



Switzerland



NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Volume 26, No. 1

Summer 2017

Greetings everyone! Hope you are all doing well and enjoying Summer. Planning and preparations are under way for the **Swiss Nationality Day Picnic, Saturday, July 29**, at the Richland Township Community Park Barn. Please make plans to attend, and respond by sending in the registration form included at the end of this newsletter. Also, please be mindful that Richland Township is asking us to refrain from parking on the grass --- please use the parking lots!

It has been a fun time in Pittsburgh, with the Penguins winning their second consecutive Stanley Cup last month, and fifth overall. The Penguins had their first ever Swiss player this year (Mark Streit). Ice hockey is now the second most popular team sport in Switzerland, after football (Am. English: soccer). The popularity of ice hockey in Switzerland was further demonstrated in June, as for the first time ever, a Swiss hockey player was taken #1 overall in the NHL draft (Nico Hischier, drafted by the New Jersey Devils).

Hopp Schwiiz!
Lyndall Huggler

Coming Events – Save the Date!

| | |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 29 | Swiss Nationality Day Picnic @ Richland Park Barn |
| August 26 | Alliance of Germanic Societies Luncheon @ Teutonia Männerchor |
| December 2 | SASP Christmas Luncheon @ Teutonia Männerchor (tentative) |
| December 3 | Nationality Rooms Holiday Open House @ Cathedral of Learning |

Alliance of Germanic Societies Luncheon – August 26, 2017

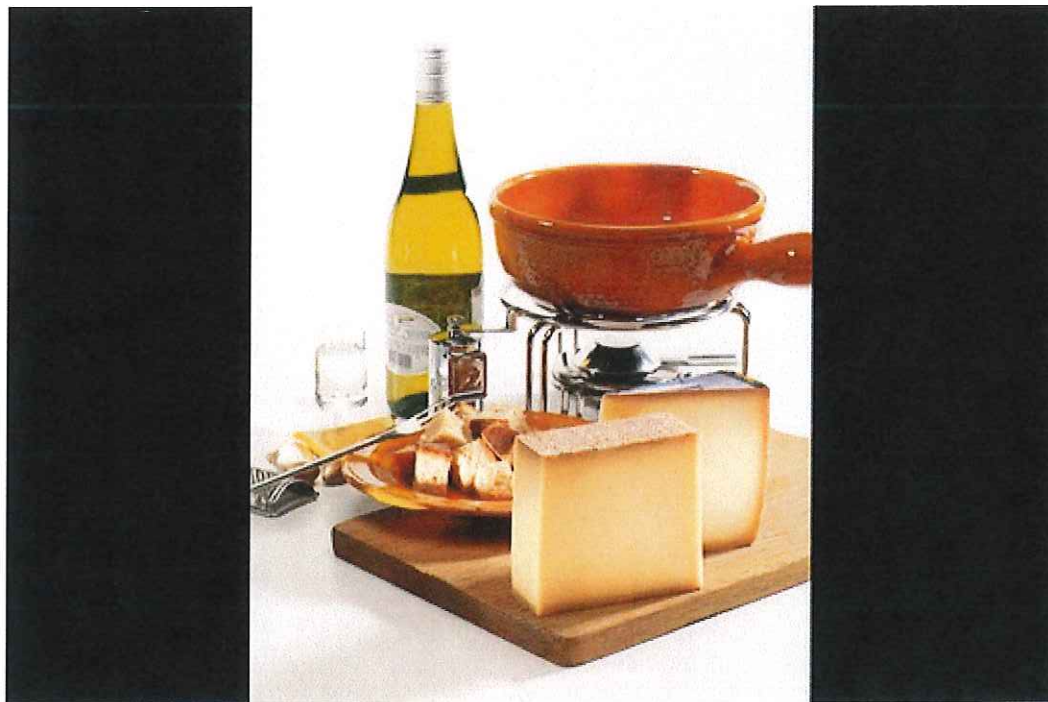
The Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh is a member organization of The Alliance of Germanic Societies of Pittsburgh. The Alliance will be holding its Annual Recognition Luncheon at 12:00 noon on Saturday, August 26, at Teutonia Männerchor. This year's honorees are Edgar Braun, the Austrian Consul to Pittsburgh, and the late Dorothea Suchma, who was a dancer, singer, and artist who was a friend to many in the Germanic community. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$9 for children 12 and under. Tickets will be available for purchase at the Picnic, or may be obtained by contacting Lyndall Huggler or Koni Ostertag.

