



Switzerland



NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

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Summer 2002

President's Report

by Conrad (Koni) Ostertag

The Swiss Night held on April 13th at the Teutonia was a great success. It was planned as a casual night for fun and friendship and a chance to raise funds for the Swiss Nationality Room. Thanks to all who attended and contributed to those ends. I hope everyone enjoyed the evening.

This event would not have happened without the hard work of the committee which included Charles Buenzli, Walter Schaller, Anne Marie Frick, Frank Gloor and a number of others who assisted them. Many thanks to all for a job well done.

Plans are well on the way for the Swiss Independence Day Picnic on Saturday, July 27th. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us. You'll find more information on pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter.

If anyone is interested in taking a bus to the 2003 Sangerfest in New Glarus/Monroe, Wisconsin, please check the appropriate box on your picnic registration or contact Charles Buenzli at 724-935-6938. The dates are June 12-15, 2003.

An additional thank you to Fred Carlson for his update on the Swiss Nationality

Room. Fred and his committee are working hard keeping the momentum going and attention kept on our efforts.

Swiss Nationality Room News

by Fred Carlson

I appreciated the opportunity to present the room concept display which was new to many, and I was honored to be able to say a brief word about the contributions beginning to come in from the Swiss Review article.

Our committee plans to translate the copy from our brochure into the four official Swiss languages (my sister-in-law Marisa Pezzato Flury has agreed to do an Italian translation in May, Catherine Hebert has completed her French translation) and create a new Euro-Swiss friendly brochure with this translated text.

We had the opportunity to have a photo taken of seven presidents of the Swiss club (Chuck Erb, Turi Rudolf, Bruce Kuenzi, Frank Gloor, Koni Ostertag, Hazel von Arx, Fred Carlson) which we can send in to Wal Baur for an update in the Regional News section of Swiss Review.

Catherine Hebert has pointed out that fund raising with companies in Switzerland will be more fruitful when we have

a definite plan of the room (currently we are working with a concept drawing for discussion purposes and an architect has not been finalized) with price tags for the various components. She feels we need to be able to give definite and concrete answers concerning costs to potential larger donors. She is going to Switzerland in the fall with the new four-language brochures.

Charles Buenzli will be helping the Swiss Room Committee with a fund raising strategy for outreach to larger endowments and other Pittsburgh area funding resources. He has volunteered to coordinate some of the fund raising efforts in the Pittsburgh region this year and the Committee welcomes him to the effort.

Catherine Hebert will continue to develop corporate links in Switzerland through contacts and family connections. The Room Committee is meeting very soon to coordinate these efforts, which are directed by Chairman Heinz Kunz.

Two architects have approached us with their vitae and a desire to work on the Swiss Room project the past couple of weeks since the Swiss Review article came out. They include Frank Escher of Escher GuneWardena Architecture, Inc. in Los Angeles. He is registered in Switzerland and USA and studied at ETH/Zurich. He worked with the Denkmalpflege des Kantons Zurich (Zurich State Preservation Agency) in his college years too surveying and drawing "as-built" plans of historic structures. The second interested party is Steve Altheer of Burt Hill Associates in Pittsburgh. Steve is registered in US/PA only. A third, Stefan Zopp, is preparing his vitae. He is related to our own Walter Schaller.

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

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 totaled to \$2,567 at year end, and donations in 2002 through mid-February total \$960. We have 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!

Treasurer's Report

by Walter Schaller

We have a balance of \$6,091.54 as of April 30, 2002. Income since January 31, 2002 was \$1,940.70 and expenses were \$1237.57.

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 on December 1st, or to prepare Swiss specialties to be sold at our table. Call Walter Schaller at 412-821-7334 or send

e-mail to wschaller262@aol.com, if you are interested in volunteering or need additional information.

New Members

Please welcome Jurgen and Martina Wetthausen as new members of the Swiss American Society.

Swiss Independence Day Picnic

Saturday, July 27, 2002 is the date of this year's Swiss Independence Day Picnic. The picnic will be held at Blueberry Hill Park Barn in Wexford, just North of Pittsburgh. This is an easy to get to location about 10 minutes from the intersection of the Routes 79 and 910. (See the map and directions on the Registration Form).

Blueberry Hill Barn was just finished last year and is quite nice with air-conditioning, modern facilities and a deck. There is an elaborate playground nearby for the children and beach volleyball courts, basketball courts and horseshoe pits for the adults.

This year we received the picnic posters from Dave Vissat in time to include them with the newsletter. Many thanks to Dave for creating the poster and Blattner Brunner for the production.

August 1st Pro Patria 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 Patria Foundation.

The menu and schedule is on the back page. Fran Gabbianelli is preparing the catered dinner again this year, so you know it will be good.

Annual Swiss Independence Day Picnic

- When:** Saturday, July 27, 2002
- Where:** Blueberry Hill Park Barn, Franklin Park (see map on the Registration Form)
- 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:** Catered Picnic: Pair of Bratwursts with onion sauce, Swiss potato salad, three fresh vegetable salads, fruit tart, coffee and tea - \$15.00 adults / \$9.00 children
or
Bring you own picnic basket - \$5.00 adults / \$2.00 children
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 Friday, July 12, 2002 to Charles Buenzli

SAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, July 27, 2002

Starting at 11:30 a.m.

Annual Swiss Independence Day Picnic

Blueberry Hill Park Barn

Just off Nicholson Road

Wexford, PA

Saturday, December 7, 2002

Starting at Noon

Annual Christmas Luncheon

Wright's Seafood Inn

1837 Washington Street

Heidleberg, PA

April

Date and time to be announced at the
Picnic

Swiss Night at the Teutonia

Teutonia Männerchor

857 Phineas Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15212