



Switzerland



NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Volume 24, No. 2

Fall 2015

Greetings everyone! Hope you are all doing well as we head into the final weeks of 2015. We look forward to seeing many of you at the Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 5, at the Teutonia Männerchor in Pittsburgh. The Christmas Luncheon also serves as our annual general meeting and election of officers for 2016. Please make plans to attend, and respond by sending in your registration form, which is included at the end of this newsletter.

Notice of Annual Meeting of General Assembly

The 2015 annual meeting of the General Assembly of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh will be held in conjunction with the Christmas Luncheon at Teutonia on December 5, 2015. The General Assembly will elect directors and officers for 2016.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we report on the passing of two of our members, Edith Bottonari and Leo Sweeney. The SASP Board has authorized contributions of \$50 each toward the Swiss Nationality Room Scholarship Fund in memory of Edith and Leo.

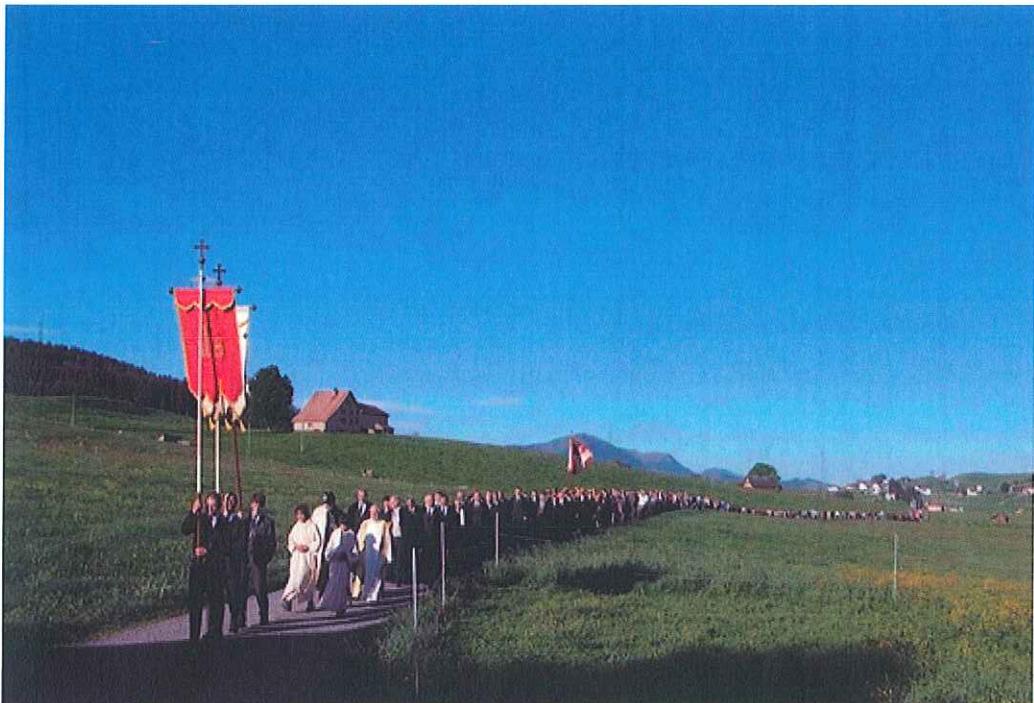
Edith L. Bottonari-Keimer passed away peacefully, on August 31, 2015, in Upper St. Clair. Born in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1931, and raised in the Swiss village of Chur, Edith was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, cousin and friend. She loved to experience the beauty, fun and adventure of life with her family and friends. Along the way, she learned to speak four languages and lived in several countries. She was also a gourmet who loved to teach cooking and entertain. A debutante at Chateau de Versailles, France, Edith was educated at the Sorbonne, Academie Maxim's, Paris, and Poggio Imperiale, Florence. She and her husband August, married 51 years, met in Rome, Italy, and married at Santa Francesca Romana Church in the Roman Forum. They then lived in Naples, Italy, for several years before moving to Upper St. Clair, where they raised their three children. In recent years she was a founding member of the Swiss Nationality Room Committee at the University of Pittsburgh and was instrumental in the Swiss Room's conception and construction at the Cathedral of Learning. Edith is survived by her husband, August Bottonari; children, Caroline Rosenthal-Bottonari, Richard Bottonari, and Phillip Bottonari; grandchildren, Phillip, Alexander, Alexandra, Bear and Augusta; niece and goddaughter, Bettina Beichler-Alesch; and nephew, Peider Aeschli; goddaughter, Yvonne Amschwend-Mueller; cousin, Hilda Mueller-Keimer; and lifelong friend, Angela Ganado-Cassar Torreggiani. She was preceded in death by her parents, Otto and Louise Keimer; and her sister, Elisabeth Alesch-Keimer.

