



Switzerland



NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Volume 14, No. 2

Summer 2005

President's Message

Grüezi mitenand!

Wasn't Swiss Night wonderful? Many said it was the best one ever. The Ratskeller at the Teutonia was a perfect setting, the entertainment excellent and the food outstanding. Special thanks go to Walter Schaller (food), Charles Buenzli (pear dessert), Frank and Betsy Gloor (arrangements, plus!), Shirley Okunewick on the bells, the Helvetia Männerchor, all those who wore a tracht and Bruce Egli and his "Swiss army." It was so much fun!

Jhon Smith did an exceptional job in organizing our participation at the Folk Festival. Many thanks to him and all those who assisted him. Our booth had many visitors.

Recently I returned from Switzerland, where I took my son (born in Zürich) and daughter on an in-depth tour of the country. It was a wonderful experience and an eye-opening education for them. It was so difficult to leave!

As we come to celebrate Swiss National Day, let us reflect on this nation that, through the centuries, has maintained its principles, its quality of life, its contributions to the world and its beauty, both man-made and natural. There is a folk song that sums it all up:

's Schwizerländ li isch nur chly, aber schöner chönn't's nit sy!

Evelyn Baker Ruffing

Honorary Consul Message

Dear Swiss compatriots and dear friends of Switzerland:

Summer has finally arrived and our First of August picnic celebrating Swiss National Day will be here soon. The Swiss Society of Pittsburgh again has worked very hard to make this a memorable event. Details about the picnic you can find in this Newsletter. The Board of the society extended an invitation to the Consulate General of Switzerland in New York and I can confirm that we will have a guest from the Consulate General attending the day's festivities. I will be making the necessary arrangements for the guest and I am also planning a meeting with the classroom committee to discuss the progress of the room.

Please make every effort to attend this year's August First celebration. We would like to show New York that Pittsburgh has a very strong population with Swiss roots.

With warm regards and looking forward to seeing you at the picnic.

Heinz W. Kunz

Honorary Consul of Switzerland

Treasurer's Report

by Walter Schaller

We have a beginning balance as of August 31, 2004 of \$7574.42.

Income was \$1639.17 and expenses were \$1415.75 leaving a ending balance as of December 31, 2004 of \$7797.84.

Membership Statistics

Three applications for S.A.S. membership were approved by the Board. We welcome as new members Roy and Carol Negley, Dawn Harvey, and Bud Kohler. Since we issue membership on a family basis, it is difficult to state an exact member count. Currently we have 43 paid and 15 dues exempt (life and honorary) families. For example the Swiss National Day Picnic attendance is usually about 100 members and guests.

Obituary. Sophie Vonderach passed away at 95 years of age on March 1, 2005 in Sunnyvale, California. She met and married Stephen Vonderach in Pittsburgh in 1933. Her husband of 63 years preceeded her in death in 1996. Sophie and Stephen were long time and active members of our Swiss Club. They participated as a family in the Pittsburgh Folk Festivals held at the old Syria Mosque in Oakland. Her husband, Stephen was a baker by trade and many of his baked goods ended up on the tombola tables. Our Swiss Society has given a monetary contribution to the Swiss Nationality classroom in her name.

The Alliance of Germanic Societies of Pittsburgh

by Frank Gloor

Since the year 1998, the Swiss American Society has been an active member of the Germanic Alliance. We participated in

the 1998 Summerfest held at Station Square which resulted in a substantial gain in our membership. However, in recent years the Alliance has faltered somewhat. It has been realized by some of the member organizations that a decision needs to be made. "Should we continue on or dissolve the Alliance?"

Two meetings were held at the law offices of Meyer, Unkovic and Scott in downtown Pittsburgh on February 7 and March 21, 2005. A vote was taken by the delegates attending. The result was to continue on and not to dissolve the Alliance.

It was decided to have one event per a year. This year it will be on or near German-American Day, which is October 6th, because on that date in 1683, 13 German families from Krefeld near the Rhine founded the 1st German settlement, Germantown, PA. The designation "German" is used in a cultural, not in a political sense thus including the German speaking Swiss, Alsations, Austrians, Germans, from Eastern Europe, and German Jews.

Details will follow later.

Savory-style Pear Dessert Recipe

Many people requested the recipe for the dessert served at Swiss Night. Here it is.

