



Switzerland



NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Volume 11, No. 1

Spring 2002

President's Report

by Conrad (Koni) Ostertag

Many thanks to Frank Gloor for a job well done the past two years as our President. With his leadership and efforts, and that of the board, much has been accomplished in advancing the efforts of the Nationality Room Committee. All the fund raising events helped give this project a good start.

I will do my best, with my board's help, to continue these efforts and encourage the participation of our Swiss Community in all our activities.

Board Meeting

On February 21, 2002, the new officers and board members had their first meeting. Everyone enthusiastically contributed to the discussion and shared new ideas. Winter may still be here, but plans need to be made now for future activities. Suggestions by all members are welcome.

Swiss Night

The first major event for this year is Swiss Night on April 13, which will be held at the Teutonia. Proceeds will benefit our Swiss Room efforts. Details will be found later in this newsletter. Please join us for a fun evening.

Swiss Nationality Room News

by Fred Carlson

The Swiss Room Committee's first appearance at the University of Pittsburgh Holiday Open House this past December 2, 2001, along with the unveiling of a new room concept presentation and an upcoming feature to appear in the Swiss Review highlight the recent activity of the Swiss Room project.

The entire Swiss Nationality Room Committee wants to thank everyone who made our first Swiss appearance at the Holiday Open House at Pitt December 2, 2001 so memorable. First, Walter and Patty Schaller and their daughters acquired the sales items, planned the layout of the table, and directed most of the selling and conversation with customers. His daughters learned the basics of inventory control! Patty made home made candies which were an incredible hit. We thank her for all the hard work that went into making them. The layout was spectacular and was one of the best at the open house...the location was superb in the commons area. The entire group had a good time and we look forward to participating every year at this event.

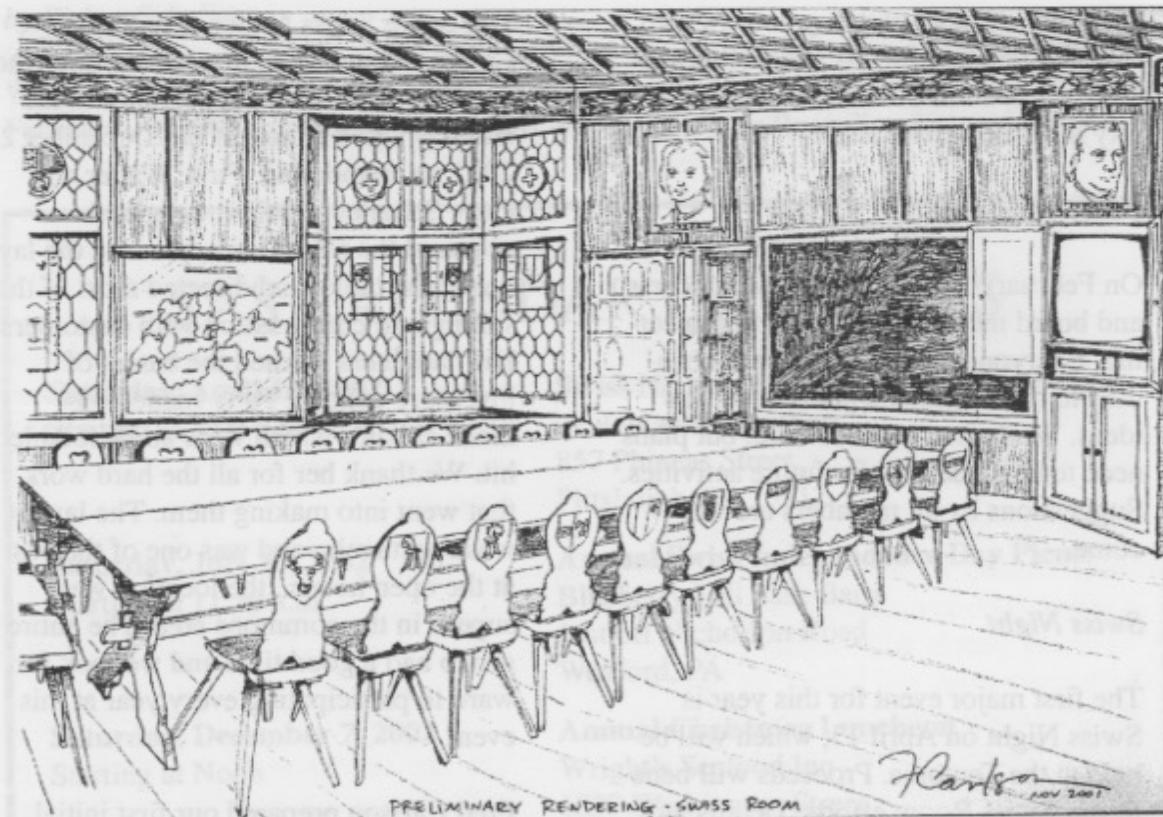
Fred Carlson prepared our first initial concept sketch and had it mounted with large scale pages from our Swiss bro-

chure. This art gave our display a terrific forum for comment and expectation from Swiss and non-Swiss alike as they passed by at the Open House. The display art was presented at the Swiss Christmas luncheon December 8 as well. It is an impressive sales tool as we pitch the project in the future. The sketch is reproduced below for those who missed it. It is not approved by the committee or University of Pittsburgh, but brings all our main ideas together regarding styles, time periods, etc. Evelyn Ruffing talked up the project with our numerous interested passers-by. Her input on the artists concept was very valuable... as was Catherine Hebert's input.

