



Switzerland



NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Volume 19, No. 1

Spring 2010

President's Message

Gruezi, bonjour, buongiorno, hello!

SASP 2009 reflections were dynamic, with our Spring fest at Teutonia, our August 1 picnic at Richland Barn, and then 60 of us for a fine Christmas luncheon at Atria's.

Ideas emerged to lead us into 2010: Expanding youth and picnic activities. Creating small outings: Friendship Hill- home of Albert Gallatin, Strip District tours, Baynerhof Museum, etc, as ways we grow our interconnections.

Fred and Nancy Carlson journeyed to Berne, IN for Swiss Days. My wife, Jane, and I looked in on New Glarus WI, that led us to their Swiss Center of North America, Beth Zurbuchen, President. SASP is asked to create a Swiss Room exhibit that also could go on-line.

We again reach out to Swiss Abroad in western PA with this Spring newsletter being sent by Swiss Consulate in N.Y.

Switzerland claims success for 17 Dec. UN Security Council creation of Office of Ombudsperson as contact point for persons affected by anti-terrorism, an appeal process not before available.

Forty-one persons at our Christmas luncheon provided canton of interest or heritage; Edith Bottonari of Graubunden has her story in this Spring newsletter.

May we come together for our 2010 gatherings: Teutonia Sunday March 7, Richland Barn picnic Sunday August 1, Christmas luncheon Saturday Dec. 4 and Nationality Rooms Open House in the Cathedral of Learning on Dec. 5.

You can tell me your interests in local outings by calling me at 412.835.9345 or email me at pjtl@verizon.net

We are going forward,

-Paul Lienhardt

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Including new "Featured Member" article

Page 6: Upcoming Event Details

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Spring Event Registration

2010 EVENTS	
SUN 7 MAR 1 pm	Swiss Night (See agenda p. 6) Teutonia
SAT 8 MAY 2 pm	SAS Board Meeting 1527 High Knoll Dr. Pittsburgh, PA <i>All SAS members welcome.</i>
14 – 16 MAY	Folk Festival (see article p. 6) Monroeville Convention Ctr 209 Mall Blvd. Monroeville, PA 15146
SAT 12 JUN 1pm	Gallatin Outing (see article p.6) 1 Washington Pkwy. Farmington, PA
SUN 1 AUG 2pm	Annual Swiss Independence Picnic- Richland Barn, Bakerstown, PA <i>Swiss meal, music, and activities, tombola, bonfire</i> Richland Barn / Bakerstown, PA
SAT 4 DEC TBA	Annual Christmas Luncheon TBA
SUN 5 DEC Noon – 4pm	Nationality Room Open House Cathedral of Learning Pittsburgh, PA
SAT 11 DEC 11 am	Sami Claus Event Teutonia

To find out more about our organization, please visit: www.swisspittsburgh.org or contact any of the board members (p. 4) for more info.

SWISS NATIONALITY ROOM COMMITTEE (SNRC) REPORT

The Swiss Room Project at the Nationality Rooms Program at the University of Pittsburgh is moving ahead at a very fast pace these days. Our committee is doing all we can to have the Swiss Room constructed at Pitt's Cathedral of Learning in 2011, with fabrication of many of the room's components commencing in 2010. We are currently looking at a May-November 2011 window for construction. If you read no further in this article, please know that we *STILL* need your continued generosity toward this project to meet the funding balances we require in the Swiss Room construction account at Pitt, and we need this money as early as possible in 2010. Now that we are in the home stretch, the sooner we receive your gifts, the sooner we can begin construction!

Historical Recap of the Swiss Room Project

The SASP Board is making this edition of the Swiss American Society of Pittsburgh newsletter available to many new members and many registered Swiss through the courtesy of the General Consul's office in NYC. I was invited to recap some of the history of this project for the benefit of people just hearing about the Swiss Room for the first time. We invite your questions about this project or your generous donations directed to our committee if you feel inclined to help us complete this project in the near term.

The Nationality Rooms Program at the University of Pittsburgh has been in existence since the 1930s. This program celebrates the contributions of immigrants to Pittsburgh from around the world and their descendants. These ethnic communities raise up funds and donate an actual working classroom based on pre-1787 architectural designs. To date, 28 Nationality Rooms have been completed over the past 75 years. Since the 1950s, the local Swiss community has talked about a Swiss Room. Our committee became an official partner with Pitt in this effort in late 1998. We reserved room 321 for the Swiss Room and have raised over \$193,000 since then. At this time we require about \$75,000 to comfortably reach our minimum construction account balance.

