

Swiss Night attendance = 84 + 1 child.



Switzerland



NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Volume 13, No. 1

President's Report
by Evelyn Ruffing

Gruezi mitenand!

It's been a long, cold winter, but the advent of spring brings with it the promise of an eventful year ahead for our society.

The Christmas Luncheon was a great success. Merci vielmals to all who worked so hard to make it happen. My presidency cannot begin without expressing my gratitude to an outstanding board of directors for their co-operation and hard work. My thanks, also, to the Nationality Room Committee. Their task is awesome!

If you have any comments about, or suggestions for, our society, please don't hesitate to contact me. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you and your guests at the Spring Event.

Web Site

www.swisspittsburgh.org

The Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh has a grand new web site. This was planned and constructed by our own Swiss board member, Charles Buenzli. It is loaded with information which will let the internet world know that the Pittsburgh Swiss are significantly alive in the past, present and will be in the future.

Spring 2004

Many accolades are directed to Charles for a job well done! Log on and you will see a work of art.

Coming Events

Swiss Night at the Penn Brewery

We've "cooked up" something different for Swiss Night this year: a bountiful buffet of Swiss delicacies including Geschnetzeles Kablfleisch (recipe complements of our President, Evelyn Ruffing), Knopfli, Hausgemacht Apfelstrudel and more, all at the historic Penn Brewery on the north side. Activities start at 4 p.m. with a social hour, brewery tours, and a chance to browse the Chinese auction. Dinner is at 5 p.m. with a performance by the Schweizer Männerchor Helvetia between the main courses and dessert. This event is open to the public and is a fund raiser for the Swiss Nationality Room, so invite your friends, fill the hall and maybe win \$100. Read on to learn how to win.

Swiss Night Gemutlichkeit Challenge Drawing

by Charles Buenzli

The Penn Brewery accommodates 150 people. Mary Kay and I would like to see it filled for Swiss Night, so we've created a challenge for the membership to reach this goal. We've donated \$100.

for the Challenge Drawing. Your name will be entered into this drawing once for each guest you bring to Swiss Night that is not a member of the Society. Attendance for past Swiss Nights ranges from 80 to 100 people, so if each of you bring two guests we'll meet our goal and you will have roughly one chance in 50 to win the \$100. To enter, just fill in the number of non-member guests on the registration coupon.

Chinese Auction

What is a "Chinese Auction"? This is a selective fund-raiser raffle where you put a ticket into a container placed in front of an item that you would like to win. The auction will run 3 hours, from 4 to 7 pm, at which time a winning ticket for each item will be drawn. Please donate anything, from soup to nuts, that you think someone would be interested in acquiring.

Battle of Bushy Run

The annual reenactment of The Battle of Bushy Run will take place on August 7th and 8th. This year it doesn't happen at the same time as the Swiss National Day Picnic. Since in fact, it is related to the Pittsburgh Swiss roots, it could be and should be attended by a Swiss group, especially that one of our own, Bruce Egli, plays the part of Colonel Henry Bouquet.

Some thought needs to be directed to this idea. - Any volunteers?

Membership Secretary's Report by Lizann Maddamma

Just a reminder for those members of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh who have not renewed their membership

for the current year. Please send your annual (family) dues of \$10.00 to:

Lizann Maddamma
100 Boroview Avenue
Carnegie, PA 15106

If you have any questions, you may reach me at 412-279-6923. If your address or phone number has changed, please specify the new information and ask me to change your listing in the society's membership directory. If you have an E-mail address, you may wish to include that as well. Thank you!

New Officers and Board

President Evelyn Ruffing

Vice President Bruce Egli

Treasurer Walter Schaller

Secretary Frank Gloor

Membership Secretary

Lizann Maddamma

Board Members

Charles Buenzli
Rosann Habegger
Michael Muelly
Jhon Smith

Auditors

Joan Gloor
Fred Carlson

Honorary Consul Dr. Heinz Kunz

Treasurer's Report by Walter Schaller

We have a balance of \$7614.20 as of December 31, 2003. Income since

August 31, 2003 was \$1619.35.
Expenses were \$1423.24.
Current estimated balance in the University of Pittsburgh Swiss Room Account: \$35189.52.

Swiss community. As always, new singers are welcome at any time
We look forward to seeing everyone at Swiss Night on April 18th.

A New Position

President, Evelyn Ruffing, stated that the S.A.S. of Pittsburgh was in need of a historian to record, keep and tend to its history. She asked Nancy Carlson to fill this position and Nancy graciously accepted.

Swiss Singers

by Conrad Ostertag

The Schweitzer Maennerchor Helvetia of Allegheny City (Pittsburgh Swiss Singers) was sorry to say good-bye to our long-time Directress, Judy Baker Schiavi, as she retired from that position to pursue other avenues of interest. Sincere thanks and love is sent to Judy for her time, hard work and dedication to excellence in our music, and a lot of good times.

This situation caused us to seriously consider if we would be able to keep the chorus together because of dwindling numbers from our already small group, and the problem of finding a new director.

After much discussion among our long time members, and a concentrated effort to recruit new singers from among our Swiss compatriots, we are very pleased to welcome 6 new voices to the Maennerchor, and a new director, Stephen Lipnichan. We thank him for accepting the challenge of helping us to keep the musical traditions of Switzerland alive in our

Swiss Nationality Room Update

by Fred Carlson

The Swiss Nationality Room Committee is reporting steady contributions from far and wide for the Swiss Room project. Recent donations have come in from such places as New Orleans, Las Vegas, West Virginia, Altoona, Duxbury (Mass), Manhasset (NY), Geneva (CH), Kusnacht (CH), Tulsa (OK), Columbus (OH), and Naples (FL) in addition to the healthy and generous contributions coming in our western PA region from Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh members. All donations are acknowledged by a full printout of all donors for your information, and if anyone would like a copy, just ask Fred Carlson. Contributions are of course tax deductible.

