



# Switzerland



## NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Volume 20, No. 1

Spring 2011

### President's Welcome Message, 2011:

Bienvenue, Willkommen, Benvenuto!

In this new year we look forward to many accomplishments unfolding, particularly the SWISS NATIONALITY ROOM as funding and bids lettings open the doorway to construction.

### Fred Carlson tells us more on page 2.

This November we welcomed Francois Barras as our new Ambassador and Consul General in New York City. He was born 1952 in Sierre, canton Valais, and obtained a Bachelor degree in Law at University of Geneva in 1974, then pursued Anthropology Masters degree at University of Virginia 1976. In 1983 Francois Barras earned PhD (Legal Anthropology) from University of London, SOAS. That same year began his foreign affairs experiences throughout many lands. This past five years he served Switzerland as Ambassador to Lebanon.

**Our lineup of 2011 events begins 27 March at the Teutonia.** May presents Folk Festival where you can find our talented Jhon Smith weaving on a loom and promoting Switzerland. **Our 1 August picnic will occur 31 July at Richland Barn.**

December brings us a barrage of Swiss experiences. **First is Christmas luncheon on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup>,** the next day comes the University of Pittsburgh's Nationality Rooms Open House. **Sami-Klaus for parents and kids at Teutonia is 10 Dec.**

Have you gone to [www.swisspittsburgh.org](http://www.swisspittsburgh.org)? Do seek it out. There is info on upcoming activities, membership, the Swiss Singers, the Nationality room, as well as the newsletter. Explore its contents extensively and let us know of any suggested improvements! Your feedback will allow us to improve its functionality for our group and also for prospective Swiss Pittsburgh seekers.

A listing of 2011 SASP Board members names, emails and phone numbers are listed on page 6. Do seek us out, its your inputs that make SASP more responsive and meaningful.

Thank you, Paul Lienhardt

<b>2011 EVENTS</b>	
<b>SUN 27 MAR</b> 1 - 6pm	<b>Swiss Day</b> (See agenda p. 5) Teutonia
<b>FRI – SUN</b> <b>13-15 MAY</b>	<b>Folk Festival</b> (see article p. 5) Monroeville Convention Ctr 209 Mall Blvd. Monroeville, PA 15146
<b>SAT 21 MAY</b> 1-3 pm	<b>SAS Board Meeting</b> 1527 High Knoll Dr. Upper St. Clair Twp, Pgh, PA <i>All SAS members welcome.</i>
<b>SUN 31 JUL</b> 2-9pm	<b>Swiss Independence Picnic</b> Richland Barn, Bakerstown, PA <i>Swiss meal, music, and activities, tombola, bonfire</i>
<b>SAT 1 OCT</b> 1-3 pm	<b>SAS Board Meeting</b> 1527 High Knoll Dr. Upper St. Clair Twp, Pgh, PA <i>All SAS members welcome.</i>
<b>SAT 3 DEC</b> TBA	<b>Annual Christmas Luncheon</b> AMICI (formerly Tambellini's) on rte 51
<b>SUN 4 DEC</b> Noon – 4pm	<b>Nationality Room Open House</b> Cathedral of Learning - Oakland Pittsburgh, PA <i>Crafts, food, dance- it's FREE.</i> <i>Parking: \$5 at Soldiers &amp; Sailors</i>
<b>SAT 10 DEC</b> TBA	<b>Sami Claus Event</b> Teutonia

# SWISS NATIONALITY ROOM COMMITTEE (SNRC) REPORT



## Fundraising News: The Matching Challenge is a Complete Success!

Between October 11, 2010 and December 31, 2010, our donor community, excited by the prospect of the \$25K Match Challenge from the Samuel D. Isaly Family of NYC, came through with a total of \$100,250 added to the construction account at Pitt! This means our construction account available of \$224,613 exceeds our latest 100% estimate of \$222,513 for the room construction. The Swiss Room Committee, along with Dr. Bruhns and the Nationality Rooms Program and Pitt Facilities Management, thank all of you for your response to the urgency of this drive. Our key donor Samuel Isaly also upped his gift from \$25,000 to \$30,000 in a gesture of goodwill prompted by our timely and generous donor community response!