The Swiss Room is based on a late medieval design featured in the Landesmuseum, Zurich. Our room's theme is a tribute to Swiss education, celebrating the work of Pestalozzi and Rousseau, two 18th century Swiss who championed education for all (especially children) regardless of status and wealth. Jean-Jacques Rousseau came from the French-speaking city of Geneva; Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi came from the German-speaking city of Zurich. Their portraits, done in the simple drawn style of Basler Hans Holbein, will hang in the room, along with an antique map from the early 1700s showing the Swiss Confederation written in Latin. Dark beamed ceilings will house high tech lighting systems. Stylized carving will decorate the frieze around the room, the beam endpoints and wall moldings. The room's highlight will be the 26 stabellen chairs, with cantonal ensigns on the back of each chair, and gorgeous trestle tables representing the four language areas of Switzerland. Leaded windows will feature subtle stained glass paying tribute to the three cantons of the first Swiss Confederation in 1291, Schwyz, Uri, and Unterwalden.

Architect-of-Record and Pitt Facilities Meetings

Since last summer's August 1 picnic, members of our committee have met with Pitt Facilities and project manager Adrienne Spellone, who oversee the construction of the room, and our architect-of-record Stephen Altherr. We have met 8 times regarding shaping the final details of the design, the lighting and electrical, the AV setup, and outlining the bid process and construction documents. Many of you saw the beautiful detailed design drawings at the Christmas luncheon or the Holiday Open House last December 5-6. Stephen's oversight and diligence at this stage of our room planning has been extremely useful for us to stay on schedule and to continue cost-consciousness with our future expenses. He has been mightily assisted by detail and expense suggestions from woodcrafting master Rich Sink, and he continues to work hand-in-hand with our Swiss architect Justin Ruessli of Lucerne. In January, we gave Stephen the go-ahead to finalize bid drawings for the general contracting involved with the building of the room and he is currently working on those plans. We hope to have all our bid requests back within 90 days and start issuing contracts. Some of this work with the fine woods involved will begin later in the spring.

Master woodworker and carver Richard Sink (who lives near Helvetia, West Virginia, and has years of experience constructing Swiss furniture) has been our leading choice for creating all of the room's wood features since we became aware of his amazing abilities in early 2009. Some of his plans for prepping and drying the wood will commence soon. The SNRC is constantly impressed by his deliberate and complete attention to detail, and we feel his unique artistic vision and multi-disciplinary excellence will help keep our project under tight cost control as well as creating the beauty identified with Swiss craftsmanship.

Fundraising

Our committee has met twice recently for fundraising strategy sessions. As we continue to move ahead on our fundraising totals, we are getting a clearer picture of what our final funding total needs to look like to proceed on time. Although we still need quite a bit of funding, we are confident that our multi-faceted funding strategy will bring us the needed funds in time when we need to pay for commodities, contracting and the decorative arts featuring the finished woodworking of Swiss wood carving master Richard Sink.

The cantonal chair auction funds have come in fulfilling 96% of their pledged \$26,000. We allotted 3 years for this funding to come in and our Swiss community has come through well ahead of that plan. The 4 language tables are 78% funded, with the German and French tables completely funded, leaving a particularly special gift opportunity still to someone with a special interest in Switzerland's Italian or Romansch heritage. The special gift opportunities have yielded generous donations for the Uri window, the blackboard, the teacher lectern, the carved radiator covers, and other features.

Some of our committee members are dealing with large gift asks on a one-to-one basis. This is very time-consuming work. We encourage everyone reading this to mention this project, and our needs for large donations, to those with means who are proud of their Swiss heritage. We know everyone wishes to see the long-overlooked Swiss gain a beautiful room dedicated to educational excellence taking its rightful place alongside the other 28 Nationality Rooms. We continue to publicize this effort to PA-based Swiss companies, as well as to multi-national companies with Swiss roots. The efforts of Chairman Kunz along with new committee member Dominique Schinabeck to seek new donor leads have been successful. Our committee hopes to meet personally with Ben Roethlisberger, our honorary and most famous committee member, to show him the latest stage of plans, now that the football season is over (all too soon).

Our committee knows that all of you reading this article are together the best ambassadors for the successful completion of this project. We thank you again for any and all efforts you make to draw attention to your extended Swiss family members towards our goal, and for the monetary contributions you are called to make. This room is an international jewel and will be kept in perpetuity by the University of Pittsburgh as an eternal tribute to Swiss excellence in education; it is NOT a one-time museum or exhibition installation.

