



# Switzerland



**NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA**  
Volume 17, No. 2 Summer 2008

## President's Message

Grüezi mitenand!  
Bonjour!  
Buongiorno!

If you ask any Swiss what's new in Switzerland, the answer is Euro 2008! Everybody is caught up in the "soccer fever." Nobody can escape it! The European Football Championship will take place from June 7 to June 29. This event will be the world's third largest sporting event.

For the first time the tournament is split between the beautiful alpine countries of Switzerland and Austria. The four participating cities of Zurich, Geneva, Basel, and Berne have renovated their stadiums and look their best.

We wish Switzerland success and good luck. Hop Schwyz!

It was nice to see so many of you at our fondue afternoon, and we hope to see you all at our picnic. Please let us know if you have any suggestions, ideas, or questions regarding our club. We are also always on the lookout for new members!

See you soon,  
Annemarie Frick

## New Members

SAS Pittsburgh would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members! Robert Domenick, a lawyer of Swiss descent, has been accepted into membership in the Swiss-American Society. He and his wife, Mary Jo, live in Jeannette, PA.

## Reaching out to Regional Swiss

The Swiss-American Society (SAS) of Pittsburgh is sending this newsletter beyond our membership to reach out to all other Swiss families living in western PA as well as surrounding counties in Maryland, Ohio, and West Virginia.

We host three annual social gatherings: a Swiss Dinner event in the spring, 1 August celebration picnic, and our Christmas Luncheon in December. Additional less formal events include Jass and Swiss-Movie Nights.

If you are not a member or have not recently contacted the SAS, this mailing came to you on our behalf from the Swiss Consulate offices in New York City, Chicago, and Washington, D.C.

We invite you to celebrate Switzerland and visit with us Saturday, 2 August 2008 at our annual picnic and/or 6 December 2008 at our holiday luncheon. You might find out you are interested in a family membership (now only \$10 annual dues).

The Consulate's help with our mailing means that our club does not actually have your name or address, so we would be very glad to have your information so we can keep you informed of events and activities of the Swiss American Society of Pittsburgh. Please visit our website at [www.swisspittsburgh.org](http://www.swisspittsburgh.org) or contact: Annemarie Frick, President, at [africkpit@aol.com](mailto:africkpit@aol.com) or (412) 761-1388. For membership information please contact: Edith Sutterlin, Membership Secretary, [momsutterlin@zoominternet.net](mailto:momsutterlin@zoominternet.net) or (724) 934-9191.

## **Swiss Radio Program July 27**

On Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:00PM, the German Hour Radio Program, WPIT AM (730 on the dial), will focus on Swiss Independence. The Swiss American Society of Pittsburgh is a program sponsor. Be sure to tune in to "Die deutsche Heimatstunde" with Heino Coelle, broadcast on 730 AM on your radio to listen to this program of such special interest to our Swiss heritage.

## **Treasurer's Report**

*by Walter Schaller*

Our beginning balance in January was \$6741.82 in our money market account at Dollar Bank. The ending balance in April was \$6944.12. The Citizens Bank Nationality Room Account had a balance in April of \$13,685.95. The current estimated balance in the University of Pittsburgh's Swiss Room Account is \$101,094.99, for a total of \$114,743.94.

The proceeds from our Tombolas, and sales of Swiss items continue to go to the Swiss Room Fund. Many thanks to our members who continue to support this important fundraising effort.

We have many Swiss Roots T-Shirts and Swiss Coffee Mugs. Feel free to contact me if you would like to order any, I can ship them anywhere. I will also have a sale table at the picnic.

walter.schaller@zoominternet.net or at 412-980-4421

## **Pittsburgh Folk Festival**

*by Jhon Smith and Edith Sutterlin*

The annual Folk Festival is currently our Swiss American Society's number one exposure to the general public. As the first booth inside the entrance to the Folk Festival at Pittsburgh's David Lawrence Convention Center, we started off Friday with a bang! Andy Schwarz and Trudy Kuenzi assisted Jhon Smith in hosting over 2,000 students wanting to learn more

about different countries and cultures.

The Festival did not have a theme as previously, so Jhon focused the display on traditional Swiss/ Swiss-American "heimatwerk" – or skilled craftsmanship. We attracted a lot of attention with an Amish quilt, music box, embroidery, intricate wood carvings in furniture and small cookie presses\* with traditional Swiss design, and the amazing Alphorn\*. [\* See later related articles.] Pictures of familiar Swiss scenery, such as the Matterhorn, inspired many to ask for tourist advice or to share travel memories.

