



Switzerland



NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Volume 22, No. 1

Summer 2013

President's Message

Gruezi!

We hope you are enjoying your Summer, and we look forward to seeing everyone at the Swiss National Day Celebration Picnic on Saturday, August 3. Please make plans to attend the Picnic and respond by sending in your reservation form, which is included in this newsletter.

We need helpers for the Picnic, so if you are willing to contribute your time and talents, please do not hesitate to contact me by email (lynbeth@msn.com) or cell phone (412-480-1660).

This month we are highlighting, as Living Traditions of Switzerland, Feldschiessen and Knabenschiessen (no, this does not refer to shooting your kids!). Feel free to contact me if you have a particular Living Tradition that you would like to see highlighted in a future issue.

Also, a gentle reminder to send in your annual dues payment if you have not already done so. We seem to be lagging behind where we were a year ago at this time on dues payments, and we would like to get caught up by the time of the Picnic. I would also like to extend thanks to Heidi Novak for becoming a Life Member. Thank you for your support!

Hopp Schwiiz!

Lyndall Huggler

SASP 2013 EVENTS

August 3 Sat, 2pm	<u>Swiss National Day Celebration Picnic</u> at Richland Barn
Sept 7 Sat, 1:30pm	<u>SASP Summer Board Meeting</u> 908 Fairview Road Pittsburgh, PA 15238
Sept 14 Sat, 11am	<u>Alliance of Germanic Societies Parade</u> North Side, East Ohio St.
Dec 7	<u>Annual Christmas Luncheon</u> at Peter's Place, South Hills <i>Details in Fall SASP newsletter</i>

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Welcome New Member!

Carol Frownfelter Jensen joined the Society after attending the Christmas dinner as a guest of Rosan Habegger. Carol's paternal Great-Great-Grandfather came from Frauenfeld.

Alliance of Germanic Societies Parade

The Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh is a member organization of the Alliance of Germanic Societies, which will be holding its annual parade on September 14, 2013, in the Deutschtown neighborhood on Pittsburgh's North Side. The parade will begin at 11:00 at the east side of Allegheny Commons and will proceed down East Ohio Street to Teutonia Männerchor, where a luncheon will be held at noon. Raffle tickets to provide financial support for the Alliance will be sold at the Swiss National Celebration Day Picnic. If you would like additional information about the parade and luncheon, please contact Conrad Ostertag or Lyndall Huggler.

Financial Report -5 Months 2013

Teutonia Event – Costs \$1,259.29, paid attendees \$966.00 = \$293.29 loss.

Tombala proceeds \$230 & Ruth Blank gift of \$100 sent to U Pitt Swiss Room.

Dues \$660 annual & \$300 life rec'd; spring newsletter had \$135.65 costs.

Honor gifts in memory of Trudy Kuenzi received by SASP were \$380.

Prepaid deposits 2013 events: Pro Pat \$460 and Peters Place Christmas Luncheon \$100, while one member has paid \$16 for our summer Richland Barn gathering.

Bank interest earned, less service charges, misc items = net \$6.49 costs.

In March initial \$3,000 donation **Pestalozzi Educational Fund** received.

SASP cash balance at 31 May 2013 of \$10,235.49 has \$3000 restricted, with \$7,235.49 unrestricted funds, versus \$7,389.57 at begin year 2013.

-Paul Lienhardt

Your 2013 SASP Board

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Board Member 2014: Nancy Flury Carlson

nancy@carlsonstudio.com 412.856.0982

Board Member 2014: Beatrice Hooks

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SASP Communications The SASP is continually striving to improve its ability to communicate with its membership regarding important events. In particular, we are currently looking at ways that we can provide immediate notice to the membership in the event of a death of one of our members. If you become aware of a death of a member, we ask that you contact one of our Board members. We are working on developing the capacity to send an e-mail alert to the membership in such event. Of course, this will also require that we have your current e-mail address! Please send any e-mail (or other) address updates to one of the Board Members.

