



Switzerland



NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Volume 20, No. 2

Summer 2011

President's PRO PATRIA 2011 Welcome,

A most wonderful SASP year unfolds for us - Spring blossoms – SWISS ROOM 321 achieves full funding, with major donations by Samuel Isaly and Florence Jacob's estate, launching University of Pittsburgh construction this June by P J Dick.

Pittsburgh Folk Festival May 2011 shows new challenges to support our weaver, **Jhon Smith**, - welcomers + finders of prospective members, in our 2012 presence and preselling 2012 tickets.

Swiss PRO PATRIA 2011 picnic 31 July 1-8pm at same 2010 Richland site. Two picnic options: Bring your OWN \$8 or PROVIDED \$16 for those 13 and older, while younger are FREE. And by providing a covered dish serving 8 or more, each paying person receives a \$2 reduction credit.

Christmas Luncheon at former Tambellini, at Saw Mill Run Blvd. Saturday 3 December. May sit-down or buffet; tell us any preference 31 July.

Fall reveals SWISS NATIONALITY ROOM in its structural attainments – 4 Dec. '11 Open House.

JUSTIN RUSSI, our **SWISS ROOM architect**, in Luzern, 6 May, given 4 Jhon Smith placemat weavings and Fred Carlson's photobook of Rich Sink's tables+chairs construction and carvings, when Paul and Jane Lienhardt visited him.

Stephen Alteri Swiss Room on-site architect will most likely be joined by Justin Russli for the University of Pittsburgh **SWISS NATIONALITY ROOM dedication** by Chancellor Nordenberg on a May or June 2012 Sunday. The Saturday evening prior to be SASP banquet celebration.

Become a 2012 SASP Officer / Board Member candidate or an **Auditor 2011 Financial Data**, as

SASP Nominating Committee of Evelyn Ruffing, Nancy Carlson and Heinz Kunz come seeking.

Having a very bright 2011,
Paul Lienhardt



2011-12 SAS-P EVENTS	
SUN 31 JUL 1-8pm	Swiss Independence Picnic Richland Barn, Bakerstown, PA <i>Registration form inside</i>
SAT 1 OCT 1-3 pm	SAS Board Meeting 1527 High Knoll Dr. Upper St. Clair Twp, Pgh, PA <i>All SAS members welcome.</i>
SAT 3 DEC 11:30-3:30	Annual Christmas Luncheon Saw Mill Run Blvd – Rt 51 <i>Details in fall SAS-P newsletter.</i>
SUN 4 DEC Noon – 4pm	Nationality Room Open House Cathedral of Learning - Oakland Pittsburgh, PA. <i>Parking: \$5 at Soldiers & Sailors</i>
SAT 10 DEC TBA	Sami Klaus Event Teutonia,\$5
SAT Jan/Feb 2012	SAS-P Spring Board Meeting
SUN Mar/May 2012	Spring 2012 Swiss Day Teutonia
FRI/SAT/SUN 18/19/20 MAY 2012	55th International Folk Festival Monroeville Convention Center Staffing welcomers needed

SWISS NATIONALITY ROOM COMMITTEE (SNRC) REPORT

SWISS ROOM CONSTRUCTION COMMENCES! TARGET COMPLETION DECEMBER 2011!

This past spring, our Swiss Room construction account received generous gifts from a continuing stream of our donor base, in particular Samuel Isaly & Family (underwriting the lighting system), Fran Hoffmann (in memory of Klaus Hoffmann), and ABB/Zurich (underwriting the hardwood floor). This has allowed the Swiss Nationality Room construction to proceed including all work related to the leaded/stained glass windows. We are still fundraising to fulfill the entire amount related to the frieze that will be installed after the room is completed in December and before the dedication next spring, and we have some large donor requests out right now regarding this.

Asbestos abatement and demolition have begun. PJ Dick, the contractor awarded the bid, will be responsible for these tasks as well as the room prep carpentry, all mechanical/electrical/HVAC/AV/lighting/fire protection upgrades, and will oversee the flooring and door upgrading. They will be ready to receive the individual room elements from woodcraftsman Richard Sink in stages for installation as the summer proceeds.