Lebendige Traditionen / Tradition vivantes / Tradizioni viventi / Tradiziuns vivas

Das Fondue / Autour d'une fondue / Attorno a una fondue / Fondue

Melt some typically Swiss cheese in a large pot called a caquelon. Place it at the center of the table on a heater or réchaud and enjoy it with friends or family straight from the pot by dipping in cubes of bread or boiled potato on the end of a special fork. The Swiss really make a meal out of this, and they call it cheese fondue. In its modern form, wrongly believed to be how it has always been, it combines bread, wine and cheese – products synonymous with the region. This kind of meals, at once simple and convivial, even pays homage to Switzerland's democratic culture, in which equality, sharing and of course the allure of the mountains play a key role.

The earliest records of fondue date back to 1699, and it was mentioned in everyday cookbooks from the 18th century, but it was not until the 20th century that specialized fondue utensils became commonplace in Swiss homes. The dish has become an emblem of Swiss tourism in the canton of Fribourg and many other regions besides, and a number of different versions exist. The best known are moitié-moitié or "half and half" (made from a mix of Gruyère and Vacherin fribourgeois cheeses with white wine, kirsch and corn starch) and Vacherin on its own, which is said to be lighter and consists simply of the cheese with a little water to make it more creamy. Once you have all the ingredients, it is very easy to make a fondue, although specialist restaurants jealously guard the secrets of their own special recipe.



The ingredients for a Fribourg-style fondue © Nicolas Repond



Fondue dans le train Montreaux-Bulle mars 1996 © Interprofession du Gruyère AOC

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

Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh Officers and Directors:

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| Director (2018) | Robert Domenick | (412) 554-8175 | rpdomenick5@cs.com |
| Director (2018) | Koni Ostertag | (724) 898-3029 | caeasterday@consolidated.net |

Do you have a need to listen to Swiss Folk Music? Then tune in to Radio Tell – Heimatklang der Schweiz --- www.radiotell.ch

Swiss Nationality Room Committee (SNRC) Report

The Annual Meeting of the Swiss Nationality Room Committee (SNRC) took place on January 27, 2017, in the Swiss Room (Room 321) in the Cathedral of Learning. The SNRC membership now comprises twenty members.

New officers for the 2017-2018 biennium were elected. The officers are Dr. Heinz W. Kunz (Chairperson), Arthur Erbe (Vice-Chairperson), Jim Shock (Treasurer), and Lyndall Huggler (Secretary). The members thanked Fred Carlson and Walter Schaller, who had held the positions of Vice-Chairperson and Treasurer for many years, for their dedicated service to the Swiss Nationality Room Committee.

Walter Schaller gave the Treasurer's Report. The current balance (as of 12/31/16) in the agency account is \$6,122.42, the current balance in the endowment account is \$56,303.86, and the current balance in the endowment interest income account is \$4,434.09. The end-of-year fund raising appeal was then discussed. It appears that about \$6,000 was raised. The goal is to increase the size of the endowment to \$100,000.

Discussion topics at the Annual Meeting included plans for hosting a showing of the Swiss film "The Shepherds Journey" (*Eine Hirtenreise*) in the Swiss Room. It is hoped that this event will occur in September 2017; further information will be provided at the Swiss Nationality Day Picnic.

The Swiss Nationality Room Committee is especially grateful that 2017 brings with it the first ever award of the Swiss Room Scholarship. Hamilton D. Weaver '19 was awarded the scholarship and is studying multilateral diplomacy and French language this summer in Geneva, Switzerland. It is hoped that a meet and greet opportunity can be arranged soon after Hamilton returns from Geneva.

S-ASP Treasurer's Report:

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Operating Fund Cash 12-31-15 | \$ 11,742.56 (including Pestalozzi Fund) |
| Operating Fund Cash 12-31-16 | \$ 11,993.01 (including Pestalozzi Fund) |
| Change from Prior Year | + \$250.45 |
| Pestalozzi Fund Balance | \$ 3,058.00 |

Swiss wrestling (Schwingen) - From herdsman's pastime to elite sport.