Webmaster The SASP is looking for a volunteer with web editing skills who would be willing to keep our web site up to date. Could that person be you? If so, please contact one of our Board members. It would be very much appreciated!

Auditors Needed for 2013 Financial Reports. Two Auditors of Treasurer's 2013 financial records and reports, to confer with him in early 2014, await appointment. Auditor candidates please contact Lyndall Huggler at **412-967-9822 or lynbeth@msn.com**

Living Traditions

Lebendige Traditionen / Tradition vivantes / Tradizioni viventi / Tradiziuns vivas

Basel carnival, Swiss graphic design, *Hornussen*, and the Vevey grape harvest festival are some of the practices that feature on the current "Inventory of Living Traditions in Switzerland". All traditions that appear in the Inventory share the following three features:

- they are still practiced in Switzerland.
- they change and evolve.
- they are an integral part of Swiss cultural diversity and identity.

It is precisely these three aspects that enable living traditions to connect one generation to the next as part of our cultural heritage.

Feldschiessen

Every year countless towns and villages across Switzerland host a "Feldschiessen" (field shoot). It offers the ideal opportunity for recreational shooting enthusiasts, both young and old, experienced or first-timers, to meet up and indulge their shared passion. Over the course of one weekend, they compete in either the 300-metre rifle shoot or the 50- and 25-metre pistol shoot. Regardless of the distance, each competitor fires a total of 18 shots, whether one after the other or in rapid series.

Over 130,000 took part in the 2012 "Feldschiessen", making it the largest sporting event in Switzerland, and the largest marksmanship competition in the world. Dating back to the second half of the 19th century, the roots of the "Feldschiessen" tradition are firmly planted in Swiss military history, which evolved in tangent with the expansion of the Swiss Army and federal training exercises. Over time, it would become a purely recreational pursuit, enabling the older generations of marksmen to pass on their expertise in handling firearms for peaceful purposes. In 1996, soldiers serving in the Swiss Army were no longer subject to mandatory membership of a shooting club. Since then, the Swiss Shooting Sports Federation has experienced a dramatic decline in membership numbers.



A marksman taking aim before shooting

© Schützengesellschaft der Stadt Zürich 2011

Knabenschiessen

Knabenschiessen, a marksmanship contest for older children in the Canton of Zurich, is held on the second weekend of September or a week prior to Federal Prayer Day and lasts from Friday evening to Monday evening. The event symbolises boys' military training, which dates back to the Middle Ages. Starting in the 17th century, weapons training exercises took place every summer, culminating in a type of exam taken in September. Since 1899 the Riflemen's Association of Zurich has held the shooting event in Albisgütli. Girls were first invited to take part in 1991, and today they account for about a third of the 4000 13- to 17-year old participants. The King or Queen of the Marksmen is announced on the Monday in the presence of members of the political world, the military, rifle associations and guilds, and will be a special guest of the Weggen Guild at the Sechseläuten event the following April. Young musicians and around 300 volunteers are involved in the event.

There is also a funfair. Observations of the event committee indicate that people associate the event with the funfair more than with the marksmanship contest. The funfair is also the largest of its kind to be held in one place in Switzerland, attracting between 700,000 and a million visitors over the three days, depending on the weather

For more information on the Living Traditions in Switzerland, go to www.lebendige-traditionen.ch

3 August Swiss National Day Celebration

Picnic will be held at the Richland Park Barn in Bakerstown.

Exit Route 8 east onto Red Belt, then left north at next intersection; park entrance is on the right.

- Bring TOMBOLA donations & cards / games
- Bring food dishes for 8+ to share and get 3 FREE TOMBOLA TICKETS!
- Arrive around 2pm if you would like to help set up chairs and hang canton banners and SWISS flags.
- PRO PATRIA pins are \$5 & support Swiss charities.
- Silent auction for SWISS CHAIR donated by Rich Sink to benefit Swiss Room Scholarship Fund

Pricing:

- \$16. -everyone over 11 years
- \$8. -children 8-11 years
- \$8. -per person - if you bring YOUR OWN PICNIC
- FREE -kids under 7, with added children's games