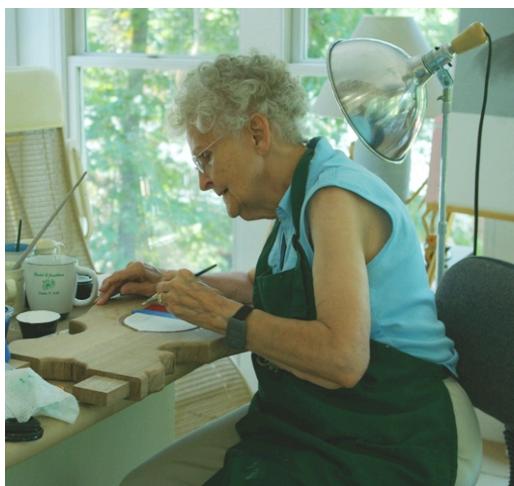
Dave Houser of Moatsville, WV, will be creating the windows and will deliver them to Richard's studio for framing in the fall. His work will take 10 weeks. Dave presented his fine work to our committee in mid-2009, and he has done extensive field measurements of the window areas already. Our own Robert Leuenberger Sr, has graciously offered to have Leuenberger Ornamental Iron create the door metalworks, and associated hingework and latches for the windows and teaching lectern. Please thank Bob heartily for his consideration in offering work at gratis and low rate cost.

KACHELOFEN PROGRESS

The Swiss Room Committee also thanks Edward Graf for underwriting and spearheading the authentic historic reconstruction of one of his family's Graaf kachelofens (the prime example of this family's artisanship is a kachelofen on display in the Winterthur Museum, Zurich). The Swiss room kachelofen is based on this Graaf Family 16th century kachelofen downsized to fit into the Swiss Room. Historic expert Evelyn Ruffing and Chairman Heinz W. Kunz, Ph.D. are working with Ed's team of vendors on this part of the project. The image selections for the tiles are concentrating on the symbols of nature and the animals in the cantonal symbols, thus this will be a truly SWISS Kachelofen. Ed expects the kachelofen to be completed and slid into place after the room is completed in December.



Richard Sink carving at his mother Patricia's studio in Seneca SC on the Valais chair back



Patricia Sink painting a chair back at her studio in Seneca SC.

FURNITURE AND STUDIO VISIT TO WEST VIRGINIA JUNE 12

Woodcrafter Richard Sink, of French Creek, West Virginia, near Helvetia, has been working on the 4 trestle tables (completely done), teacher's lectern, and 26 chairs. This work done now will allow Rich to be engaged with all the wood appointments and elements during the room construction itself from now through December. The symbols of the cantons are carved and painted on the backs of the 26 chairs and were on display for our committee as we visited Richard on June 12. SNRC members Dr. Heinz Kunz and his wife Nancy Kunz, Edith & Philip Bottonari, Evelyn Ruffing, Jhon Smith, Dominique Schinabeck and daughter Annabelle, and Fred & Nancy Carlson visited this gigantic wood workshop-home of Mountaineer Wood Industries and prime mover Richard Sink. Rich's wife Sarah hosted us with wonderful teas and küchen.

Vice-Chairman Fred Carlson states, "When I received the digital photos from Richard of the carved and painted chair backs I was

blown away. The more complicated the image, the more amazing Rich's carving was!" SNRC members had photos taken with their favorite chair backs. Chairman Kunz said, "I have to petition Zurich (his Heimatt) to make a more interesting cantonal symbol! I'm jealous of some of these other ones now!" Richard worked side-by-side with his mother in Seneca, South Carolina on the carving and painting.

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)."

All hands will be moving to complete the room construction between May and December 2011.

OTHER ARTWORK

The frieze will be completed after January 1, 2012 but installed before the dedication. This frieze is a 88-foot long wooden mural that goes all the way around the room where the ceiling molding meets the walls. The frieze depicts a vine of life motif with associated images of harvest, plenty, fruit, birds, etc. The negative spaces are carved into the wood about one quarter inch and the flush surfaces are painted a subdued set of ochres, greens and reds. The antique map of Switzerland donated by Dr. Kunz and the two portraits of Pestalozzi and Rousseau donated by Fred Carlson will take their place in the room when it is completed. Dr. Kunz has graciously underwritten the framing of Fred Carlson's two portraits of Pestalozzi and Rousseau done in the style of Basler Hans Holbein, which were presented to the committee at Richard Sink's studio on June 12.

