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+ 2 babies NON PAID



Switzerland



NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Volume 13, No. 3

Autumn 2004

President's Message

Gruezi mitenand!

Another year is almost over; how time flies! Here in the mountains Mother Nature has presented us with the most spectacular fall foliage that I can remember. It's also good to know that the year will end with a colorful celebration at our annual Christmas Luncheon I hope to see all of our members there.

My year as president has been enjoyable and productive, thanks to a wonderful group of officers, directors and members who helped to make all our events successful. Special thanks go to Dr. Heinz Kunz and members of the Nationality Room Committee for their continued efforts with the progress of this wonderful project, and to all those who contributed so generously.

As the holiday season approaches I send seasons greetings to all of you, along with good wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Evelyn Baker Ruffing

December 5th Open House at the Cathedral of Learning.

The Swiss Room Committee and members of the Swiss American Society of Pittsburgh will be at the December 5th Holiday Open House selling fund raising items and publicizing our Nationality Room project. Contact Walter Schaller

412.821.7334 if you would like to help. You may bring items for the Open House to the Christmas Party, since it is the day after. This Open House will be held at the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning between noon and 4pm.

Treasurer's Report

by Walter Schaller

We have a balance of \$7,574.42 as of August 31, 2004. Beginning balance on April 30, 2004 was \$7,713.77. During this time frame income was \$875.44 and expenses were \$1014.79.

Membership Statistics

We, the SAS board, give a hearty welcome to three new member/families who have recently joined our club. They are: **Mark and Valerie Rieder of Cranberry Township,**

Doris and Jurgen Ekberg of Export
Ivan and Elizabeth Fuchs of Swissvale area.

We currently have a "paid up" count of 89 members. The 2005 membership payment is due by Jan. 1, 2005 and should be sent by using the form in this fall newsletter even if you can't attend the Dec. 4th Christmas Luncheon.

Bits and Pieces

The 2004 Swiss National Day Celebration was held at the Bethel Park Lion's

Picnic Pavilion. It rained all day which curtailed the outdoor games. However, it didn't dampen the spirits under the shelter. It was mentioned that in Switzerland it often rains on this day. The total attendance was 75.

The Swiss American Society has a new computer web site (www.swisspittsburgh.org) Kudos go to Charles Buenzli for it's construction. Give it a look! Ethnic Swiss dress is always appropriate and encouraged at our functions.

Swiss Nationality Room News

by Fred Carlson/Co-Chairman of Swiss Nationality Room Committee

The Swiss Nationality Room funds are currently at \$51,266.05 in all accounts including the University account. The recent 'tombola' or door raffle, at the Swiss National Day Picnic raised \$187.- as we huddled together under the pavilion at the Bethel Park Lions Club site with rain all around.

On August 1st, Swiss Room committee chairman Dr. Heinz Kunz made a special interview appearance at WPIT radio station with host Heino Coelle on the 'German Hour' show, promoting the society and our room project to the Pittsburgh public.

A mailing of our 16-page 5-language booklet went to 80 Swiss media sources in August to prompt awareness of the project in CH. Nancy Flury Carlson researched this list of Swiss media and this will be a very helpful resource in future fundraising and promotion efforts. Only 4 of the packets were returned "forwarding order expired-return to sender". Considering some of the addresses were a year old, this is not a bad percentage! Dr. Kunz fielded calls from some of the Swiss media with followup questions. Domestic contributions continue to come in regularly from all over the U.S.

Our concept design is agreed upon by our committee and we look forward soon to engage a CH/PA registered architect to create plans that can be submitted to NRIEP (Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Program) for approval. The Swiss Room will again participate in the Nationality Room Open House in December. Walter Schaller will feature the "fondue table" again! All members are encouraged to come in traditional dress to help man the table and promote our room project!

We are due to file an official letter of extending our fundraising and more specific fundraising targeting as our covenant with the University asks. Our bequest is now over 5 years old and we are responsible for a more detailed fundraising document in the near future. Charles Buenzli, our fundraising chair, continues to make our room project known to the endowment community and he is hopeful that with increasing economic good news our specific requests may be taken off 'no' or 'hold' and begin to be approved.

Swiss News September 27, 2004

Dashing the chance for almost 200,000 youngsters to get citizenship easily voters in Switzerland rejected two government proposals to loosen tough naturalization rules in a referendum. Nearly 57 percent of voters opposed granting automatic citizenship to third-generation children born to immigrant families.

In other questions, voters supported a government-paid national maternity leave system, but rejected a citizen initiative to block the closure of small post offices to save money.

About a fifth of the 7.2 million people living in Switzerland are not citizens, most of them immigrants from Italy and the Balkans or their off-string.

SAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, December 4, 2004

Christmas Luncheon
Peter's Place
1199 Washington Pike
Bridgeville, PA 15017

Sunday, April 24, 2005

Swiss Night
Teutonia Rathskeller
857 Phineas Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Saturday, July 30, 2005

Swiss National Day Picnic
Parish Hill, North Park

Don't forget to Vote!

It is time to vote for next year's Board and Officers. Even if you cannot attend the Christmas Luncheon or the Sami Klaus Party, please fill out the Ballot section of the registration form and return it by Saturday, November 20, 2004 to Frank Gloor

Sami Klaus Party

Saturday, December 11, 2004 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Teutonia Mannerchor

The Swiss-American Society will again hold its annual Sami Klaus Party in conjunction with the Teutonia Kinderchor. Pizza and soft drinks will be provided for the children and are included in the registration fee. A sandwich buffet will be provided for the adults, funded by a donation jar. The traditional treat bags and visit from Sami Klaus are planned. The cost is \$5.00 per Family. Please register on the enclosed form and mail by Saturday, November 20, 2004.