***Please pre-register with below form for better food count.

Make check payable to Swiss American Society Pittsburgh and send payment by July 27th to:

Lyndall Hugger
908 Fairview Road, Pittsburgh PA 15238-1730

SWISS PICNIC SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	
2pm	Renew friendships and make new Swiss links - Enjoy cold sodas, water and beer.
3pm	Games for kids and youth + water balloon toss + Stein Stossen... fun events for all! - with nominal prizes.
4pm	Food fest of salads, veggies, wursts & desserts. Share stories of foods and doings.
5:30	Swiss singers, music, speakers and announcements. TOMBOLA TICKETS sold: 1 for \$1, 3 for \$2, 9 for \$5.
7pm	TOMBOLA drawings



Swiss Chair similar to these beauties made by Rich Sink will be auctioned at the Picnic for Swiss Room Scholarship Fund! See next page for details.

August 3rd 2013 Swiss Picnic Registration Form

Please Print First and Last Names: (\$16 provided/\$8 bring own picnic & children 8-11)

_____	\$ _____ .00
_____	\$ _____ .00
_____	\$ _____ .00
_____	\$ _____ .00
_____	\$ _____ .00
_____	\$ _____ .00
_____	\$ _____ .00

Total Picnic Price for Attendees: \$ _____ .00
Add PRO PATRIA Pins (x \$5 each): \$ _____ .00
2013 Dues (if not yet paid) (x\$15 ea): \$ _____ .00
Pestalozzi Educational Fund: \$ _____ .00

My/Our total prepayment is: \$ _____ .00

Twenty Years Ago

Here's a look at some highlights from the 1993 records of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh.

Rolf Kuehni, Trudy Kuenzi, Florence Jacob, Bruce Kuenzi, Bill Englert, Tim Maddamma, Henry Heer and Pat Heer kicked off the year with the board of directors' meeting in January. Other board members, not present at the January meeting, included Joseph Gigandet, Conrad Ostertag, Hazel Von Arx, and Betty Montgomery. The club's treasury balance in January was \$4,368.89 and by December the amount was \$4,805.61. The paid membership stood at 177 in January and had increased to 203 by December.

One of the topics under Old Business was *"The Nationality Rooms Committee (NRIEP) at the University of Pittsburgh was discussed. Many questions concerning our Society's participation were unanswered. President Rolf Kuehni will contact Consul Kunz and they will set up a meeting with Mrs. Bruhns from the University to answer some of these questions."*

The Spring Luncheon was held at Jack's Restaurant in Sarver, PA on May 15. The August 1st picnic landed on August 1st that year, and was held at Rose Barn in North Park. At the August 1st picnic, there was dancing to Ed Hrabel's band, the Sundowners, and prizes for the best waltz couple and best polka couple were awarded. The Christmas dinner and annual business meeting was held on December 5 at Tivoli's in Penn Hills. And the Sami Chlaus party was at CMU's Skibo Hall on December 18. Discussions also took place to plan an event to welcome Ambassador Baer in the spring of 1994.

A trip to Albert Gallatin's home, Friendship Hill, in New Geneva was also planned for October. By the time of the August board meeting, however, only 22 had signed up for the trip but 35 were needed in order to book a bus for transportation. But our membership rallied and the bus trip did take place with 38 participants. Due to Swiss precision planning, finances ended up in the black for the trip with a profit of \$7.35!

We received a letter from the Swiss Benevolent Society of Philadelphia letting us know that the Pellegrini Fund, originally providing scholarships to students of Swiss heritage in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, had been extended in scope to include Pennsylvania.

Ambassador Hans-Peter Erismann sent a good-bye letter to our group, letting us know that after three and a half years in the United States, he would be moving to his next assignment in Nairobi, Kenya. He also let us know that Roger Baer would be his successor.

Dr. Heinz Kunz presented the SASP with a gift of the national flags of Switzerland and the United States of America, and two sets of cantonal flags, in the name of the CH91 Coordinating Committee of Greater Pittsburgh.

