



# Switzerland



NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Volume 19, No. 3

Autumn 2010

## President's Observations

Our August 1, 2010 Swiss Independence Pro Patria day celebration was an enjoyable expanded picnic.

Over thirty different covered dishes prepared by our members were shared and enjoyed by us.

Emilie Muelly obtained and served the wursts that her dad, Mark Sutterlin, had cooked on the outside grill, while Paul served pork ribs that his wife Jane had baked the day prior. These 30 pounds of ribs came to us as a donation from Henry Tengowski, a butcher with Giant Eagle, and his wife, Sandra.

Richland Park site reservations were arranged by our very capable and versatile Walt Schaller, who also prepared tasty arrays of dessert tarts. These were further augmented by cheese cakes that Bill Burgunder prepared for us.

Yet in all this time of shared foods, I learned a humbling fact that not all our members desire wursts, or ribs, but rather prefer to bring their own picnic entrees. So, for 2011 and 2012 we will definitely offer this option to our members.

In this newsletter you will find a ballot for the 2011 Directors and Officers choices as compiled by Koni Ostertag and Nancy Carlson. Along with indicating your picks, do feel free to tell us if you would like to share in one of our meetings.

We return this Saturday, 4 December, to Atria's in Richland at 11:30am for our 2010 Christmas luncheon and our fun Tombala doings. Then the next day you can come to the Nationality Rooms Open House in the Cathedral of Learning.

May you have a wonderful and joyous Christmas!

-Paul Lienhardt, your 2010 President

## Treasurer's Report

by Walter Schaller

We have a balance of \$ 7,970.20 as of September 1, 2010. The beginning balance on Apr. 30, 2009 was \$ 7517.74.

## Nationality Room Open House

by Walter Schaller

Sunday, December 5th from 12 – 4pm, Pitt will have its annual Holiday Open House of Nationality Classrooms. Rooms will be decorated for Christmas. The Cathedral of Learning commons area 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 Nationality 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](mailto:walter.schaller@zoominternet.net).



>>>> **It's Time!!** <<<<



Please review the entire Swiss Room article in this issue - especially the fundraising details – as we have lots of exciting news to share. It is urgent that we meet our Swiss Room fundraising goal by December 31, 2010! If you haven't given to this project before, this is the time to step in so we can meet our matching **challenge gift of \$30,000** from an anonymous donor. Every gift helps, truly. If you did not get our fall appeal mailing, please contact Fred Carlson asap [fred@carlsonstudio.com](mailto:fred@carlsonstudio.com), 412.856.0982;. If you want to see the Swiss Room built in 2011, we need your help NOW! Anyone hearing about the Swiss Room for the first time and needing more details contact Fred or Chairman Heinz Kunz at 412.967.9123 [hwk1@verizon.net](mailto:hwk1@verizon.net) for a full presentation about the project. Thank you!

-The Swiss Nationality Room Council

### **Swiss Shirt Sale**

We have a buy one get on free sale on our remaining stock of Swiss Root T-Shirts. At the Luncheon, cost will be \$10 for two Shirts. To have them shipped anywhere in the USA: \$15 for two. Graphics include: rö+hlsberger / quar+erback, wan+ed, al+itude, na+ural, and röschi. Sizes (S, M, L, & XL) Proceeds are for the benefit of the Swiss Room at the U of Pittsburgh.

Contact [walter.schaller@zoominternet.net](mailto:walter.schaller@zoominternet.net) or (412-980-4421) to place an order. Mail checks to: 3886 Grove Road, Gibsonia PA 15044-9451

### **Your chance to vote!**

Don't forget to vote for next year's Officers! Whether or not you can attend the Christmas Luncheon, please return your vote by Nov. 20th. Please also pay your dues and consider contributing to the Nationality room!!

### **Sami Klaus Party**

The Swiss-American Society will again hold its annual Sami Klaus Party in conjunction with the Teutonia Kinderchor on Saturday, Dec 11, 2010 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.