Peel, halve and core the pears and thinly slice. Melt butter in raclette dish and arrange the pears in a fan shape. Sprinkle with sugar and cook for a few minutes on the grill top until the pears are just soft. Pour some cream over them and slide the pans under the grill and cook gently until the sauce is slightly caramelized. We prefer Bosc pears and slice them about 3/16 inch thick.

Annual Swiss National Day Picnic

- When:** Saturday, July 30, 2005
- Where:** Parish Hill, Walter Road, North Park
- 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, fresh vegetable salads, dessert, coffee and tea - \$15.00 adults / \$7.50 children (ages 6-12)
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 Saturday, July 16 to Frank Gloor

SAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Saturday, July 30, 2005 Starting
at 11:30 a.m.**

Annual Swiss National Day Picnic
Parish Hill, Walter Road
North Park

**Saturday, September 17, 2005
at 1:30**

Board Meeting
at Charles Buenzli's (phone 724-935-6938)
2571 Barnwood Drive, Wexford, PA

December 3, Saturday

Annual Christmas Luncheon
Details to be announced later

From Mc Knight Road traveling North

Right onto Babcock Blvd.

Left onto Kummer Road

Cross over Ingomar Road and go about 1/4 mile

Right onto Walter Road

Parish Hill "Barn" is on the left side

From Route 19 or Mc Knight Road

go East onto Ingomar Road (Yellow Belt)

go left at intersection onto Kummer Road

about 1/4 mile and go right onto Walter Road

From Route 8

take Wildwood Road (Yellow Belt west) to North Park

at traffic signal go straight ahead onto Ingomar Road

Right onto Kummer Road *Lake Shore Drive*

about 1/4 mile go right onto Walter Road

Parish Hill "Barn" is on the left side of road.

Please complete the Summer 2005 Questionnaire and return it in the enclosed envelope. The Picnic Registration form may also be placed in the same envelope.

----- Cut here -----

2005 Picnic Registration Form

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____

Please list the names of those attending

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

5. _____ 6. _____

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

Number of Child Dinners _____ at \$7.50 each Total _____
(ages six through twelve years)

Number of Adult Picnic Baskets _____ at \$5.00 each Total _____

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

Number of children attending free under age of six years _____

Send to Frank Gloor 312 Ridgeway Drive, Baden, PA 15005 by July 16, 2005



SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Summer 2005 Questionnaire

Name: _____ How long have you been a member? _____

Our Society has embarked on a voyage of rejuvenation. We would like to invite you to be a part of that process. This questionnaire is a first small step that will help us find out how to be a more fun, useful and meaningful Society.

How excited are you about our current activities and services? Not Mildly Very

- | | Not | Mildly | Very |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Swiss National Day Picnic | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Samichlaus Party | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Christmas Luncheon | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Spring Event | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Website | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

How excited would you be about the following new activities and services?

Social/Cultural (underline individual activities of interest)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Coffee/luncheons/dining/casual dining | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Card club/jass (a popular Swiss card game) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Book club/language club - German/French/Italian | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Swiss cuisine club/sharing of recipes | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Tots play group/activities for school age children | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Swiss movies/concerts | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Wine/cheese tasting/fondue party/raclette party | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Sports (underline individual activities of interest)

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Downhill/cross-country skiing/snowshoeing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Tennis/golf/hiking/fitness | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Business and Politics

- | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Business networking | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Investment club | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Swiss politics night | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Activities outside the Pittsburgh Area (underline individual activities of interest)

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Events outside the area (social/cultural/sports) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Visits to other Swiss Societies (e.g. Washington, DC) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

(Continued on other side)

Newcomer services (underline individual activities of interest)

Not Mildly Very

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Explore Pittsburgh and the surrounding area | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Where and how to find Swiss foods and services | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Relocation assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • School information | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Legal/tax advice | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

How interested are you in adding the following online features?

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Announcement of events by E-mail | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Receiving the newsletter by E-mail (in PDF format) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • General E-mail list to share ideas/contacts/help newcomers | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Bulletin board to post questions/ads | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Searchable database of members | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Web side directory of useful addresses that you contribute | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

How interested are you in putting your talents to work for the Society?

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Organize events | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Help out at social events | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Serving as an advisor/volunteer for newcomers | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Writing/editing/publishing the newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Expanding/maintaining the website | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Fund raising for the Nationality Room | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Fund raising for event prizes | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Serving on the Board | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

What are the most important things that should remain the same? _____

What are the most important new things that should be added? _____

Any other ideas or comments? _____

Please return by July 16, 2005 to: Frank Gloor
312 Ridgeway Drive
Baden, PA 15005