Old Economy Village asked our society whether we would want to decorate a Christmas tree in the Swiss traditional way for their annual 19th Century Candlelight Christmas. The board determined that with work to be done for the Sami Chlaus party and the Christmas dinner, we did not have the resources to support this, so we declined.

The nominating committee presented three new officers for election in December: Secretary Grace Hayes, replacing Pat Heer; Ernie Gubser came aboard as Board member replacing Bill Englert, and Bruce Kuenzi agreed to serve another term on the Board.

What will we write about in 2033?

-Nancy Flury Carlson

S-ASP Swiss National Day Celebration to Host "Stabellen" Chair Auction to Benefit the Swiss Room Scholarship Fund



Richard Sink, the noted woodworker who created all of the furniture and other wood features in the recently completed Swiss Nationality Room, has generously donated a soon-to-be-completed **maple wood Swiss "Stabellen" chair for auction at our Swiss National Day Celebration picnic.** Bidding will start at \$300, and the winner can take the chair home or have it delivered!

The photo above shows a pine wood version of the maple wood chair that

Richard is crafting for us. **The winning bid monies will go to the Swiss Nationality Room Scholarship Fund.** We are truly thankful to Richard for this gift, and thankful for the generosity of our members who will bid on this heirloom, especially the winner!

Even if you are NOT planning to attend the picnic, you may bid on this chair (minimum \$300) by emailing SASP President Lyndall Huggler at: lynbeth@msn.com. Email bids must be received by Lyndall by Friday, August 2, 2013.

-Fred Carlson, for the SNRC

Love for Bike Riding 36 Years in the Making

When I moved from Nidau, Switzerland to Waynesburg in April of 1977, I had lost my main means of transportation, my bicycle. So, when I came across two Murray bikes in a shop in Morgantown, I had to buy them. I got a good deal on the two three speed bikes - a men's version for Bill, the Greene County guy I married in July of 1977, and the woman's version for me. Unfortunately, the surprise purchase didn't impress my husband, on the contrary, he thought it was a dumb idea.



Main Street in Nidau: ideal picturesque setting for bike riding

Puzzled by his reaction, I ventured out, on the country roads around Waynesburg, on my own. Soon I realized, though, that motorists were not accustomed to seeing bikes in their space. They didn't know how to react. Some were afraid to pass me and came to a full stop, or they slowed down and created a traffic jam. Needless to say, I didn't feel as comfortable as I did when I used to ride my bike to school, around town, or to my friend's house in my hometown. Also, the roads out here had pot holes from the coal trucks, and the curbs were uneven and rugged. It didn't take long for me to replace the bike with a used car. So, for many years, the two Murray bikes collected dust in the garage. We did buy bikes for our two girls, but their use was limited to safe spaces, such as sidewalks or empty parking lots.

This brings me back to Saturday, when Bill and I, and some of our Greene County bike enthusiasts attended the opening ceremony of the completion of the Greater Allegheny Passage bike trail in West Homestead. Listening to former mayor Tom Murphy's speech, and his portrayal of how bike riding in Pittsburgh used to be 35 years ago, gave me the idea for this story. Lucky for us, he and a bunch of other people had a vision for

converting old railroad tracks into bike trails. It took a lot of work convincing people, and money to make this



Bike Riding in Bern

bike trail from Pittsburgh to D.C. a reality. But, if you have been on it, or at least parts of it, you will have to agree that it is worth all the effort and money spent.

A few years ago, Bill and I purchased bikes with shock absorbers, high tech seats, and 20 plus gears. No, we still don't ride on the Greene County roads, but, there are many beautiful trails near us now. Many things have changed since I moved to Western Pa from Switzerland. The change I savor the most is that my husband Bill thinks bike riding is fun now.



