



# Switzerland



NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

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**Volume 17, No. 3**

**Autumn 2009**

## **President's Message**

Gruezi, bonjour, buongiorno!

At the end of the year, my two-year term as President of the Swiss-American Society will be over. What better to write about than food and wine!

Switzerland has one of the most diverse cuisines in the world. Everyone is familiar with Fondue, Raclette and Zuercher Geschnetzeltes. These icons are almost as famous as the Matterhorn. But this land of four languages and four cultures has many other culinary delights to offer. From the Berner Platte with Roesti to the sausages of French-speaking Switzerland, From Engadine capuns (chard-wrapped dumplings) to Ticino's polenta with brasato, each region has its own, authentic specialties. Coming from Eastern Switzerland, the famous St. Galler Bratwurst is first on my mind. Switzerland is not only home to the finest traditional cuisine, it also produces magnificent wines and top quality spirits as Kirsch (cherry brandy), Williams (pear brandy) and Pfluemli (plum brandy). The wine growing tradition dates back millennia. Mass-produced wines exist rarely in Switzerland, the vineyards are too small. The wines are characterful and distinctive expressions of the landscape in which they originate.

Let's not forget the artistic creations of famous star chefs. Swiss chefs are sought after all over the world. No other place has such a density of gourmet restaurants as this multi-cultured nation.

To go on a culinary trip to Switzerland I can recommend "The Swiss Cookbook". It is the first cookbook in English of the well liked Betty Bossi cookbook series ([www.bettybossi.ch](http://www.bettybossi.ch)).

Bon appétit! -Annemarie Frick

## **Nationality Room Open House**

*by Walter Schaller*

Sunday, December 6th, the day after our Christmas Party, from noon – 4pm, Pitt will have its annual Holiday Open House of Nationality Classrooms. Many rooms will be decorated for Christmas. The commons area of the Cathedral of Learning will have ethnic display tables, food booths and entertainment. Some committee members will be in room 321, the future Swiss Classroom, with our drawings, plans and brochures.

I will again be chairing the Swiss Table at the event, featuring Swiss Fondue, and am asking your support with donations of Swiss cookies, baked goods, foods, or souvenir items for the sale table. Please bring them between 10 AM and noon on Sunday or you can give them to me at the Christmas party. All proceeds will benefit the Swiss Nationality Classroom Fund. If you are interested in helping to sell items, prepare food items, or stand by our presentation materials up in room 321 and talk about the project to visitors, please contact me: 412-980-4421 or [walter.schaller@zoominternet.net](mailto:walter.schaller@zoominternet.net).

## **Your chance to vote!**

Don't forget to vote for next year's Officers! Whether or not you can attend the Christmas Luncheon, please return your vote by Nov. 17th. Please also pay your dues and consider contributing to the Nationality room using the form provided.

## **Treasurer's Report**

*by Walter Schaller*

We have a balance of \$ 7,780.94 as of August 31, 2009. The beginning balance on Apr. 30, 2009 was \$ 6946.02.

## **2009 August 1 Picnic Report**

*by Edith Sutterlin*

New to this year's Aug 1 picnic were silent auctions, lampions, and a small symbolic bonfire. Resumed after several years' absence were authentic Swiss dishes cooked by our members. The teamwork involved in producing the 2009 picnic was impressive! Michael and Emilie Müllly prepared a homemade Swiss-style onion sauce for Swiss bratwursts and authentically seasoned potato salad; Annemarie Frick prepared distinctively Swiss green bean and carrot salads. Walter Schaller's chef's training experiences in Switzerland a few years back paid off as his Wähe deliciously topped off the meal for over 90 guests (not counting a few dozen picnickers) who enjoyed the SAS-Pittsburgh annual event.

