



Switzerland



NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

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Autumn 2000

President's Report

by Frank Gloor

Christmas Luncheon

The annual Pittsburgh Swiss Christmas luncheon will again be held at Tambellini's Restaurant on 860 Saw Mill Run Blvd. The time is noon on December 2, 2000. The luncheon format will be a business meeting, which will include the results of the 2001 SAS Board member election. This year the three member nominating committee was made up of Fred Carlson, Ernie Gubser and chairperson, Bruce Kuenzi. After the business meeting a tombola will take place, so bring your gift of a tombola prize.

Swiss Independence Day Picnic

On July 29th after a very threatening weather forecast of severe thunderstorms due at 3:00 pm, the Swiss Independence Day Picnic at Rose Barn, North Park, turned out to be a pleasant happening. I heard someone say that it doesn't rain on Swiss Picnics. In this case it proved to be true. The total attendance was approximately 95 people. We participated in the fun and games, renewed old friendships and made new ones. The winners of the Steinstossen were Donald Stettner and Colleen Harrison. The balloon toss champs were Rosemary Gubser and Ken Hendrick.

A special thank you goes out to our volunteers, who made this day a success. Some of these were: Trudy and Bruce Kuenzi-children's games, Ernie Gubser-Steinstossen and balloon toss, Lizann Maddamma-peanuts and watermelon guessing game. The registration table and Pro-pata pin sales were handled by our membership secretary Dr. Valerie Harvey. Supplying us with the good food this year was Fran's Catering, acquired by Charles Buenzli. Rosan Habegger and Florence Jacob took care of the tombola. I can't list everyone who helped, as the numbers were too numerous.

A new member, John Smith has been approved by the board of directors. John filled out an application at this year's picnic. He found out about the Swiss American Society when he acted as our guide at the Nationality Room tour prior to the spring luncheon. A warm welcome is extended to John.

Swiss Nationality Room News

The Alliance of Germanic Societies of Pittsburgh comprised of the Germans, Austrians, and the Swiss held the German Day Ball on Friday, October 6, 2000. This event at the South Hill's Country Club celebrates the arrival of the first German immigrant to North America in 1683 on the sailing ship, the Con-

cord. A five hundred dollar contribution was made to each of the three member groups. The German and Austrian gift was sent toward their University of Pittsburgh Scholarship Fund. Frank Gloor (representing the Swiss-American Society) and Fred Carlson (vice chairman of the Nationality Room Committee) were pleased to accept five hundred dollars for the development of our room. In addition one hundred and seventy dollars from the Independence Day Picnic silent auction can be added to this.

Creative Development: Herr Zoelli of Zurich, registered architect suggested by Alex Bally, has full copies of the room 321 area working drawings from Pitt. We are waiting for his input regarding the implementation of our committee's abstract (education, native materials, 1750s time frame, Pestalozzi and Rousseau featured). We are under no obligation to contract with Herr Zoelli, we are just looking for his desired participation and ideas as a starting point. Harry Zaugg, another artist suggested by Hanna Widrig, has retired from the profession after a Ticinese museum project fell through and he isn't interested in pursuing this project any further.

Dr. Heinz Kunz encourages all members of the Swiss American Society to give generously to the room fund and to continue to communicate fund raising ideas on a local level to our committee. After the fund raising booklet is completed, it will be possible to approach large donors with a consistent message that has pictures and text together to fuel the fund raising message.

This project is exciting and is on top of Pitt's list as well as ours. Any questions

call Fred Carlson at 412 856 0982. E-mail: fred@carlsonstudio.com

Treasurer's Report

by Walter Schaller

We have a balance of \$4506.80 as of September 30, 2000. Income since June 30, 2000 was \$961.00 and expenses were \$713.59

Pittsburgh Swiss Singers

by Conrad Ostertag

June 29-July 2, 2000 were the dates of the 36th Saengerfest of the North American Swiss Singing Association (NASSA) in Edmonton, Canada.