Please contact me with any and all questions at fred@carlsonstudio.com or 412.856.0982, and send donations made payable to the SWISS NATIONALITY ROOM FUND to my office at 118 Monticello Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146. We encourage testimonials of any length to accompany your contribution, and all donor recognitions are eternally kept in the donor book displayed in the room, this room which Pitt maintains forever. The summit is in sight!

Fred Carlson/Vice-Chairman, Secretary for the Swiss Nationality Room Committee (SNRC)

Dr. Heinz Kunz-Chairman and Honorary Consul for Switzerland in Western Pennsylvania, Dominique Schinabeck, Nancy Flury Carlson, Walter Schaller, Edith Bottonari, Philip Bottonari, Evelyn Ruffing, Jhon Smith, and Paul Lienhardt (de facto member, SAS-P President)

Honorary Members: Christoph Bubb (General Consul, NYC); Raymond Loretan (retired General Consul, NYC); Ben Roethlisberger (Pittsburgh Steelers Quarterback)

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Edith Bottonari in Graubünden

When one thinks of a young girl in Switzerland, Heidi generally comes to mind. In Johanna Spyri's famous book, Heidi lives with her grandfather in the Canton of Graubünden. When Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh member Edith Bottonari looks back on her childhood in Switzerland, she has many fond memories, including reading *Heidi* over and over again and, like the book's heroine, living in beautiful Graubünden.

Edith was born in Zurich and moved to Chur when she was five. So it was in that town in Graubünden that she spent her formative years. Favorite activities included reading, hiking in the surrounding mountains with her father, ice skating every day in the winter, swimming, and having many boyfriends. However, as much as she loved her town, Edith had a great desire to see more of the world and learn languages beyond German.

So, at age 18, she ventured to England to work as an au pair for the family of the headmaster of Marlborough College. By the end of her one-year stay, she was fluent enough in English to read the book *Gone with the Wind* in her new language. Little did she know, English would become the first language of her children one day.

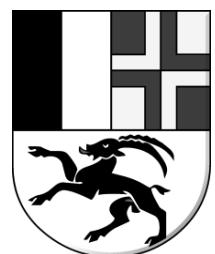
From England, Edith moved to France where she studied at the Alliance Française. This was followed by many years in Italy where she mastered her fourth language. Through acquaintances, she met and married Augie, her husband of 46 years, in Rome. Their first two children were born in Naples, where they lived for three years. At that time, Augie, an engineer with U.S. Steel, was transferred back to his native Pittsburgh.

While Edith has grown to like Pittsburgh, it was a difficult adjustment at first. She missed her beautiful native land, parents, and European friends. But every summer, she returned with her three children to Switzerland. Through these trips, the entire family developed a strong bond for the country. Their daughter, Caroline, now lives in Zurich.

Edith has enjoyed being a member of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh for 40 years. Today, she serves as a member of the Swiss Nationality Room Committee. The room's Graubünden chair has been sponsored by her sons, Richard and Philip, in her honor.

Graubünden Fun Facts

- Largest canton by area, stretching 2744mi² (7106 km²).
- Only canton in which 3 of the 4 national languages are spoken (68% German, 15% Romansch, 10% Italian)



Would you like to share with us a story of your Swiss canton of interest or Swiss heritage? Would you like to learn more about a specific canton of Switzerland? Tell us! Contact our president, Paul, with your story.

New SAS Exec Board

President: Paul Lienhardt
pjtl@verizon.net
412.835.9345

Vice President: Annemarie Frick
africkpit@aol.com
412.443.7388

Secretary: Jhon Smith
jhsst7@gmail.com
412.521.2584

Treasurer: Walter Schaller
walter.schaller@zoominternet.net
412.980.4421

Membership Secretary: Julianne Miller
big_blue3@comcast.net
412-805-8232

Board Member – Conrad Ostertag
caeasterday@consolidated.net
724.898.3029

Board Member – Lyndall Huggler
lynbeth@msn.com

Board Member – Bruce Kuenzi
412.271.5003

Board Member – Tim Maddamma
tmaddamma@comcast.net
412.279.6923

MEMBERSHIP CORNER (Continued)

Welcome New Members...

Bill Burgunder: Bill is a past president of the Austrian-American Cultural Society. He worked in Zurich in 1973.

Terry and Char Jeggle: Terry's heritage traces back to canton Aargau, while Char was born in Phillipines. Terry is Visiting Scholar, Center for Disaster Management, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at U. of Pittsburgh.

