



Switzerland



NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Volume 10, No. 2

Summer 2001

President's Report

by Frank Gloor

Swiss Night at the Teutonia was great! First of all, the Swissair round trip to Zurich, Switzerland was won by my son John Gloor. Needless to say, I was quite taken back when Christine Maddamma, daughter of Tim and Lizzann Maddamma, pulled the winning ticket from the middle of the raffle cage and I had to announce his name.

There are many of us who made this fun filled evening possible. Charles Buenzli, our Swiss Club secretary, was solely responsible for getting Swissair to donate the tickets. Walter Schaller with his close associations at the Teutonia Club, took care of all the details from the dinner menu to the entertainment. Most of the Chinese Auction items were acquired from Robert's European Imports, New Glarus, Wisconsin at a 25% discount with some of the prizes as an outright donation by Mr. Roberts, himself. Without a doubt the lion's share of the kudos go to the ones who came to dinner that night, for it would have never happened without you.

A total of three thousand dollars (\$3000.) was raised benefiting the Swiss Nationality Class Room Project. We have now reached the \$25,000 point.

Swiss Nationality Room News

excerpts from an article by Fred Carlson in the Pitt Nationality Rooms and international Exchange Program Newsletter

The Swiss Room Committee reports a \$3000.- contribution netted from the proceeds of the recent Swiss Night held at the Teutonia Club, North Side, Pittsburgh. The monies were generated from dinner profits, a raffle for Swissair tickets, and other auctions at the event. This is in addition to \$1600.- received at the Christmas luncheon last December. The Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh hosted the recent Swiss Night, an evening of Swiss dining and Swiss entertainment. The famed Helvetia Mannerchor (who finished first in last year's North American Sangerfest in Edmonton, Canada), incorporating a capella singing in the Landler style and other cantonal traditional styles, highlighted the evening's entertainment. The O'Kunewick family provided alphorn playing, bell playing, and zither playing and the traditional band Hauskapelle entertained the audience after the Swissair raffle was held. The entire Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh board deserves many thanks for this wonderful evening.

A new brochure describing the history of the Swiss in Western Pennsylvania and

the plans for the fund raising and design of the Swiss Nationality Room was unveiled at this Swiss Night event. Copies of this brochure are available from the Nationality Rooms office, the tour desk, or from the Swiss Committee: Fred Carlson, Vice Chair Swiss Nationality Room Committee, 118 Monticello Drive, Monroeville PA 15146 or e-mail your request to: fred@carlsonstudio.com.

This handsome brochure was written by Chairman Heinz Kunz, Honorary Consul of Switzerland, with extensive research assistance from Evelyn Ruffing. The art and design was donated by Vice Chair Fred Carlson.

One benefit of the evening was the support from the Germanic Alliance members in the Pittsburgh area as well as other members who attended from the various nationality room committees, and even more "friends of Switzerland". We see the new brochure as a way to voice our fund raising to the wider general community and expand our efforts beyond just the local Swiss. Plans will continue to engage corporate and endowment support now that this brochure is completed. Plans for a 4-language version utilizing all the official languages of Switzerland (German, French, Italian, and Romansch) that can be directed to Swiss and other European donors overseas are under consideration.

Swiss Nationality Day Picnic

Sunday, July 29, 2001 is the date of this year's celebration of Swiss Independence. The Pact of the 1st of August, 1291 took place when a group of men from the forest cantons met secretly at night in the meadow at Grutli. The picnic will be held at Richland Township Com-

munity Park Barn, Bakerstown, North of Pittsburgh. This is an easy to get to location about 10 minutes from the intersection of the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-76) and Route 8. (See the map and directions on the back page.) Registration begins at 11:30 AM. A catered dinner will be offered starting at 4:00 PM or you may bring your own picnic basket. Adult and children's games are planned for the afternoon. After dinner the tombola will begin. Don't forget to bring your Swiss CD's, cassette tapes and tombola prizes. Please fill out the enclosed registration form and mail it today.

August 1st Pro Pratia pins will be offered for sale at the registration table. Purchase of this pin is a donation that benefits the cultural and social works of the Pro Patris Foundation.

We had reserved the new Blueberry Hill Barn in Franklin park, but the PA Department of Labor has refused to issue an occupancy permit, so all reservations through August have been canceled.