Approximately 450 singers comprised of members of at least 20 singing and yodeling groups from the Eastern United States and Eastern and Western parts of Canada, participated in the tri-annual competition. These groups also included four guest choirs from Berneck, Laupen, Engelburg and Neiderwil, Switzerland, and three West Coast choirs.

We are happy to report that our local men's choir, Helvetia Maennerchor of Allegheny City (Pittsburgh Swiss Singers), were the proud first place winners in the "difficult artistic" category. With only thirteen singers currently active in the group, we feel this is quite an accomplishment, and an honor to bring home to our Swiss Community in Pittsburgh.

As for the rest of the activities during the Saengerfest, everyone enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of our Canadian compatriots in their beautiful city of Edmonton. All our singers and their

wives and families agreed it was a most pleasant (and proudly productive) trip.

Our Maennerchor is dedicated to the tradition of Swiss song and would like to invite you to join our group on Sunday's at 1:30 pm at St. Canice's Church in Beltzhoover. Call Koni Ostertag at 724-898-3029 or Bob Bayer 412-431-2189 for information.

Remembering Samichlaus

Annemarie Frick

December was an exciting month for us children: first came Samichlaus on December 6th, the Christchindli on the 24th! Samichlaus looks different depending on the region you live in. I grew up in Eastern Switzerland near the Bodensee (Lake of Constance). In that area St.Nickolaus or Samichlaus appears as a bishop, dressed in his best garb. He is accompanied by Schmutzli, his helper. Schmutzli is a rather scary figure, dressed in a dark hooded robe.

Most vividly I remember the pair visiting us in Kindergarten. Samichlaus carried two fat books: a golden one and a

black one. Good deeds were found in the golden book, children who behaved badly during the year were written up in the black book. of course the latter were mostly boys!

Schmutzli carried a big sack, filled with nuts, mandarin oranges, chocolates and other goodies. The treats were distributed after we had sung our well prepared songs and recited memorized poems. Schmutzli's sack had another purpose. Very bad kids (again-mostly boys!) were threatened to be stuffed into the bag and taken away! I have to add that during my career as a kid I only saw that happen once!

In the evening Samichlaus went from house to house. Weren't we ever so surprised about him knowing so much about us! I have heard about kids, who were so scared that they would try to hide. Others were nervous about remembering the lines of their poems. The majority of us, however, was just wonderfully excited

Now that Samichlaus had left for another year it was time to prepare for Christmas.

Sami Klaus Party

Saturday, December 9, 2000 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Teutonia Mannerchor

The Swiss-American Society will again hold its annual Sami Klaus Party in conjunction with the Teutonia Kinderchor. Pizza and soft drinks will be provided for the children and are included in the registration fee. A sandwich buffet will be provided for the adults, funded by a donation jar. The traditional treat bags and visit from Sami Klaus are planned. The cost is \$5.00 per Family. Please register on the enclosed form and mail by Monday, November 20, 2000.

Annual Swiss Christmas Luncheon

When: Saturday, December 2, 2000

Where: Louis Tambellini Restaurant (Route 51)
860 Saw Mill Run Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15236
412 481 1118

Schedule: Noon Cash bar and plated lunch

After Lunch Business Meeting followed by a Tombola

Menu: Choice of three entrees:

Fresh Filet of Salmon Broiled with Lemon Butter
Breaded Boneless Chicken Breast a La Milanese
Broiled 8oz. Sirloin Steak with Fresh Mushrooms

Entrees includes Fresh Fruit Cup, Tossed salad with House Dressing, Rice, Rolls and Butter.

Cost: \$17.00 per person

What to Bring: Tombola donations

Registration: Send enclosed registration form and check payable to Swiss American Society of Pittsburgh by Monday, November 20, 2000 to:

Charles Buenzli
2571 Barnwood Drive
Wexford, PA 15090



Don't forget to vote!



It is time to vote for next year's Board and Officers. Even if you cannot attend the Christmas Luncheon or the Sami Klaus Party, please fill out the Ballot section of the registration form and return it by Monday, November 20, 2000 to Charles Buenzli.