Jhon Smith's weaving has been a favorite "live action" part of the Swiss booth for years! Jhon's Swiss great-great grandfather was a weaver; now Jhon demonstrates this traditional craft most American children have never seen before! Several children have come back year after year and headed right to the Swiss booth to take a turn in setting the levers under Jhon's direction and to ask more questions. Some have even begun to weave at home! One of the newer devotees stopped by Saturday afternoon to show they had bought a simple hand loom from the Bulgarian sales table – inspired by Jhon's enthusiasm and skill.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the Sunday performance of the Swiss Männerchor, under the direction of Steve Lipnichan. The audience was enthralled as they witnessed the marvelous harmonies, the range of yodeling, Steve's Alphorn performance, and "Thalerschwingeren," singing accompanied by the rolling of coins within large bowls. We are fortunate to have such talented men carrying on these musical traditions – new members are always welcome! You do not need to know any Swiss languages in advance!

Thank you to helpers both behind the scenes – loan of articles, advance ticket sales, set-up and closing/transporting booth items, and for helping to staff the

booth to answer questions: Khaled Al-Omari, Fred Carlson (Nationality Room display), Frank Gloor, Trudy Kuenzi, Conrad & Pat Ostertag, Evelyn Ruffing, Walter Schaller, Andy Schwarz, Jhon Smith, Edith Sutterlin, the Swiss Singers.

### **Alphorn – Folk Festival FAQ's**

*What are these made of?* - The ideal Alphorn is a long hollow tube, carefully hand-carved of spruce wood, typically over 11 feet long. Alphorns can be made of spruce, pine, or maple, with a mouthpiece – and that's it. There are no valves, keys, holes; the bell rests on small feet for support. Sometimes the horn is from one piece of wood; other times it is made of spruce strips, bound with birch bark or cane.

*Do you have to climb a ladder to play one?* - No!

*What is the musical range of one of these horns?* - The instrument's sound is mellow and reverberant, capable of over three full octaves. The length of the Alphorn determines its fundamental pitch, with F sharp, F, or E being common.

### **Swiss Cookie Press Molds – FAQ's**

*What kinds of cookies do you make with these?* - Springerle. The word means "little knights."

*Where can you find them?* -Traditional

Swiss wooden cookie molds are hand-carved; replicas are available for sale on the Internet.

*Do you have recipes?* - The SAS is collecting recipes for the Krabeli, Springerle, or shortbread cookies made with the flat Springerle boards or molds (or a rolling pin with carved designs). Many traditional Swiss recipes use either anise seeds or oil to prepare the dough. We have recipes collected from online, but are asking for Society members to submit versions of these recipes that we could share and/or use for a future holiday activity.

### **Swiss Radio Online**

*By Emilie Muelly, Newsletter Editor*

Ever want to listen to the radio from Switzerland? Want to hear some Swiss-German or French, or Italian? Listen to Swiss radio online live!

For Swiss-German radio, go to [www.radio24.ch](http://www.radio24.ch) ; I enjoyed listening to this station often at work or while studying. For Swiss-French Radio, go to [www.lausannefm.ch](http://www.lausannefm.ch) . For Swiss-Italian radio, go to [www.radioticino.com](http://www.radioticino.com) . You will hear many English songs, but they will be interspersed with German, Swiss-German, French, Italian, and even Spanish songs as well! For more info and stations, visit [www.srg-ssr.ch](http://www.srg-ssr.ch) .

## **SAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<b>Saturday, August 2, 2008</b> Starting at 11:30 am	<b>Annual Swiss Independence Picnic</b> Richland Barn, Bakerstown, PA
<b>Saturday, September 27, 2008</b> Starting at 2pm	<b>SAS Board Meeting</b> 124 Drake Dr. Wexford, PA 15090
<b>Saturday, December 6, 2008</b> 11:30am - 3pm	<b>Annual Christmas Luncheon</b> Peter's Place; 1199 Washington Pike Bridgeville, PA 15017

## **Swiss Nationality Room Report**

*by Frederick H. Carlson, Swiss Nationality Room Committee Vice-Chairman*

The Swiss Nationality Room Committee met on Friday, May 2, 2008. Special guest Ambassador Christoph Bubb, Consul General for Switzerland, came from New York City at the invitation of Chairman Heinz Kunz, PhD. The meeting was followed by a tour of the rooms at the Cathedral of Learning.

