



Switzerland



NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

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SASP END OF 2014 EVENTS

December 5	<u>Christmas Luncheon</u> Location TBA
December 6	<u>Nationality Room Open House</u> TBA if still happening with Covid
December 12	<u>Sami Klaus</u> Teutonia

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Teutonia Maennerchor News Important for the Swiss Community

by Teutonia President John Erskine

This is a Special Covid Edition of the News. On May 8th Pennsylvania designated Allegheny County as moving (effective on May 15th) into the "Yellow" phase of opening businesses in the State. Unfortunately, that did not include opening restaurants, bars and clubs (the category that includes Teutonia). We must await the "Green" status to re-open with restrictions.

The "Yellow" status achievement also led to May 12th advice from the Allegheny County Health Department for those businesses and services which can begin to open on May 15th - they sent substantial guidance from the State associated with the conduct of the business.

This guidance was familiar to our Teutonia management who have been reviewing methods to protect our members and employees since our mid-March close-down. That included special cleaning, frequent wipe-downs, guest and employee spacing, masks, disinfectant and other protections. When we reach the "Green" status, we will be following these procedures and be ready to open safely.

At present we cannot know when the "Green" status will be designated for Allegheny County; we opened and then were re-closed in early July for two weeks... but it depends on various indicators. As soon as we know we will send an immediate electronic and Website notice to all members and let you know our schedule. We expect to begin Bier service in the Biergarten with food available.

In the meantime, our Hausmeister and volunteers have been accomplishing maintenance and cleanup work inside and outside the club. As you look at the second floor windows, you will see new window protective coverings (plexiglass thanks to Bob Lorenz!) Excavation work on our sidewalks by Jim Urban) among the volunteers are Hausmeister Kevin Varrato, Joe Brandt, Chris Jordheim, and others ...

Our Board is meeting weekly during this period by means of Zoom internet meetings. We have treated our employees quite fairly and give our thanks to members who contributed to a gift fund. That fund is used to make up lost tips for our loyal employees who have depended on tips. (We are still accepting contributions on our website).

The Board recognizes that it has been almost four months since you have been able to use the club and we, too, miss it badly! But for the club, the expenses of utilities, taxes, repairs, leases, website and communication and protection of the facility continue. We have applied for and received Federal assistance under the Small business grant process and the PPP forgivable loan and we believe our cash will be sufficient until we reopen. We appreciate your loyalty and we promise to reopen as soon as possible with the best of German Bier, Food and Gemütlichkeit!

Look forward to seeing you in the Biergarten!

John

Sharing A Family History-A Swiss Journey from Canton Bern to Portugal to the United States

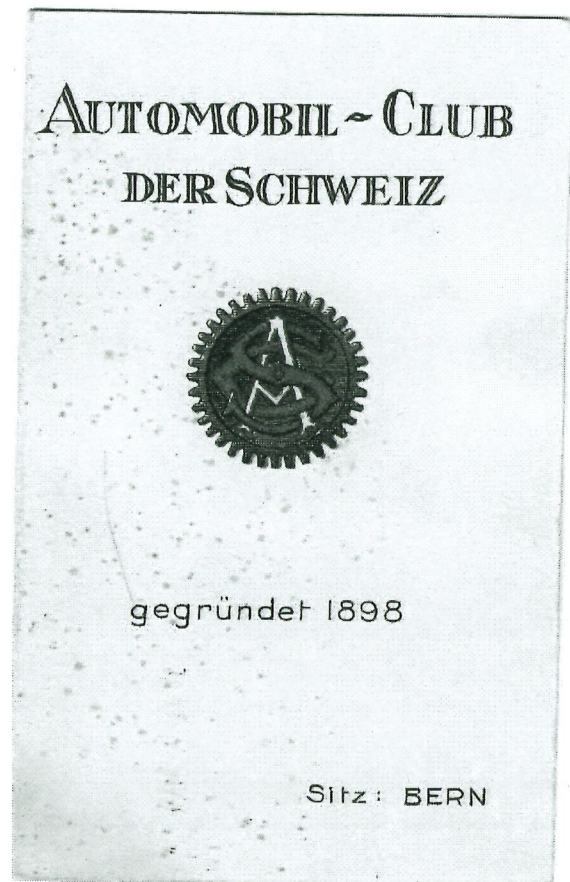
By Paul S. Adams, Ph.D. University of Pittsburgh/Greensburg