The room committie met on Jan. 17th to discuss the room project, our corporate endowment and large donor fundraising outreach for the coming year. Dr. Kunz reported that Ambassador Loretan from the consulate in New York has pledged within his power as a private citizen to work with our committe to approach any and all possible sources of funding over the next period of time. During his visit he was given a brief tour of the Nationality Rooms by Dr. Kunz and Maxine Bruhns. Dr. Kunz said he knows that good things will be happening this year on the fundraising front. Also in the first week of March, the Swiss cultural attache from NYC was visiting Pittsburgh and she was given a tour of the rooms. Dr. Kunz, in his role as chairman, asked for her sup-

SAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, April 18, 2004

Swiss Night at the Penn Brewery
Penn Brewery
800 Vinial Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Saturday, July 31, 2004

Annual Swiss National Day Picnic
Bethel Park Lions Club
5757 Irishtown Road
Bethel Park, PA 15102

Saturday, December 4, 2004

Annual Christmas Luncheon
Peter's Place
Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA

port. She promised after her return to New York she will contact Heinz and discuss the funding and architects. Charles Buenzli, representing our fund-raising subcommittee, continues to work through different channels to keep our fundraising requests in front of the respective endowments who have proved positive to our outreach. Dr. Kunz is planning to host a "Night with the Ambassador" at a future point in time in Pittsburgh using Ambassador Loretan's generous offer to help us.

Our committee is formally thanking members Margrit Wyler and Fran Hoffman Reichl for their input on this project over the past 5 years as they have moved away. Our committee is currently looking for new members to share the work in the next phase of the room fund rais- ing, construction, and dedication. Interested Swiss please contact Dr. Kunz with your interest at 412-967-9123.

Pennsylvania Swiss in US History

Albert Gallatin - A leading force of a new nation

As Secretary of the Treasury, Albert Gallatin found the resources to buy the

Louisiana Purchase and for its explora- tion, and to build the roads and canals to help a young nation survive and thrive. Before and after this, he was intimately involved in such things as the Whiskey Rebellion and the Treaty of Ghent.

Albert Gallatin was an immigrant from Geneva, Switzerland. He lived for a brief time in Boston and Virginia before making his home on the Pennsylvania frontier. During the days of the Whiskey Rebellion, the first great test of the power of the Federal Government, Gallatin played a leading role, though he was much more moderate than many, and advocated against breaking with the government.

Gallatin served briefly as a Senator and a Representative from Pennsylvania, where he showed great insight into the financial problems of the new nation. When elected President, Jefferson appointed him Secretary of the Treasury, where he served for 13 years under Presidents Jefferson and Madison. It was as Secretary of the Treasury that Gallatin arranged for the funding to buy the Louisiana Purchase, and for the exploration of (see page 5 on the rear of Swiss Night)

(continued from page 4)

it. When Lewis and Clark explored the new lands, they found where three rivers formed the beginnings of the Missouri River. They named these three rivers after whom they felt were three of the most important Americans alive - Jefferson, Madison, and Gallatin. He also supported and financed many internal improvements, such as roads and canals, so necessary for the transportation of goods from one section of the country to another. An example of such a project would be the National Road known today as U.S. Route 40.

Gallatin was appointed as one of the commissioners who negotiated the Treaty of Ghent, the treaty that ended the War of 1812. He also served as Minister to both England and France.

In 1817, retired from public service, Gallatin moved to New York. Here he became the President of the National Bank of the City of New York and founded New York University. Gallatin died on August 12, 1849 at the age of 88.

Friendship Hill, the estate of Robert Gallatin, is a national historic site located at New Geneva, PA. For more information call 724-725-9190.



Swiss Night



Sunday, April 18, 2004

4 pm to 8 pm

Penn Brewery

800 Vinial Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Performance by the Schweizer Männerchor Helvetia / Brewery Tours

Geschnetzeltes Kalbfleisch (Veal schnitzels) & Chicken Provencal

Medley of Mixed Fresh Vegetables / Knöpfli / Dilled Carrot Salad

Dilled Cucumber Salad / Potato Pancakes with Applesauce & Sour Cream

Hausgemacht Apfelstrudel / Coffee, Hot and Iced Tea

Served Buffet Style / Cash Bar / Chinese Auction, 50/50 Drawing and more...

\$28 adults / \$14 children

Mail the registration coupon below no later than April 9, 2004 to:

Frank Gloor, 312 Ridgeway Drive, Baden, PA 15005

Proceeds benefit the Swiss Nationality Room



Swiss Night Registration Coupon

Name _____

Number of Adults at \$28 each _____

Address _____

Number of Children at \$14 each _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Number of non-member guests for the Challenge Drawing _____

I'm interested a brewery tour: Number of people _____

YES!

I'd like to support the fundraising efforts for the Swiss Nationality Classroom. Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Please make checks payable to: **Swiss American Society of Pittsburgh Nationality Room Fund.**

Return to:

Swiss American Society of Pittsburgh
Frank Gloor, Secretary
312 Ridgeway Drive
Baden, PA 15005