### ***It's Like the Stanley Cup! Keep some of the Swiss Room with you for a few months!***

The Swiss Nationality Room Committee (SNRC) and our woodcrafter Rich Sink is interested in speaking to people in the S-ASP who have storage space at their homes or businesses where we might store the 26 finished chairs and 4 trestle tables after they are completed this spring 2011. These pieces would have to be stored possibly until Christmas 2011 when they would be moved into the finished classroom. Helping us in this regard will save our room budget possible storage expenses that could add up to a few thousand dollars added to our budget. Please contact Fred Carlson 412.856.0982 if you have such a space possibly available to us next year.  
- With thanks from the SNRC

### **Swiss Nationality Room – Fall 2010**

### ***Building a Tribute to Swiss Heritage & Culture on the Theme of Education***

*by Frederick H. Carlson/Vice-Chairman Swiss Nationality Room Committee*

### ***Fundraising News: It's Time!***

Philip Bottonari and Dominique Schinabeck met with a major donor prospect with Swiss/Pittsburgh roots at General Konsul Christoph Bubb's private residence in New York City. This important meeting occurred two days before the August 1 picnic celebration. Although we were unable to announce a donor gift at the picnic, we have since learned that we were successful in obtaining a matching "challenge" gift of \$25,000 from this generous donor, who prefers to remain anonymous at this time.

A group of S-ASP members have boosted this matching challenge gift another \$5,000 to \$30,000. Thus, we have created a final fundraising drive seeking to meet the \$30,000 challenge by year's end. This concluding drive entitled "It's Time!" -- along with the news of a major bequest gift we are learning about as I write this -- means that we have a tremendous opportunity to reach our fundraising goal by December 31, 2010, and proceed with the creation of the Swiss Room during Pitt's construction window of June-December 2011! If you have NOT received the "It's Time!" appeal by now in the mail please contact me!

It is important that you, our prime donor community, step forward again now and generously donate to this concluding drive by year-end. Only when our construction account is fully funded by the end of THIS year, December 31, 2010, can we issue general contracting bids for the demolition, preliminary work and mechanical work, and the final contracts for the room elements: flooring, wall and ceiling panels, molding and trim elements, frieze, leaded windows, display cases, door, lighting rosettes, and many other beautiful features. Please continue to be as generous as possible with your giving for this project during the final ascent! This is the time to make your mark on this important project symbolic of Swiss fraternity and heritage, a project that will be maintained by the University of Pittsburgh in perpetuity.

### ***Furniture: It's Already Happening!***

Our committee has sought to give maximum time and concentration of effort to our woodcrafter, Richard Sink, of French Creek, WV, near Helvetia. You have previously read about our experience learning of Rich's work, his studio space, his Helvetia connections, and his artistic excellence. You may also have met Rich at the August 1, 2009 picnic when he was with us along with artistic designer Justin Rüssli, architect-of-record Stephen Altherr of EDGE Studio, Dr. E. Maxine Bruhns, Director of the Nationality Rooms Program, and almost our entire Swiss Nationality Room Committee.

To allow Rich to focus on the 4 tables and 26 chairs, we have already issued the woodworking contract and deposit monies for his work to complete these room centerpieces before the activity of the rest of the room construction commences. We expect the tables to be completed in late January or early February, and the chairs with their carved and painted cantonal shields on the backs being completed by late May or early June 2011. At that time, Rich can begin work on the other room elements and oversee the installation of finished elements during the construction window later in the year.

Rich stated in a recent phone conversation, "I'm thrilled at the fundraising progress that is enabling the room to be completed in this organized way. I want to share some insights on the furniture and the wood itself with the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh as I begin construction of these important trestle tables and cantonal chairs."

He continued, "The white oak hardwood I have located in Kentucky is one of the premier stocks of wood I have seen in 30 years of woodworking. These are large ¼ sawn white oak timbers that really emphasize the radial rays and flecks of the wood. It is highly unusual that 2" woods are offered up to a 17" width. It means these white oak specimens were extremely old and are thus more stable and stronger than anything else available. We are extremely fortunate that I found out about this wood stock -- it will have the least reaction to temperature and humidity and is the most stable kind of cut imaginable for our classroom furniture stresses, combining ultimate strength and beauty. This kind of wood was the most in-demand stock for major shipbuilding in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, due to its low porousness, and is so heavy it does not float."

### ***Scheduling and Current Status of Funds and Expenses Paid: It's Moving!***

Architect-of-record and S-ASP member Stephen Altherr of EDGE Studio has completed 95% design documents, which are ready to be let for bids upon full funding of the University of Pittsburgh Swiss Room construction account.

