



Switzerland

NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Volume 12, No. 2

Summer 2003

President's Report

by Conrad (Koni) Ostertag

To bring everyone up to date, I would first like to thank Frank Gloor and the rest of the Board for the great job of selling tickets to the Alliance of Germanic Societies of Pittsburgh's Lumpenfest held March 8th, a good time was had by all. This Fest may become an annual affair. Your support is always appreciated because the Alliance also makes contributions to the Nationality rooms.

Swiss Night at the Teutonia on April 26 was well attended, with nearly 100 Swiss and friends of Switzerland. The food was excellent and, for me, it was good to see many friends I haven't seen in awhile. Another enjoyable part of the evening was meeting new Swiss families.

The Schweitzer Maennerchor entertained us with a number of selections, including their prize song to be sung at the Saengerfest in New Glarus, Wisc. in June.

Speaking of the Saengerfest held June 12-15, the chorus had a pleasant trip. The weather was superb. While you were having rain and possible tornadoes, we had sunny, dry days. This was important since most of the activities were held outside, except for the competition singing and the Mass Chorus Concert.

Pittsburgh entered the competition with 12 singers and did well in the standings with a Silver award and a score of 84.3.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our Swiss Independence Day Picnic where I can discuss the above information in more detail.

SWISS NATIONALITY ROOM 5 LANGUAGE BOOK RELEASED

Many New Swiss Involved as the New Book on Our Room Project is Issued to the Public

-Reported by Co-Chairman Frederick H. Carlson

Gruezi all!

The entire Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh board is to be heartily thanked by our greater Swiss heritage family and also from our entire Swiss Room Committee for the fantastic event hosted at the Teutonia on Saturday, April 26. Our new 5-language 16 page book THE SWISS NATIONALITY ROOM was released to the attendees and is posted in this mailing of the newsletter to all the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh members who could not attend the April 26 event. Please ask a board member if you need more copies to hand out to possible donors... we need the help of ALL

Swiss as ambassadors for this important project.

The Helvetia Maennerchor, fresh from steady practice for competition in the New Glarus, Wisconsin Sangerfest, were a well-oiled machine as the highlight of the Swiss Night's entertainment-as they seek to defend their 2000 USSNA North American championship. The food was fantastic and some very generous donations were received on site that evening. Our Committee thanks all of you for supporting this project!

The hard work of everyone associated with the book being produced is also much appreciated. We featured translation assistance from Dr. Heinz Kunz, Catherine Hebert, Evelyn Ruffing, Not-Duri Barth and the Lia Romantscha in Zurich, and Marisa Pezzato Flury of Rosemount, Minnesota, Nancy Carlson's sister-in-law, who volunteered the Italian translation to our committee. Fred Carlson did the design and new art work and supervised production with our fine printer, Wilhelm Banzhaf of Journal Printing in Jeannette, Pennsylvania.

All Room Committee members and many Swiss Society board members have copies of this new book. President Koni Ostertag took a few hundred copies to the Sangerfest. Dr. Kunz is planning a mailing to Swiss nationals registered in western Pennsylvania in his consulate district. We are almost ready to send language specific press releases along with the new book to over 40 Swiss media sources for them to cover this project in CH, in the language specific to their regional audiences. Pat Heer has volunteered to coordinate this mailing. We intend an outreach to all non S-ASP members who have donated and have not

yet received this new book, both in the US and in CH. The President of the Swiss Society of South Florida, Peter Zahner, has offered to distribute our book at their next event. The new book is being circulated at the NRIEP office and tour desk at the University of Pittsburgh.

Our fundraising committee continues to reach out to the corporate endowment community locally. A new contact at the Helen Clay Frick Foundation has been identified. As the economy improves we expect our requests to foundations to be looked at closely and we look forward in the near future to sharing word of larger gifts with all of you. Our fund levels in all accounts are approximately \$41,500.00.

Committee Member Edythe Bottonari has identified 9 sources in CH for the kachelofen and furniture that will be required to be constructed especially for our room. All our committee members are busy on this project, and look toward our new book to stimulate everyone to consider important donations to our collective work.

Ciao, and we all look forward to seeing you at the picnic!!

Frederick H. Carlson/Co-chairman Swiss Nationality Room Committee

Treasurer's Report

by Walter Schaller

The beginning balance December 31, 2002 was \$7724.25.

Income receipts totalled \$1965.63.

Expenses were \$2931.48 leaving a balance as of April 29, 2003 of \$6758.40.

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 Sunday December 7th, 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 Elisabeth and Rudolf Keller as new members of the Swiss American Society.

Swiss Independence Day Picnic

Saturday, August 2, 2003 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 directions on the Registration Form).

Blueberry Hill Barn is quite nice with air-conditioning, modern facilities and a deck. There is an elaborate playground nearby for the children and beach volleyball courts for the adults.

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.

In Memoriam

John Fankhauser died on March 26, 2003 at the age of 83. John was quite active in our Swiss-American Society. He served on the board for several years and was president for the years of 1972 and 1973. John remained ever faithful to the "club". He and his wife Bette regularly attended our "get-togethers". Our sympathy to his family and friends.

A monetary donation has been made to the Swiss room fund in honor of John.

Annual Swiss Independence Day Picnic

When: Saturday, August 2, 2003

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: Grilled wursts, Swiss potato salad, fresh vegetable salad, bread, rolls, coffee, tea, home made ice cream - \$15.00 adults / \$9.00 children
OR
Bring your 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 Saturday, July 19, 2003 to Frank Gloor

SAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, August 2, 2003

Starting at 11:30 a.m.

Annual Swiss Independence Day Picnic

Blueberry Hill Park Barn
Just off Nicholson Road
Wexford, PA

Saturday, December 6, 2003

Starting at Noon

Annual Christmas Luncheon

Wright's Seafood Inn
1837 Washington Street
Heidelberg, PA

Spring 2004 Event

Still in the planning stage
Any suggestions will be considered

Directions to Blueberry Hill Park

From South of Route 910 via Route 79 North

1. Take Route 79 North to exit 73, Wexford
2. Turn left at end of the exit onto Route 910 West
3. Turn left at the 2nd traffic light onto Nicholson Road
4. Go straight through the first stop sign (about. 1.8 mi.)
5. Continue on Nicholson Road for 0.9 miles and turn left onto McDevitt Road (you will see the Blackburn Heights development on the right just before McDevitt. There is also a small blue and white Blueberry Hill Park sign on the right.)
6. The park entrance road is about 0.5 mi. on your right
7. The barn will be on your left as you enter the park

From North of Route 910 via Route 79 South

1. Take Route 79 South to exit 73, Wexford
2. Turn right at end of the exit onto Route 910 West
3. Turn left at the 1st traffic light onto Nicholson Road
4. Continue starting at Step 4 above.



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2003 Picnic Registration Form

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____

Please list the names of those attending (use the back side for additional names)

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

Number of Adult Dinners _____ at \$15.00 each Total _____

Number of Adult Dinners _____ at \$15.00 each Total _____
Number of Child Dinners _____ at \$9.00 each Total _____
Number of Adult Pizzas _____ at \$5.00 each Total _____

Number of Adult Picnic Baskets _____ at \$5.00 each
Number of Child Picnic Baskets _____ at \$2.00 each

Number of Child Picnic Baskets _____ at \$2.00 each Total _____

Total Enclosed _____

Send to Frank Gloor 312 Ridgeway Drive, Baden, PA 15005 by July 19, 2003