



Switzerland



NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

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SASP 2021 EVENTS

August 1	<u>Swiss Nationality Day Picnic and Board Meeting/Elections</u> Richland Park Barn
December	<u>Nationality Room Open House</u> Pitt Cathedral of Learning
December	<u>Christmas Luncheon</u> Teutonia
December	<u>Sami Klaus Event</u> Teutonia

SASP Board

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President's Message

Gruezi Mitenand!

It is with great joy that we are able to look forward to having the Swiss National Day Picnic again on August 1! We hope to see many of you there. Please do not delay in returning the reservation form (attached to this newsletter), which will be helpful for our event planning.

The S-ASP is presently making an effort to locate S-ASP records and documents from the 1960's through the 1990's (and even into the 2000's). We are particularly interested in obtaining old newsletters and board minutes for archival purposes. If you have anything, please let me or Jhon Smith know, and please feel free to bring what you have to the picnic!

The Pittsburgh Swiss Singers (Schweizer Maennerchor Helvetia of Allegheny City) have exciting news to share --- they have been selected to host the 2024 North American Swiss Singing Alliance (NASSA) Saengerfest! Pittsburgh previously hosted the Saengerfest in 1939, 1971, and 1997. The Saengerfest is expected to bring about 400 people to Pittsburgh and will feature Swiss choirs from across the USA and Canada. We also hope to bring performers from Switzerland for the event! Be sure to mark your calendars for June 20-23, 2024, for what promises to be an outstanding celebration of Swiss culture in Pittsburgh!

One consequence of Pittsburgh's hosting the Saengerfest (and all that it involves) is that I will no longer have the capacity to continue to serve as S-ASP President. We will be having our next election of officers and board

members at our year-end Christmas

luncheon. We have an immediate need for new board members and officers. Please do not hesitate to contact any board member if you are willing to serve or have any suggestions.

In closing, I hope that this newsletter finds you and your family doing well and that you are enjoying your Summer!

Hopp Schwiiz!

Lyndall Huggler

Swiss Nationality Room Committee News

Committee Chairman Nancy Flury Carlson

The election of 2021-2022 SNRC officers was held in February 2021. We thank outgoing Vice-Chairman Arthur Erbe and outgoing Treasurer Jim Shock for their service over the past two terms. We welcome Jhon Smith as the newly elected Vice-Chairman and Philip Bottonari as the incoming Treasurer. Secretary Walter Schaller and Chairman Nancy Flury Carlson were re-elected to their positions for an additional term.

The committee held its annual meeting virtually on Zoom on March 23, 2021. We welcomed a new member, Alexa Schwarz, who was awarded the Swiss Room Scholarship for 2020 but was unfortunately unable to travel to complete her research due to the pandemic. Although Alexa had to relinquish the scholarship, she has completed her studies in Social Work at Pitt and has accepted a position to begin her professional career.

The Swiss Room Scholarship received \$2,800 in donations in 2020. At its annual meeting, the SNRC voted to move \$8,000 from the Swiss Room Scholarship Income Account into the Swiss Room Endowment account. This adjustment was made because sufficient funds were available in the Income Account to meet Swiss Room Scholarship award needs in the short term, while adding to the Endowment Account further strengthens the Swiss Room Scholarship over the long term. At the meeting, we also discussed a working list of potential events that committee members might sponsor in the future.

Two virtual events were communicated by the committee. In February, Swiss-American painter Neil Enggist (<https://www.neilenggist.com/>) led Zoom viewers on a tour of his art that was then installed at the Swiss Consulate in New York. He incorporates the forces of nature as co-creators of his paintings. A March screening of the Swiss film “The Divine Order” was followed by a virtual interview with the film’s director, Petra Biondia Volpe. The film depicts processes leading to the 1971 vote allowing women to vote for the first time in Switzerland, through the story of one woman, her family, and friends.

Committee members participated in the evaluation process for 2021 Swiss Room Scholarship applicants. In addition, committee leaders were invited to participate in Zoom presentations made by the three finalists being interviewed by Pitt for the position of Director of the Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs.

The Swiss Nationality Room Committee encourages others to join us as members. In particular, we would love to have new members to help with initiatives we don’t currently have the right skills or bandwidth to accomplish – primarily in the areas of social media presence and event planning. Please consider joining the committee. If you have any questions, please contact SNRC Chairman Nancy Flury Carlson (nancy@carlsonstudio.com) or any member of the committee.

