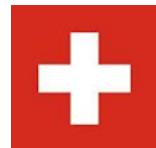




# Switzerland



**NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA**

**Volume 31, No. 2**

**Fall 2022**

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<b><u>S-ASP EVENTS</u></b>	
December 3 12-2	<u>Christmas Luncheon &amp; General Assembly Meeting</u> Teutonia
December 4 12-4	<u>Nationality Room Open House</u> Pitt Cathedral of Learning
July 30 2023	<u>Swiss Nationality Day Picnic</u> Richland Township Barn

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Greetings everyone! Hope you are all doing well as we head into the final weeks of 2022. We hope that you will be able to attend the **Christmas Luncheon** on Saturday, **December 3**, at the Teutonia Männerchor in Pittsburgh. The Christmas Luncheon also serves as our annual general meeting and election of directors and officers. If all goes as planned, the Kinderchor will also perform a short concert of traditional German Christmas songs at the beginning of the luncheon. Please make plans to attend!

### **Notice of Annual Meeting of General Assembly**

The 2022 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 3, 2022. The General Assembly will elect directors and officers for 2023.

### **2022 SWISS NATIONAL DAY PICNIC**

We welcomed 64 guests to our Swiss National Day Picnic at the Richland Park Barn. It was a pleasant afternoon of fun and games, food, and fellowship. Musical entertainment was provided by the Schweizer Männerchor Helvetia. Congratulations to the competition winners: Kurt Hartfelder (Steinstossen Men – 17'-10"), Miriam Schels (Steinstossen Women – 13'-9"), Ellen and Rob Porter / Bianca and Augusta Bottonari (Water Balloons), Andrea Pryor (Watermelon), and Megan Hartfelder (Peanuts). Thanks to all who worked to make this event possible!



**Steinstossen Winners: Kurt Hartfelder & Miriam Schels**



Picnic Water Balloon Winners: Rob & Ellen Porter; Bianca & Augusta Bottonari



Richland Twp  
Barn



Picnic Centerpiece



Bill & Beatrice  
Hook

The Helvetia  
Maennerchor

**Please save the date for the 2023 Swiss National Day Picnic --- Sunday, July 30, at the Richland Park Barn!**

# Site Visit to Paul Riis Landscape Architecture Sites in South Park

August 27 2021

On a warm but comfortably cloudy Saturday morning, fifteen people from the Swiss Nationality Room Committee, the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh, and friends came together to learn about landscape design features in South Park that were designed by Swiss-born Paul Riis 94 years ago. Anne Oyler, who leads the Paul Riis Legacy Preservation Volunteers (<http://paulriis.org/>) was our guide.

Paul Riis was the first director of Allegheny County Parks from 1928 to 1932. His vision was to integrate park features into the natural landscape, and he approached landscape architecture as fine art. He used native materials and strove to create naturalistic structures that could be used year-round.

After meeting in a central parking area for coffee and cookies, the group drove in a car caravan to the next parking site, from which they made a short hike to the Vale of Cashmere, once a series of connected pools fed by a nearby stream. The site had fallen into ruin and is still mostly buried, but Anne's organization has excavated and continues to maintain one of its large structures, a stone-ringed grassy area that fills with water when it rains. There we met several of the Paul Riis volunteers.

From the Vale of Cashmere, the caravan drove to the site of the former Swimming Pool on Corrigan Drive. The three pools were designed to look like natural mountain lakes, edged with layered stone, and they were also used in the winter for ice-skating. Most of the site is now covered in asphalt and the Flora Park Garden Center, which not only sells plants but has a mission to give back to the community, sponsoring fundraisers and donating to non-profit organizations. Garden Center director Randy Sterr showed us notable remnants of the swimming pool, including a lifeguard chair and a high diving board that are still in their original locations. Coincidentally, one of the women in our group had been a regular visitor before the pool was closed in the 1970s, and provided us with first-hand anecdotes about the experience. The large bath-house building is also still standing, and Randy explained that the Allegheny County Parks Foundation has a long-term vision of fully restoring the beautiful stone building and repurposing it.

Finally the caravan drove to the parking lot of the Cascades, the group of three connected stone-ringed wading pools that opened in 1929. It has been fully restored thanks to the efforts of Allegheny County, the Allegheny Parks Foundation, The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Penguins Foundation. We cooled our feet in the wading pools, climbed up or down to the adjoining pools, and enjoyed more refreshments. Visitors from the Swiss groups posed for a group photo in front of a small stone pavilion, also designed by Paul Riis. We presented a gift of thanks to Anne Oyler, a small Swiss-designed hand saw that her group can use in its continuing site maintenance work.

This event provided a glimpse of just a few of the many Paul Riis structures in South Park. In the future if there is interest, we may return to see more sites. The Golf Course, Scenic Overlook, Silent Brook, Nevin Shelter, Spreading Oak, the bison at the game preserve, the toboggan run and Spring House are just a few of the many features designed by Riis.