The Challenge effort was also driven to success by the estate bequest of our late former S-ASP treasurer Florence Jacob. Her sister and executrix Jane Lubic oversaw bequests totaling \$32,250 between the main gift presented at the Christmas luncheon and other gifts given to the project by relatives who received monies from Florence.

Our fundraising work will continue as we seek to fully fund the leaded windows (partial funding in place) and the frieze at this time. These are stand-alone artisan pieces that *can* be added after the construction window of 2011 is completed, without Pitt having to shut down the room (which of course they have to do for completion of the project this year). The windows have partial funding but we are confident that our current large donor asks as of the time I write this report will come through with more to include the windows in this year's summer/fall scope of work. We also foresee the frieze's funding coming together this year and that work being done after the room is done the end of December 2011, with installation sometime in spring 2012. The SNRC is thus thankfully concluding our mailing appeals to the grass roots donor base as of now, based on the success of the 2010 Match Challenge Drive, and will continue to engage only large donor asks and some others by phone and grant outreach as the year proceeds.

If you can further assist us with the final monies to complete the windows and the frieze during this year's construction schedule, please continue to be as generous as possible with your giving for this project! Thank you all from our entire Swiss Room Committee and the S-ASP, especially to Sam Isaly and the Florence Jacob extended family!

## Furniture: Trestle Tables coming to completion-Stabellen Chairs and Lectern continue...

Woodcrafter Rich Sink has been working on the 4 tables, teacher's lectern, and 26 chairs over the recent months. This work done *now* will allow Rich to be engaged with all the wood appointments and elements during the room construction itself later this year. We have already issued the furniture contract and deposit monies for his work to complete these room centerpieces directly from our S-ASP holding account (the furniture is not included in the room construction budget or the Pitt construction account totals). Rich expects the tables to be completed as I write this in late February. The chair backs and seats are all cut out and half the cantonal shields are carved, with all the shield outlines being done. Depending on how Rich's work flow goes between completing the chairs and other room elements after construction commences, the chairs will either be completed by August as originally thought or directly after the other room elements being completed and installed in late 2011.

Rich stated in a recent phone conversation from his workshop near Helvetia, West Virginia, "These tables are not moving anywhere! The white oak we are using is so dense that we need not be worried about students pushing them around (they will be pegged to the floor anyway). Before the room elements are begun, I hope to have the chair backs out to the painter in South Carolina for her work after I complete the carvings of the cantonal shields. Then I'll work on room elements and do the final chair assemblies once the painter's work is completed."



Richard Sink, owner and principal of MountaineerWoodworking, hand working on the trestle table tops at his wood shop near Helvetia, WV in French Creek. Photo courtesy of Richard Sink.

## **Scheduling...Moving parts all fitting together, like a Swiss watch!**

Swiss Room Architect-of-record and S-ASP member Stephen Altherr of EDGE Studio completed 100% design documents and final estimate information for a meeting held at Pitt Facilities Management on January 26. At this important meeting, Chairman Heinz Kunz, Philip Bottonari, and myself signed off on the drawings sets and after some final decisions regarding the projection box location, everything was prepared to be sent out to GCs (general contractors) for bidding in February. We are expecting 30-day turnarounds for these bids so will be reviewing the bids in mid-March and assigning the parts of the construction work at that time. Demolition and prep carpentry, flooring, electrical and HVAC work can commence as soon as our Room 321 is 'offline' (taken out of teaching service) at end of spring term in April. All hands will be moving to complete the room construction between May and December 2011.

## **Kachelofen: Ed Graf and team proceeding for including the kachelofen in this year's timetable...**

As 2010 came to a close, our Swiss Room committee was graciously encouraged by Monte Rosa level Room Donor Ed Graf's proposal to fund the custom kachelofen element himself. Ed is working with Red Clay Tile in Bellevue as a source of a reproduction Kachelofen based on plans from an old Graf family Kachelofen from Winterthur Museum in Zurich, simplified and brought down in size for the space we have in the room. SNRC Chairman Dr. Heinz Kunz and SNRC historical expert Evelyn Ruffing will be working with Ed and his team including antique glazers and carpenters to decide on the final look and supervise this generous project construction effort from Ed. This team is meeting in early March to make final decisions on the look, and we foresee this beautiful kachelofen being moved into place in the completed room in December.

