

# Switzerland

NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, PA  
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## President's Message

As we launch the first edition of our newsletter, we hope to bring about a new era of communication. This will be the vehicle to initiate new ideas, welcome new members, and introduce new officers. It will be a means for you to express your ideas and project constructive criticism. For those members who cannot attend all our functions this newsletter will serve as a link between you and the club' keeping you an informed member of our organization. Important information from the Consulates will be relayed via this source. We urge you to read each edition carefully, contribute articles, offer suggestions. Finally, I wish to thank Consul Heinz Kunz for suggesting this idea and to Rolf Kuehni for volunteering to undertake this project.

Henry Heer

## A Message from our Consul

In this first edition of the newsletter of the *Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh* I would like to take the opportunity to thank the editor, Rolf Kuehni, for initiating this publication and to congratulate him and the his contributors for a job well done. I certainly hope that this newsletter will continue to come to our homes and bring us

news and information of interest to the Swiss and friends of Switzerland of Greater Pittsburgh. During the 700th anniversary year there has been renewed interest in all things Swiss and many new members have joined the Swiss-American Society. I hope that this renewed attention will continue and stimulate new activities of the society and attract even more members.

Members who are not able to regularly attend the social functions of the society should find the newsletter helpful in keeping informed of the society's activities. As for my part, I intend to use the newsletter as a vehicle to communicate to you items of interest, such as upcoming cultural events, or other particulars that could be of concern to you.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the August First picnic on August 8, 1992. I am wishing all of you a pleasant summer!

Heinz Kunz

## A Message from the Editor

This is the first edition of a newsletter of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh, PA. Our current plan is to issue the newsletter three times a year to keep our members informed about activities in the Society as well as general news that may be of interest to them. It is your newsletter. Please send

## OFFICERS

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me your contributions that you think might be of interest to other members, for inclusion in future issues. You find my address on the front page.

*Rolf Kuehni*

## Our new Members

Due to the courtesy of Ambassador Erismann, Consul General of Switzerland in New York, his staff, our Consul Heinz Kunz and our President Henry Heer, we were able to mail an informative letter about our society and a membership application to potential new members. Quite a few new membership applications were received, boosting our total membership to date to 205 members.

We wish to welcome the following new members for 1992 and hope they will be a part of our society for many years to come:

Gregg and Patty Harrison

Dr. Peter and Kaarina Wipf

Mr. and Mrs. C. Zimmermann

John C. and Sarah A. Werren

Alfred Mayenzet

Daniel and Regina Gilgen

Dr. and Mrs. Jack W. Fisch

Mr. Wallace and Mrs. J.M.

Devereux

Ernst and Dorothy Steffin

Kristen Spichiger

Sanjay and Valene Shendge

Eric and Andrea Haldimann

Frank and Michelle Domeisen

Thomas Martin Stucker

Mr. and Mrs. B. Kinnunen

Werner and Elisabeth Kiener

We look forward to meeting you at our picnic, August 8, 1992, at Rose Grove, North Park.

*Trudy Kuenzi*

## Attention!

A genuine "Swiss Steinstossen" (stone throwing) competition will be inaugurated on August 8, 1992 at the annual picnic. The rules of this new event will be read at the time of the competition. Join in the fun. Perhaps you will be the Steinstossen Champion for 1992 and take home the prize!

## The Society's Spring Luncheon

A Spring Luncheon Meeting was held on May 16, 1992 at "Jacks" in Sarver, Pa. Mother Nature provided a beautiful spring day with plenty of sunshine. The hills of Pittsburgh were dressed in their finest greenery.

The invocation was given by John Fankhauser. After a delicious buffet, a dessert of Peach Schnaps Ice Cream and home-made Braetzel was served at the table.

President Henri Heer called the meeting to order. He welcomed old and new members and guests and introduced the officers and board members: Vice President Rolf Kuehni; Secretary Liz Ann Madamma; Treasurer Florence Jacob; Membership Secretary Trudy Kuenzi; and Directors Betty Fankhauser, William Wenger, William Englert and Bruce Kuenzi.