## Paul Riis Walking Tour Photos:

Anne Oyler tells about the history of the Vale of Cashmere

Volunteers at work maintaining the Vale of Cashmere structure



The original bathhouse of the swimming pool on Corrigan Drive

Fred Carlson locates the original lifeguard's chair



(Paul Riis Tour cont'd)

One of the three interconnected pools at The Cascades



Visitors pose with the Swiss flag at The Cascades



Event organizers Anne Oyler &  
Nancy Flury Carlson



Cooling off at the wading pool at  
The Cascades



## Lebendige Traditionen / Tradition vivantes / Tradizioni viventi / Tradiziuns vivas

### *Folk Dancing in Central Switzerland*

Public dance events underwent a major functional change in the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In many rural areas of Central Switzerland at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, they were only permitted on a few days of the year, in particular during Fasnacht and at fairs and weddings. After the Second World War, they evolved into one of many available leisure activities under the influence of global dance styles such as rock and roll, breakdance and salsa. Traditional dances –

in particular the Scottish, polka, waltz, mazurka, foxtrot, and Marsch-Fox (a combination of a march, a Scottish dance and foxtrot) styles – began increasingly to evoke a sense of home. Since the 1930s, the preservation of folk dancing traditions has been primarily the work of *Trachtenvereine* (associations for traditional costumes). In the 162 Central Swiss municipalities there are currently 904 such associations. They perform their dances mainly at folk festivals, association celebrations, traditional events and the *Urschweizer Trachtentag* (a folk festival at which people wear traditional costumes). One unique dance form is the traditional 'Bödälä' (also known as the 'Bedälä' and, in the Canton of Schwyz, the 'Gäuerle'), in which dancers stamp their feet on the floor in an expressive, rhythmical manner. The rhythms they create act as a percussive accompaniment to the traditional folk music (usually performed live).



A couple from Unterwald wearing traditional dress and preparing to dance, postcard, circa 1925. © Staatsarchiv Nidwalden, Stans



*The next generation make their debut: members of the Lucerne Kindertrachtengruppe step out at the Central Switzerland Trachtenfest in Willisau (LU), 2 June 2012. © Norbert Bossart, Willisauer Bote*

*For more information on the Living Traditions in Switzerland, go to [www.lebendige-traditionen.ch](http://www.lebendige-traditionen.ch).*

## **Sudoku Dates Back at Least to 1700s Switzerland**

Contrary to popular belief, Sudoku did not originate in Japan, although it did come of age there. One of its earliest forms was a variation on [magic squares](#) developed by Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler, who called it [“Latin Squares.”](#) It was a slightly simpler version of the game we know today: In modern Sudoku, solvers need to place a series of numbers so they only appear once in their corresponding row, column, and sub-grid, while Latin Squares used only rows and columns.

The modern Sudoku puzzle emerged in the 1970s as “Number Place,” published in Dell Puzzle Magazines and sometimes credited to a [retired architect in Indiana](#). A Japanese puzzle enthusiast named Maki Kaji “fell in love” with the game, renamed it Sudoku, and started printing puzzles through his game publishing company Nikoli. (The name is short for *sūji wa dokushin ni kagiru*, which means “the numerals must remain single” — that is, the digits must occur only once.) The idea spread quickly in Japan; unlike a crossword, you don’t need an alphabet to solve it, which is ideal when your [written language](#) doesn’t have an equivalent to the ABCs. Sudoku started [spreading back out](#) to Hong Kong, Britain, and eventually the United States in the late 1990s through the mid-2000s.

## **SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON REGISTRATION**

**Date: December 3, 2022**

**Time: 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Place: Teutonia Männerchor, 857 Phineas Street, Pittsburgh**

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

**Please make plans to attend the annual Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh Christmas Luncheon and Annual General Meeting at Teutonia! Please arrive punctually, as the Kinderchor is planning to do a short concert of German Christmas songs at noon!**

**The luncheon will feature Teutonia's traditional buffet. Coffee/soft drinks included; alcoholic beverage available for separate purchase. Price includes sales tax and gratuity.**

**After the luncheon, we will have our annual business meeting. We will not be having a Tombola, but please feel free to bring donations for the Swiss Nationality Room Scholarship Fund!**

**Please email ([lynbeth@msn.com](mailto:lynbeth@msn.com)) or call (412-480-1660) Lyndall Huggler to register, by Thursday, December 1, so that we can confirm with Teutonia our estimated attendance. Payment can be made on the day of the event (cash or check payable to the "Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh").**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL NOT BE A TOMBOLA THIS YEAR!**

SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH 2023 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please remit your membership dues for 2023 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, 2023, 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, please let us know if you can help with: Board of Directors / Auditors / Folk Festival / Swiss National Day Picnic / Christmas Luncheon / Events Helper / Publicity / Newsletter / Website / Swiss Singers / Swiss Nationality Room / Membership Recruitment / Anything Else That Floats Your Boat! Thanks!

Enclosed are my Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh dues (\$15.00\*) for calendar year 2023.

(\*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: [robert.schulz@uni-muenster.de](mailto:robert.schulz@uni-muenster.de)

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

## 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.