My grandfather, Walter Judith, was born on February 20, 1908 in Täuffelen (Canton Bern). He grew up in nearby Biel where his family lived. His family owned and operated Laubscher Bros. & Co. (<https://laubscher-praezision.ch/en/tradition-innovation>) which manufactured precision metal parts for the watch industry. The company is still family run and operated today in Täuffelen. After school he served his mandatory service in the Swiss Army but was discharged early when he was wounded in the leg by a ricocheting shot during firing practice. He became a salesman and manager for numerous retail shops and department stores, eventually moving to Zurich. In 1940, with Europe at war but Switzerland neutral, he went to Lisbon, Portugal (also neutral) to act as a sales agent for the

family business and other Swiss firms. While in Lisbon, there was some situation that emerged that required him to leave the country rather quickly – our family has never quite known what the circumstances were exactly – and he traveled to New York by boat, arriving in early 1941. His Swiss uncle, Ernest Laubscher, was already living and working in New York and assisted him with obtaining residency. He met Ruth Lush, my grandmother, several years later in Eastern Pennsylvania. They were married and had three children after settling in Milford, Connecticut in the late 1940s. In 1960, the family moved to Greensburg, Pennsylvania where my grandmother was offered a middle school English position at Penn Trafford. My grandfather continued in sales and became an artist in pewter, gold, and silver jewelry and décor. While he applied for naturalization in the 1940s, there was some issue with his paperwork and the naturalization process, ultimately the legal costs and hurdles to obtaining American citizenship were too great and he remained a Swiss citizen and US resident until his passing in 1993. I have become the repository or many of the items of my grandfather over the years, we still have much of his pewter and other metalwork décor and jewelry items. I also have a large collection of photographs and negatives from his travels in Europe in the 1920s and 1930s including trips to Athens, Istanbul, and other parts of Europe. I also have his original leather briefcase and suitcase that came on his journey. I also have his original Swiss passport, military service record book, Swiss driver's licenses, and many souvenirs and items from his early period in New York in the early 1940s and during World War II and after. I was able to briefly travel to Biel in 1940 while I was studying abroad during college. It was a brief

stop and I would like to return to visit the family business in Täuffelen and see his home town for more than a few hours. I did get to send my grandfather a postcard from his hometown and home country which he never saw again after 1941. Below are some scans of some of his documents that might be of interest to many of you.

Membership card for in Swiss Automobile Club from 1938!



SCHWEIZERISCHE EIDGENOSSENSCHAFT
CONFÉDÉRATION SUISSE
CONFEDERAZIONE SVIZZERA

Bundesgesetz vom 15. März 1932
über den Motorfahrzeug- und Fahrradverkehr
Loi fédérale du 15 mars 1932 sur la
circulation des véhicules automobiles et des cycles
Legge federale del 15 marzo 1932 sulla
circolazione degli autoveicoli e dei velocipedi

Führerausweis
Permis de conduire
Licenza di condurre



Dieser Ausweis wird für das Kalenderjahr ausgestellt
und ist jährlich zu erneuern
Ce permis est établi pour l'année civile
et doit être renouvelé chaque année
Questa licenza è rilasciata per la durata dell'anno civile
e deve essere rinnovata ogni anno

N° 3041 ZH Legitimations-Karte Gültig für das Jahr 1938

Herrn Walter Judith Kaufmann

Mitglied Aktiv

Adresse Zürich 2
Alfred Escherstr. 25

Der Zentral-Präsident
des A.C.S.
J. Mende

Unterschrift des Inhabers:

Legalisation:

Photographie des Führers - Photographie du conducteur
Fotografia del conducente

Stempel der Behörde
Scellum de l'autorité
Sigillo della autorità

Unterschrift des Führers - Signature du conducteur
Firma del conducente

Kategorien der zu führenden Motorfahrzeuge
Catégories des véhicules automobiles que le titulaire est
autorisé à conduire
Categorie degli autoveicoli che il titolare è autorizzato a condurre

Kat. 1 leichte Motorwagen
(bis 3800 Kg. Gesamtgewicht)

Angaben über den Führer - Indications relatives au conducteur
Indicazioni concernenti il conducente