Consul Heinz Kunz advised the Society of a series of Swiss Contemporary and Animated Films that are being shown at the Carnegie Museum of Art during May and June. He introduced the guest speaker Mr. Larry Evans who spoke of Pittsburgh's Sister City project.

"Spirit of Switzerland," a video produced by the Swiss National Tourist Office and sponsored by the Swiss Embassy, was shown to the members. Judging by the

reactions, the film was enjoyed by all. President Heer reminded those present of the upcoming Annual Picnic scheduled for Saturday August 8, 1992 at the Rose Barn in North Park.

*Pat Heer*

### **Helvetia Maennerchor**

Our Pittsburgh Swiss singers, the Helvetia Maennerchor, will again entertain us with Swiss songs, yodels, and Thaler Schwingen at the August 8th picnic in North Park. Their singing and yodeling have earned them many engagements. On August 2nd, they will perform at the Swiss Hall in Columbus, Ohio, where a two-day celebration honoring the Swiss National Holiday, August 1st, will take place.

*Elisabeth Montgomery*

### **New York Consulate Has a New Deputy Consul**

Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania is in Switzerland's New York consular district. The Consulate General in New York is headed by Ambassador Hans-Peter Erismann. Recently, he was joined by a new Deputy Consul, Mr. Erich Wirth. Mr. Wirth is the Head of the Commercial Section. He last served in Rabat in Morocco. His primary duties are to reply to all commercial inquiries from U.S. firms wishing to source products and services from Switzerland and to provide information about the Swiss economy, trade fairs, etc., conduct partner searches, assist visiting Swiss businessmen, and promote U.S. investments in Switzerland. You can reach the Swiss Consulate General in New York at 212-758-2560.

### **Swiss News on the Radio**

Like many other countries, Switzerland

maintains a radio news service for its compatriots and friends around the world. News, general information, commentary and entertainment is being broadcast every day of the week in several languages (including, naturally, English) over short wave bands at convenient times. If you are interested in what the Swiss think about international developments or what the latest news in Switzerland is, if you want to hear old and new music of Switzerland or if you want to practise your German, tune in! If you drop a note to Consul Heinz Kunz (412-621-1343) he will send you a brochure listing frequencies and times. A good short wave radio is available for about \$100 at specialized stores.

### **Planning a Trip to Switzerland?**

With today's value of the dollar a trip to Switzerland is not inexpensive. Help is available, though, from a brochure recently issued by the Swiss Hotel Association. Under the title "Country Inns" it lists about 100 small hotels throughout Switzerland which are family owned and managed. Prices start at Sfr. 30 for bed and breakfast per night. The brochure is available free of charge from the Swiss Hotel Association, PO Box, CH-3001 Bern, Switzerland.

### **Did You Know?**

- that the Romans during their occupation of what later became Switzerland developed an extensive road system criss-crossing Switzerland? Many of these roads have been known continuously and are often named "Roemerweg" (Roman path). Others have been rediscovered only in recent times. Several crossed the Alps in various places, e.g. over the Septimer, Maloja, and Julier passes. In many places stone-paved roads with deep wheel ruts from extensive use can

be seen.

- that christianisation in Switzerland started already in the 4th century? Recently, when renovating the church in Martigny in the Valais, the foundations and floor of a large Romanic church, a Roman villa, and many gravesites were found. All indications point to the church having been that of the bishop Tehodul of Octodurus, first mentioned in documents of the year 381. When the excavations are completed the remains of the early church will be partly open to the public.

- Pennsylvania is about two-and-a-half times the size of Switzerland in area?

### Aus der Witztruhe

Eine Schweizer Familie verbringt Ferien in einem alten englischen Schloss. Die Frau flüstert mitten in der Nacht: "Du, do ine spukt es Gschpängscht oder öppis ähnlichs. Gang emol go luege!" Der Gatte: "Gang sälber go luege! Du plagiersch doch vor de Goofe immer mit diine Englischkänntnis."