The SNRC and NRIEP Chairman Maxine Bruhns are optimistic that if construction schedules proceed as planned, we are looking at one of four Sundays presented to Chancellor Nordenberg, Ambassador Sager (DC) and Ambassador Barras (GK, NYC) for the 2012 Swiss Room dedication. The Sundays are April 22, 29, May 9 or June 3. The SASP will be an integral part of the whole dedication/invitation process making sure all our members are able to get to this historic day! Evelyn Ruffing reports that with all Swiss punctuality, even the room dedication key is now completed based on the Nidwalden and Obwalden keys. Thanks to Evelyn for overseeing this important addition to the dedication ceremony for next spring. The journey since 1998 has been long but very rewarding. We look forward to the project being completed soon and the Swiss Room taking its place in the NRIEP family of treasured rooms.

-written by Frederick H. Carlson Vice-Chairman/Secretary

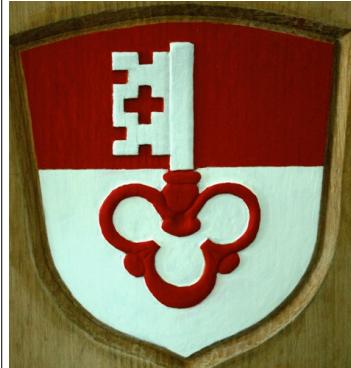
For the Swiss Nationality Room Committee: Dr. Heinz W. Kunz/ Chairman; Dominique Schinabeck/Honorary Consul for Switzerland in Western Pennsylvania; Walter Schaller/Treasurer, Philip & Edith Bottonari, Nancy Flury Carlson, Jhon Smith, Evelyn Ruffing, Paul Lienhardt/S-ASP President de facto member, Dr. E. Maxine Bruhns/NRIEP Director; Building a Tribute to Swiss Heritage and Culture on the Theme of Education



Chair back for Uri carved before painting; sponsored by the late Arthur Rudolf.



Aargau chair back carved and painted. Sponsored by Jhon Smith.



Obwalden chair back carved and painted. Sponsored by Trudy Kuenzi and Lienhard Family.



Chair back for Valais before painting. Sponsored by the Walt Schaller Family.

We continue to ask for your support to make sure the frieze is fully funded by November 2011 so that the work can be completed between January and March 2012 and the frieze can be installed in time for the dedication. Send your tax deductible contributions made out to SWISS NATIONALITY ROOM FUND along with testimonials/tributes of any length to: Frederick H. Carlson/Vice-Chairman Swiss Nationality Room Committee, 118 Monticello Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146. If you wish to use a credit card email me at fred@carlsonstudio.com and request a donor coupon to fill in credit card info.

Swiss Room – Architect's Perspective

by Stephen Altherr, AIA

Non-architects may not be aware that Swiss architects are the darlings of the American architectural community. It was with this in mind that I became very excited about my prospective role. After visiting the Nationality rooms one Saturday, I quickly realized that this assignment would have nothing to do with modern architecture, but rather be a study of historical forms and motifs. This was all well and good because I had had extensive experience with traditional architecture, woodcraft, and particularly the integration of artistic work into architectural projects.

The Landesmuseum in Zurich became the model for the character and detail that this project was to emulate. Justin and I agreed early on that the room's aesthetic should be like a monochromatic piece of wooden furniture. The main challenge that I faced architecturally was to reinterpret a range of details from the museum and integrate them into a coherent whole. The primary finish in the room is white pine wall and ceiling panels offset by decorative ribs. The ceiling ribs are derived from the wall ribs, but are much more robust with handcarved end terminations. Our woodworker, Richard Sink of Mountaineer Industries, suggested a way to support the ceiling panels from the ribs so that they could easily be removed to access the equipment above the ceiling.