Leo F. Sweeney, age 82, of Penn Hills, passed away on Sunday, August 9, 2015. Beloved husband of Sharyn Sweeney; brother-in-law of Kathy (Bill) Kabana; uncle of Susan (Peter) Reitz, and Sharyn (Scott) Gallagher; and great-uncle of PJ and Lily Reitz; dear friend to Al and Monica Papa.

Lebendige Traditionen / Tradition vivantes / Tradizioni viventi / Tradiziuns vivas

The Stoss Pilgrimage

The pilgrimage to Stoss (a mountain pass in the canton of Appenzell Ausserrhoden) takes place every year on the second or third Sunday in May. It commemorates the battle of Stoss in the year 1405, at which the people of Appenzell successfully fought against the rule of the Abbey of St. Gallen following a prolonged struggle for liberation. The battle marked a decisive victory over the abbey's troops and their Austrian allies. To commemorate it, the people of Appenzell pledged to hold an annual ceremony in honor of the fallen. At six in the morning, members of the clergy, the authorities and a sizeable group of pilgrims from the canton of Appenzell Innerrhoden gather in front of the parish church in Appenzell. According to the pledge, a respectable man or woman from every household should take part. Reciting the rosary prayers as they go, they then walk the nine-kilometer path to the chapel at Stoss. At the hamlet of Sammelplatz, the Innerrhoden council clerk reads a document known as the 'Fahrtbrief', which recounts the events of the battle and names the fallen residents of Appenzell. The Lord's Prayer is then recited five times in honor of the fallen. The pilgrimage continues via Gais in the canton of Appenzell Ausserrhoden to the Stoss chapel, where the priest holds a service which includes a commemorative sermon. Following a brief rest, the pilgrims then return to Appenzell by train.



The Stoss pilgrimage on the Möserweg, shortly before Gais. © Paul Broger, 2007 / Kanton Appenzell Innerrhoden

For more information on the Living Traditions in Switzerland, go to www.lebendige-traditionen.ch

Call for SASP Board Officers and Directors!

We have a constant need for member involvement in our organization, and are currently looking to put together a slate of directors and officers for 2016. Any and all help is greatly appreciated. Please contact Lyndall Huggler (lynbeth@msn.com or 412-480-1660) if you would be interested in serving on the SASP board in 2016. Thank you!

Swiss Nationality Room Committee Report

-Frederick H. Carlson, Vice-Chairman SNRC editing/reporting. Content includes contributions from Heinz W. Kunz (chairman SNRC) and Lyndall Huggler (SNRC secretary and current President of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh).

RIP Edith Bottonari: Our own Edith Bottonari passed away on August 31; she was a founding member of our SNRC since the formal inception of the committee in 1998. The SNRC endowment account received two gifts in her memory (\$500, \$100) at the memorial service. Her Canton Graubunden heritage and connections kept the Swiss committee in balance over the years as we sought to represent all the regions of CH.

Inaugural Scholarship from the Swiss Room set for March 2016: The SNRC plans to award a spring scholarship based on recent discussions in committee and with the NRIEP. Although our endowment account is not rolling off enough interest at this time to fully fund a minimum \$3500 award, our committee pledged to bridge any shortfalls with expected "current use" funds to meet the needs of the award next spring. This will be the inaugural Swiss Room scholarship award. Please watch for our year-end scholarship mailing coming soon and try to be as generous as you have been in the past! The charitable giving of this community is very much appreciated by the SNRC!

New Antique Door Handle To Be Installed on Swiss Door-Payment Approved: At our July full committee meeting, Fred Carlson and Phillip Bottonari reported on plans for replacement of the door hardware to better match the design elements of the Swiss Room. We have worked with our room architect Stephen Altherr on the selection of this hardware and this will be installed soon by University Facilities Management—the expense was just approved and it will be scheduled by Facilities Management/Adrienne Spallone shortly.

