



Switzerland



NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

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President's Message

Gruezi!

Hope you are all doing well as we head into the final weeks of 2013. We look forward to seeing many of you at the Christmas Dinner on Saturday, December 7. The Christmas Dinner also serves as the annual general meeting of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh. Please make plans to attend and respond by sending in your reservation form, which is included in this newsletter.

This month's Living Tradition of Switzerland is Choral Singing in the Canton of Fribourg. "Das Alte Hüttlein", by Abbé Joseph Bovet, is part of the standard repertoire of the Pittsburgh Swiss Singers. Perhaps this feature will trigger your interest in singing with the Pittsburgh Swiss Singers? We are always looking for new members; please contact Andy Schwarz, Koni Ostertag, or me if this might appeal to you.

Hopp Schwiiz!

Lyndall Huggler

Notice of Annual Meeting of General Assembly

The 2013 annual meeting of the General Assembly of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh will be held in conjunction with the Christmas luncheon at Peter's Place on December 7, 2013. The General Assembly will elect directors and officers for 2014.

<u>SASP 2013 EVENTS</u>	
Nov 16 Sat, 9am-3pm	<u>Holiday Decorating Day</u> Swiss Nationality Room <i>If interested in helping, contact Nancy Carlson</i>
Dec 14	<u>Sami Klaus Party</u> Teutonia
Dec 7	<u>Annual Christmas Luncheon</u> at Peter's Place, South Hills Annual General Assembly Meeting
Dec 8 12-4pm	<u>Nationality Rooms Open House</u> Cathedral of Learning <i>See page 6</i>
Jan 25	<u>SASP Board Meeting</u> Time and Place TBD,
April 6 (tentative)	<u>Spring Dinner</u> Time and Place TBD

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Welcome New Members!

Owen Meier joined the Society at the Swiss Nationality Day Picnic. Owen is the son of Honorary Member Hans Meier and recently moved back to the Pittsburgh area. Welcome back, Owen!

Carol Frownfelter Jensen is a new member.

Swiss Nationality Day Celebration Picnic

Good weather greeted the 79 attendees at the barn at Richland Park on Saturday, August 3. The wurst luncheon was again excellent, with Bill Hook handling the grilling duties this year (thanks Bill!). The Pittsburgh Swiss Singers gave a rousing performance, complete with Alphorn and yodeling. Tim Maddamma claimed the peanuts, while Evelyn Ruffing took home the watermelon. After a spirited silent auction, Nancy Flury and Fred Carlson took home the Richard Sink custom-built Swiss chair. Steinstossen winners were Tim Maddamma and Julianne Miller... fierce competitors and repeat winners

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.

Evelyn Ruffing Honored by Historical Society

SASP member Evelyn Ruffing received the Arthur St. Clair Historic Preservation Award from the Westmoreland County Historical Society on October 23 at the Greensburg Country Club on Route 130 west of Greensburg. Evelyn is a founder of the Derry Area Historical Society, and led the restoration of the Simpson Voting House, which was the polling place for the Simpson precinct for more than 100 years. The voting house structure was restored and the building can now again be used as a voting house. Evelyn is a long-time member of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh and member of the Swiss Nationality Room Committee, for which she provided key guidance on historical and architectural decisions. We congratulate Evelyn on this great achievement.

Your SASP Board

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Board Member 2014: Beatrice Hook

bbaahook@windstream.net 724.627.3049

Nationality Room Holiday Open House

The University of Pittsburgh will have its annual Holiday Open House of the Nationality Classrooms from Noon to 4pm on Sunday, December 8th, in the Cathedral of Learning.

Many rooms including the Swiss Room 321 will be decorated for Christmas. In the commons area on the first floor there will be ethnic display tables, food booths and entertainment.

Walter Schaller will again be chairing the Swiss Sale Table featuring Swiss cheese fondue, chocolates, ethnic Swiss cultural items and souvenirs. Walt asks for your support with donations of Swiss cookies, baked goods, foods or souvenir items for the sale table. Please bring the items between 10 am and Noon. All proceeds to benefit the Swiss Scholarship Fund at Pitt. You can also help with your time by assisting at the sale table for a few hours. Please contact Walter if you would like to help out during this very important annual event. Telephone: 412-980-4421 or e-mail walter.schaller@zoominternet.net

Also, please don't forget to let your friends and family know of this event.

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.

Choral Singing in the Canton of Fribourg

The people of Fribourg have such a strong passion for singing that almost one in every 35 of them is in a choir, be it church or lay, mixed or single-sex, young or not so young, professional or amateur.

The Fribourg Choral Federation has just under 7,200 members in 234 choirs, and this does not include the impromptu ensembles put together for specific projects and the informal groups that sing together without actually forming a society.



Joseph Bovet and his students, Ecole

Normale d'Hauterive – c. 1935 ©
Glasson/Musée gruérien, Bulle



The Old Chalet and The Beautiful Castle
by Abbé Bovet, © Musée gruérien, Bulle

This exceptional density can be attributed to a long-standing tradition firmly anchored in the region's history. While the choral movement has developed in all of the Catholic cantons, Fribourg – home to rural communities in which the clergy has always played a central role – is the one that has provided the most fertile ground for it to flourish. However, the movement has spread independently of the religious context – and indeed sometimes as a reaction against it. Abbé Joseph Bovet (1879-1951) acted like a local General Guisan, bringing harmony to the canton's many voices, and reigned charismatically over the whole region's choral scene for a long time. The 20th century nevertheless saw increasingly diverse repertoires and ever larger catchment areas, distancing the tradition somewhat from its parochial roots, where people sang first and foremost with others from their village in the shadow of the church tower and to the rhythm of local life.

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

New SASP Web Site!