One of the challenges of the room design was the incorporation of the many electronic devices required by the building code as well as by Pitt's standards for classrooms. Pitt's new policy for Nationality Room design, beginning with the Swiss and Turkish Rooms, is that they must meet the pre-established standards for capabilities such as projection, sound amplification, and lighting control. Other devices such as occupancy sensors, alarms, and strobes had to be incorporated into our "historic" room. Pitt's standard lighting levels had to be met in a room that was patterned after an architecture that was seen at night only by candle light! With the help of our engineering consultants at Allen and Shariff I was able to identify a small LED fixture that could meet our lighting needs by incorporating them into an array of carved florettes on the ceiling .



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.



Stephen Altherr

Other features in the room include glass display cases, built-in bay window seating (a common Swiss element), and a Kachel Offen generously donated by the Graff family. A wooden frieze crowning the room will eventually be carved and installed by Richard Sink.

By the time you have read this , the traditional furniture will have been completed by Richard. This includes country style chairs and tables, as well as the instructor's lectern, designed to house a computer and controls for the A.V. Equipment.

In closing I would like to thank Edge Studio for their support, and Fred Carlson for his tireless and positive energy , without which this project would not have been possible. I look forward to seeing you at the Grand Opening this Winter!

New SAS Exec Board	
President: Paul Lienhardt	pmh3jt4@gmail.com 412-835.9345
Vice President: Annemarie Frick	africkpit@aol.com 412-761-1388
Secretary: Jhon Smith	jhsst7@gmail.com 412-521-2554
Treasurer: Walter Schaller	walter.schaller@zoominternet.net 412-980-4421
Membership Secretary: Christina Sims	c.sims@concordhotels.com 757-719-2145
Board Member – Conrad Ostertag	caeasterday@consolidate.com 724-898-3029
Board Member – Lyndall Huggler	lynbeth@msn.com 412-480-1660
Board Member – Bruce Kuenzi	bruce_kuenzi@hotmail.com 412-271-5003
Board Member – Tim Maddamma	tmaddamma@comcast.net 412.279.6923

2011 July 31 Picnic Agenda

Provided Picnic includes Swiss Style Bratwurst with Onion Sauce and Mustard, 'Wahe' fruit tarts, plus Annamarie's side salads – potato, carrots, beets, beans, cucumbers – as she provides us. Cups, Napkins, Plates, cold sodas, cold beer in cans and on-tap are available to all. Bringing Your Own Picnic is \$8 or Provided Picnic is \$16 per person - for all 13 & older

Treasurer's Report by Walter Schaller

Swiss-American Society - Pittsburgh Funds	
Beginning Balance (1/31/2011)	\$8,150.13
Interval Income	\$1,112.78
Interval Expenses	\$2,012.70
End Balance (4/30/2011)	\$7,250.21

FREE Swiss-Roots t-shirts

Each picnic attendee will receive a FREE Swiss Roots T-Shirt, as long as supplies last.

The following names are still available:

- Wan+ed (8 S, 9 M, 16 L 19 x L)
- Al+itude (3 S, 4 M, 14 L, 11 x L)
- Qua+erback-Rö+lisberger (9 S, 3 M, 7 L, 12 XL)
- Rös+i (1 S, 14 L, 13 XL)
- Na+ural (4 S, 5 M, 15 L, 16 XL)
- Rö+lisberger (8 S)

Please note in the article, if not coming to the picnic, shirts can be up at my house at 3886 Grove Rd Gibsonia 15044 or shipped provided the shipping cost is paid in advance. To reserve or order a shirt(s), please send and e-mail to walter.schaller@zoominternet.net or leave a phone message at [412-980-4421](tel:412-980-4421).



Justin Russli & Jane in Luzerne 6 May with Paul Lienhardt to present four placemat weavings by Jhon Smith and photo story of Richard Sink's carings efforts in his West Virginia workshop as compiled by Fred Carlson.