Many felt a special festivity at this year's gathering. The Steinstossen is always a hit. Hannah Kuenzi guessed nearly exactly the weight of our 18 lb. 12 oz. watermelon. Sandra Tengowski captured the prize of 210 peanuts! Robert Domenick took home a Bruderhoff-built chair while Clay Nobles got the Roethlisberger-signed T-shirt, both raising money for the Swiss room through the Silent auction. Walter sold lampions and our campfire reminded us of roaring mountaintop fires in the homeland. Next year look to buy both lampions AND candles for a parade! We may build the bonfire bigger if more stay to enjoy the music that those of who stayed truly enjoyed. Alphonse Murer and Richard Sink took turns on the alphorn as we transitioned to the outdoor fire; then Fred Carlson played guitar and mandolin, Sarah Sink joined in with her violin, and Richard Sink on his string bass. As they played Swiss dances from the Helvetia, WV, region and harmonized on some other traditional mountain tunes, some joined in singing.

The Richland Barn has proved such a popular site that it has been selected for next year's Confederation Day picnic, Sun. Aug. 1, 2010. Save the date!

## **Sami Klaus Party**

The Swiss-American Society will again hold its annual Sami Klaus Party in conjunction with the Teutonia Kinderchor on Saturday, Dec 12, 2009 at 11:30am. Pizza and soft drinks, included in the registration fee, will be provided for the children. A sandwich buffet will be provided for the adults, funded by a donation jar. The traditional treat bags and a visit from Sami Klaus are planned. The cost is \$5.00 per Family. Please register on the enclosed form.

## **2009 Saengerfest**

*by Andrew Schwarz*

Every three years the Schweizer Männerchor 'Helvetia' participates in a Schweizer Saengerfest sponsored by the North America Swiss Singing Association. This year Calgary, Alberta, Canada was the host and the Festival was held at the Banff Conference Center. The facilities there are first rate and we all enjoyed the beautiful surroundings, the food, and especially the singing and alphorns. For a 7-minute video of the event go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4276ZVGOTo>

All told 12 singers, wives, and friends went and spent 4 days in the Canadian Rockies. While the singers were very busy with rehearsals and meetings, there was time for some to do a little hiking around Banff and at Lake Louise. Also, a number of elk were spotted around the hotel parking lot and Edith and Mark Sutterlin saw 2 Grizzlies!

The next Saengerfest will be held in Kitchner-Waterloo Ontario. A newer choir made up of Swiss immigrants, mostly farmers, in the Thames Valley of Ontario, will be the hosts 6/28 - 7/1 2012. We plan to go, so save the date! I guarantee that you will have a great time if you decide to go with us.

## **Swiss Bratwurst**

Did you enjoy the Swiss-style Brats at the picnic? They are available for mail-order from a Colorado company For more info: <http://www.continentalsausage.com/> 1-866-794-7727 (toll-free).

## **Nationality Room Update**

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

The SNRC is delighted to report that we are doing all we can to have the Swiss Room constructed at Pitt's Cathedral of Learning in 2011, with fabrication of many of the room's components commencing in 2010. What at one time seemed like an impossible climb is now within our collective grasp.

We will look back at the joyous time we spent around the picnic tables at the August 1 celebration this past summer at Richland Barn with fondness, because at that time were present Justin Ruessli (design architect/Lucerne), Stephen Altherr (local architect-of-record), Maxine Bruhns (Nationality Rooms Director), Dominique Schinabeck (CEO of Acutronic, our first corporate sponsor), Richard and Sarah Sink (designated woodcrafter extraordinaire), and our entire Room committee. This room may indeed be completed without all these personalities being present at one time ever again. The people who need to make the room come to fruition are now engaged to the full.

We are within striking distance of having all the funds necessary to initiate room construction (25% more needed in the next 12 months). An outreach to our top 40 donors since the August 1 event has raised \$15,675 in the past two months. More information on our total financial picture will be presented in a fall appeal mailing within the next month. We ARE close, and we are engaged with Pitt Facilities right now moving ahead with estimating our final numbers, and issuing contracts for the work once finished construction documents prepared by Stephen Altherr in collaboration with Richard Sink and Justin are completed. They expect construction documents to be finalized by January 2010. Acquisition and preparation of hardwoods may commence very soon after that to take advantage of low current hardwood costs.

And everything else is in place, many many parts in motion together (like a

Swiss watch) including:

Our room designer and renowned Swiss architect Justin Rüssli remains heavily involved with the project. The lighting engineering and design is being finalized between Justin and Stephen.

