies, cakes, pies, Thanksgiving and Christmas items, handmade items, wine, gift baskets, gift certificates, snack mix, jelly etc. Please ask family members and friends to come along and enjoy the fun.

Members with last name A-H bring a salad, I-Q a dessert, and R-Z vegetable.

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

November

Thursday, November 17

At Moose Lodge

Doors open at 6:00pm – Festivities begin at 6:30pm

Auction to Benefit JHS German Exchange Program

For our lunch, members with last names A – H bring a salad, I – Q bring a dessert, and R – Z bring a vegetable

December

Thursday, December 15

At Moose Lodge

Doors open at 6:00pm – Festivities begin at 6:30pm

Entertainment will be a sub-group of the Celebration Singers. Reservations can be made by calling Barb Schmitt at 812-309-9181

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 Patti Goepfrich at 812-482-4821 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.

There will not be a newsletter in January, 2017. Thanks for your understanding!!!!!!

Patti Goepfrich

At this time of Thanksgiving, 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!!!!!!!!!!!!

News from Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc.

The Staufen group arrived on Oct 15 and departed for home on Nov 1. During their stay, we had a welcome party at JC park, toured the Dubois County Museum, St Joseph Church, Police and Fire Stations and had lunch with Mayor Seitz. also visited WBDC, the courthouse and downtown Jasper and the mill. A highlight of the trip is always a vista to Amish county and lunch in an Amish home. The Amish kids beat the German kids at softball! Lots of new friendships formed here!



German Heritage By: Bryce Siegel

Son of Paul and Mary Leah Siegel Jasper High School

March, 1945, in the town of Stadtlohn, Germany, a Six-year-old boy sat huddled in a neighbor's basement, the faint sound of sirens warning of the impending Allied air raid. When he emerged with his siblings, he gazed upon the dusty ruins of what was left of his hometown. The Allies had done their damage and moved on. A few months later, the Allies had returned. American soldiers, not there to harm, but to help the poverty-stricken people of a crippled nation, the victims of a terrible war. These soldiers and their American ideals caught the interest of the same boy who sat huddled in a cellar, afraid less than a year before.

This child was my grandfather, a German immigrant who was fascinated with the American dream ever since he was a young boy. In 1963, he came to the United States with only \$75 in his pocket. This young man, now in his twenties, could not speak a lick of English. Just a year later, however, he was exchanging vows with his new wife, an American woman, and in 1969, received his citizenship. He became zealously involved in local politics, and started his own business. He supported local troops, remembering the kind meant that had always shared a candy bar or a little trinket with him.

His was the American dream, one every immigrant has. A better life than the one you leave. For some, it is an escape from oppression, from war, from poverty and grief. For others, it's the promise of opportunity, the rising from a predetermined state in society, the ability to become something more than what you were. Whatever the reason for leaving, the goal is the same, build your life anew with all the opportunities available.

So you may ask, what does this German heritage mean to me? My grandfather never forgot his home across the Atlantic; he remembered the songs of his youth, and the rich culture that he carried with him he passed down to his children, and they to their children. The stores and struggles of the German people we wore on him as a reflection of his own ideals. These were as apparent as his thick German accent, always present with him in the work he did and the way he carried himself.

We can, as the younger generation, maintain and preserve our German heritage, simply by living it; by speaking the language, celebrating the holidays, traveling to Germany, participating in exchange programs, and sharing our homes with our "brother and sister" students, establishing connections that will last a lifetime.

That is my heritage, the hard-working idealist that was apparent in my grandfather. The loving and determined

man of my childhood, who I hope to emulate as I grow as a person. Because of him, I can say I am a second-generation American. Because of him, I know where my family is from, and what they stood for. Because of him, I am a German American.

Colors of My Culture
By: Serena Kelly

Daughter of Staci Bolden and Michael Kelly
Forest Park Jr. Sr. High School

Black, red, and gold are the colors of the German flag. Each color means something different to everyone. To one, black represents determination, red represents hardiness or bravery, and gold represents strength and valor. To someone else, the flag is a representation of a unified and free Germany. The German flag's colors mean something different to everyone. To me, the German flag represents a culture of friendly communities, hard work, and steadfast heritage.

Living in a small town brings you closer to your neighbors and community. The German community of Dubois County has taught me many life lessons. One of the many lessons I have been taught is to always be kind and humble. Many families and friends have an ancestor who traveled from Germany to America in the early 1600s or 1700s. Our ancestors brought themselves and their culture to America; therefore, their culture has thrived and spread throughout this great nation. One of the many things that the German culture has taught me and many others is to always help when you can and never boast on a job well done. I was taught this by watching my community come together to help when help was needed. However, being humble and kind also means that you must work hard for what you need, in return, get what you deserve.

Working hard is a symbol of a good work ethic. There are my rewards to be reaped from working hard and working well. The German culture has taught me to work hard in everything that I do and to be humble about the reward I get in return. As the old Germany expression "wer rastet, der rostet" says "He who rests, grows rusty" meaning, if you want something done, you must work hard to get it done. Hard work is the backbone of German culture. The German culture spread throughout America through hard work and it is here to stay.