## **Dedication Plans...May 2012?**

The SNRC and NRIEP Chairman Maxine Bruhns are optimistic that if construction schedules proceed as planned, we are looking at a May or June 2012 Swiss Room dedication. I am working with Maxine on the room booklet : *The Story of Switzerland and the Swiss Nationality Room*, with input from our committee and photos included. The donor book will be ready, as well as the room key (modeled on the *Nidwalden* cantonal key and this effort overseen by Evelyn Ruffing) to be presented to Pitt Chancellor Mark Nordenberg. The dedication will be on a Sunday compatible with Chancellor Nordenberg's schedule. We anticipate hosting a banquet Saturday evening before the big day as well.

Much to share. Much to be thankful for...all of you who gave since 1998 are making this Swiss Room a reality...we thank you again and again. Your patience and focus is SO important for the successful completion of the Swiss Nationality Room.

Frederick H. Carlson, Vice-Chairman/Secretary

**For the Swiss Nationality Room Committee:**

Dr. Heinz Kunz/ Chairman

Dominique Schinabeck/Honorary Consul

Walter Schaller/Treasurer, Philip & Edith Bottonari, Nancy Flury

Carlson, Jhon Smith, Evelyn Ruffing

Paul Lienhardt/S-ASP President

Building a Tribute to Swiss Heritage and Culture on the Theme of Education

**If you can help** specifically with the drive **to include the leaded windows and the carved/painting frieze into our 2011 construction window**, send further Swiss

Nationality Room contributions (and testimonials/dedications of any length) to: Fred Carlson, Vice-Chair SNRC (make checks payable to: Swiss Nationality Room Fund) 118 Monticello Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146-4837 | 412.856.0982 | fred@carlsonstudio.com



Sign-off on final construction. L to R: Stephen Altherr (Architect-of-Record), Philip Bottonari (rear), Dr. E. Maxine Bruhns (Nationality Rooms Director), Adrienne Spallone (Facilities /project manager), Dr. Heinz W. Kunz (Committee Chairman), Fred Carlson (Vice-Chairman). Photo courtesy EDGE Studio



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

## SWISS RECIPE – Fruchtwähe (Fruit Tart)

### *Ingredients needed:*

1¼ cups flour  
 2 egg yolks, plus 1 egg yolk  
 sugar  
 grated rind of 1 lemon  
 ½ cup butter, softened and cut into small pieces  
 ~6 cups sliced fruit of your choice  
 ½ cup ground filberts or unblanched almonds  
 ½ cup heavy cream

### *Instructions:*

Sift the flour into a large bowl. Add 1 egg yolk, 1 tbsp sugar, the lemon rind, and butter and stir. Work the dough with your hands until all the ingredients are blended and the dough is smooth. Spread dough into bottom and sides of a 9-inch pie plate. Chill for at least 2 hours.

Sprinkle the bottom of the dough with the ground nuts. Arrange fruit slices slightly overlapping on top of the nuts. Sprinkle with 1/3 to ½ cup sugar. Bake in preheated oven at 350 degrees F for 10 minutes. Beat the remaining egg yolks and cream. Dribble over the fruit. Continue baking 15-20 minutes or until pastry is golden brown. Serve warm. Serves 6-8.



## Treasurer's Report by Walter Schaller

### **Swiss-American Society - Pittsburgh Funds**

Beginning Balance (9/1/2010)	\$7,970.20
Interval Income	\$1,609.05
Interval Expenses	\$1,429.12
End Balance (1/31/2011)	\$8,150.13

## Alliance of Germanic Societies of Pittsburgh

This Alliance meets quarterly to coordinate timing and give awareness of events for over 15 western PA groups with Austrian, German and Swiss ties. Its most recent meeting on Monday 14 February at Penn Brewery was chaired by its Vice-Chair, our Conrad Ostertag, where dates were clarified. Your SASP President Paul Lienhardt attended, learning of Palatines Genealogical National Conference this June 2-3-4 at Station Square Sheraton hotel. Program contents are available from PA Chapter President ED HEINLEIN [www.pa-palam.org](http://www.pa-palam.org) or at [eheinlein@comcast.net](mailto:eheinlein@comcast.net) or phone 412.680.6460. The next Alliance meeting will be Friday 20 May.