Stephen Altherr of EDGE Studio, a Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh member and experienced architect on multiple Pitt projects, has been named the architect-of-record. Stephen and his staff are under formal contract from Pitt (approved by the SNRC), and they are finalizing meticulous construction drawings from Justin's room design. His role also includes the final project budget prep and delegation, supervised by Pitt Facilities Swiss Room contact Adrienne Spellone, of the contracts for the work issued from Pitt.

Master woodworker and carver Richard Sink (who lives near Helvetia, West Virginia, and has years of experience constructing Swiss furniture) has been our leading choice for creating all of the room's wood features since we became aware of his amazing abilities late last fall. Pitt Facilities has helped our efforts by allowing Stephen and Richard to work together preparing construction documents for the room. Richard has tirelessly sought all the detail work he needs to know to complete the chairs, tables, lectern, frames, benchwork, flooring, ceiling, walls, door and display case work for this project as a sole vendor. His estimates have encouraged our committee of our aggressive timetable's legitimacy. The SNRC as one mind are impressed by his deliberate and complete attention to detail, and we feel his unique artistic vision and multi-disciplinary excellence will help keep our project under tight cost control.

Richard's connections in the West Virginia crafts communities has pointed toward both a leaded stained glass craftsman for the room's distinctive windows, and a blacksmith possibility for the historic metalwork. Other local sources will also be tapped to compete for some of these sub-contracted items.

Pitt Facilities, chiefly their head Park Rankin and designated contact for our project Adrienne Spellone, have been fantastic with us--helping us move so efficiently with Stephen Altherr through the final design and estimate phase keeping our committee briefed of every development. Fred Carlson has attended 3 meetings at Pitt Facilities since August 1 where final options for the seating and arrangement of elements to enhance the student comfort in the room have been considered. An issue that was never addressed yet (lighting) is yielding wonderful options for merging high tech Swiss lighting within the rosettes design of a late medieval room! The best of past and present!

In addition, everyone on the SNRC continues to aggressively pursue new support for the Swiss Room. This includes:

Dominique Schinabeck, the CEO of Acutronic, a Swiss company in Pittsburgh, is assisting with an effort to obtain gift commitments from Swiss businesses in the region. Dominique has fulfilled a generous pledge to the project.

A Pittsburgh-based grant proposal writer, Tom Prendergast, has volunteered his time to research and solicit additional foundation support for the project.

Swiss Room supporters with deep connections in Switzerland are currently seeking a free or discounted antique Kachelofen.

The Swiss Room was recently profiled in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* in conjunction with the G-20 meeting, and a reporter from Swiss Broadcasting and swissinfo.ch, Marie-Christine Bonzom, based in Washington DC, was in Pittsburgh last week writing about the room project and other Swiss community news for the Swiss back home.

<http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/swissinfo.html?siteSect=882&sid=11253178>

A former Nationality Rooms tour guide, Christine Herrick, is soliciting support in the Swiss banking community in and around NYC.

We continue to solicit and receive gifts and other support from friends in Pennsylvania, across the United States, and in Europe. We plan a concerted outreach to the DC Swiss club soon.

When you receive the fall appeal, please be generous--the time has come for the final ascent ... the Matterhorn's summit is in sight! Gifts at all levels are welcomed. We thank the SASP for including checkoffs on their new mailing materials to help raise every single dollar we can at this urgent time. Please contact me with any and all questions 412.856.0982.

Finally, let me thank Art & Fran Rudolf, Fran Reichl, Dominique Schinabeck, Jane Lubic, Alex Weilenmann, Albert Flury, the Domenick family, Maxine Bruhns, Catherine Hebert, Koni & Pat Ostertag, Heidi Novak, and Paul Lienhardt for your very recent generous contributions and TIME dedicated to spreading the word about this project. Our SNRC knows that all of you, those mentioned here, those reading this article, and those who have passed on, are together the best ambassadors for the successful completion of this project. We thank you again for any and all efforts you make to draw attention to your greater family members towards our goal, and for the monetary contributions you are called to make.