German culture is unwavering. Whether you are in the center of Berlin or in Dubois County, you will know and see that the German heritage thrives and continues to grow with each generation. Our ancestors may have migrated to America hundreds of years ago but their greatest gift to us was the culture they brought along.

The heritage and culture of the German people is steadfast and will endure for decades more.

With the culture close to home and new lives being brought into the world, I hope that each and every person gets the chance to be surrounded by love and support as I have growing up in a German community. With all of the life lessons that this culture has brought into my life, I know I am prepared for anything that this world may throw at me. The German culture is not just a heritage to me, it is the building blocks of my life.

Remembering Our Forefathers
By: Kru Allen

Daughter of Michael and Rebecca Allen
Southridge High School

Beginning in the Early 1800s many immigrants traveled to America from European countries. These immigrants journeyed to the Land of Opportunity to pursue a better way of life for themselves, their families, and their futures. Even though wars have been fought, and generations have passed, German heritage is very much alive in Dubois County today. When immigrating, our families thought of us. Our purpose now: to remember, and embrace ancestors by celebrating traditions passed. When our European ancestors chose to make a new life for themselves, they held high expectations for a better life. Immigrating families not only brought their belonging, but also their ways of life. Communication, leaning German, and joining clubs can help us strengthen our connection to the past.

Their ways of life should be remembered by practicing our German customs and recording stories. Opening up a family history book is one way in which a German-American can really get to know specific German traditions. Older family members are walking, talking, breathing history books. My grandpa and I discussed (for heritage reasons) times when he as a child would sit with his grandpa and listen to him yodel. My grandpa's mother, born in 1905, was the first of her family members to be born in America. Recording small family stories such as someone yodeling will not only preserve a family's history, but also teach future generations how life went when migrating to America. Dubois County teens must ask more questions to the ever shrinking generations of great-grandparent, and grandparents who knew a direct link to Germany. The more questions that teens ask and record, the more themselves, their families, and the community will learn about our forefathers motives and practices.

In addition, participating in German classes and clubs at school can enlighten the youth on modern-day Germany and especially the language. Learning German helps

connect to our past in many ways. The ability to read, write and speak German allows us to read documents, headstones and memoirs that relative left behind for us to learn who they were and why they came here. Living in Holland, I can go to my church cemetery and learn about the people buried, their birthplace and usually what they did in America. Clubs help us connect to Germany in contemporary ways like current trends and culture.

In conclusion, asking a few questions to our elders about their parents and grandparents can open a link to our rich German heritage that once flourished in Dubois County. Recording stories and writing books will educate not only today's youth, but future generations. German heritage is not only a reminder of our past, but also our way of life in Dubois County. We are farmers, factory workers, businessmen, and church-goers like our ancestors. We unite as one to celebrate community gatherings, weddings, and holidays. Together we embrace traditions of our past that label us a strong community with a strong heritage. We are the German-Americans of Dubois County.

What German Heritage Means to Me
By: Bailey Hopf

Daughter of Kurt and Lori Hopf
Northeast Dubois High School

The colors are black, red, and yellow. For some, these three colors put together mean nothing. But those colors put together on the German flag are important. My German heritage means a lot to me.

My German heritage was first introduced to me when I was younger, when I would spend time with my grandfather. I would go to his house almost every day, and he frequently spoke to me in German. I remember having lessons on counting to ten in German, and I still can do that.

I started to learn more about what it means to have a German heritage when my grandparents hosted some of our relatives from Germany. I was still fairly young at the time, but I started to realize that there was a deep relationship between people of Jasper and Germany. When our relatives stayed in Jasper, I sat in my grandparents' living room listening to my aunts and

cousins talk to my grandfather. My grandfather was the only one who would speak fluid German, so all of us non-German speakers would ask things like "what did he say" or "What does that mean" and my grandfather would translate it to all of us. Those were the times when I took to heart that that people of Jasper had strong ties when the people of Germany.

My grandparents kept their German heritage alive by taking many trips to Germany. They stayed with their family and took tours of the country. I had two family members who kept their heritage alive by taking German classes and were in the exchange program. They both had German exchange students stay at their house, and I remember getting the chance to talk with my cousin's and hearing them speak German.

When I would spend time with my grandfather I learned new sayings every day. I still remember it till this day. It was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Since I started learning the language, my heritage has stated to mean so much more to me. I have learned many things about the German culture, including what types of foods that the people eat, what their customs are, and how their way of life is. Now I can see how the traditions we have in Jasper relate to those of the German people.

My German heritage is something I am very proud of. I think I am at a time in my life when I value my ancestry more than ever. I am glad to have a family that has taught me more about my heritage, but I am especially happy to have a family that keeps the German heritage alive.

Congratulations to Dr. Giles Hoyt for being
named Hoosier German-American of the Year

Giles has been a long time supporter of German
Heritage in Dubois County.

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