S.A.S. of Pgh. Board Nominations

It is not too early to think about the election of the 2002 Swiss-American Board of Directors. If you are interested in serving on the board please call Frank Gloor at 724-869-3961 or e-mail me at fgloor@rocketmail.com

Treasurer's Report

by Walter Schaller

We have a balance of \$8,177.79 as of May 31, 2001. Income since February 28, 2001 was \$5,084.50 and expenses were \$2107.47.

The Mellon Bank Nationality Room Account balance was \$8,542.53 on May 10, 2001. The estimated balance in the University of Pittsburgh Swiss Room Account is estimated at \$13,500 putting us over the \$25,000 mark.

Volunteers Needed

The Swiss-American Society in conjunction with the Swiss Room committee are looking for interested S.A.S. members or friends of Switzerland who would be willing to help at the Christmas festivities at the Cathedral of Learning or helping at the proposed Swiss Booth at the 2002 Folk Festival. Call Walter Schaller at 412-821-7334 or send e-mail to wschaller262@aol.com, if you are inter-

ested in volunteering or need additional information.

New Member

Fran Gabbianelli is our newest member. She catered the picnic last year and will be the caterer for this year's also. Fran lives in Wexford, PA.

Obituary

Wick Kiefer passed away on Tuesday, April 10, 2001. He would have celebrated his 80th birthday on May 22nd. Wick and his wife Betty were both long time members of our Society. We offer our sincere sympathy to Wick's family and friends.

Annual Swiss Independence Day Picnic

When: Sunday, July 29, 2001

Where: Richland Township Community Park Barn (map on the back page)

Schedule: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Registration
12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Children's and Adults' Games
4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Dinner and Speeches
5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tombola
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Swiss Music from all cantons
(bring CDs and cassette tapes, if you wish.)

Menu & Cost: See Registration Form

Soft drinks and beer will be available for all.

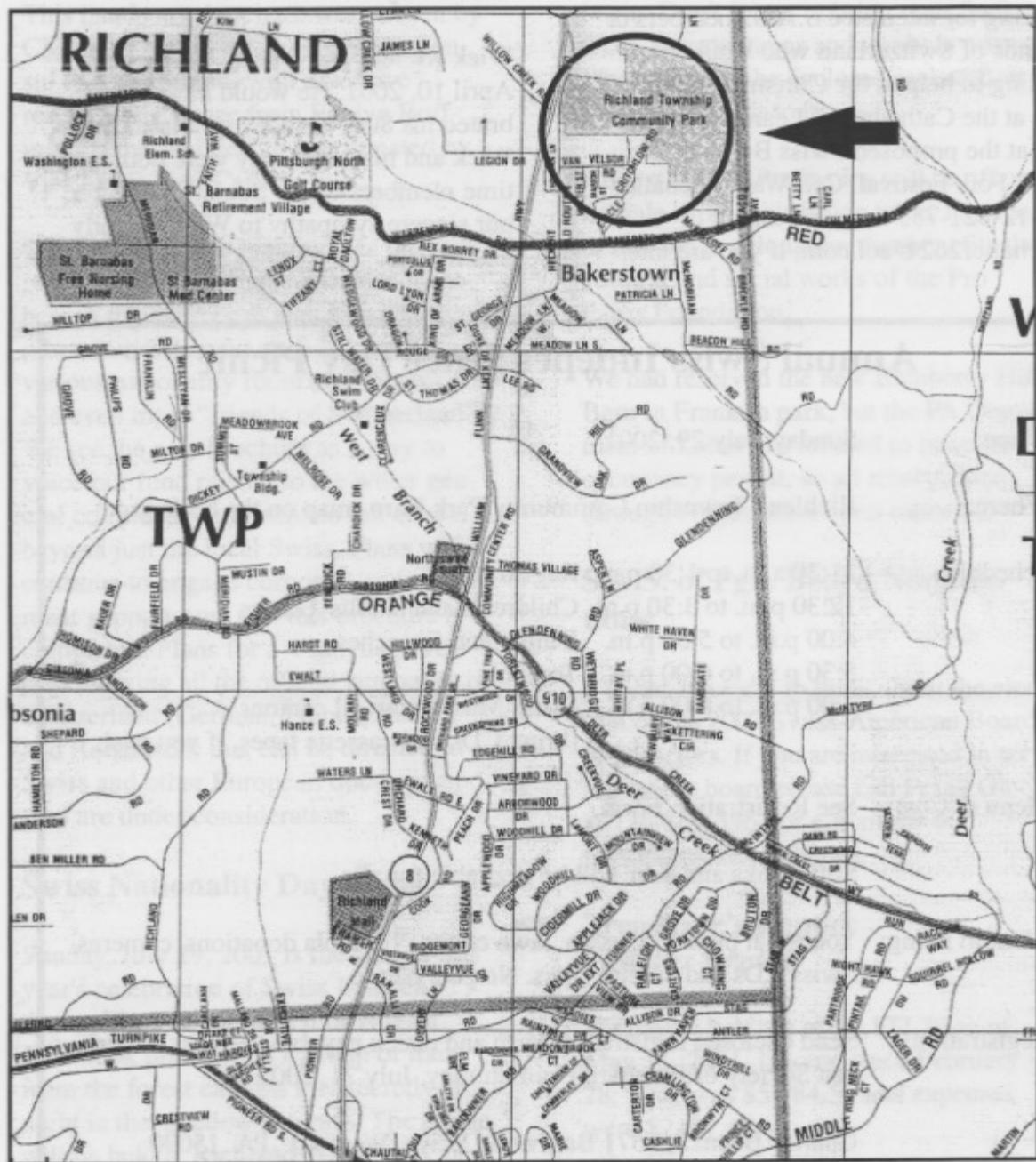
What to Bring: Your own pitcher, glasses, lawn chairs, Tombola donations, cameras, Swiss CDs and cassette tapes. No pets please.