Schwingen - the Swiss form of wrestling - is very popular in Switzerland. In fact, in recent times it has experienced an upsurge.

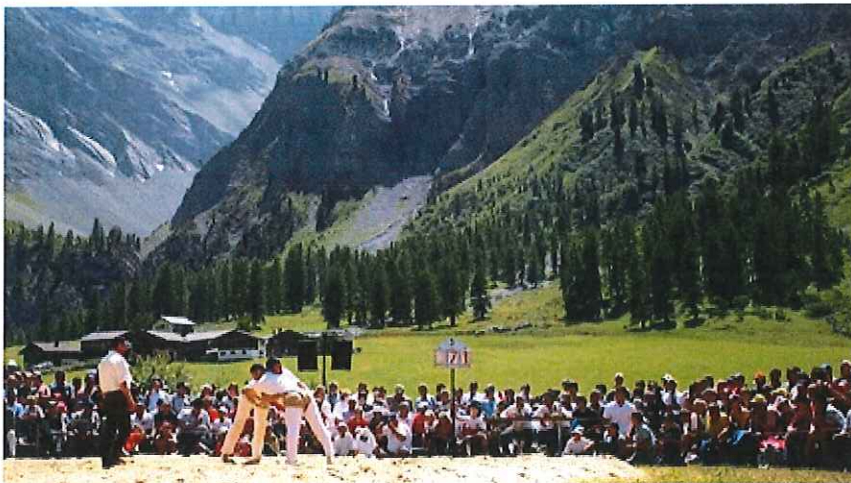
Source: www.myswitzerland.com

Schwingen is fought as a duel between two physically powerful competitors and has its own rules, grips and throws. The nationally-acclaimed **Bösen** ("wicked ones" - the best wrestlers) from throughout Switzerland pit their strength at Schwingen festivals. The **champion wrestler** is chosen at the national wrestling and Alpine festivals held every 3 years. Schwingen differs from competition wrestling inasmuch as all the grips are fixed and the wrestlers wear jerseys or shirts and long trousers over which short wrestling pants made of jute are worn. The legs of these pants are rolled up to form a handle.



Judges

Before each **bout**, the judges organise the competitors. A special feature of Swiss wrestling is that after each bout a fresh decision is made as to who competes against whom. There are 3 - 6 judges depending on the occasion. The match is overseen and evaluated by a referee on the sawdust and two judges at the table. A bout lasts 5 minutes.

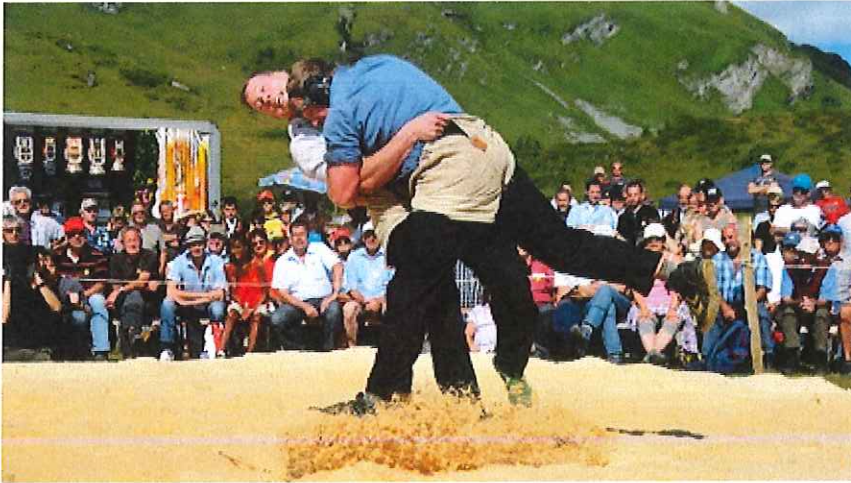


Match

At the beginning of a match, the Schwingers respectfully shake hands. A bout is ended when a wrestler **touches the ground** with his back, either completely or as far as the middle of both shoulder blades (from the head or buttocks, from the left or right side) at the same time. The result is only valid if both shoulder blades lie within the circle of sawdust. The regulations also require that each winner **wipes the sawdust from the shoulders** of the loser.