Bike Trail in Pittsburgh's South Side

Story submitted by: Béatrice Hook-Rüfenacht

Swiss Nationality Room Committee Report

University Room Committee By-Laws Being Updated and Cultural Offerings Requested

-reported by Fred Carlson, Vice-Chairman SNRC

Chairman Heinz W. Kunz, along with Jhon Smith and Paul Lienhardt, represented the Swiss Room Committee this past June 13, 2013 at the University of Pittsburgh Nationality Council Meeting. New Room Committee By-Laws were discussed. The purpose of the new By-Laws is to strengthen the relationships between the University of Pittsburgh and all the varied room committees who may have been operating under different standards of activity and regularity. The SNRC will be meeting after September 1 to formally accept the new By-Laws. It is our view after reviewing the proposed language that the Swiss Committee is largely meeting and complying with all the expectations of a Nationality Committee, especially with a new room just dedicated last spring and our actively encouraging the building of a scholarship fund.

Our SNRC is particularly open to ideas from the larger Swiss community as to cultural presentations we could bring to the Pitt university community. This is being highly encouraged in the new By-Laws. Point 3 of the new Charter Agreement being proposed is: "The (Swiss) Committee shall provide cultural programming, such as events, lectures, performances, films, exhibits, which shall be appropriate for a diverse audience and all age groups." Please feel free to be creative and pro-active with what we Swiss can offer to the University community.

As reported in the last issue of Switzerland, the new Swiss Nationality Room Committee as of 2013 includes:

Chairman/Holiday Decorating Dr. Heinz W. Kunz,
Vice-Chairman/Secretary Frederick H. Carlson, **Sales Table/Holiday Open House** Walter Schaller,
Fundraising Chair Philip Bottonari, **Consulting Historian** Evelyn Ruffing, **Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Pittsburgh** Dominique Schinabeck,
Quo Vadis Contact Jhon Smith, **Swiss-American Society President** (President of the S-ASP is member of the SNRC) Lyndall J. Huggler, and Nancy Flury Carlson, and Edith Bottonari

Finally, November 9 (Saturday) is our next Swiss Room Holiday Decorating effort! Let Dr. Kunz know of your interest in assisting!

Future Swiss Room Scholarship Funds Total \$13,574.86

-Reported by Fred Carlson

Since the 2012 National Day picnic, where the drive for the future Swiss Room Scholarship Fund was inaugurated, we have raised a total of \$13,574.86 as of May 2, 2013. Another contribution in memory of Trudy Kuenzi from the Blank Family of upstate New York is expected to be recorded in the cash deposit reporting soon. The tombola from the Swiss Dinner April 7 was \$230.

THANK YOU ALL!

SWISS ROOM UPDATES

-Reported by Frederick H. Carlson/Vice-Chairman

Chair work required: All repair work to the Thurgau and Vaud chairs have been successfully completed by Pitt carpentry. Pitt has demonstrated superior ability to repair the leg damage and camouflage the repair work. Go see for yourself! Hopefully, the students will continue to treat these country-styled cantonal chairs with the honor and gentleness with which they were created.

Window work required: The Nidwalden window exhibited fatigue in the holders keeping this window in its frame and was removed until newer strong holders could be delivered by Swiss Room prime woodworker Richard Sink of Mountaineer Woodworking, French Creek, WV. We thank Richard and the University Tour Director Michael Walter for their prompt work in solving this concern before serious damage might have occurred.

Antique Door handle: Our committee, along with architect-of-record Stephen Altheer and contractor P.J. Dick, are looking into placement of an antique handle on the interior door of the Swiss Room to match the style of the refurbished door. We have the funds in our construction account balance to easily get this work done quickly.

Narrative Sound Recording: The descriptive narration that is played in the Swiss Room, recorded by Nationality Rooms Director E. Maxine Bruhns, is being edited to correct the order of the stained glass windows that Maxine recorded last February 2012. The order of the windows was changed reflecting a decision of the SNRC and the narration had not been changed yet so we are working on that now.

The Swiss Nationality Room Scholarship Fund

Do students attending class in the Swiss Room
get inspired to study in Switzerland?

Ja, Oui, Sì, Gea, Yes!



Please give generously to the **Swiss Nationality Room Scholarship Fund** at the University of Pittsburgh. This endowed fund will help Pitt students realize their dreams of **living and learning in Switzerland**.