Gallatin Portrait to be Added to Back Wall of Swiss Room? It has been suggested that we install a portrait of Albert Gallatin on the back wall of the Swiss Room to complement the portraits of Rousseau and Pestalozzi. Gallatin would draw a closer connection to Southwestern Pennsylvania, and not only is Gallatin called our "Swiss Founding Father", but he also had an influential role in education as the founder and first President of New York University. (He was Secretary of the Treasury under Thomas Jefferson during the acquisition of the Louisiana Purchase.) Fred Carlson would execute this drawing based on the other portraits in the room that were modeled on Hans Holbein the Younger's sketch style. We realize we need to get this approved by Maxine and the room soundtrack will need to be edited to reflect this addition.

Decorating Day Nov 7 and other December Plans: On the November 7 Decorating Day, Nancy Flury Carlson, Beatrice Hook, and Jhon Smith placed our Swiss traditional holiday decorations of Switzerland in the Swiss Room. This is an annual responsibility of our committee. The decorations

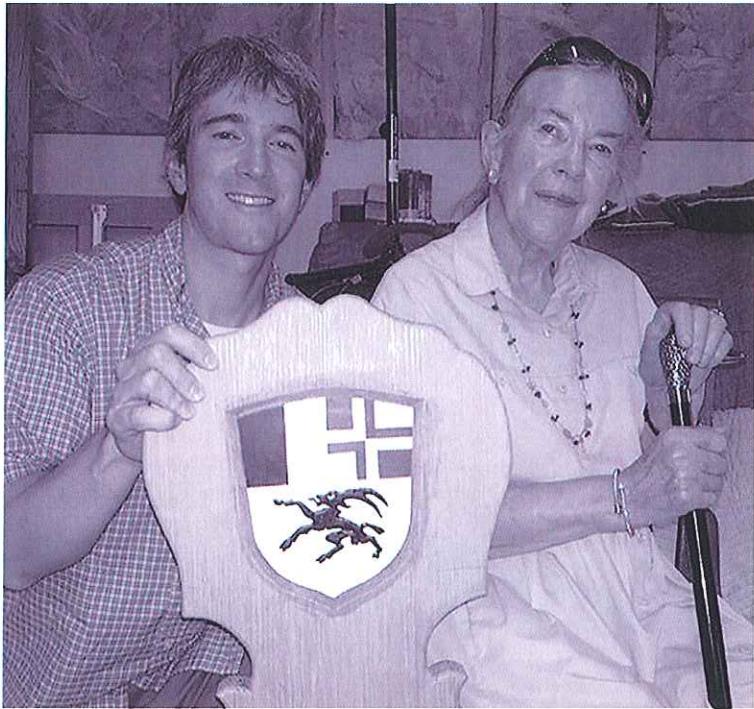
are all stored in the Cathedral and the Quo Vadis student volunteers bring each room's decorations up to the rooms from storage on the designated Saturday morning each year, making for an easy fun job for our team. De-decorating happens on Martin Luther King weekend in mid-January. The Swiss Room committee decided not to have a Holiday Sale table at the annual Holiday Open House due to scheduling conflicts with our members. This will be the first time the Swiss have not had a holiday table since 2000, but we plan to be back in force next Christmas season. We encourage all Swiss to still go and enjoy the Nationality Room Open House on Sunday, December 6, from noon until 4pm, sampling the joy of our own decorated Swiss Room and all the sales tables in the Commons area.

Early Plans for our First Cultural presentation, Date TBA: The SNRC, led by Beatrice Hook, is in preliminary planning to host a cultural event at Pitt next fall or spring 2017 on the topic of living in a multilingual country like Switzerland (where German, French, Italian, and Romansch are all spoken). Beatrice was a language teacher in CH and has a unique perspective and presentation. **Our committee welcomes all input and advice from other room committees and the NRIEP staff on designing an event that can be well-promoted in the campus and the Pittsburgh community and can be well attended.** e.g. Evelyn Ruffing wants to show the Swiss film "The Shepherds" and have a Swiss meal. These are the kinds of ideas that can keep us busy for years to come, bringing Swiss culture to our community and to the University community. Beatrice Hook has provided a written proposal for her presentation that she would like to give in the Swiss Room on the topic "Why Mastering Multiple Languages in Switzerland is Essential". It was agreed that this proposal merited further consideration, and Dr. Heinz Kunz will follow up with Beatrice to work with the University staff and organize such an evening.

Another suggestion has been offered that we could solicit a representative from the Swiss Embassy staff to speak on a topic of interest, and we could also seek the support of the Swiss Institute in New York.