Maxine Bruhns gave an overview of the history of the University of Pittsburgh's Nationality Rooms since the construction of the Cathedral of Learning in the 1920's, explaining Pittsburgh's role as a city of immigrants. She stressed the worldwide uniqueness of the rooms and scholarship programs and related anecdotes about other committees' efforts and experiences over time. She presented Ambassador Bubb with the latest Nationality Rooms book. You can find out more information on the Nationality Rooms program and see a virtual tour at [www.pitt.edu/~natrooms/](http://www.pitt.edu/~natrooms/)

Associate Vice-Chancellor Randy Juhl came by to convey greetings from Chancellor Nordenberg. He brought with him Dr. Thomas Starzl, world-renowned transplant surgeon, who praised a long-time collaborator, a Swiss transplant surgeon.

Vice-Chairman Fred Carlson focused on our room planning, design, progress, publicity, and latest news on fundraising including the chair auction and plans for the next few years. 2007 was by far our best year of fundraising with \$37,690 raised or pledged, with \$26,000 pledged from the chair auction alone.

The Spring Appeal was sent out in April; we heartily thank those who have responded so generously and quickly. We are also heartened by first time donors who were brought into the fundraising circle by current donors passing on the brochures! \$4,930 has been received

since the mailing went out, including \$3,100 from FIRST TIME donors!

We reviewed our fundraising strategy, assessing the benefits of an expanding donor base and regular appeals, and future plans for large donor requests. Our display panels are proving helpful.

The Ambassador asked very good questions about our Society's history and the room program history and took notes throughout. The history of the Swiss in Western Pennsylvania was reviewed. Ambassador Bubb was given a copy of the latest donor report and examples of our 5-language brochure and trifold.

Ambassador Bubb mentioned he could do certain things to help. He graciously accepted our honorary committee membership request. He shared an interest in assisting our committee in any way he can in our fundraising appeals, and agreed to review and finalize a draft letter of support on his letterhead that we could use in a future mailing. He agreed to try to come for fundraising events where his presence would benefit our goals. He also mentioned the possibility of investigating other potential sources of Swiss-related funding that may have objectives aligned with our initiative.

Our chair auction officially concluded with the last sale to the GK office in New York. Ambassador Bubb brought a check for Fribourg, the final canton chair auctioned. Of the \$26,000 pledged from the auction of the 26 cantonal chairs, 19 are paid in full already, and only \$3,280 remain to be paid on the other 7 chairs. Thus 89% of the pledged money has been collected within 9 months of the initial auction! Philip Bottonari is putting the finishing touches on the table auction campaign to be unveiled this summer.

Heinz provided an update on developments with Ben Roethlisberger. Ben has all the items for signing and we

will implement online and live auctions at upcoming SAS-Pittsburgh events.

The Swiss American Society of Pittsburgh Board would like to organize an event, hopefully with a Ben Roethlisberger commitment for a firm date a year in advance to plan the event, with the Priory as the venue. Walter Schaller suggested a fall 2008 mailing to Swiss organizations around the US with Ambassador Bubb's letter of support. We should also inquire if we could do a blind mailing to all registered Swiss with his letter of support.

Price estimates for the imported hardwoods to be used in the room construction obtained from Cutchess by Evelyn Ruffing sounded promising. Evelyn has been tasked by our committee as the evaluator of decisions regarding using factory-antiqued or recycled-antique woods for the project, helping our design architect plan the costs for construction.

### **EURO 2008 – Soccer in Switzerland**

Here are all the games for Euro 2008 in which Switzerland is playing or that are covered on ESPN or ABC (additional games are on ESPN2 or ESPN Classic). Get involved! Cheer on the Swiss!

Sat 7 June, 11:30am (in Basel/on ESPNClassic)

**Switzerland Vs. Czech Republic**

Sun 15 June, 2:30pm (in Basel / on ESPN2)

**Switzerland vs. Portugal A**

Mon 16 June, 2:30pm (in Vienna / on ESPN)

**Austria vs. Germany B**

Tues 17 June, 2:30pm (in Zurich / on ESPN)

**France vs. Italy C**

Wed 18 June, 2:30pm (in Salzburg / on ESPN)

**Greece vs. Spain D**

#### **Quarterfinals:**

Thurs 19 June, 2:30pm (ESPN)

Fri 20 June, 2:30pm (ESPN)

Sat 21 June, 2:30pm (ABC)

Sun 22 June, 2:55 pm (ESPN)

#### **Semifinals**

Wed 25 June, 2:30pm (ESPN)

Thurs 26 June, 2:30pm (ESPN)

**Final Game:** Sun 29 June 2:30pm (ABC)

### **December Luncheon Shifts South**

Our December Luncheon will be 11:30am to 3:00pm on Saturday, 6 December 2008 at Peter's Place in their newest banquet room. Peter's Place, in Bridgeville, is very near the Kirwin Heights exit off I-79, SW of Pittsburgh. We will dine in a spacious room with large windows. Parking is ample and entry is a single step. Detailed menu selections and directions will be provided in our next newsletter. Mark your calendars now!