Name und Vorname Judith Walter
Nom et prénom
Cognome e nome

Geburtsdatum 20.2.08 Beruf Kaufmann
Date de naissance Profession
Data di nascita

Heimatgenossenschaft (Ausländer: Heimatland) Täuffelen, Bern
Commune d'origine (étrangers: pays d'origine)
Comune di appartenenza (stranieri: paese d'origine)

Wohnort Zürich 2 Alfred Escherstr. 25
Domicile

Militärische Einteilung HD Grad
Incorporation militaire Grade
Incorporazione militare

Prüfungsdatum 6-7-37 Expertenbericht Nr. 35117
Date de l'examen Rapport de l'expert, n°
Data dell'esame Rapporto del perito, n.

Gebühr Fr. 10.- 1940
Taxe
Tassa

Zürich, 21. Mai 1940

Unterschrift und Stempel der Behörde
Signature et scellum de l'autorité
Firma e sigillo della autorità

Wechsel des Wohnorts des Führers - Changement de domicile
du conducteur - Cambiamento di domicilio del conducente

Neuer Wohnort
Nouveau domicile
Nuovo domicilio

Datum und Stempel der Behörde
Date et scellum de l'autorité
Data e sigillo della autorità

Swiss Nationality Room Committee News

Nancy Flury Carlson

The Swiss Nationality Room Committee held its annual meeting on March 8, 2020 in the Swiss Nationality Room, Room 321 at the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning. Fortunately we were able to hold the meeting in person before the lockdown and restrictions related to Covid-19.

Twelve members were present at the meeting and four were unable to attend due to conflicts. Philip Bottonari reviewed our successful fundraising year which culminated in our endowed fund reaching the \$100,000 mark, a goal that the committee had been hoping to reach. This level of endowment ensures that the committee will be able to offer a scholarship annually.

Dr. Heinz Kunz informed the committee that the scholarship panel, which also included committee member Jhon Smith, had selected a recipient for the Summer 2020 scholarship. The winner is Alexa Schwartz, a graduate student in the University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work. She intends to study "the way in which Swiss schools respond when students display behavioral problems that are displayed by mass shooters in the United States. The study will examine school interventions and policies around these behaviors, and perceived

cultural differences between the United States and Switzerland. From this study, [she] will identify practices that can be employed by American social workers to prevent school shootings in the United States." Unfortunately, due to restrictions related to Covid-19, Ms Schwartz will not be able to complete the study as planned this summer, but will work with the University to implement a future plan so that the scholarship can still be used as intended.

Walter Schaller reported another successful year at the Holiday Open House, held on Sunday, December 8, 2019. The Swiss table was a popular stop for those wanting to sample fondue, handmade chocolates, and various baked goods. Fred and Nancy Carlson also helped with the table. Many visitors stopped by during the well-attended event, which earned \$300 for the committee's account.

Dr. Kunz also gave us a brief report of Nationality Council news. The Nationality Council is composed of representatives from all of the University's Nationality Rooms. With the retirement of E. Maxine Bruhns, a formal search process has begun to identify a new Director for the Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs (NRIEP) organization.

Leave a Swiss Legacy – *in Pittsburgh!*

Thanks to the generosity of many donors, the Swiss Nationality Room Scholarship has sufficient funding to allow the University of Pittsburgh to award one scholarship each year to help a Pitt student realize their dream of living and learning in Switzerland.

Yet there will undoubtedly be years in the future when the awarding of a larger or multiple Swiss Room Scholarships will be highly desirable given the quality and needs of our student applicants.

Consider helping to make that possible by including a gift to the Swiss Room Scholarship in your will.

Sample wording for your will: *I give and devise to the University of Pittsburgh – of the Commonwealth System of Higher Education, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15260, the sum of \$_____ to be used for the support of the Swiss Nationality Room Scholarship Fund.*

When considering charitable giving, you should talk with your tax, legal, and financial advisors.

ARIEL C ARMONY – VICE PROVOST FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Dear All,

It is with deep sadness that I share news of the passing of E. Maxine Bruhns, 96, on July 17, 2020. As recently as the fall semester, Maxine was working from her book-filled office on the 12th floor of the Cathedral of Learning directing our Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs.