Marianne and Philip Wion: Marianne is a music teacher who recently moved from Geneva. Her husband Philip is retired, formerly a professor at U. of Pittsburgh.

Obituary – Inez M. Meier

Inez passed away at age 85 on Monday December 14, 2009. Beloved wife of Hans "Pete" of 60 years. They had attended SAS-P events together for many years, and Hans continues to sing / yodel with the Schweizer Männerchor. Inez was also a member of the Scandinavian Society and an avid genealogist.

Nominating Request

The start of a new year is a good time to commit ourselves to new activities. The SAS is hoping you will consider volunteering to assist our officers with the various events planned for this year. One opportunity is to join the nominating committee, for which a minimum of 3 non-board members are required. Current members will be available to fill you in on what tasks need to be done. If you are interested in helping to recruit new officers or possibly in serving as a future officer yourself, please contact Koni Ostertag at 724.822.0504 or ceasterday@consolidated.net. Please join your Swiss friends at the SAS and be a part of keeping our organization vibrant and active.

Youth Involvement

Interested in having a youth SAS-P event organized? Got an idea for a youth event? Contact Shirley Engel at 1-724-776-5791 or email shirlet@zoominternet.net.

December Luncheon Report

Fine food with dessert options and great service at Atria's were well received by 60 members. Maxine Bruhns, director of Pitt's Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Program, was our guest.

Treasurer's Report

by Walter Schaller

Swiss-American Society - Pittsburgh Funds	
Beginning Balance (8/31/09)	\$7,780.94
Interval Income	\$1,793.75
Interval Expenses	\$1,374.82
End Balance (12/31/09)	\$8,199.87
Swiss Nationality Room Funds	
Citizens Nationality Room Account (1/6/2010)	\$17,635.80
University of Pittsburgh Swiss Room Account	\$157,397.40
Combined Total	\$175,032.98

Dues & Membership

Are you a member and haven't paid your dues?

You should have received a Jan letter of request to send in the \$10 family dues for 2010 to Julianne Miller, our new membership secretary.

Do you want to become a member?

Download and complete the application at: <http://www.swisspittsburgh.org/node/10>. Send this to Julianne Miller along with a \$10 check for your 2010 dues. Or, mail in the check with your name, contact information, and an indication if you have a personal connection to a particular canton (origin or interest). Julianne will then send you an application.

Send your checks for \$10 made out to the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh to:

Julianne Miller, SAS-P Membership Secretary
248 Willow Dr, Monroeville PA 15146-4553

Your support assures you of awareness of our SAS-P news & events in this year's newsletters.

FEATURED EVENTS

SWISS NIGHT

<u>When:</u>	Sunday, March 7, 2010
<u>Where:</u>	The Ratskeller (downstairs), Teutonia Männerchor 857 Phineas Street; Pittsburgh, PA
<u>Schedule:</u>	
1:00 pm	Jass, Social Hour
3:00 pm	Swiss meats & cheeses appetizer Kinderchor Performance
4:00 pm	Cheese Fondue + 1 glass wine dessert / coffee / tea Schweizer Männerchor Performance Tombola raffle and cash bar
<i>Special auction FESTIVE EASTER EGGS by new 2010 SASP member Marianne Wion.</i>	
<u>Cost:</u>	\$21 per adult/teen (14 years & older) \$8 per child 6-13yrs. Free under 6yrs.
<u>To bring:</u>	Tombola gifts Extra Jass cards & Fondue pots
<u>Registration:</u>	Send enclosed registration & check by Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010 to Paul Lienhardt: 1527 High Knoll Dr. Pittsburgh, PA 15241-3311

Pittsburgh Folk Festival is back!

This year will mark the 53rd annual Pittsburgh Folk Festival, May 14-16, at the Monroeville Convention Center- a brand new facility, near the Mall, with free parking. The festival will showcase performances, food, cultural exhibits, demonstrations, and more from several dozen ethnicities which contribute to Western Pennsylvania's rich heritage. The Swiss singers are planning to perform. In keeping with this year's display theme of Winter Holidays, our cultural exhibit will provide visitors with glimpse of the traditional Swiss Christmas market.

Advance sale tickets will be available at the Spring event; we need everyone to support our society's participation by attending and/or selling tickets. Anyone who would like to help in the preparations, please contact Jhon Smith at 412-521-2584 (late evenings or leave a message) or at jhsst7@gmail.com. We will also need help to staff the display. This is our chance to promote the Society and the Nationality Room!