From our S-ASP accounts, we have issued the first of three payments to Mountaineer Wood Industries (Richard Sink & crew) to acquire the woods and begin construction of the furniture. The total for the furnishings will be \$35,500. Previously, our artistic design work by Lucerne-based Justin Rüssli totaled \$5,247, which has already been paid. Our design fees from EDGE Studio have totaled roughly \$26,600, which is the majority of the design budget, and those fees have been paid. Our costs to maintain a fundraising inventory have totaled around \$2,790 over time. The expenses related to our 12 years of printing and mailing costs associated with our fundraising drives and outreach regarding the Swiss Room project have totaled approximately \$4,200.

With our combined current holdings in Pitt accounts at \$128,000, our Swiss Society holding account at \$9,000, and the expected receipt of another \$90,000 should our challenge drive succeed by December 31, 2010, we are looking at the completion of funding of the Swiss Room for Pitt's construction window of June-December 2011. It will certainly take all of our generous giving to reach this goal, but we are confident that our donor community will meet the challenge by December 31, 2010!


### ***Kachelofen: It's Hot!***

We are moving down two tracks concerning the Kachelofen that we wish to include in the final Swiss Room. Pitt has told us that we can add it after the room is completed if our funding is not adequate at the time of the room construction. Room Donor Ed Graf is researching Red Clay Tile in Bellevue as a possible source of a reproduction Kachelofen, if we do not locate a donated or inexpensive antique. He is using plans from an old Graf family Kachelofen from Winterthur in Zurich. In addition, SNRC Chairman Dr. Heinz Kunz has recently traveled to Switzerland to investigate sources of antique Kachelofen tiles, which could be incorporated with a non-working constructed frame, thus simplifying shipping and installation. Heinz states, "Old kachelofens in houses that are either

being remodeled or demolished are destroyed. No chance of getting one this way. However, I have a lead with a big company (Rückbau) and they will inform my nephew before demolishing a house. My nephew would let me and Justin Rüssli know of a possible find." We are actively looking for a good donated Kachelofen through our extended Swiss community if we all successfully work through our Swiss connections in CH.

Frederick H. Carlson / Vice-Chairman/Secretary for the Swiss Nationality Room Committee

**It's Time! Please send Swiss Room contributions by Dec 31, 2010 (and testimonials/dedications of any length) to: Fred Carlson, Vice-Chair SNRC (make checks payable to: Swiss Nationality Room Fund)118 Monticello Drive Monroeville, PA15146-4837 412.856.0982 [fred@carlsonstudio.com](mailto:fred@carlsonstudio.com)**



**SwissCommunity.org**  
The platform for the Swiss Abroad

**JOIN NOW!!**

This new website is a high-quality platform for Swiss living abroad to connect.

- Stay in touch with other Swiss abroad you already know.
- Meet new Swiss abroad and share thoughts and experiences. Discuss current events related to Switzerland or to Swiss living abroad. Find out where the Swiss restaurants are in town when you visit other places.
- Find information about your local Swiss organization or other Swiss organizations around the world!
- Get information about news, politics, and current events from all of Switzerland or from your particular canton of interest.

## **SAS-P representing Swiss-Abroad**

*by Michael Muelly*

On August 20<sup>th</sup> I attended the meeting of the Council of Swiss Abroad in St. Gallen (Saint Gall). The meeting was held at the government building of the Canton of St. Gallen which is part of the Abbey complex first built in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. As a UNESCO world heritage site, it provided an impressive backdrop for the meeting attended by 91 of the 130 members from all over the world of the council of Swiss Abroad. Of the 8 US representatives, 7 were in attendance at the meeting and we had plenty of opportunity to exchange experiences in how the Swiss communities are organized all over the country. The council meeting was attended by a number of members of the Swiss parliament who are involved in supporting the political recognition of Swiss abroad. Micheline Calmy-Rey, federal councilor in charge of the department of foreign affairs, gave the keynote speech addressing ways to strengthen the political recognition of the communities abroad.

One of the main issues covered at the meeting was the introduction of a law to consolidate the representation and political powers of the Swiss abroad. This would also include a proposition to require offering electronic voting to citizens abroad. For those of you who are registered to vote in Switzerland, I am sure you would appreciate this simplification of the current voting by mail, which is often unnecessarily delayed.