+ All donations made to the University of Pittsburgh – Swiss Nationality Room are tax-deductible +
Questions? Contact Philip at 412-216-5144 or bottonari@alumni.nd.edu

Gift Amount \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail (*required for credit card gifts*) _____

Mail to: Nationality Rooms Program
1209 Cathedral of Learning
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Payment Options:

Check (payable to "University of Pittsburgh")

Please write "Swiss Room Scholarship" in memo

Credit Card (\$50 minimum; you can also go to: <http://www.pitt.edu/giving.html> to make an online credit card gift, but be sure to include a comment of "Swiss Room Scholarship")

Visa MasterCard Discover AMEX

Credit Card # _____

Security Code _____
(3- or 4-digit value printed on card or signature strip)

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Nationality Rooms Program/Swiss Room account: 09.01031.4400.95927.000000.000000.00000

SASP ADOPTS CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

On 1 Dec. 2012 that RESETS DUES, OFFICES, MEETINGS

Effective 1/1/2013 Annual dues for family at same address is \$15, with an optional Life Member one-time \$300 payment – Heidi Novak so chose. Our 2013 Annual dues payer families as of end May 2013 number 44.

ARE YOU STILL TO PAY ? Which Option will you choose?

SEND YOUR 2013 PAYMENT TO LYNDALE HUGGLER

908 Fairview Road, Pittsburgh PA 15238-1730

Beyond President, Vice-President and Treasurer, **Secretary posts expand** from **two to three: Recording, Membership, and Corresponding**. With the four At-Large two-year term Directors, the Board of Directors tally ten.

Jhon Smith is Recording; moving from 2012-2013 Director, Editor Ellen Carlson accepts Corresponding; while Richard Engel takes on Membership.

Annemarie Frick returns in 2013 as Vice-President, while Paul Lienhardt assumes the Treasurer post and Lyndall Huggler becomes our President. Two-year term Board Members are: **2013-14** Beatrice Hook and Nancy Carlson, along with **2012-13** Andrew Schwarz, joined 2013 by Jim Shock.

Constitution Establishes PESTALOZZI EDUCATIONAL FUND

to bring Swiss individuals to our western PA region as educational, cultural, program / informational presenters. **Initial \$3000 funding received** as means to provide air travel and devise a candidate's grant applications process. **Would YOU** participate in developing our process and contacts in Switzerland regarding this opportunity? If so, contact Lyndall or Paul.

SWISS ROOM SCHOLARSHIP of the University of Pittsburgh begins from its earnings after \$50,000 endowment is achieved to provide students grants to study, research and travel in Switzerland. Less than \$25,000 is presently funded. By contrast, our SASP Pestalozzi Educational Fund may use all its resources to bring Swiss people to our western PA region.

You may make charitable donations to either or both of these funds.

APPLICATION 501(c)(3) NON-PROFIT FILED IRS

In June 2013 form 1023 prepared by Lyndall and Paul transforms us from 501(c)(4) social club into an active group with significant educational and cultural goals and programs for diverse western PA residents/organizations.

Five years financial data filing starts with 1/1/2008 cash balance \$7003:

	<u>Year 2008</u>	<u>Year 2009</u>	<u>Year 2010</u>	<u>Year 2011</u>
<u>Year 2012</u>				
Revenues	\$5,642	\$5,581	\$5,306	\$5,291
\$5,413				
Expenses	\$5,268	\$4,759	\$5,302	\$5,122
\$6,396				

that then concludes with the SASP 12/31/2012 cash balance of \$7,390.

-Paul Lienhardt

A Note on the Naming of our Swiss Picnic

The first of August in Switzerland is called (in the four languages):

German: Schweizer Bundesfeiertag

French: Jour de la fête nationale Suisse

Italian: Giorno della festa nazionale svizzera

Romansch: Fiasta naziunala Svizra.

The proper name in English:

Swiss National Day Celebration.

Other names, such as Swiss Independence Day and Pro Patria are not a correct translation and should not be used!

This useful information brought to our attention by Heinz Kunz.