The SNRC welcomes Arthur and Anne Erbe to the Swiss Nationality Room Committee, as they have paid family level dues and are in place to serve the SASP and the SNRC. Arthur is recently retired from the University of Pittsburgh faculty and he was the FIRST Pitt professor to teach in the Swiss Room in early 2012! Arthur's relationships with the University will certainly help our planning to produce Swiss cultural programs down at the Swiss Room!

E. Maxine Bruhns, the Nationality Rooms Director who is a steady patron of our Swiss social events, recently celebrated her 50th year at the University as Director! She was feted in the Commons area by a surprise reception hosted by UCIS (University College of International Studies). Chairman Heinz Kunz, Fred & Nancy Carlson, Albert Flury (Nancy's dad), and Arthur & Anne Erbe represented the Swiss at the affair on October 30.

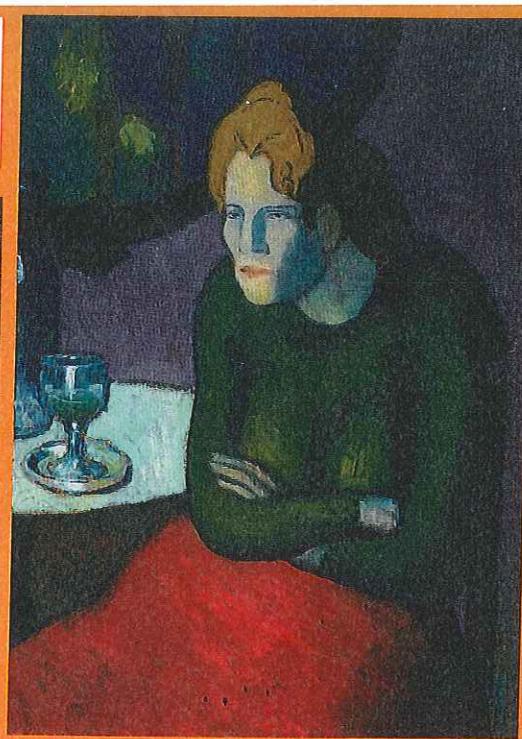
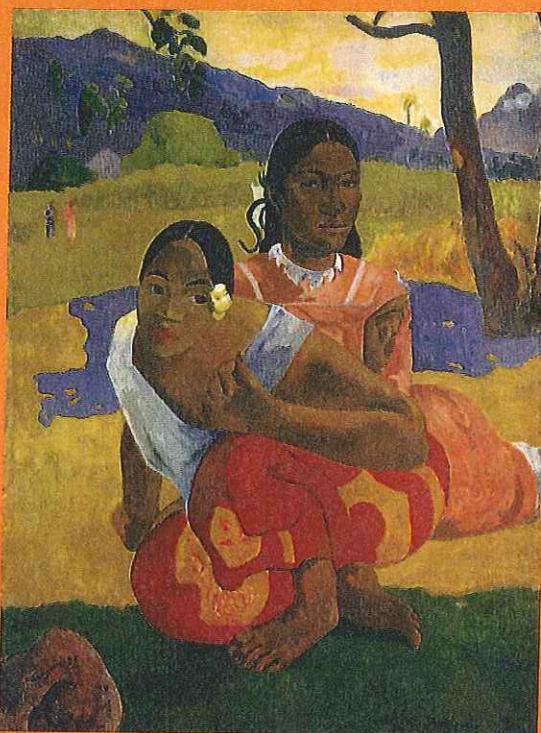


Edith Keimer Bottonari and her son Philip enjoy their first look at the Graubunden chair, which along with 25 other chairs took their places in the Swiss Room in 2012. This photo was taken at Rich Sink's woodworking studio June 2011 (photo by Nancy Kunz).



The SNRC journeyed to French Creek, West Virginia, in June 2011, to visit woodworker Rich Sink's studio and get our first look at the finished furniture for the Swiss Room. On the way, an Alpine picnic was enjoyed at a nature center south of Buckhannon. Pictured here are: Maxine Bruins (rear standing), and (l. to r.) Philip Bottonari and his mother, Edith Keimer Bottonari, and Honorary Consul of Switzerland for Pittsburgh Dominique Schinabeck and her daughter Annabelle (photo by Evelyn Ruffing).