Registration: Send enclosed registration form and check payable to Swiss American Society of Pittsburgh by Saturday, July 21, 2001 to:

Charles Buenzli, 2571 Barnwood Drive, Wexford, PA 15090

Directions to the Richland Township Community Park

1. Go North on Route 8 from the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-76) for 2.8 miles and bear right onto Heckert Road (Look for the Red Belt sign).
2. Go straight at the stop sign (approximately 0.3 miles) crossing over Mars-Bakerstown Road (the Red Belt).
3. Continue on Heckert Road for approximately 0.3 miles and then turn right onto Van Velsor Drive.
4. The entrance to the park is approximately 0.2 miles on the left.



ANNUAL SWISS INDEPENDENCE DAY PICNIC REGISTRATION

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12:30 to 3:30 Children's and Adults' Games
4:00 to 5:30 Dinner and Speeches
5:30 to 6:00 Tombola
6:00 to 8:00 Swiss Music

Music from all cantons-bring CDs and tapes if you wish.

Menu: Catered Picnic: Pork Tenderloin with Cream Mushroom Sauce, Homemade Buttered Spaetzle, Rot Kraut (Sweet & Sour Red Cabbage), Rolls and Butter, Fresh Fruit Tart, Coffee and Tea

-or- Bring your own picnic basket

Soft drinks and beer will be available for all.

Cost: Catered Picnic: \$15.00 Adult / \$9.00 Child
Picnic Basket: \$5.00 Adult / \$2.00 Child

What to Bring: Your own pitcher, glasses and lawn chairs. Tombola donations, cameras. Pets are not permitted.

Registration: Send check payable to Swiss American Society of Pittsburgh to Charles Buenzli, 2571 Barnwood, Wexford., PA 15090 by Saturday, July 21, 2001

Names (Please list the names of all persons attending):

Number of Dinners: Adult Catered @ \$15.00 \$ _____
 Child Catered @ \$9.00 \$ _____
 Adult Basket @ \$ 5.00 \$ _____
 Child Basket @ \$ 2.00 \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

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The attendance for this year's Swiss Independence Day picnic was 84 which was only down 5 from last year. Not bad considering the change from a Saturday to a Sunday and the location. The meals were evenly split between catered and baskets.

I've reserved the Blueberry Hill barn for next year's picnic on July 27, 2002. I'm confident that they will have an occupancy permit by then.

Thanks to everyone for your help in making this year's picnic a success.

Regards,

Charles Buenzli
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