



DEUTSCHER VEREIN

Die Zeitung

December 2017

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.

November Jasper Deutscher Verein in Review

Deutscher Verein met Wednesday November 15th at the Moose Lodge in Jasper.

President Steve Schmitt welcomed 80 members and guests. He led Pledge of Allegiance, God Bless America, and prayer before meal.

While waiting for meal to be served, Sandy Wehr, representative of Sister Cities, needed to take a vote on adding Mary Leah Seigel to the board of Sister Cities. Membership approved. Sandy also announced that the German Exchange Students were selling Advent calendars that evening.

Treasurer, Laura Grammer gave an update on the club's finances. Everything is looking good. She also announced she will be collecting dues at January meeting.

After meal, drawing was held for door prizes Judy McCarty and Maggie Schmitt were the winners. Special prizes were won by Dave Kieffner and Irene Kapp.

The auction for the German Exchange Students was then started. The special auctioneer for the evening was Ed Boeglin. Thanks Ed for your time and talent.

It was announced that the Christmas meeting will be on Thursday December 21st. There will be a meal consisting of Fried chicken, roast beef, mashed potatoes, green beans, and sweet/sour slaw. Dessert will be provided by the club. Cost is \$10 per person which will be collected at the door. Reservations can be made by calling Barb Schmitt at 812-309-3992 or email at barbschmitt12@gmail.com by December 14.

Submitted by
Barb Schmitt, Secretary

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 in our communities!!!! Your generosity will be appreciated!!

Message from Laura.....

German Christmas traditions

Hallo Freunde

Christmas time in Jasper is more festive because of the traditions started by our German ancestors. Here are a few of our beloved German traditions:

Advent Calendars that count the days until Christmas

In Germany, the days are filled with sweet chocolate

Luckily for this chocolate lover, that is the same tradition in Jasper

Advent wreaths that count the weeks until Christmas

In Germany, these wreaths are on the kitchen table or fireplace mantel. The additional candles are lit as the days become shorter and more light is needed in the evening.

In Jasper the Churches bless the Advent wreath and light the candles each week.

Shopping for Christmas gifts

In Germany *Weihnachtsmärkten* has local artisans selling their goods. Jasper's Downtown is alive with Christmas spirit during OTannenbaum Day

Christmas Tree Oh Tannenbaum has been decorated in Germany for over 400 years. Children do not see the tree until Christmas Eve when it is lit for the first time.

In Jasper homes, the Christmas Tree is a focal point of family Christmas festivities So what would we call Tree Hopping without a Christmas Tree? St. Nicholas leaving goodies for good girls and boys In Germany, the goodies are left in shoes or boots. In Jasper, the goodies are left in stockings. For some families this is where the children place their letter to Santa.

Many of the German traditions listed are celebrated in many United States communities. The exception is the celebration of the feast of St. Nicholas. That seems to

be communities with large populations of German ancestry.

Thanks for everyone in the German Club who makes the club fun and helps to preserve the German heritage for generations yet to come.

May your Christmas celebrations be filled with laughter, love and feasts of fabulous food!

Frohe Weihnachten und ein glückliches Neues Jahr

Laura

Dues are Due

The end of the year means it is time to pay the German Club Dues. All dues are expected to be paid by January 31st. Dues are \$10 per person, which is \$20 per couple.

Mail your dues to

German Club
PO Box 15
Jasper IN 47547-0015

Thanks in advance for your timeliness in paying the annual dues.

Laura

MEMBERSHIP

Dues for the DeutscherVerin 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 by January 31, 2018 by mail to German Club, P.O. Box 15, Jasper, IN 47547-0015 or paid at the December or January meeting.

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.

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

December

Christmas Dinner with Santa and Christmas Carols

Thursday, December 21, 2017

The Moose

Doors open at 6:00pm, activities begin at 6:30pm

We will have a meal consisting of fried chicken, roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, corn, and sweet and sour slaw. Price is \$10 per person. Money will be collected the evening of. Please RSVP Barb Schmitt by December 14 by calling 812-309-3992 or email at barbschmitt12@gmail.com. Santa will make his usual appearance and entertainment will be provided by some of the ladies from St. Joseph’s church choir singing Christmas carols. Please feel free to join in.