Koni Ostertag and the Helvetia Mannerchor stole the show performing in the main Commons Room area avoiding

canned music and microphones; they did brilliant work. Frank Gloor represented the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh and greeted visitors to the table area the entire time. Catherine Hebert made onion and leek pies fresh from the oven and they were bought and eaten in about 8 minutes after arriving from her home on Aylesboro Avenue. She has also been doing some research for the furniture and other accessorizing for the project in a preliminary manner while overseas late in 2001. Trudy Kuenzi made beautifully packaged brezli and was a vision of loveliness in her native garb. She was on her feet the whole time and is an inspiration to all of us.

The entire committee contributed to an article crafted by Catherine Hebert that was submitted to the Regional News sec-



Initial concept sketch of the Swiss Nationality Room by Fred Carlson - Not Approved by Room Committee or the University of Pittsburgh.

tion of the "Swiss Review" to come out this spring. The project is profiled in a one page article with artwork and will be seen by 600,000 Auslander Swiss worldwide who read "Swiss Review". Information on how to contribute to the project is also featured in the article.

As we move forward....

The work of both the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh Board and the newer Swiss Nationality Room Committee is challenging and often time consuming. It is obvious that despite the best of intentions, the earlier boards of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh going back to the 1960s could not physically do both the Society's work and social planning and newsletters AND plan a committee to work directly with Pitt, fund raise specifically for that, and outreach the project to the audience that needs to know about it to design, publicize, raise money, and construct the room. What has been heartening to me personally is the expansion of accountability and ownership that members have done in joining specific committees and beginning to engage specific tasks relating to goals of both organizations. We have been blessed with new responsible people just through our Sommerfest contacts of 3 years ago! These connections keep growing and helping!

I hope and KNOW we can continue to work together for the benefit of both committees/organizations. Overlapping too many people will eventually burn both groups out, and I think we have a good mix and spread of responsibilities. As Pat Heer so eloquently stated at the Christmas luncheon, this project is the result of and is dedicated to so many Swiss from years past who believed in

and worked toward the goals of this project by keeping the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh thriving.

Walter Schaller reported positively on the numbers for the room account as the year ended. The sales at the Pitt Holiday Open House came to \$345. Sales at the Christmas party came to \$83. Christmas Tombola came to \$239. Direct Donations responding to the Christmas newsletter appeal and the brochure: \$1900. This was a \$2,567 at year end, and donations in 2002 through mid-February total \$960. We are at approximately \$31,000 in all our accounts. Our committee has an inventory of fund raising items costing around \$400 for use at the Swiss Night event as well as other future events.

We look forward to a productive 2002 and getting your reaction to the room concept drawing at our next event! Please come and see our project come to life!

Swiss Night at the Teutonia

This year we decided to emphasize FUN rather than fund raising. So Anne Marie Frick and Walter Schaller have put together a menu featuring Swiss Specialties including Raclette, Cheese Fondue, Chocolate Fondue, Swiss Dried Meats and Cheeses, and more to be served buffet style. Koni Ostertag has arranged the music and entertainment. The Schweitzer Männerchor Helvetia will be featured along with live and recorded music. Koni will also lead a sing-along. There will be door prizes and a cash bar.

The fun and camaraderie of Swiss Night at the Teutonia is not only for the members of the Swiss-American Society, but should also be enjoyed by our friends.

Bring along your friends and neighbors for a good time.

The Teutonia Männerchor is located at 857 Phineas Street, Pittsburgh on the North Side. Swiss night will begin at five o'clock p.m. The cost for adults is \$20.00 per person and children is \$10.00. Send the enclosed registration form **no later than April 3, 2002** to:

Charles Buenzli
2571 Barnwood Drive
Wexford, PA 15090

The Swiss Nationality Room Committee will be selling Swiss items and all proceeds from the Swiss Night will benefit the Nationality Room.

Treasurer's Report

by Walter Schaller

We have a balance of \$5,388.41 as of February 10, 2002. Income since August

31, 2001 was \$1,733.36 and expenses were \$1,399.58.

Bus Trip to the Sängerfest 2003 in New Glarus

The Swiss American Society is considering sponsoring a bus trip to the 2003 Sängerfest in New Glarus which will be held from June 12 to June 15. The estimate cost is \$300 per person, double occupancy and \$375 per person, single occupancy. This includes lodging, transportation, entry to the festival, breakfast and two evening meals. The bus will leave early morning on Thursday, June 12th, from central location near Pittsburgh and return late Sunday evening, June 15th. Members and friends are invited. More information on Sängerfest 2003 is available on the web at: www.saengerfest2003.org

Please indicate your interest on the Swiss night reservation form or call Charles or Mary Kay Buenzli at 724-935-6938.

SAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, April 13, 2002

Starting at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 27, 2002

Starting at 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, December 7, 2002

Starting at Noon

Swiss Night at the Teutonia

Teutonia Männerchor

857 Phineas Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Annual Swiss Independence Day Picnic

Blueberry Hill Park Barn

Just off Nicholson Road

Wexford, PA

Annual Christmas Luncheon

Wright's Seafood Inn

1837 Washington Street

Heidelberg, PA



Swiss Night



*Saturday, April 13, 2002
5 pm to 9 pm*

*Teutonia Männerchor
857 Phineas Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15212*

Performance by the Schweitzer Männerchor Helvetia

*Swiss Dried Meats & Cheeses
Cheese Fondue / Chocolate Fondue / Raclette / Other Swiss Specialties
Cash Bar / Door Prizes
\$20 adults / \$10 children*

Mail the registration coupon below no later than April 3, 2002 to:

*Charles Buenzli
2571 Barnwood Drive
Wexford, PA 15090*

Proceeds benefit the Swiss Nationality Room



Swiss Night Registration Coupon

Name _____

Number of Adults at \$20 each _____

Address _____

Number of Children at \$10 each _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

*I'm interested in the Sängerfest 2003 bus Tour: Double Occupancy # _____
Single Occupancy # _____*