### **SAS-P representing Swiss-Abroad**

Congratulations to Michael Müllly, former SAS-P president and active member, for being appointed to the council of Swiss abroad. The "Auslandschweizerrat" is a council of 120 members from across the globe who represent the interests of the Swiss living abroad. The council has a yearly meeting at which decisions regarding recommendations to the Swiss parliament are made. 8 seats are allocated for representatives from the US and a term lasts 4 years. More information online at: <http://www.aso.ch/en/about-ourselves/the-osa/the-council-of-the-swiss-abroad>.

## Membership Secretary Report:

by Edith Sutterlin

We currently have a total of 89 active household /family memberships. Several prospects and guests attended our events; we would hope all will support the modest \$10 annual dues. Consider inviting relatives, friends, and neighbors who are either of Swiss descent or else who appreciate Swiss culture and want to support the Swiss Room to join our Society. They may fill out an application online, or come to the Christmas luncheon and do so at that time.

## Welcome New Members!

You may have met Dominique Schinabeck and her daughter, Annabella, at picnic. Dominique is an American-born Swiss citizen who did most of her growing up in Zug, where she is still a Rotary member after earning her MBA in Switzerland. She is Chairman and CEO of Acutronic, a global supplier of motion test and simulation systems. This company began in Bubikon, CH, near Zurich, and expanded to Pittsburgh 20 years ago. Ms. Schinabeck has only been here a short time but is already a member of the Pittsburgh Technology Council and her company was winner of the Pittsburgh Business Times' award for 2008 Manufacturer of the Year! Dominique enjoys mountain biking, jogging, golfing, and skiing, and hopes to resume these more as Annabella gets a little older. She also enjoys cooking and good wine; classical music and modern Art.

We would also like to welcome Rudolph and Tammy Kuenzi to membership -- even though they live far away, we appreciate the Swiss American connection and support. Rudy's family lives in Greenville, NC, but they have many Kuenzi connections in Pittsburgh. While Rudy is a sales representative; his wife, Tammy, is an accountant. Their son, Chandler, is now a teenager in high school.

Whoops! My apologies for spelling error in last newsletter: Please note new members as

Johann and Vicki STAMM.

## Winter Recipe – CHEESE FONDUE

Do you have a fondue pot? Interested in making homemade Swiss cheese fondue to warm you up this winter? Here is a family recipe from Michael Müly:

### Ingredients:

Bread

800g=1.75 lb **mixed Swiss cheeses** (e.g. Gruyere, Appenzeller, Vacherin, Tilsiter).

3dl = 1.25 cup **dry White wine**

$\frac{1}{4}$  **lemon**

1-2 cloves of **garlic**

2-3 teaspoons of **cornstarch**

**Nutmeg, Pepper, 1.5-2.5 tbsp Kirsch**

### Instructions:

Rub the fondue pot with garlic and add the cheese. Add cornstarch and mix. Add the wine, squeeze the lemon over the cheese. Cook slowly, making figure 8's with a wooden spoon (not too forcefully or too quickly!) until it is cooked (melted to proper thickness). Then add nutmeg, pepper, and other favorite spices, and Kirsch. Transfer the fondue pot to its stand, dip the bread and enjoy!

## Do you have a Swiss recipe?

What are your favorite Swiss dishes? Do you want a recipe for a certain Swiss dish OR do you have any recipes you'd like to share? Email Emilie Müly at [emilie@muelly.ch](mailto:emilie@muelly.ch) to request a recipe or to have your recipe published in the newsletter. ... Maybe it will even be used at a future SAS-P event!!



**SAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Saturday, December 5, 2009**  
11:30-3:30pm

**Annual Christmas Luncheon**  
Atria's, 5517 William Flynn Highway  
Gibsonia, PA 15044

**Sunday, December 6, 2009**  
10 am- Noon (set-up);  
Event Noon to 4 P.M.

**Nationality Room Open House**  
Cathedral of Learning  
University of Pittsburgh

**Saturday, December 12, 2009**  
11:30am to 1:30pm

**Sami Klaus Event**  
Teutonia  
857 Phineas Street, Pittsburgh, PA

**Annual Swiss Christmas Luncheon - Details**

When: Saturday, December 5, 2009

Where: **Atria's**, 5517 William Flynn Highway; Gibsonia, PA 15044  
724-444-7340 <http://www.atrias.com>  
Situated on PA route 8 just south of Orange Belt Rte 910

Schedule:

11:30 am	Socialize, place & view tombola donations.
Noon	Luncheon served: Tossed salad, entrée, potato, vegetable, roll, beverage, dessert.
1:30pm	President's welcome, 2009 Board election results, music selections presented.
2:30 pm	Tombola raffle to benefit Swiss Nationality Room.
3:25 pm	Concluding remarks.