## 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 abroad. Find Swiss restaurants 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.



## FEATURED EVENTS

### SWISS DAY

When: Sunday, March 27, 2011

Where: The Ratskeller (downstairs),  
Teutonia Männerchor  
857 Phineas Street; Pittsburgh, PA

Schedule:  
1:00 pm Social hour, Jass, cash bar, and appetizers  
3:00 pm Schweizer Männerchor & Kinderchor Performance  
3:30pm **Sit-down / served dinner**  
Entree options:  
Geschnitzeltes, Rippli, or Pastetli with Rösti or Rice  
and Rüeblli Kuchen with Coffee/Tea  
Tombola raffle

Cost: \$25 per adult (over age 11)  
\$12.50 ages 5-11  
Free under age 5

To bring: Tombola gifts & extra Jass cards!!

Registration: Send enclosed registration & check to Walter Schaller: 3886 Grove Rd. Gibsonia, PA 15044-9451. Registration must be received by March 21<sup>st</sup> (suggested mailing by March 16<sup>th</sup>).

### Swiss Day Food Options

Never heard of geschnitzeltes, rippli, pastetli, or rösti or rüeblli? A brief description is below:

- **Geschnitzeltes:** swiss-style small-cut meat in a cream sauce
- **Rippli:** ribs
- **Pastetli:** "meat pie" - open on the top, with vegetables in a creamy sauce.
- **Rösti:** grated, fried potato
- **Rüeblli Kuchen:** carrot cake

For more info, or for pictures, visit <http://www.about.ch/culture/food/> or do a search on Google!

### Pittsburgh Folk Festival 2011

The 54th Pittsburgh Folk Festival will be May 13 - 15th at the Monroeville Convention center and as in previous years, and **the Swiss American Society will be participating with a cultural display and performance by the Swiss Singers.**

This year, the theme for displays is **Folktales and Children's Stories**; we plan to develop our display around the December Fairytale Sunday, an annual festival in the city of Zug, now in its 28th year. The Zug tourism board describes the event:

"The whole old town is bathed in pre-Christmas fairytale magic. Both children and adults listen enthralled to the tales told by lots of different storytellers and, while wandering to the next hot chestnut stall, are given a tangerine by St. Nicholas on the way."

**We need help with two things in particular.**

First, we need volunteers to help with the display, especially for the Multicultural program for school groups on Friday morning and on Sunday afternoon. The second thing we need is help buying and/or selling advance sale tickets. We will have them available at the March event. We need to increase the number of tickets our groups sells significantly, in order to insure that the Swiss Singers can get a convenient time slot for their performance.

***If you can help out, contact Jhon at 412-521-2584 or [jhsst7@gmail.com](mailto:jhsst7@gmail.com). To buy tickets, please send \$8 per ticket in a check payable to "Pittsburgh Folk Festival" and send to Jhon Smith, c/o Kaplan, 130 N. Bellefield Ave. 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Pittsburgh, PA 15213.*** The more pre-paid tickets bought through the Swiss-American Society, the better performance time slot the Swiss Singers get!



*Wilhelm (William) Tell*

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

### Welcome New Members!!

**Jim & Luanne Shock** are returning to Pittsburgh having lived in Basel for about 3 years because of Luanne's job. Jim is originally from Pittsburgh. His ancestors came to the Baltimore area from Bern, Switzerland in 1769. One branch of the family came to Pittsburgh in the 1800s. Jim is studying for a doctorate degree and plans to teach in Pittsburgh. The Shocks are looking forward to keeping up on their German language skills and would like to join a German conversation group if anyone has any recommendations.

**Christina & Neil Sims** just married on August 14, 2010, and are moving back to Pittsburgh from Williamsburg, VA! Christina is the daughter of Tim and Lizann Maddamma and granddaughter of Betty and the late Wick Kiefer. Christina is the Sales Manager at the newly opened Courtyard by Marriott Settlers Ridge and Neil is the Installation Manager for Precision Sign and Awning in Carnegie. Christina is our new membership secretary!