The other main point of discussion was the introduction of the **Swisscommunity.org** platform. This website, designed as an extension of the Swiss Roots campaign a few years ago, is a social network for the Swiss abroad and their communities. The website allows you to connect with other Swiss signed up and keeps you informed about Swiss events occurring in other areas of the United States and, if you chose so, the world. I would like to very much encourage all of you to visit the website, sign up for the community, and connect with me and other members of the Swiss-American Society.

This web site is one of the projects initiated by the Council of Swiss Abroad and I hope you recognize the value of this project. While the Swiss societies in other countries have been organized for a long time, the Swiss community in the United States has been relatively separated. This web site will hopefully provide a platform for closer relationships with other Swiss across the country.

### Swiss Bratwurst

Did you enjoy the Swiss-style Brats at the picnic? They are available for mail-order from a Colorado company For more info: 1-866-794-7727 (toll-free) <http://www.continentalsausage.com/> .

### Winter Recipe – Swiss Vanilla Cookies

#### Vanilla Kipferl

**Ingredients:** 140g (5oz) ground almonds, 210g (7.5oz) soft butter, 280g (10 oz) flour, 2 egg yolks, 40g (1.4oz) sugar, a pinch of salt, 100g (3.5oz) powdered sugar, 4 packs of vanilla sugar (or equivalent).

**Instructions:** Mix almonds, butter, flour, egg yolk, and salt. Make -4 rolls of 3 cm (~1.2 in) diameter with the dough. Put in plastic wrap and cool for 1 hr. Heat oven to 300°F. Cut little mini croissants out of the dough and put on a baking sheet. Bake 20-30 minutes. Mix vanilla sugar with powdered sugar and roll hot mini croissants in this after they come out of the oven. Let cool & enjoy!



#### Do you have a Swiss recipe?

Have a recipe you'd like to share? Looking for a particular Swiss recipe? Email Emilie Müllly at [emilie@muellly.ch](mailto:emilie@muellly.ch) to request a recipe or to have your recipe published in the newsletter!

#### Archaeological Discovery in Downtown Zurich

A wooden door thought to be over 5,000 years old was recently unearthed by archaeologists in downtown Zurich! It is thought to be one of the oldest doors found in Europe and is in excellent condition. It was found at an archaeological excavation at a construction site where a parking lot for the Zurich Operahouse was to be built!

### Historic Vote in Switzerland

The Swiss cabinet is composed of seven ministers who collectively lead the country. For the first time in Swiss history, the cabinet holds a female majority, with the election of Simonetta Sommaruga this September. This milestone is seen as a tremendously positive step forward, particularly given that women only gained the right to vote at the federal level in 1971.

### Obituaries

**Annette Gross** passed away at the age of 85 on April 27, 2010. She was the beloved wife of Otto A.; loving mother of Nancy Finster, and Linda Gross Brown (Michael Jordan). She was also a member of the Cleveland Swiss Society and enjoyed knitting and donating her knitted caps and sweaters to those in need. She will be missed by many family and friends.

**Barbara Kuenzi**, age 80 passed away on Thursday, August 26, 2010. Beloved wife of the late Robert Kuenzi. Barbara was an active member of her community and loved to travel. She enjoyed visiting Switzerland and Italy with her husband. She will be missed by many family and friends.

Our condolences to the family and friends of recent SAS-P members who have passed away. The SAS-P has donated \$50.00 in memory of each of these individuals.

### SAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### Saturday, December 4, 2010

11:30-3:30pm

Atria's, 5517 William Flynn Highway  
Gibsonia, PA 15044

#### Sunday, December 5, 2010

10am- Noon (set-up);  
Noon to 4pm (event)