### **Obituaries**

**Hazel von Arx** passed away on March 4, 2008. Hazel, originally from Basel, was the first female president of our Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh, from 1989-1990. She was also president of the Damenchor at the Teutonia. She is survived by her nephew, Alan Montgomery and his wife, Elaine; grandniece, Kathleen Montgomery and her daughters, Kriszta and Kata; grandnephew, Liam (Tracy) Montgomery and their children, Colin and Claire; cousins, James and Lynn Fankle, Daniel Fankle and Chris and Norma Lamperski.

**Dr. Joseph Novak** passed away on March 8, 2008. Dr. Novak attended medical school in Graz, Austria before emigrating to the US in 1957. He was the chairman of the Department of Physical Medicine in Rehabilitation at St. Francis Hospital in Lawrenceville until retirement in 1993. He is survived by his wife, Adelaide, "Heidi" Novak, and children Joseph (Debbie) Novak Jr., Cornelia (Michael) Harlovic, Barbara Novak, Heidi Craig, Peter (Lynette) Novak, and Luis (Mona) Balcazar, and grandchildren Roman, Ellie, Eric, Kelsey, Corinne, Alex, Maria Laura, and Andres.

Donations from the SAS have been made to the Swiss room in memory of Hazel von Arx and Dr. Joseph Novak.

## ANNUAL SWISS NATIONAL DAY PICNIC

When: Saturday, August 2, 2008

Where: Richland Barn, Bakerstown, PA (white barn/green roof; above the ballfields)

Directions:

### **Heading North on Route 8 from Pittsburgh**

From the PA Turnpike interchange on Route 8 go north 2.8 miles and turn right onto Heckert Road (Just past the Bakerstown Feed and Garden Center. At the 4 way stop ( intersection of Heckert and the Red Belt) continue straight. At the next stop sign turn right onto Van Velsor Drive.

### **Heading South on Route 8 from Butler**

Pass the 228 intersection and Sandy Hill/Cunningham Road. When you pass Zottolas Garden Center, turn left onto Heckert and the park entrance will be on the left.

### **From the Red Belt Warrendale Area and I 79**

Follow the red belt east until it passes under Route 8 in Bakerstown. At the 4 way stop, turn left onto Heckert Road. At the next stop, turn right onto Van Velsor Drive.

### **From the Red Belt Tarentum Area**

Follow the Red Belt west to Bakertown. At the 4 way stop turn right onto Heckert Road. At the next stop, turn right onto Van Velsor Drive.

Schedule:

- 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Registration and Jass
- 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm Children's and Adults' Games
- 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Dinner and Speeches
- 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm Tombola
- 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Swiss Music from all cantons

Cost: Catered meal: \$16 each for adults, \$8 each for children.  
Bring your own picnic basket: \$6.00 each for adults, \$3.00 each for children  
Beverages provided for all.

Menu:

- \* Grilled Usinger's Bratwurst, served with a Swiss-style onion sauce or plain, sliced sausage rolls with assorted mustards.
- \* Your choice of salad: German style potato salad, Roast Beats & Parsnips served in vinaigrette, or fresh fruit salad.
- \* Apple tarts for dessert
- \* Drinks (soda and beer) provided for all.

To bring: Directions, extra Jass decks, your own pitcher, glasses, lawn chairs, Tombola donations, cameras, Swiss CDs and cassette tapes. No pets please.

Registration: Send enclosed registration form & check payable to Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh by Monday July 21, 2008 to:

Walter Schaller  
3886 Grove Rd.  
Gibsonia, PA 15044 – 9151

# 2008 Swiss Nationality Day Picnic Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the names of those attending

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adult Dinners \_\_\_\_\_ at \$16.00 each Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Child (6-12) Dinners \_\_\_\_\_ at \$8.00 each Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adult Picnic Baskets \_\_\_\_\_ at \$6.00 each Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Child Picnic Baskets \_\_\_\_\_ at \$3.00 each Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children attending free under age of six years.

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Swiss American Society of Pittsburgh.

Please mail by Monday, July 21, 2008 to:

Walter Schaller

3886 Grove Rd. Gibsonia, PA 15044-9451