January

Wine Tasting and Pie Making Competitions

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

The Moose

Doors open at 6:00pm, activities begin at 6:30pm

The club will furnish meat and cheese tray with crackers. Members bring appetizers. Dessert will be pies entered in the contest, so ladies and gents feel free to make your favorite pie to enter in the contest and win bragging rights.

February

Beer and Bread Competitions

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

The Moose

Doors open at 6:00pm, activities begin at 6:30pm

Club will furnish hamburgers and sausage.

Members A-H bring dessert, I-Q vegetable, R-Z salad.

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, 2018. If any questions, please contact Linda Wehr at 812-482-4432.

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, 2018 to:

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

January Newsletter

There will be NO newsletter in January. Thanks for your understanding. Watch for news releases and emails concerning Club activities.

**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 2018 by January 31, 2018 by completing and sending in the following form. Thanks!

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

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Home Phone () _____ - _____

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: _____

When Do You Take Down the Christmas Tree?

(BY: KarenAnne - <http://germangirlinamerica.com/category/german-holidays-and-festivals/german-christmas-traditions>)

I walk almost every day ... for fitness, for air, to get out of the house... so I get a daily view of what's going on in the neighborhood. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, I saw Christmas decorations go up. Decorated trees filled windows...

But then Christmas ended.

The VERY next day, discarded trees started lining the sidewalks. In fact, I think some were already out before Christmas Day ended.

And that made me wonder....

When do you take down your Christmas Tree?

There was a hard and fast rule in our German home. The Christmas Tree stays up until after January 6, the 12th day of Christmas, Epiphany. For any of you who forgot your Sunday School lessons, the Epiphany is the day when the Three Kings or Wise Men arrived at the stable in Bethlehem to bring gifts to the Christ Child. In fact, in the Eastern Orthodox Church, children receive gifts on THIS day... not the 24th or 25th. In some Catholic areas of Germany, the tree is even left up until Feb 2, Candlemas!

In fact, it's considered UNLUCKY to take the tree down early. (And I really need all the luck I can get). So... the tree comes down on the 7th.

when do you take down your Christmas Tree(Of course.. this messes me up with the community "Tree Collection" programs... they all want my tree earlier. And there was an unfortunate incident where I got into an argument with a boy scout leader who couldn't understand why I wouldn't budge...)

January 7th is the end of Weinachten for me... and the day I am finally ready to let Christmas go back into the storage boxes. Ornaments are wrapped and placed carefully into boxes, lights are wrapped around a spool so they can be used again next year, and the tree top Angel (who we keep swearing we will replace) gets packed away.

And then, only then ... I can add my tree to the trees on the sidewalk.

ps. I guess it helps that in our home, we set up the Christmas Tree much later than our neighbors. This year, I was perfectly happy to set it up the weekend before Christmas. So the tree is still fresh, and not dropping needles yet. (The youngest child is in charge of keeping it watered).



Groundhog Day, A German Tradition?

(By: KarenAnne - <http://germangirlinamerica.com/groundhog-day-german-tradition/>)

Groundhog Day, a GERMAN Tradition? Turns out that weather prediction using a burrowing animal on the 2nd of February has its roots in Germany. The German immigrants who landed in America, and brought their tradition with them. Of course... a few adjustments had to be made... in America, there are no Hedgehogs (Igel), so a Groundhog was substituted. (And Bill Murray didn't play into it...)

"Wenn der Igel Lichtmess seinen Schatten sieht,
so Kriecht er wieder auf sechs Wochen ins Loch."

"If the hedgehog sees his shadow at Candlemas, He will crawl back into his hole for another six weeks."

In the Catholic Church, February 2nd it is the celebration of Candlemas, the day that Mary presented her son, Jesus in the Temple. It is a time of light in winter, it sometimes coincides with the beginning of Lent. And for everyone who is tired of the cold and snow, it is a time to wonder how much longer winter will last. No wonder people started to look for ways to predict the coming of spring!

Groundhog Day A German Tradition? What do you do when you can't find a Hedgehog?

Groundhog Day a German tradition. In the 1840's German farmers settled in Pennsylvania, USA. They brought German Traditions with them, including, weather prediction. Every February 2nd, Maria Lichtmess, they would consult with a Hedgehog, or Igel, to see whether winter would drag on, or end soon.

Problem is, there is a serious shortage of Hedgehogs in Pennsylvania.

They substituted a Woodchuck.. aka. a Groundhog... and a new tradition was born.

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

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