#### Nationality Room Open House

Cathedral of Learning  
University of Pittsburgh

#### Saturday, December 11, 2010

11:30am to 1:30pm

#### Sami Klaus Event

Teutonia  
857 Phineas Street, Pittsburgh, PA

#### Sunday, March 27, 2011

1pm

#### Swiss Night

Teutonia



## Annual Swiss Christmas Luncheon - Details

- When: Saturday, December 4, 2010
- Where: **Atria's**, 5517 William Flynn Highway; Gibsonia, PA 15044  
724-444-7340 <http://www.atrias.com>  
Situating on PA route 8 just south of Orange Belt Rte 910
- Schedule:
- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 11:30 am | Registration, socialize, place & view tombola donations.           |
| Noon     | Fruit & cheese trays will circulate                                |
| 12:15pm  | Please be seated so that meals can be served.                      |
| 1:30pm   | Swiss Singers, Greetings & Updates from Dominique, Paul, and Fred. |
| 2:00 pm  | Obtain your Tombola tickets! One \$2, three \$5, nine \$10         |
| 2:30pm   | Tombola raffle drawings begin.                                     |
| 3:25 pm  | Concluding remarks.  |
- Menu: Choice of: Fresh baked salmon, marinated sirloin, pan-seared tilapia, marinated chicken breast, of pot roast tender beef.  
Dessert: brownie or apfelstrudel with ice cream.
- Cost: \$21-\$25 per person depending on menu selections, \$10 discount for children under ages 4-8 years, free under age 4 years
- To bring: Tombola donations, money to purchase Christmas presents
- Registration: Send enclosed registration form & check payable to Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh by Saturday, November 20, 2010 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.

## SILENT AUCTION



During the 2010 Christmas party, we will hold a Silent Auction for the T-Shirts and Steelers baseball cap that are signed by Ben Roethlisberger. Come prepared to bid on these items and help with the final fundraising push to ensure we fully fund the Swiss Nationality Room Fund by the end of the year!



SWISS LUNCHEON – SAT 4 DEC. 11:30 - 3:30 – ATRIA'S RICHLAND – GIBSONIA on Rte 8

*Please advise with whom if you desire seating together: tables seating 4,6, or 8 are possible.*

MAKE YOUR MEAL CHOICE FROM 5 OPTIONS @\$21 + TWO DESSERT CHOICES @\$4

*Meal credits available: SWISS SINGER \$8 and YOUTH AGES 4-8 \$10, 1-3 free.*

1 - Fresh baked salmon served chilled on mixed greens, garnish of strawberries, almonds, goat cheese

2 – Marinated slices Angus sirloin over large house salad with peppercorn ranch dressing, onion straws

3 - Pan-seared fresh tilapia topped with tomato shallot vinaigrette, served with steamed vegetables

4 - Chicken breast marinated, with penne pasta and spinach, in creamy tomato vodka sauce Florentine

5 - Pot roast tender beef braised and slowly cooked, with mashed redskin potatoes and vegetables

*Gluten free preparation available upon your request*

DESSERTS: Warmed brownie with ice cream, warm apple strudel with ice cream, or none.

First+Last Name of each diner	Entrée @\$21	Dessert @4 (credits)	= Lunch tally \$
_____	No. _____	No. _____ ( )	= \$____.00
_____	No. _____	No. _____ ( )	= \$____.00
_____	No. _____	No. _____ ( )	= \$____.00
_____	No. _____	No. _____ ( )	= \$____.00
_____	No. _____	No. _____ ( )	= \$____.00
_____	No. _____	No. _____ ( )	= \$____.00

**SAMI KLAUS Event, 12/11/2010 REGISTRATION: # children: \_\_\_\_\_** \$\_\_\_\_.00

Registration is \$5.00 per family.

**PLEASE PAY your 2011 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP DUES of \$10.00 per family** \$\_\_\_\_.00

*Or DON'T if you are an honorary or life member or prepaid for 2011*

**YOUR TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED** \$\_\_\_\_.00

Make your chck payable to **Swiss American Society of Pittsburgh** and mail **by 20 Nov. 2010** to:  
**Paul Lienhardt - 1527 High Knoll Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15241-3311**

Any questions, concerns, or for directions to Atria's, call PAUL at 412-835-9345

May we have your current contact information? Thank you

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

(e-mail use is limited to SASP board members unless you authorize full SASP membership distribution.)

### **2009 Ballot**

**President:**

- ☐ Paul Lienhardt
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

**Vice President:**

- ☐ Annemarie Frick
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary:**

- ☐ Jhon Smith
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer:**

- ☐ Walter Schaller
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Secretary:**

- ☐ Christina Sims
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

**Board Members (choose 2):**

- ☐ Conrad Ostertag
- ☐ Lyndall Huggler
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

*Bruce Kuenzi & Tim Madamma will be serving the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their 2 year term.*

**Auditors (choose 2):**

- ☐ Fred Carlson
- ☐ Philip Bottonari
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_