Maxine dedicated 50 years of her life to the success of our world-renowned rooms, overseeing planning and design, supporting the ethnic heritage groups behind each space, developing ideas for cultural events, programs, and fundraising events, and developing new opportunities for scholarships for our undergraduate and graduate students.

Maxine's service was extraordinary, and I was pleased to be able to personally present her with the University's inaugural Embrace the World Award in October of 2018 for lifetime dedicated to advancing Pitt's comprehensive internationalization efforts. No one was more deserving of such an honor than Maxine.

During her years of leadership, 12 of our unique classrooms were designed and constructed, bringing the total to 31. Fortunately, she was able to attend the Philippines Room dedication in June 2019, as we know she worked closely with the room committee over many years to bring the room to fruition.

The Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs awarded more than \$3.5 million in scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students under her years of leadership.

Maxine and her late husband, Fred C. Bruhns, who died in 2008, lived and worked around the world in Austria (1948-50), Lebanon (1952-54), Vietnam (1955-57), Cambodia (1958-59), Iran (1960), Germany (1961), Greece (1962-63), and Gabon (1964). As a result of her travels and work, Maxine spoke French and German and had knowledge of Arabic, Farsi, Greek, and Cambodian. She was truly a citizen of the world.

Maxine launched the tour office and gift center in the Cathedral of Learning two years into her role and initiated a number of Nationality Rooms events over the years including the wonderful Holiday Open House. Today, our Nationality Rooms now welcome more than 25,000 visitors annually. Many distinguished international visitors have toured the rooms, often with Maxine leading the way.

In addition to directing the Nationality Rooms, Maxine's diverse career included working as an editor for McGraw Hill in New York City, serving the U.S. Army Transportation Corps in Linz, Austria, and teaching English in numerous countries. Born in rural Grafton, West Virginia, in 1924, Maxine began her undergraduate studies at West Virginia Wesleyan College, after being admitted on a scholarship, and later completed a bachelor's degree at Ohio State University and a master's in psychology at the American University of Beirut.

Memorial services will be held at a future date to celebrate Maxine's extraordinary life and legacy.

It has been an honor to work with Maxine these many years. Her leadership has truly been a gift to the University, the Pittsburgh region, and the world. I know I speak for the entire Nationality Rooms community when I say that Maxine's service to the University of Pittsburgh will never be forgotten.

Ariel C. Armony

MICHAEL WALTER- NATIONALITY ROOMS TOUR COORDINATOR

E. Maxine Bruhns passed away last night, July 17, 2020, just after 11:00 PM. She was 96 years of age. Pitt and UCIS will have their own statements and whatnot. I knew Maxine for fifteen years. One of you knew her even longer (Jhon). In any of the time you all knew her or knew of her, you knew her to be a unique person with a singular character. Sometimes she was curious, sometimes she was frustrating, and sometimes Maxine was so entirely different from what we would expect that you could only shake your head and say "that's Maxine." Throughout all the incidental vagaries that the job and her Directorship brought up, the Rooms became inseparable from Maxine, and she and the Rooms became an institution separate from what one thinks of when one considers Pitt. She knew that and protected the independence of the Program for many years in her own way. Perhaps that is one of the biggest lessons to reflect upon--an independence of spirit and vitality of opinion. Maxine felt very strongly about the non-political agenda of the Program. In her own way she exercised that belief and along the way for the most part kept that ideal as a primary directive, seeing that as a big component of a well-rounded international and educational experience. It is rare for a person to stay at one place for so long. I can only think it is done out of belief that one is making a difference and contributing one's efforts to a necessary process. Maxine certainly, unequivocally believed in the necessity of the Nationality Rooms, just as I believe all of you do. Let's acknowledge our shared similarities as we reflect upon the passing of one who took the road with us for our portion of it.

Sincerely, Michael Walter/Rooms Tour Coordinator

NANCY FLURY CARLSON-SNRC CHAIR

Maxine's grandmother, Martha Jane Poe (a second cousin to Edgar Allen Poe, no less!) reportedly haunts the secret bedroom of the Early American Room, Room 328 in the Cathedral of Learning. Maxine reported that the cradle would rock three times if she mentioned "Grandma," and several other anecdotes have been reported to suggest an active presence in the room, like an unexplained indentation on a pillow, or a mysteriously broken picture frame. The Early American Room is just around the corner from the Swiss Nationality Room (Room 321), so the next time you visit the Swiss room, take a little walk and peek your head in the door of the Early American Room, which is generally closed to the public. I'll miss seeing and talking with Maxine, who liked to tell about her early years in West Virginia, her world travels, her kitty Calico, and her favored Fig Newtons. But I know where she'll be from now on – in the Early American Room spinning yarns and rocking cradles with her grandma.