Cheese from Glarus: Schabziger or Sap Sago

This cheese was produced exclusively in Canton Glarus was first made by monks in 8th century. It is made of skinned cow milk flavored by a clover – blue melilot, also called blue fenugreek - that is pressed into cones for 6 to 8 days, then dried for 2 to 6 months, which weigh 100 grams and are 5 cm tall. Bearing a stamp of origin, the properties and process of making this Sap Sago was laid down in 1463, becoming one of the earliest protected brands in the world.

Folk Festival a Hit!

Folktales and Children's Stories were theme of Swiss Booth at Monroeville Folk Festival 13-15 May 2011. A special thanks goes out to Koni Ostertag, Rob Willis, Fred and Nancy Carlson, and Trudi Kuenzi for helping with set-up and tear-down, and to those 3 along with Lynn Huggler, Paul and Jane Lienhardt, and Frank and Betsy Gloor for helping the staff the Swiss cultural display, The SAS was represented with a cultural display, featuring Zug Fairytale Sunday (festival), including the blogging-creation of a 'fairytale' featuring contributions of visitors to our display in keeping with the Folk Festival theme; the nationality room progress; weaving demonstrations by Jhon Smith; as well as by the Swiss Singers, who performed on Sunday afternoon. Seven fairytales were featured: Heidi, The Legend of William Tell, The Devil's Bridge, The Death of the Seven Dwarfs, The Silent Bells by William MacKellar, The Robbers and the Farm Animals, and The Singing Fir Tree.



Jhon Smith demonstrates weaving at the Folk Festival.

Spring 2011 Event A Success!

Forty-five adults and youth heard Alphorn, Kinderchor and Swiss Singers music on Sunday 23 March at a sit-down meal gathering. Appetizers of cheeses, meats, grapes and crackers preceded the three entree choices and carrot cake dessert. Swiss wines, a red or a white were available as were draft German beers, for purchase at Teutonia's bar.

Our Tombala chances at 1-\$2, 3-\$5 and 9-\$10 realized \$216 for our Swiss Room Fund. In response to pricing query to lower prices, our Pro Patria Dayb observance on Sunday 31 July at Richland Township Barn in Bakerstown, new reduced tombala tickets will be: 1-\$1, 3-\$2 and 9-\$5. Again , as always, all tombala proceeds will go to our Swiss Room Fund.

Congratulations Hollie Linn Tutwiler!

Congratulations to Holli Linn Tutwiler, who earned Doctor of Natural Health – Highest Honors – 7 Feb 2011 from Clayton College of Natural Health, Inc. of Birmingham AL 3520. <http://www.ccnh.edu> Congrats and best wishes upon completing this program of study and vital interest to her.

"Tauben fliegen auf / Falcon without Falconers"

This Swiss Book Prize 2010 winner also captures German Book Prize 2010. Author / Musician – Melinda Nadj Abonji – 42 with Master's degrees in German and History from Zurich, is an ethnic Hungarian-Serbian, who at age 5 with her sister came to Switzerland. This autobiographical book relates immigrants living two different worlds, the cultures to which she belongs and that in which she lives. Available by inter-library loan.

New Gallatin Book

Gallatin: America's Swiss Founding Father is a new book, September 2010 , by Nicholas Dungan. It is about the most influential Swiss in America'a first years of independence. He served longer than any any other Secretary of the Treasury. He negotiated the Louisiana Purchase for Jefferson. As a resident of Fayette county he served in Congress. Members of our club toured his home as a trip last spring.

The SASP has an opportunity to provide the hardback copies, list @ \$ 27.95 book for \$25.00. Consider buying a personal copy or one for your local public or high school library. This is great chance to demonstrate the Swiss contribution to America. If we can limit redistribution costs ,further proceeds will benefit the Nationality Room fund.

Send check payable to SASP to Bruce Kuenzi , 7211 Church St. Pittsburgh, Pa. 15218. Let me know if you can wait to receive your copy at the picnic, the Christmas party, or if you prefer to have it forwarded to you directly please include your return address.

Obituary – Arthur Rudolf

Arthur Rudolf, past president of the Swiss American Society and Swiss-Singer, passed on April 8, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Franzika. A donation has been made to the Swiss Nationality Room Fund in his memory.