If you have not looked at the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh's web site in a while, check out the new look at <http://www.swisspittsburgh.org>. Right now the new site has a home page featuring a brief "About Us" section and a reference to the Swiss Nationality Room at the University of Pittsburgh. There is also a space for news highlights. Other pages are: News, Events, Join, Singers, and Links.

The webmaster thanks former SASP Michael Muelly for his support in transferring the domain name and archival files from the old site, as well as current board members who have contributed content for their respective areas. President Lyndall Huggler submitted "about us" text, Membership Secretary Richard Engel weighed in on the Join page, and Board Member Andy Schwarz provided content for the Singers page.

The web site is built using a tool called Weebly (<http://www.weebly.com>). This tool is very easy to use, allowing anyone to create a professional-looking web site for free, even if they have never done it before.

What suggestions do you have for content that should be on the web site? Are you interested in helping keep it up to date? Please send ideas, comments, content, or questions to the webmaster, Nancy Flury Carlson (nancy@carlsonstudio.com).



Revamped SASP Home Page ^
Koni Ostertag, Alliance of Germanic Societies Award Ceremony >

Conrad Ostertag Honored by the Alliance of Germanic Societies of Pittsburgh



Conrad Ostertag was honored by the Alliance of Germanic Societies of Pittsburgh at a recognition luncheon at the Teutonia Maennerchor on September 14, 2013. As part of this recognition, Koni was mentioned in a Pittsburgh City Council proclamation declaring the date to be "German Heritage Parade Day" in the City of Pittsburgh. The proclamation includes the following: "Whereas, honoree Conrad Ostertag, whose father emigrated from Basel,

Switzerland in the early 1920s, has served as the President of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh, and is currently the President of the Swiss Singers, and Vice President of the Alliance of Germanic Societies, where he plays an important role as Parade Coordinator;"

We congratulate Koni on this well-deserved honor.



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

Swiss Nationality Room Committee News (SNRC)

-reported by Fred Carlson, Vice-Chairman SNRC

-Our Swiss National Day Celebration picnic on August 3 was successful and we raised \$480 for the Swiss Room Scholarship fund account through a silent auction of a maple Swiss *stabellen* chair similar to the ones in the Swiss Room, donated by our generous woodcraftsman Richard Sink. The tombola also generated another \$208 for our accounts. Nancy Flury and Fred Carlson won the chair auction after a tough duel with President Lyndall Huggler!

-Chairman Heinz W. Kunz, along with Vice-Chairman Fred Carlson represented the Swiss Room Committee at the Nationality Council meeting Thursday, October 24, 2013. Discussion of the new NRIEP By-Laws was on the agenda along with hearing reports from recently returned scholarship award winners discussing their studies abroad. The Swiss Room fund has not dispensed any monies yet (see below) but our committee members have already assisted other room committees in screening and awarding monies.

-The SNRC will be meeting after November 1 to formally accept the new By-Laws currently under discussion. 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, and our 12 active members is a high among NRIEP committees.

-We are participating in the November 9 (Saturday morning) Swiss Room Holiday Decorating effort! Chairman Dr. Heinz W. Kunz is coordinating.

Please Submit Ideas of Swiss Cultural Programming to Our Committee!

-The SNRC is requesting ideas from our 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.”

We are currently entertaining ideas from our membership, so PLEASE help us with suggestions for this need.

Future Swiss Room Scholarship Funds Grow

-SNRC Chairman Dr. Heinz W. Kunz recently authorized the transfer of monies from our agency account to the higher yield Scholarship accounts fund, starting the path to beginning Swiss Room scholarship awards in the future.

-Our SNRC will once again be producing a year-end appeal for scholarship funds by direct mail in November, coordinating members Philip Bottonari (text), Fred Carlson (design), and Walter Schaller (production and mailing logistics). Please be generous with your gifts that are entirely tax-deductible! Our campaign is also featured in the newsletter with our regular full-page request.

-The SNRC confirmed an internal Pitt Swiss Room Contingency Fund balance transfer of \$14483.92 that was confirmed in an August 2013 letter from NRIEP, boosting our total funds on hand to \$28,675.29. We also had \$4781.01 remaining in our construction account from the end of our construction work and that was moved to our agency funds in October 2012. Our goal is to start disbursing scholarships when our endowment reaches \$50,000.

Swiss Room Logistics

-The Pitt carpentry shop moved around the 4 stained-glass panels in the bench bay windows so they accurately represent the narrative about the original Swiss Confederation: Cantons Uri, Schwyz, and Unterwalden. (Unterwalden later divided into Nidwalden and Obwalden by the 1800s). NRIEP Director E. Maxine Bruhns' narrative now reflects the historic accuracy of the original confederation and the order is now correct in the bay window area.

SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

2014 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please remit your membership dues for 2014 with this notice! We look forward to another year of activities that will give us the chance to connect with our Swiss heritage and culture.

Please remit your **\$15.00*** dues payment (check payable to Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh) by **December 31, 2013**, to:

Richard Engel
SASP Membership Secretary
5713 Wesleyann Drive
Gibsonia, PA 15044-9448

* You also have the option to become a Life Member upon payment of \$300.00 (which may be paid in four annual installments of \$75.00).

Also, let us know if you are willing to help with any of the following: Board of Directors / Auditors / Spring Banquet / Folk Festival / Pro Patria Picnic / Christmas Luncheon / Nationality Rooms Open House / Events Helper / Publicity / Anything Else That Floats Your Boat! Thanks!

Enclosed are my Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh dues (\$15.00*) for calendar year 2014.

(*optional \$300.00 for a new life membership, which may be paid \$75.00/year for 4 years)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone(s): _____

e-mail: _____

Additional Family Members at this

address or at college (name / age):

I am willing to help the SASP in the following ways:
