



# Switzerland



NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Volume 7, No. 1

Summer 1998

## Swiss Nationality Room News

*The Room Committee*

The May 2, 1998 Fundraiser for the Nationality Room Fund account was a success! 102 attendees paid \$1,530.- in entrance fees to enjoy the festivities featuring the Hauskappelle Band, the Okunewick Familie on bells and alphorns, the Pittsburgh Kinderchor, and the Helvetia Maennerchor. The hors d'ouerves table managed by Walter Schaller was a hit, as was the Silent Auction which raised another \$1,100.-. But the true star of the evening was the generosity of the membership and guests who supported our dream of a Swiss Room at the University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning by giving an additional \$8,300.-!! The donor book is being recorded and will long feature this first group of generous Swiss! Thank you all! ♦

## Picnic Fun For All

*Fred Carlson*

Ninety-seven Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh members and guests enjoyed glorious weather on Saturday, August 1, 1998, to celebrate the annual Independence Day picnic at the Rose Barn in North Park. Photobards of the 1997 picnic and the May 2 Nationality Room Fundraiser were on display and Pro Patria pins with the sunflower motif were exceptionally beautiful. Remarks about the Nationality Room and overall diplomatic remarks were made by Dr. Heinz Kunz, Honorary Consul. The Society's activities for the year were reviewed by President Fred Carlson. Koni Ostertag informed the assembled about the upcoming August 28-30 Sommerfest at Station Square. The Helvetia Maennerchor entertained us as a breeze blew across the lake and the cantonal flags fluttered

on the barn facade. The Steinstossen male division was won by Alphonse Murer and the womens division was won by Lilo Baiker. Rita Gubser won the peanut guessing game with a guess of 450 peanuts in the jar, and Helen Lange came within one ounce of the correct weight of the watermelon at 25 lb. 1 oz. We're sorry, we did not write down the names of the balloon toss winners. Congratulations to all.

Games were handled by Bruce and Trudy Kuenzi and Ernie Gubser in their typical efficient manner. Thanks to: Frank Gloor (sound and '99 permit), Lizann Maddamma (peanut and watermelon games), Koni Ostertag (beer, pop, Maennerchor), Gloria Sutter ('98 permit), Sandy and Linda Kuenzi (registration booth), Heinz Kunz (Pro Patria pins), McDade's Garden Café (catering), Rosan Habegger and Florence Jacob (tombola), Henry Tengowski (additional sound), and any and all who helped make the picnic a success. Thanks again to the Society Board who organizes this welcome midsummer event and we'll see you at the Rose Barn next year on July 31, 1999!

*Note on Picnic Pricing:* Each year the picnic planners receive numerous questions about the prices for attending the August First Picnic. In particular, many comment on the amount charged for those bringing their own picnic food. Major components of the picnic cost are the permit for the park site (\$250 in 1998), the cost of the beer, soda, cups, and ice (\$125 in 1998) and frequently there is also some type of cost for entertainment. Tombola prizes are also purchased by the club, although tombola ticket sales generally recoup these costs. All of these costs are factored evenly into the prices all attendees. ♦

We have 198 members at this time. We wish to welcome the following new members: Dr. Joseph and Heidi Novak; Joseph and Judy Schiavi; Ken and Donna Limmer; B. Alan Guthrie III and Mary Stewart; Anne Marie Frick and daughters Kristina, Stefanie, and Andrea; Barbara MacQuown and daughter Isabella; Hans Rigganbach; Lilo Baiker; and Patrick and Vera Koeppel Ducruet. We hope they will enjoy any years of enjoying the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh. We are always looking for new members of Swiss heritage or friends of Switzerland.

Since our last newsletter we have lost the following members who have served our Swiss-American Society since the beginning of the organization: Florence Gerber Cappe, Marie Leuenberger, Fred Gerber, Bette Montgomery, and Harry Jacob. Our sincere sympathy goes out to all their families.

Rose Lienhard, a member since 1978, celebrated her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday May 7, 1998 at Concordia Lutheran Home, Cabot, PA. With her two daughters, Trudy Kuenzi and Ruth Blank, husband Phil, 2 grandchildren Bruce Kuenzi and Marly Blank, Martha Schoenthal, her aide, and friend Lois Posavac with various residents of the home. Thanks to the members who sent cards it was greatly appreciated by Rose. Fred Henzie, our Swiss Consular Agent and member for many years before and since the Society was in existence had celebrated 104 birthdays. He stands as our oldest member, having passed away in 1979. (Editors note: Our picnic announcement mistakenly gave the impression that Herr Henzie was still with us! Sorry for the error!) +

## Ambassador's Report: New Address in New York

*Jacques Reverdin, Ambassador*

After eleven years at the present location in the Rolex Building, the Swiss Consulate has outgrown its premises and is moving to new office space. The Swiss Confederation has purchased two floors on Third Avenue which will house both the Consulate General and the Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, resulting in significant long term savings.

New address effective July 20, 1998:

Consulate General of Switzerland  
633 Third Avenue 30<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York NY 10017-6706

Phone: 212 599 5700  
Fax: 212 599 4266

+

# SOMMERFEST

**German - Austrian - Swiss**

Sponsored by  
The Alliance of Germanic Societies of Pittsburgh  
and Di Cesare Engler

**August 28, 29 and 30, 1998**  
**Festival Tent at Station Square**  
**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

**Ethnic Food \* Ethnic Dancing \* Imported Gifts**

**Continuous Live Entertainment**

**By the Following Bands:**

Friday:	The Barons
	Al Nowak's Edelweiss
Saturday:	Starlite
	Joe Wendel Orchestra
Sunday:	Hank Haller Ensemble
	Heimatklang

**For Information, Call: 412-420-8808 or 724-941-6336**

## Report From Helvetia, WV

Board members Fred and Nancy Carlson recently visited Helvetia, West Virginia for their second visit there in early July. We were shocked to find that while our region was battling some tornados and hailstorms in freak June storms, the branch of the Buckhannon Creek that flows through the heart of tiny Helvetia, WV had flooded to record levels at the same time! The Hutte and Beehive Inn and craft store had one story deep waters around them but gratefully have recovered fully. Not so lucky was the Cheesehaus and Pottery Barn, both heavily damaged. The town is as delightful as ever, with the town green ringed with flower boxes and the Swiss flag and three other cantonal flags represented on the bridge through town. The library is open 30 hours a week and the museum is open by appointment with the librarian! The complimentary breakfast served by the hostess/owner Eleanor Mailloux was absolutely incredible and we couldn't recommend a stay there any more highly. We were informed

that they present a Swiss Festival every September during the second weekend. This year that will be September 10-12 if you are interested in going. Contact Eleanor F. Mailloux Swiss Village of Helvetia, Helvetia WV 26224 (304)924-6435 for accommodations and meal reservations at the Hutte. +

## French and Italian Swiss Needed

The Swiss Nationality Room Committee is actively seeking French and Italian Swiss in the Western Pennsylvania area to be members of the Committee. We want to represent all the regions of Switzerland and we have 4 or 5 slots left for representing the French cantons and Ticino. Of course, anyone from the region speaking Romansch is also welcome. Please advise such people to contact Dr. Kunz (412) 967-9123 or Fred Carlson (412)856-0982 as soon as possible. +

## Swiss Web Sites

Here are a few useful internet sites for information about Switzerland. Remember, if you don't have internet access at home, most public libraries in the Pittsburgh region offer free internet access, so ask your librarian. For a sample of the type of information available on the Swiss Embassy web site, see the next article on the origin of the Swiss flag.

**Embassy of Switzerland in the United States**  
[www.swissemb.org/](http://www.swissemb.org/)

**Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce**  
[www.amcham.ch/](http://www.amcham.ch/)

**Nationality Rooms Official Website**  
[www.pitt.edu/~natnlyrm/countries/natrooms.html](http://www.pitt.edu/~natnlyrm/countries/natrooms.html)

**Swiss Stock Exchange**  
[www.bourse.ch/](http://www.bourse.ch/)

**University of Zurich Information -Switzerland**  
[www.ethz.ch/swiss/Switzerland\\_Info.html](http://www.ethz.ch/swiss/Switzerland_Info.html)

### Yahoo Switzerland Links

[www.yahoo.com/Regional/Countries/Switzerland/](http://www.yahoo.com/Regional/Countries/Switzerland/)

**National Center for Swiss-American Studies**  
[www.usaswiss.org/swissweb/](http://www.usaswiss.org/swissweb/)

**Federal Authorities of the Swiss Confederation**  
[www.admin.ch/](http://www.admin.ch/)

**Lycos Switzerland Travel Links**  
[cityguide.lycos.com/europe/switzerland/](http://cityguide.lycos.com/europe/switzerland/)

**City.Net Switzerland Links**  
[www.city.net/countries/switzerland/](http://www.city.net/countries/switzerland/)

## The Origin of the Swiss Flag

from: [www.swissemb.org/info/html/swiss\\_flag.html](http://www.swissemb.org/info/html/swiss_flag.html)

Among the flags of contemporary European countries, that of Switzerland is one of the most ancient and one of the most modern. It has a white cross in a red field; the cross is the same length on all sides and each arm is one-sixth longer than its width. The flag looks back upon 700 years of history. To trace its origin, one must go right back to the very beginning of the confederation. Already in the early Middle Ages, the cross was, more or less, commonly used on coins and seals and, as a symbol of the Christian faith, it was carried into battle on the banners of the various warring parties.

Documents and records show that the white cross, which appeared on the banner of Schwyz (one of the first Cantons which gave its name to Switzerland) in the year 1240, had been bestowed upon the Canton by the Emperor Frederick II as a token of its freedom. And from that time onwards, the citizens of the confederation used a white cross, made of long strips of linen, as their common sign in battle to distinguish themselves from their enemies. Every man in the army either wore it on his tunic or on his armor.

Although each Canton had its own flag in battle, every Swiss carried the white cross as his battle standard.

As the national flag, the white cross first appeared on a red background on the Confederation's seal in 1814. It has been officially in use since 1848, when Switzerland was transformed from a loose federation of different Cantons into the present Confederation with a central government. Its acceptance as the national flag is mainly due to the initiative of General Dufour.

The use of the red cross on a white background, which is actually the Swiss flag reversed, was granted to the International Red Cross to commemorate the organization founded by Henri Dunant, citizen of Geneva. Indeed, the plenipotentiaries of 35 nations, assembled in Geneva on July 6, 1906 to revise the "Geneva Convention," stated as follows in the enacting clause concerning the symbol of the International Red Cross: "To do homage to Switzerland, the heraldic arms of the Red Cross on a white field, which is formed by reversal of the Swiss Federal arms, shall be maintained as a distinctive emblem of the medical services of most armies. +

### Current Board of Directors: Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Fred Carlson, 118 Monticello Dr., Monroeville, PA 15146	412-856-0982
<b>VICE PRESIDENT:</b>	Frank Gloor, 312 Ridgeway Dr., Baden, PA 15005	724-869-3961
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	Nancy Flury Carlson, 118 Monticello Dr., Monroeville, PA 15146	412-856-0982
<b>TREASURER:</b>	Walter Schaller, 104 Hilgler Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15209	412-821-7734
<b>MEMBERSHIP:</b>	Trudi Kuenzi, 207 Churchill Rd., Turtle Creek, PA 15145	412-823-1867
<b>DIRECTORS:</b>	Connie Ostertag, Lizann Maddama, Al Von Arx, Rosan Habegger	

### ***"Schweizerpsalm"***

Trittst im Morgenrot daher,  
seh' ich dich im Strahlenmeer,  
dich, du Hocherhabener, Herrlicher !  
Wenn der Alpenfirm sich rötet,  
bietet, freie Schweizer betet !  
Eure fromme Seele ahnt,  
eure fromme Seele ahnt  
Gott im hehren Vaterland,  
Gott, im hehren Vaterland

Kommst im Abendglühn daher,  
find ich dich im Sternenheer,  
dich, du Menschenfreundlicher, Liebender !  
In des Himmels lichten Räumen  
kann ich froh und selig träumen;  
denn die fromme Seele ahnt,  
denn die fromme Seele ahnt  
Gott im hehren Vaterland,  
Gott, im hehren Vaterland

Fährst im wilden Sturm daher,  
bist du selbst uns Hort und Wehr,  
du allmächtig Wältender, Rettender !  
In Gewitternacht und Grauen  
lässt uns kindlich ihm vertrauen !  
Ja, die fromme Seele ahnt,  
ja, die fromme Seele ahnt  
Gott im hehren Vaterland,  
Gott, im hehren Vaterland

### ***"Schweizerpsalm"***

When the morning skies grow red  
and over us their radiance shed  
Thou, O Lord, appeareth in their light  
when the alps glow bright with splendor,  
pray to God, to Him surrender  
for you feel and understand  
that He dwelleth in this land

In the sunset Thou art night  
and beyond the starry sky  
Thou, O loving father, ever near,  
when to Heaven we are departing  
joy and bliss Thou'lt be imparting  
for we feel and understand  
that Thou dwellest in this land

When dark clouds enshroud the hills  
and gray mist the valley fills  
yet Thou art not hidden from thy sons  
pierce the gloom in which we cower  
with Thy sunshine's cleansing power  
then we'll feel and understand  
that God dwelleth in this land

### ***Hymne national suisse (French translation)***

Sur nos monts quand le soleil annonce un brillant  
réveil  
et predit d'un plus beaujour le retour,  
Les beautes de la patrie,  
Parlent a l'Âme attendrie.  
Au ciel montent plus joyeux,  
An ciel montent plus joyeux,  
Les accents d'un cœur pieux,  
Les accents d'un cœur pieux.

Lorsqu'un, doux rayon du soir  
Jous encor dans le bois noir,  
Le couer se sent plus heureux, pres de Dieu!  
Loin des vains braits de la plaine,  
L'ame en paix est plus sereine:  
Au ciel montent plus joyeux  
Les accents d'un cœur pieux.

Lorsque dans la sombre nuit  
La foudre eclate avec bruit,  
Notre couer present encor le Dieu fort;  
Dans l'orage et la detresse,  
Il est notre forteresse.  
Offrons-lui des couers pieux  
Dieu nous benira des oieux.

Source: Consular mailing 1971 found in  
Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh archives

*From www.ethz.ch/swiss/Swiss\_Anthems.html  
Source: "Schweizer Singbuch Oberschule, 7. Auflage 1961"*

From the Consulate of Switzerland:

The Consulate of Switzerland in Pittsburgh has new phone and Fax numbers:

Phone: 412 967-6038  
Fax: 412 967-6039  
E-mail [hwk@usaor.net](mailto:hwk@usaor.net)

The address remains the same:

P.O. Box 7379  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-0379

Attached please find a rather large list of Swiss radio stations that are listed on the internet. Some of them have *live music* and what I find very interesting is that one can listen to News, Wunschkonzerte, etc. in Swiss dialects. A good example is *Radio Zürisee*, <http://www.radio.ch> which broadcasts 24 hours music (not to my taste) and local News. It is the next best thing of being there in person! Try it! If you are interested in other Swiss internet listings give me a call or send e-mail and I will try to find it.

With kind regards, *Heinz W. Kunz*

**Schweizer Radios**

**Schweizer Statistikfunk**  
<http://www.dfrs.ch>  
**DRS**  
**RRR La Première**  
<http://www.espace2.ch/laPremiere/index.asp>  
**RRR Couleur 3**  
<http://www.couleur3.ch/cyber3/home.asp>  
**TSI Rete 1**  
<http://www.ts1.ch/tele1/welcome.htm>  
**TSI Rete 2**  
<http://www.ts1.ch/tele2/welcome.htm>  
**TSI Rele 3**  
<http://www.ts1.ch/tele3/welcome.htm>  
**Schweizer Radio International** <http://www.sra-sri.ch/SRI/index.html>

**Radio 24** <http://www.cantonet.ch/young/radio24-de.html>  
**Radio 32** <http://www.vsonline.ch/seiten/radio32/32.html>  
**Radio 3i** <http://www.3iach.ch/>  
**Radio Aktuell** <http://www.radioaktuell.ch/>  
**Radio Argovia** <http://www.argovia.ch/>  
**Radio Basilik** <http://www.basilisk.ch/>  
**Radio Bero** <http://www.radiobero.ch/>  
**Radio Central** <http://www.radiocentral.ch/>  
**Radio Emme** <http://www.radioemme.ch>  
**ERF** <http://www.erf.ch/>  
**Radio Eulach** <http://www.winti.ch/radioeulach>  
**Radio Eviva** <http://www.eviva.ch>  
**Radio Fréquence Banane** <http://www.eff.ch/>  
**Radio Fribourg** <http://www.fribourg.ch/RadioFribourg>  
**Radio Förderband** <http://www.loedelband.ch/>  
**Radio Grischia** <http://www.radiogrischia.ch/>  
**Radio Kantal K** <http://www.kantal-k.ch/>  
**Radio Munot** <http://www.radiomunot.ch>  
**Network 105** <http://www.105.ch>  
**Radio Platatus** <http://www.radio-platatus.ch>  
**Radio R1** <http://www.r1.ch/BuchsMedienRadio/>  
**Radio Rottu** <http://www.rhonne.ch/rotu/index.html>  
**Schaaffhauser Alternative** <http://www.weblhome.ch/rasa/>  
**Radio Sunshine** <http://www.sunshine.ch>  
**Radio Thurgau** <http://www.thurgauonline.ch/doc/radio/thurgau.htm>  
**Radio Top** <http://www.radiotop.ch/>  
**Radio Wil** <http://www.swissinfo.ch/radiowil/>  
**Radio X** <http://www.kirschhaerten.ch/www/>  
**Radio Z** <http://www.radioz.ch/>  
**Radio Zermatt** <http://www.radiozermatt.html>  
**ZOOM Radio** <http://www.zoomradio.ch/>

*Sent out July 98  
with Presid  
mail*

## SWISS NATIONALITY ROOM FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS!

The May 2, 1998 Swiss Nationality Room Fundraiser attracted 102 ticket buyers to the event. The ticket buyers raised \$1530.- toward the goal of \$5000.- we needed to raise to reserve a room in the Cathedral of Learning Nationality Room program. The silent auction raised another \$1018.- Walt Schaller, our treasurer and designated chef du jour, smartly resold some of our bounteous hors d'ouerves platters to members for another \$200.- The generous gifts and bequests donated at the event, and before and after the event via the mail, raised our Nationality Room account to \$11,033.- At press time, the Nationality Room Committee, with 9 people who have agreed to participate, plans to present Chancellor Nordenberg with our letter of intent and our bequest check sometime between late June and our picnic.

Thanks to the Board and membership of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh for their planning and generosity. Thanks to the Familie Okuniwick, Pittsburgh Kinderchor, Helvetia Maennerchor, and Hauskapelle for the musical quality of the evening. The Schallers did a superb job with many tastes of Switzerland available for the eating. Thanks to Honorary Consul Heinz Kunz and Trudy Kuenzi for their remarks, and to Bruce and Beth Kuenzi for decorating assistance and the map and "Tell Apples" fundraising ideas. All who donated items to the Silent Auction as well as all those who whether by ticket purchase, gift, or auction purchase gave their financial support to this endeavor receive our warmest thanks.

## SWISS COMMITTEE SEEKS FRENCH AND ITALIAN SPEAKING SWISS

Recent outreaches from the Swiss of Western Pennsylvania have included the search for French and Italian speaking Swiss to join the Nationality Room Committee. This is necessary for the Room project to represent the totality of the Swiss Confederation, including all ethnic groups. The Alliance Francaise du Pittsburgh is trying to help locate interested French Swiss, and we are trying to locate Italian Swiss via the Tyroleze Club and other Italian social groups. If anyone knows Swiss who speak French or Italian please refer them to Dr. Kunz or Fred Carlson.

**"SWITZERLAND" Newsletter** available at picnic! If you can't make the picnic you'll receive a copy in the mail!

## MEMBERSHIP GROWS!

Trudy Kuenzi reports 192 members at press time. New members include Dr. Joseph & Heidi Novak, Jean & Vera Ducruet, Ken & Donna Limmer, B. Alan Guthrie III & Mary Stewart, and Joseph & Judi Schiavi. We congratulate Rose Lienhard on her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday and Fred Henzie on his 104<sup>th</sup> birthday! Members passing since the last newsletter include Florence Gerber Cappe, Betty Montgomery, Harry Jacob, Marie Leuenberger, and Fred Gerber; all will be much missed by our Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh.

## AREA CODE UPDATE

If your area code has recently changed, please indicate your new number on your picnic registration, or contact Fred or Nancy Carlson at phone number 412-856-0982, fax 412-856-0983, email [73143.2541@compuserve.com](mailto:73143.2541@compuserve.com) or 118 Monticello Dr., Monroeville, PA 15146.

See you all at the August 1<sup>st</sup> Picnic!

Your President,

Fred Carlson