– Nancy Flury Carlson, current Chair of the SNRC



Swiss Room Dedication Week April 2012: Swiss Ambassador Francois Barras, Honorary Consul for Switzerland in Pittsburgh Dominique Schinabeck, Cultural Attache, E. Maxine Bruhns, Pitt Chancellor Mark Nordenberg (Photo courtesy Pitt PR)



University of Pittsburgh Facilities Offices, 2010-Swiss Room Project Plans Approved: Architect of Record Stephen Altheer, SNRC Fundraising Chair Philip Bottonari, E. Maxine Bruhns, Adrienne Spellone-Facilities Director, SNRC Chairman Dr. Heinz W. Kunz, SNRC Vice-Chair Frederick H. Carlson



Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh Christmas Luncheon, Atria's Restaurant, Gibsonia, PA, December 2009, on the awarding by Jane Lubic of her sister Florence Jacob's bequest to the Swiss Room construction project. SNRC Vice-Chair Frederick H. Carlson, E. Maxine Bruhns, Jane Lubic, S-ASP President Paul Lienhardt, SNRC Treasurer Walter Schaller.

FRED CARLSON-Former Vice-Chair SNRC 1998-2016

Maxine LOVED the Swiss! What else can we say? She and her husband Fred Bruhns vacationed often in Ticino and Graubünden. Maxine supported the Swiss Chair Fundraiser by sponsoring the Ticino chair. She gave generously to our ongoing room construction fundraising-every Christmas event and every Swiss National Day August 1 picnic. She had a blast recording the narrative tape that plays when visitors enter the Swiss Room. She defended the proud cantonal emblems carved and painted on our chairs, including the specifically male animals (!) to befuddled Pitt officials as the Dedication Day approached. Maxine had a special kinship to the genius woodworker who created the furniture and all visible wood elements of the Swiss Room, Richard Sink. They both had West Virginia roots, Methodist backgrounds, and both attended West Virginia Wesleyan. Maxine LOVED the drive down to Richard's studio in French Creek, WV to see the furniture being built. Maxine attended almost every Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh event from 2006 until her last time with us at the Christmas Luncheon in December 2018 when her knees would hardly allow her to walk anymore. She said, after our room was dedicated, that the Swiss team was the easiest committee to deal with EVER in her experience. What else can I say? Nancy and I loved driving Maxi to all the Swiss events and we will miss her companionship. —SNRC Former Vice-Chair Frederick H. Carlson

RICHARD B. SINK-Swiss Room Woodcrafter

I first became acquainted with Maxine Bruhns in April, 2009 when the Swiss Nationality Room Committee (SNRC) came to our house in French Creek, WV, to discuss the possibility of designing and building the Swiss Nationality Room in the Cathedral of Learning. We discovered that we share an alma mater in West Virginia Wesleyan College and our birth places are within thirty miles of each other. Over the next three years I came to appreciate Maxine's vivacious personality and unique sense of humor.

SNRC commissioned me to make the furniture for the room before the construction of the room began. When it became clear that I would be building the interior of the room, Maxine lent me funds to finance the purchase of materials so that I could begin construction even before the contract was drawn. This gave me several months to condition the materials and to begin the work. Without this help I would not have been able to meet the various deadlines of the contract.

On several occasions when I was in Pittsburgh taking measurements or making deliveries, Maxine would take me to lunch and regale me with stories of her life and other construction projects. I always left feeling encouraged.

Like friends would carve their names on a picnic table or bench, Maxine and I dated and signed our names behind the South wall paneling so that future archeologists would know who helped build the Room.