GAUGUIN



PICASSO

GAUGUIN TO PICASSO

Masterworks from Switzerland

The Staechelin & Im Obersteg Collections

OCTOBER 10, 2015–JANUARY 10, 2016

Drawn from two major Swiss collections, exhibited together for the first time in the United States, *Gauguin to Picasso: Masterworks from Switzerland* presents more than 60 celebrated works by 22 world-famous artists of the mid-19th and 20th centuries. Pioneering supporters of modern art Rudolf Staechelin (1881–1946) and Karl Im Obersteg (1883–1969), both from Basel, were friends and patrons of the Kunstmuseum Basel, where these paintings are normally on display.

As collectors, they shared a passion for the powerful and expressive colors found in the landscapes, still lifes, and portraits of Impressionist, Post-Impressionist, Expressionist, and School of Paris artists. Staechelin assembled a remarkable selection of paintings by Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh, Claude Monet, and Camille Pissarro. Im Obersteg developed in-depth groupings of works by Alexej von Jawlensky, Marc Chagall, and Chaïm Soutine, among others. Both collected the figurative work of Pablo Picasso. Their renowned holdings, called “sister collections,” find their counterparts in the intimate galleries of The Phillips Collection, the only US venue for the exhibition.



The exhibition is co-organized by The Phillips Collection and the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia in collaboration with the Im Obersteg Foundation and the Rudolf Staechelin Family Trust.

Generous funding is provided by the Rudolf Staechelin Family Trust as well as Sotheby's and the Robert Lehman Foundation.

Sotheby's ROBERT LEHMAN FOUNDATION

With significant contributions from Les Dialogues de l'Art, Basel

LES DIALOGUES DE L'ART

Brought to you by the Exhibition Committee for *Gauguin to Picasso: Masterworks from Switzerland*: Joan and Dan Mulcahy and Harold and Nancy Zirkin.

The exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

Additional support is provided by **FARROW&BALL**:



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Paul Gauguin, *Nafea faaipoipo (When Will You Marry?)*, 1892. Oil on canvas, 40 x 30 1/2 in. The Rudolf Staechelin Collection; Pablo Picasso, *The Absinthe Drinker*, 1901. Oil on canvas, 31 7/8 x 23 5/8 in. Im Obersteg Foundation, permanent loan to the Kunstmuseum Basel © 2015 Estate of Pablo Picasso / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York; Ferdinand Hodler, *Mont-Blanc with Pink Cloud*, 1918. Oil on canvas, 23 2/3 x 33 1/2 in. The Rudolf Staechelin Collection © Kunstmuseum Basel, Martin P. Bühler

SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

2016 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please remit your membership dues for 2016 with this notice! We look forward to another year of activities that will give us the chance to connect with our Swiss heritage and culture.

Please remit your **\$15.00*** dues payment (check payable to Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh) by **January 31, 2016**, to:

Richard Engel
SASP Membership Secretary
5713 Wesleyann Drive
Gibsonia, PA 15044-9448

* You also have the option to become a Life Member upon payment of \$300.00 (which may be paid in four annual installments of \$75.00).

Also, let us know if you are willing to help with any of the following: Board of Directors / Auditors / Spring Banquet / Folk Festival / Pro Patria Picnic / Christmas Luncheon / Nationality Rooms Open House / Events Helper / Publicity / Anything Else That Floats Your Boat! Thanks!

Enclosed are my Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh dues (\$15.00*) for calendar year 2015.

(*optional \$300.00 for a new life membership, which may be paid \$75.00/year for 4 years)

Name: _____

Additional Family Members at this

Address: _____

address or at college (name / age):

Phone(s): _____

e-mail: _____

I am willing to help the SASP in the following ways: _____

SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON REGISTRATION FORM

Date: December 5, 2015

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Place: Teutonia Männerchor, 857 Phineas Street, Pittsburgh

Price: \$25.00 per person / \$10.00 Children 12 & Under

Chef Michael Twigg (formerly executive chef at the University Club) will be creating a special menu from Swiss recipes --- salad, entrée (choice of chicken or pork), two sides, and dessert. Coffee/soft drinks included; alcoholic beverage available for separate purchase. Price includes sales tax and gratuity.

The Kinderchor and Jugendchor will be singing Christmas carols for us at 11:30. After the luncheon, we will have our annual business meeting and a Tombola to raise current use funds for the Swiss Nationality Room Scholarship.

Please return the below form by **Tuesday, December 1**, with check payable to the "Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh", to:

Lyndall Huggler
908 Fairview Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238

PLEASE BRING PRIZES FOR THE TOMBOLA!

SASP CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON REGISTRATION FORM

<u>Name</u>	<u>Entrée (Chicken or Pork)</u>
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____