Gallatin Outing

Would you like to learn more about a Swiss American who Thomas Jefferson appointed Secretary of the Treasury? On Sat. June 12th, carpool from Pittsburgh or meet other SAS members at 1pm at the home of Albert Gallatin, Friendship Hill National historic site, a 661 acre park located 1 Washington Pkwy, Farmington, PA, about 2 hrs. SW of downtown Pittsburgh. Born in Geneva, Gallatin was orphaned at age 9, but came to the U.S. in 1780. In the next 20 yrs, he became a businessman, Pennsylvania legislator, then congressman. In 1801, he became Secretary of the Treasury. He reduced the national debt, purchased the Louisiana Territory, and funded the Lewis & Clark exploration while in office. Children and adults will enjoy a tour of the historic house, exhibits, and time to explore some nature trails. Call Edith Sutterlin, 724-934-9191, to join the group for this free afternoon tour.

Additional Outings

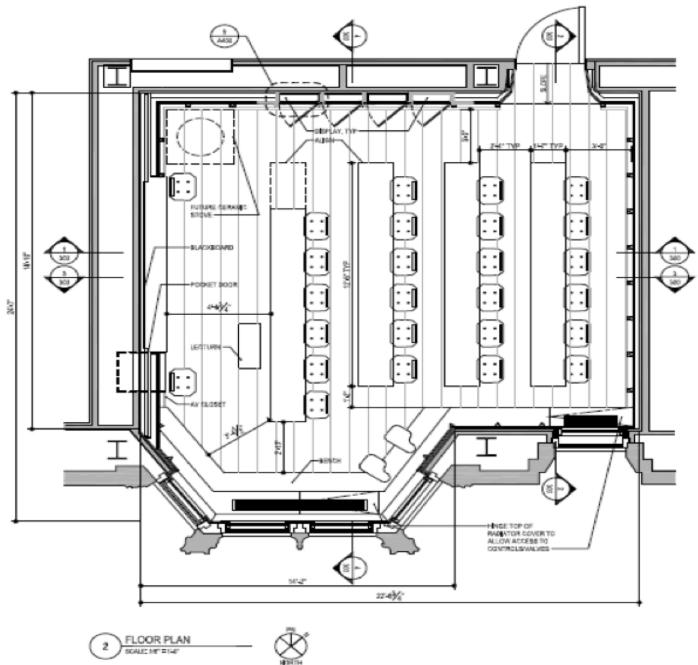
Would you like more SAS-P events? Looking for something to do in the Pittsburgh area? Contact the following people if interested in any of these possible outings in the Pittsburgh area:

Old Baynerhoff Museum Heinz Kunz 412-967-9123	See this Fox Chapel mansion automatic musical instruments and secret passages. Tours are \$10. 2-12 people.
Trolley Museum Paul Lienhardt 412-835-9345	See and take trolley rides in Washington County, PA.
Strip District Tours Silvia McCoy 412-901-7150 Annemarie Frick 412-761-1388	A 2-hour taste treat, available in Swiss-German, German, French, or English. Tours are led by 2 SAS-P members. 6-12 people.
Frick First Fridays Paul Lienhardt 412-835-9345	Music, antique cars, and art museum provide entertainment from 6-9pm for a \$5-10 donation. Foods and desserts for sale.
SportsWorks Tim Madamma 412-279-6923	Just reopened at the Carnegie Science Center. Interactive sports exhibits, submarine tour, and an multi-train model of Pittsburgh.

Nationality Room Images

Here are the design plans for the Swiss Room, modeling the late Medieval time period. The location is 321 in the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh. Scheduled construction Dates May-November 2011. **Left:** Proposed floor plan. Includes 4 trestle tables, representing each national language, Swiss "Stabellen" Chairs, display cases, Kachelofen, and stained glass windows.

Below: Chair design. There will be 26 chairs to represent each of the cantons / half-cantons.



Architects: Artistic Design-Justin Ruessli, Lucerne, CH;
Architect of Record-Stephen Altherr / Edge Studio



2010 Swiss Night Registration Form

Number of adults and youth at \$21 each: _____

Names of adults:

Number of children at \$8 each (age 6 – 14 years): _____

Number of children attending free under the age of 6 years: _____

Names of children:

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Swiss American Society of Pittsburgh.

Please mail by Saturday, February 27, 2010 to: Paul Lienhardt
1527 High Knoll Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA 15241-3311