Maxine Bruhns was willing to do whatever it took to make this project a success. She put her heart into it and helped me accomplish the work of a lifetime. - Richard B. Sink, woodworker responsible for all the furniture and every exposed wood feature in the Swiss Nationality Room



Maxine and members of the SNRC picnicking near Rich Sink studio in French Creek, WV. (l-r: SNRC Fundraising Chair Philip Bottonari, Maxine Bruhns, SNRC member Edith Bottonari, Honorary Consul of Switzerland to Pittsburgh Dominique Schinabeck, Annabella Schinabeck



Maxine Bruhns visits Richard Sink woodworking studio in 2010 to check in on progress of the furniture from the Swiss Nationality Room, French Creek, WV. (l-r) SNRC Chairman Dr. Heinz W. Kunz, SNRC Vice-Chairman Frederick H. Carlson, Swiss Room woodcrafter Richard B. Sink, Maxine Bruhns (check out her trademark black Converse sneakers!)

DR. HEINZ W. KUNZ-SNRC Chairman 1998-2018 and Honorary Consul for Switzerland in Pittsburgh 1989-2007

Maxine Bruhns was indeed a unique person and throughout the years, 1970 to her passing, I had many interactions with her. I met Maxine in the early 1970s during a short visit to the Classrooms at which time she pointed out the Syria-Lebanon room as a jewel that was kept locked and needed special permission to enter. I was impressed by her knowledge and her enthusiasm.

During my early years at the University, I met several Swiss professors who expressed their interest in building a Swiss room, and though the idea was encouraged by Maxine, it did not materialize for some time.

During the 1980s, I showed the Classrooms to visitors from Switzerland and on many occasions Maxine herself gave introductions to the rooms. She was a marvelous ambassador for her treasured rooms. One could not help but be excited about the classroom projects and especially about building a Swiss room.

I had the pleasure of hearing of her interesting interactions with natives of countries that she had visited with her husband, Fred. Fred was originally from Germany and the two travelled the world. In 2003 I met Fred Bruhns at Kofi Annan's lecture here in Pittsburgh and he was as excited as she.

In 1989 I was appointed Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Pittsburgh and during my tenure of eighteen years I hosted numerous visitors from the Consulate General of Switzerland in New York as well as from The Swiss Embassy in Washington. Maxine was always available to accompany our foreign visitors on a tour of the classrooms. The questions that always came up was "why no Swiss classroom?". In 1991, during the 700th anniversary of the founding of the Swiss Confederation, Pittsburgh was the first location for the exhibition celebrating this event, located in the Wintergarden at PPG Place. This began a more active campaign for a Swiss Nationality Room. In 2012, the dream finally came to fruition and no one was happier than Maxine.

My last official interaction with Maxine was the videotaping of her interviewing me about the Swiss in Pittsburgh, the work involved in creating the Swiss classroom and the features of our unique room.

Maxine, her humor and her determination will be greatly missed.

Heinz W. Kunz, Ph.D.

Lebendige Traditionen / Tradition vivantes / Tradizioni viventi / Tradiziuns vivas

Torrée (outdoor barbecue party)

A torrée is not a proper torrée without a saucisson neuchâtelois. On a sunny day, a fire is lit at the edge of a forest. The sausage is wrapped in cabbage leaves, butcher paper, newspaper or aluminum foil and placed directly on the burning embers to cook. It is then served with potatoes, salad, bread as well as other treats including a glass of white wine and a spoonful of mustard to bring out all the delicious flavors of the meat. This custom which is exclusive to Neuchâtel has become a fun day out with family and friends, but originally served a purely utilitarian function. On a particular day every year local farmers would set about clearing away trees and other vegetation that encroached on their land. They would bring a sausage with them, which they would cook on a huge fire made from the trees and bushes they had felled. Although the torrée is practiced nowadays purely for fun and enjoyment, respect for the natural environment is still a concern for those involved, with every effort taken to collect and dispose of their rubbish appropriately. Forest rangers recommend that the fire should be lit in a spot far from young trees and the pit surrounded by stones. This much-loved tradition has become synonymous with the region, so much so that every year the town of Le Locle hosts a giant torrée for new arrivals, and by doing so reminds its new residents of the strong sense of identity and belonging that this practice invokes.



The "torrée" © Fonds Fernand Perret / Département audiovisuel de la Bibliothèque de la Ville de La Chaux-de-Fonds



Saucisson neuchâtelais © Hugo Guillaume-Gentil, Patrick Pointaire, 2011

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