



Switzerland



NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH,
PENNSYLVANIA

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President's Message

Gruezi, bonjour, buon giorno,

I hear the picnic was fun.

Unfortunately I was not able to be there as I had a job in Germany. I am looking forward to see you all at the Christmas luncheon.

I was always interested in the origin of the Swiss flag. I would like to share with you some of its history: During the Old Swiss Confederacy (1215 – 1515) Switzerland was a loose federation of autonomous regions and had no common sign. When Swiss troops went to war they carried the flags of their regions. Nevertheless the white cross and the red background have their origins in the Middle Ages. Until 1648, Switzerland was still part of the German Empire. The member states of the Old Confederacy did not try to build a nation; they just wanted to get rid of the counts of Habsburg. In the 13th century the German emperor carried with him a flag with the cross as a holy sign. He also carried a blood – red flag as a sign of power over life and death. Occasionally he granted a city or region the right to carry such flags as a special honor.

Schwyz, one of the three founding members of the Old Swiss Confederacy was granted immediacy (direct subordination under the emperor's jurisdiction) in 1240 and carried a red flag, still without the white cross. For supporting King Rudolf of Habsburg in a war against Burgundy, they received as recognition the right to represent the crucifixion of Christ. The larger the confederacy became, the more they had a problem with inconsistency. In the

battle of Laupen (1339) white stripes forming crosses are mentioned for the first time as a recognition sign of confederate troops. Originally the white stripes were fastened on the soldiers (arms, hats, etc.) In the middle of the 15th century, the white stripes were integrated into flags of the member states. At that time the cross reached to the edge of the banner like in the Scandinavian flags.

-Annemarie Frick

Treasurer's Report

by Walter Schaller

We have a balance of \$6,884.63 as of September 27, 2008. The beginning balance on Apr. 30, 2008 was \$6944.12. During this time, income was \$1,188.63 and our expenses were \$1,248.12.

Nationality Room Open House

by Walter Schaller

Sunday, December 7th, the day after our Christmas Party, from noon – 4pm, Pitt will have its annual Holiday Open House of Nationality Classrooms. Many rooms will be decorated for Christmas. The commons area of the Cathedral of Learning will have ethnic display tables, food booths and entertainment. Some committee members will be in room 321, the future Swiss Classroom, with our drawings, plans and brochures.

I will again be chairing the Swiss Table at the event, featuring Swiss Fondue, and am asking your support with donations of Swiss cookies, baked goods, foods, or souvenir items for the sale table. Please bring them between 10 AM and noon on Sunday or you can give them to me at the Christmas party. All proceeds

will benefit the Swiss Nationally Classroom Fund. If you are interested in helping to sell items, prepare food items, or stand by our presentation materials up in room 321 and talk about the project to visitors, please contact me: 412-980-4421 or walter.schaller@zoominternet.net .

Sami Klaus Party

The Swiss-American Society will again hold its annual Sami Klaus Party in conjunction with the Teutonia Kinderchor on Saturday, Dec 13, 2008 at 11:30am. Pizza and soft drinks, included in the registration fee, will be provided for the children. A sandwich buffet will be provided for the adults, funded by a donation jar. The traditional treat bags and a visit from Sami Klaus are planned. The cost is \$5.00 per Family. Please register on the enclosed form.

Nationality Room Update

by Frederick H. Carlson, Swiss Nationality Room Committee (SNRC) Vice-Chairman

Thanks to all at the August 1 picnic who came forward to support the room project fundraising and took materials with you to give to other prospective donors!

We invite your participation in the Ben Roethlisberger signed t-shirt raffle between now and the luncheon, when our winner will be drawn (see the form in this issue to participate).

Table Auction

The table auction was unveiled at the picnic and so far we have 9 pledges totaling \$4,500 toward the 5 tables (our goal is 40 \$500 pledges for \$20,000). We have 4 blocks for the German table, 1 for the Italian table, 1 for the Romansch table, and 3 for the Swiss Abroad/Fifth Switzerland table. Dr. E. Maxine Bruhns, the director of the Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Program (the body administrating the Nationality Rooms and related scholarship programs) was able to join our Swiss community for the first time

in person at the picnic and we are thankful for her encouragement to keep moving forward with our plans.

The chair auction donors (26 groups totaling 40 donors) received a mailing inviting their specific participation in the table auction in mid-August. Our greater donor mailing list of over 170 donors will be receiving the table auction mailing in the fall appeal letter in early November. If anyone has questions or wishes to donate to the table auction process please contact me asap (412.856.0982 or fred@carlsonstudio.com).

Cantonal Chair Auction

The cantonal chair auction concluded in May, 2008. 92% of the total pledged monies of \$1000 per chair have been paid with 21 of the 26 chairs have been paid in full. Donating parties were given a three-year window to complete their pledges. Within a year of the auctions start, our rapid progress represents a tremendous energy of enthusiastic giving. Our committee thanks all who participated in this fundraising activity.