### Want to become a SAS-P member?

Download and complete the application at: [www.swisspittsburgh.org/node/10](http://www.swisspittsburgh.org/node/10). Send this to Christina Sims along with a \$10 check for your 2011 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). Christina will then send you an application. Checks can be made out to the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh:

**Chrisitna Sims, SAS-P Membership Secretary**  
**120 Boroview St. Carnegie, PA 15106**

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

### Become a SAS-P Lifer

Your family gets all membership voting and events participation opportunities without anymore worry of annual dues. Send in \$500 or if paid \$10 for 2011, then send in \$490 check to Christina Sims (address above) to strengthen our SASP fiscal resources. You'll be joining 7 current LIFERS: Bill Englert, Jack and Sandra Fisch, Paul and Jane Lienhardt, Lizann and Tim Maddamma, Conrad and Patricia Ostertag, John and Marlise Partilla, and Walter and Patricia Schaller families. Thank you.

### Obituary – Ernie Gubser Jr

Ernie Jr., son of active SAS-P members, Ernie and Rita Gubser, passed away at age 49 on Sunday December 26, 2010. He will be missed dearly by his family and friends. A donation has been made to the Swiss Nationality Room Fund in his memory.

### Get Well Soon...

SAS-P would like to send get well wishes out to Hans Meier, who is recovering from a amputated lower leg, and Arthur Rudolf, who is recovering from a broken hip. We wish both a speedy recovery and hope to see them back at future events soon.

### SAS-P Members: *Have you paid your dues?*

Did you receive a notice that your 2011 dues are not yet paid? If so, please send your \$10 family dues for 2011 to Christina Sims, or include them in your registration for Swiss Day in March.

New SAS Exec Board
<b>President: Paul Lienhardt</b> pmh3jtl4@gmail.com   412.835.9345
<b>Vice President: Annemarie Frick</b> africkpit@aol.com   412.443.7388
<b>Secretary: Jhon Smith</b> jhsst7@gmail.com   412.521.2584
<b>Treasurer: Walter Schaller</b> walter.schaller@zoominternet.net 412.980.4421
<b>Membership Secretary: Christina Sims</b> csims413@gmail.com   757-719-2145
<b>Board Member – Conrad Ostertag</b> caeasterday@consolidated.net 724.898.3029
<b>Board Member – Lyndall Huggler</b> lynbeth@msn.com
<b>Board Member – Bruce Kuenzi</b> bruce_kuenzi@hotmail.com 412.271.5003
<b>Board Member – Tim Maddamma</b> tmaddamma@comcast.net 412.279.6923

# 2011 Swiss Day Registration Form

**Number of adults and youth** (over age 11) at \$25 each: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name	Circle one:	Choose one:
	Geschnitzeltes   Rippli   Pastetli	Rösti   Rice
	Geschnitzeltes   Rippli   Pastetli	Rösti   Rice
	Geschnitzeltes   Rippli   Pastetli	Rösti   Rice
	Geschnitzeltes   Rippli   Pastetli	Rösti   Rice
	Geschnitzeltes   Rippli   Pastetli	Rösti   Rice
	Geschnitzeltes   Rippli   Pastetli	Rösti   Rice
	Geschnitzeltes   Rippli   Pastetli	Rösti   Rice

**Number of children** at \$12.50 each (age 5 – 11 years): \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12.50 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Number of children attending free** (less than 5 yrs): \_\_\_\_\_

Name	Circle one:	Choose one:
	Geschnitzeltes   Rippli   Pastetli	Rösti   Rice
	Geschnitzeltes   Rippli   Pastetli	Rösti   Rice
	Geschnitzeltes   Rippli   Pastetli	Rösti   Rice
	Geschnitzeltes   Rippli   Pastetli	Rösti   Rice
	Geschnitzeltes   Rippli   Pastetli	Rösti   Rice
	Geschnitzeltes   Rippli   Pastetli	Rösti   Rice
	Geschnitzeltes   Rippli   Pastetli	Rösti   Rice

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \_\_\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please mail to: Walter Schaller  
3886 Grove Rd  
Gibsonia, PA 15044-9451

Registration must be received by March 21<sup>st</sup> (suggested mailing by March 16<sup>th</sup>).