Menu: Choice of: Fresh baked salmon, chicken breast Florentine, Pan-seared fresh tilapia, Pot roast tender beef, or vegetarian. Dessert: . Apfelstrudel or Ice cream sundae.

Cost: \$21-\$25 per person depending on menu selections, \$5 discount for children under 12 years of age.

To bring: Tombola donations, money to purchase Christmas presents

Registration: Send enclosed registration form & check payable to Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh by Tuesday, November 17, 2009 to:  
Paul Lienhardt, 1527 High Knoll Dr. Pittsburgh, PA 15241-3311  
If deadline is past, contact Paul to see if it is not too late!! 412-835-9345.

**2009 Swiss Luncheon Registration: SAT. 5 DEC. 11:30 - 3:30**

ATRIA'S RICHLAND – GIBSONIA, Situated on PA route 8 just south of Orange Belt Rte 910

Chef Josef Karst, German born, studied in Germany & Switzerland, came to Atria's 1999

Choose from five entrees @ \$21.00 + Yes/No on dessert choices @ \$1.50 or \$4.00  
Pricing includes tax & tip. Coffee, tea, soft drinks included with all entrees.

- 1 - Fresh baked salmon served chilled on mixed greens, garnish of strawberries, almonds, goat cheese
- 2 - Chicken breast marinated, with penne pasta and spinach, in creamy tomato vodka sauce Florentine
- 3 - Pan-seared fresh tilapia topped with tomato shallot vinaigrette, served with steamed vegetables
- 4 - Pot roast tender beef braised and slowly cooked, with mashed redskin potatoes and vegetables
- 5 - Vegetarian plate of chef's daily fresh selections

Attendees <u>DINER'S NAME</u>	ENTRÉE No. at \$21.00	Ice Cream Sundae \$1.50	Apfelstrudel at \$4.00	YOUTH not yet 12 - less \$5.00	= LUNCH <u>TALLY \$</u>
_____	No. _____	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	= \$____.
_____	No. _____	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	= \$____.
_____	No. _____	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	= \$____.
_____	No. _____	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	= \$____.
_____	No. _____	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	= \$____.
_____	No. _____	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	= \$____.

**TOTAL AMOUNT FOR LUNCHESES RESERVED IS \$\_\_\_\_\_.**

**SAMI KLAUS Event, 12/12/2009 REGISTRATION: # children: \_\_\_\_\_** \$\_\_\_\_\_.  
Registration is \$5.00 per family.

**PLEASE PAY your 2010 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP DUES of \$10.00 per family** \$\_\_\_\_\_.

**PLUS - Optional SWISS NATIONALITY ROOM Contribution** \$\_\_\_\_\_.  
THIS SNR GIFT IS FEDERAL INCOME TAX-DEDUCTIBLE - SCHEDULE A ITEMIZATIONS

**You can make ONE CHECK to Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh for** \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Please return this reservation form with payment by **17 Nov. 09** to

**PAUL LIENHARDT - 1527 High Knoll Dr., Pittsburgh PA 15241-3311**  
Any questions, concerns, or for directions to Atria's, call PAUL at 412-835-9345

May we have your current contact information? Thank you

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

(e-mail use is limited to SASP board members unless you authorize full SASP membership distribution.)

**2009 Ballot**

**President:**

- Paul Lienhardt
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Vice President:**

- Annemarie Frick
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary:**

- Jhon Smith
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer:**

- Walter Schaller
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Secretary:**

- Julianne Miller
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Board Members (choose 2):**

- Bruce Kuenzi
- Tim Maddamma
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

*Lyndall Huggler & Conrad Ostertag will be serving the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their 2 year term.*

**Auditors (choose 2):**

- Clay Nobels
- Pat Ostertag
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_