Throws

Wrestlers wishing to successfully use a wide variety of tactics need to master a range of throws and their combinations. Originally there were only a few throws in use but today there are around **100 throws** detailed in the wrestling manual. The five major throws are the Brienzer, Bur, Hüfter, Kurz and the Übersprung.



Elite sport for amateurs

The wrestling king and his fellow wrestlers do not receive any prize money, but they are awarded a wreath and receive prizes from the "**gift table**": a Muni (young bull) as well as cowbells, rustic furniture and other natural objects. Swiss wrestling is an amateur sport with strict rules about sponsoring and an advertising ban at the wrestling venue.



History

Schwingen's origins are hard to place an exact date on. There is an early depiction in the cathedral of Lausanne dating from the 13th century and it shows one of the typical grips. In

Central Switzerland and the Mittelland, the Hosenlupf (trouser lift) has formed an integral part of festival culture. At many Alpine and tavern celebrations, wrestlers wrestled for a piece of trouser cloth, a sheep or some other kind of natural object. The glory of victory was more highly valued than an actual award. The first **Alpine shepherd's festival at Unspunnen in 1805** marked a revival of the sport of Schwingen at a time when Switzerland was suffering under French rule. The aim of this festival was to explicitly strengthen the Swiss national consciousness. In the 19th century, Swiss wrestling was introduced to the cities through wrestling festivals and by sports coaches. Hence, from this original herdsman's and farmer's pastime a **Swiss national sport** was created. There are many customs and traditions that are closely linked to Swiss wrestling and the wrestling festivals.

Organised throughout Switzerland

The associations and the **Eidgenössische Schwingerverband (Swiss Schwingen Association)** (founded in 1895) organise the sport and raise standards by integrating regional differences, providing instructional materials and training lessons, and by setting modern tournament rules. The association now has over 5,000 active wrestlers, of which almost 2,000 are young people. It is divided into 5 regional associations, 23 cantonal associations and 6 district associations. **Women's wrestling** was first introduced in 1980. Despite its expansion into urban areas, Schwingen is still most popular in the tradition-conscious rural German-speaking areas of the Alpine foothills.



Unspunnen stone throwing

Closely associated with Schwingen is the sport of stone throwing. The so-called Unspunnen stone, a 83.5 kg rough glacial boulder, is thrown with a running jump for the longest possible distance. In August 2004, Markus Maire achieved a new record by throwing the stone, which is so heavy that ordinary mortals can hardly even move it, for an entire 4.11 metres and thus improved Roland Stählin's previous record by 14 centimetres. The stone is named after the village of Unspunnen in Interlaken, where, after the departure of the French in 1805, the first major Alpine herdsman's festival was held.

SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH
SWISS NATIONALITY DAY PICNIC REGISTRATION FORM

SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2017
at the Richland Park Barn in Bakerstown
2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

| <u>Schedule of Events</u> | | <u>Price</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 2:00 p.m. | Social Gathering | \$20.00 – Age 13 & over |
| 3:00 p.m. | Games & Activities | \$10.00 – Picnic Only (without Buffet) |
| 4:00 p.m. | Schweizer Männerchor Helvetia | FREE – Children 12 & Under |
| 4:30 p.m. | Buffet Luncheon | |
| 6:00 p.m. | Tombola | |

Things to Bring!

- Tombola Donations to benefit the Swiss Nationality Room Scholarship Fund!
- Food to Share (not required, but we are grateful to the Buffet Luncheon participants who also bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share!)

Directions – Route 8 to Red Belt / Bakerstown, proceed North on Heckert Road at the stop sign, then turn right at Van Velsor Drive into the Richland Township Park

PLEASE RETURN THE BELOW REGISTRATION FORM, BY JULY 22, WITH YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, to:

Lyndall Huggler
908 Fairview Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
lynbeth@msn.com

SASP SWISS NATIONALITY DAY PICNIC REGISTRATION FORM

Names: Price (\$20 Buffet / \$10 Picnic / 12 & Under Free)

| | | |
|-------|-------|----------|
| 1. | _____ | \$ _____ |
| 2. | _____ | \$ _____ |
| 3. | _____ | \$ _____ |
| 4. | _____ | \$ _____ |
| 5. | _____ | \$ _____ |
| 6. | _____ | \$ _____ |
| TOTAL | | \$ _____ |