2021 Summer Scholarship Awardee

Meet our 2021 Swiss Nationality Room scholarship awardee, Juan Correa. Juan received the Summer Global Learning Scholarship to decode auricular muscle activity for the control of extra limbs.



“My research project, decoding of auricular muscle activity for the control of extra limbs, looks to use the electrical activity of the ear (auricular) muscles for the control of a supernumerary robotic arm in three dimensions. My role focuses on developing methods to process recorded electrical signals to accurately interpret user intent and therefore successfully control the arm. I am a research intern at the Translational Neural Engineering Lab of Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL). My responsibilities include assisting in any data collection, data processing, and helping develop a method to interpret auricular muscle activity for the control of a third arm.”

What is a Luftseilbahn? Excerpt from thediscoverer.com



According to the Swiss constitution, every city, village, town, and hamlet in the country must be reachable by public transport. This includes the matrix-like system of Swiss trains whose tracks lace across the country, as well as ferries criss-crossing rivers and lakes, and the extensive network of yellow Post Auto busses. But to be Swiss is to think vertically, so accessibility in the Alps requires creativity — mountain cog railways, funiculars, gondolas, and glorious, under-appreciated *luftseilbahn*.

Luftseilbahnen are cable cars that whisk you up the Alps, above the tree line to surreal and tranquil landscapes where, instead of loud cars and roads, you'll encounter cows grazing on wildflowers along miles of interconnected soft-grass hiking paths. To me, this is the best part of living here — hands down. Grabbing a train in Zürich before lunchtime, hiking in the Alps for the afternoon, and returning home that evening in time for dinner is not only possible, it's pretty much what many of us do all summer long.

The Swiss German word *luftseilbahn* translates literally to “air rope train.” Like many words in polyglot Switzerland, there are loose definitions of what makes something a *luftseilbahn*. There are open-air *luftseilbahnen*, *luftseilbahnen* for farm animals and cargo only, and self-operating *luftseilbahnen*. A *luftseilbahn* is not to be confused with a *sesselbahn* (chairlift), which is continuously running in ski areas, or a gondola, which also continuously runs mainly in touristy areas and typically carries more than four people at once. *Luftseilbahnen* are often privately owned by alpine farmers, and bring you to off-the-beaten path areas that you won't read about in *Lonely Planet*.

If that weren't confusing enough, *luftseilbahn* is called *téléphérique* or *telecabine* in French-speaking Switzerland, *funivia* in Italian-speaking Svizzera, and *pendiculara* by speakers of Romansch, Switzerland's ancient and endangered fourth language spoken only in alpine pockets of Canton Graubünden, near the Italian border.

Living Traditions: Chalandamarz

Lebendige Traditionen / Tradition vivantes / Tradizioni viventi / Tradiziuns vivas

"Chalandamarz" is a Romansh word for the first day of the month of March, when the bells ring out winter and welcome the approach of spring. The custom, portrayed in the famous children's book "Schellenursli" ("A Bell for Ursli") by Selina Chönz and Alois Carigiet, is respected in Engadin, Münstertal, Bergell, Puschlav, Misox, Oberhalbstein and Albulatal, but the celebrations differ from village to village. Schoolchildren dressed in peasant smocks, pointed caps and traditional dress parade around the fountain early in the morning with bells and whips. They walk from house to house and sing Chalandamarz songs, collecting food and money for the communal feast and the school trip. In keeping with tradition, the procession in some villages comprises only boys (for example in Zuoz and Samedan). In Zuoz they practice cracking whips from 1 February, and the procession is rehearsed two Sundays before the big day. On Chalandamarz the boys parade through the village with bells as "herdsmen" and "cows", and the girls prepare the evening meal and the ball that follows. In Scuol the procession is complemented by a whip cracking competition. The Chalandamarz procession in Ftan resembles a carnival procession. The boys dress up and torment the girls with inflated pigs' bladders. In Poschiavo and Misox, a snowman is burned as a symbol of winter.



Boys celebrating Chalandamarz in Unterengaden



Chalandamarz Parade in Guarda



A beating with pigs' bladders in Ftan



Pupocc da marz: Winter being burned



Whip cracking in Scuol

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

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1st, 2021
at the Richland Park Barn in Bakerstown
2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Schedule of Events

Price

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	
6:30 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 25, 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	\$ _____

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.