Large Donor Recruitment

We have requested specific funding help from the Ben Roethlisberger Giving Back Foundation and expect to hear back at the conclusion of the football season. This raises the possibility of large donors giving for such major purchases as, for example, architect fees, display cases, kachelofen, ceiling work, leaded windows, or wall friezes. If you wish to fund one of these major expenses, you are invited to contact our committee in complete privacy.

The University of Pittsburgh has graciously shared an internal report from their development office on other sources of funding in the US that may prove supportive of our Swiss Room funding drive. These sources require written applications, so we intend to solicit donations from the ones we feel would offer the best return on our time spent on the application. If you would like to help out in the application handwork we urge

your assistance.

Paul Lienhardt led a thoughtful campaign thanking our highest tiers of donors at the past picnic with his gifts of the daybreak Matterhorn photo. The opportunity to gather at the picnic for a photo and for Chairman Kunz to thank everyone personally was exhilarating.

Overview

With our room design and revisions approved by Pitt, we remain focused on fundraising, since we cannot begin letting bids and securing vendors until 80% of our funds are in place and cannot begin construction in room 321 until 100% of our funding is in place.

The Swiss Room Total Fundraising figure now stands at \$145,506.09 raised and interest earned on our accounts as of 9/24/08. This figure includes all pledged and paid funds, interest, expenses for the architect already paid and fundraising expenses, and all cash on hand. This is 58% of our goal.

The pace of our fundraising is increasing. In reorganizing the donor list archives, I found that contributions just from 2007 and 2008 filled up one notebook, while all the contributions for the first 6 years (pre-1998 to 2003) filled another notebook, so this definitely means our pace of interest, donor base, and giving are increasing quickly.

This drive depends on everyone making this project understandable and desirable not just to others within our local Pittsburgh Swiss community, but also around the nation and the world, and especially to other Swiss. We have received 12% of our donations from overseas-including Switzerland residents from their connections in Pittsburgh!

In conclusion, I wish to state that the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh (S-ASP), each and every member and officer, has been true to this project. Our committee is thankful for the relationship between the S-ASP and the SNRC and the efforts to keep the project visible in our community and contributing to our financial efforts. I totaled the contributions

from S-ASP activities alone for the past 10 years, and the proceeds have been generous and ongoing above and beyond all the individual contributions directly from specific members. With \$7,559.75 in tombola proceeds, \$3,182.50 from memorial contributions, \$3,421 in table sales, \$1,983 in raffles and fundraisers at events, and \$775 in miscellaneous previous contributions before our committee was even formed-all together total \$16,921.25. This amounts to almost \$1,700 donated annually to our project.

Thank you all. Our committee stands rested and willing to conclude our fundraising efforts. We invite you all to help us achieve our goal!

Strip District Tour

by Paul Lienhardt

Vibrant, behind the scenes touring of Pittsburgh's unique STRIP DISTRICT led by Swiss - Sylvia (Emmenegger) McCoy provides tasty treats. You will enter 6 or 7 food stores to see and hear owners/managers present their specialties.

One September weekday from 10am to 1pm, Jane and I did this walk that left us so full, that instead of lunching at the Spaghetti Warehouse, we instead used 2 for 1 coupons as take-outs for supper. For our sweet wrap up we went to Klavon's Ice Cream Parlor at 2801 Penn Av.

Sylvia is delightful, energetic and knowledgeable. Besides English, she can do these walks in Schweitzer-Deutsch or German. These STRIP DISTRICT tours by Sylvia cost \$30 per person, but for six or more the price is \$25.50 each, plus that PA 7% sales tax. Contact Sylvia at 412-901-7150, www.burghfoodtour.com.

Welcome New Members!

Welcome to new members: Lyndall Huggler, an attorney of Swiss descent, and his wife, Elizabeth Seiders, of Pittsburgh ; Sanjay Shendge, a Swiss citizen and computer business owner, and his wife, Valerie, of N. Huntingdon; and Dorothea Croce, a former SAS member who lives in Scott Twp.

Don't forget to vote!

Don't forget to vote for next year's Officers! There is also a survey from our Board to fill out, located on the Dec event registration form. You can both of theses (along with your dues, Sami Klaus

registration, and Roethlisberger auction form) with your registration for the December event. Whether or not you can make the Christmas Luncheon, please return your vote by Nov. 18th.

SAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS**Saturday, December 6, 2008**

11:30-3:30pm

Annual Christmas LuncheonPeter's Place; 1199 Washington Pike
Bridgeville, PA 15017**Sunday, December 7, 2008**10 am- Noon (set-up);
Event Noon to 4 P.M.**Nationality Room Open House**

Cathedral of Learning

Saturday, December 13, 2008

11:30am to 1:30pm

Sami Klaus Event

Teutonia

Annual Swiss Christmas Luncheon - DetailsWhen: Saturday, December 6, 2008Where: **Peter's Place**, 1199 Washington Pike; Bridgeville, PA 15017
412-221-5000 www.petersplacerestaurant.net
Exit I-79 at Kirwin Heights exit; at light turn right, go to next light, its on your right, ample parking.Schedule: 11:30 am Socialize, place & view tombola donations.
Noon Luncheon served: Tossed salad, entrée, potato, vegetable, roll, beverage, dessert.
1:30pm President's welcome, 2009 Board election results, music selections presented.
2:30 pm Tombola raffle to benefit Swiss Nationality Room.
3:25 pm Concluding remarks.Menu: Choice of: Stuffed Pork Chop, Chicken ala Kelly (stuffed with pecan & cranberries), Boston Scrod Almondine. (Vegetarian option available upon request). Dessert: Pecan Ball or Chocolate MousseCost: \$22 per personTo bring: Tombola donations, money to purchase Christmas presentsRegistration: Send enclosed registration form & check payable to Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh by Tuesday, November 18, 2008 to:
Paul Lienhardt, 1527 High Knoll Dr. Pittsburgh, PA 15241-3311
If deadline is past, contact Paul to see if it is not too late!! 412-835-9345.

2008 Christmas Luncheon Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

Guest Name (First & Last)

Entree / Dessert

- Pork Chicken Scrod
- Pecan Ball Choc Mousse
- Pork Chicken Scrod
- Pecan Ball Choc Mousse
- Pork Chicken Scrod
- Pecan Ball Choc Mousse
- Pork Chicken Scrod
- Pecan Ball Choc Mousse
- Pork Chicken Scrod
- Pecan Ball Choc Mousse
- Pork Chicken Scrod
- Pecan Ball Choc Mousse

Meals ordered: _____ X \$22.00 \$_____

Sami Klaus Registration

Number of children attending _____ \$_____
Registration fee is \$5.00 per family

2009 Membership Dues

\$10.00 per family x _____ # families \$_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$_____

Please mail by Tuesday, November 18, 2008 to:

Paul Lienhardt
1527 High Knoll Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA 15241-3311

With which opportunities are you interested in helping in the future?

- Board of directors / Auditors
- Nationality Room Open House (Dec)
- Spring Event
- Pittsburgh Folk Festival (May)
- August 1 Picnic
- Possible Oktoberfest 2009 Luncheon
- Christmas Luncheon
- Events helper
- Publicity
- Singing with the Swiss Singers, Helvetia Männerchor.*
- Trip to Banff, Canada to support our Swiss Singers (June, 2009)*
- Other

* For more info, contact Andy Schwartz, 412 322 3323. <http://www.swissfest09.com/englishindex.php>

WIN the Roethlisberger Signed T-Shirt!

Raffle Winner will be Selected at the
2008 Christmas Party
Winner need not be present to win

ORDER TICKETS NOW or buy them at the Christmas Party

One SwissRoots T-Shirt, size XL, “Rö+hlisberger” design

Signed by

Ben Roethlisberger

Honorary Chairperson of the Swiss Nationality Room Committee

\$5 Per Ticket – or – 5 Tickets for \$20

Please indicate form of payment: (Tax deductible donation to the Swiss Nationality Room)

Credit Card Number: _____ Expires _____ / _____

(Visa, Master Card, American Express, **\$25 Minimum**)

EMAIL address required for credit card payments: _____

Check payable to Swiss Nationality Room

Choose one:

Please Mail my tickets to me

I will pick up my tickets at the Christmas Party.

Don't bother to send my tickets – Just let me know if I win!

AMOUNT: _____ **HOW MANY TICKETS:** _____

Your Name: _____

Address (if tickets to be mailed): _____

RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHRISTMAS RESERVATION /DUES/BALLOT – or –

Mail to: Swiss Nationality Room, c/o Nancy Flury Carlson, 118 Monticello Dr., Monroeville PA 15146

Must be postmarked no later than Nov 29 2008, or received by Dec 4 2008, to qualify

2007 Ballot

President:

- Annemarie Frick
- _____

Vice President:

- Paul Lienhardt
- _____

Secretary:

- Jhon Smith
- _____

Treasurer:

- Walter Schaller
- _____

Membership Secretary:

- Edith Sutterlin
- _____

Board Members (choose 4):

- Lyndall Huggler
- Conrad Ostertag
- _____
- _____

Bruce Kuenzi and Andy Schwarz will be serving the 2nd year of their 2 year term.

Auditors (choose 2):

- Nancy Carlson
- Hollie Tutwiler
- _____
- _____