

SWISS IN PITTSBURGH

Newsletter of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh

Volume 27, No. 2

Fall 2018

Greetings everyone! Hope you are all doing well as we head into the final weeks of 2018. We look forward to seeing many of you at the **Christmas Luncheon** on **Saturday, December 8**, at the Teutonia Männerchor in Pittsburgh. The Christmas Luncheon also serves as our annual general meeting and election of officers for 2018. Please make plans to attend, and respond by sending in your registration form, which is included at the end of this newsletter.

The **Nationality Rooms Holiday Open House** at the University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning will take place on **Sunday, December 2**. We will again be serving fondue and chocolate at the Open House this year. We really need our members to participate (in folk wear if possible) and preferably bring homemade traditional Swiss baked goods or foods to sell at the event. Please contact Walter Schaller (wschaller2@gmail.com / 412-298-0520) for more information, and to advise if you are able to participate.

Also, please note the attached flyer for the **Swiss Room Scholarship Challenge**, and consider making a donation at this time. We hope to "Reach the Summit" by the end of this year!

Notice of Annual Meeting of General Assembly

The 2018 annual meeting of the General Assembly of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh will be held in conjunction with the Christmas Luncheon at Teutonia on December 8, 2018. The General Assembly will elect directors and officers for 2019.

Call for Volunteers - SASP Board Officers and Directors

We have a constant need for member involvement in our organization, and are currently looking to put together a slate of directors and officers for 2019. Any and all help is greatly appreciated. Please contact Lyndall Huggler (lynbeth@msn.com or 412-480-1660) if you would be interested in serving on the SASP board in 2019. Thank you!

Coming Events – Save the Date!

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|---------------------|---|
| December 2 | Nationality Rooms Holiday Open House (12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) @
University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning |
| December 8 | SASP Christmas Luncheon @ Teutonia Männerchor (11:30 a.m. – 2:30
p.m.) |
| December 22 | Sami Klaus Party @ Teutonia Männerchor (11:00 a.m.) |
| March 9 or 10, 2019 | Fasnacht Party @ Hofbrauhaus – details to come! |
| July 27, 2019 | Swiss National Day Picnic @ Richland Park Barn |
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2018 NATIONAL DAY PICNIC

We welcomed 82 guests to our Swiss National Day Picnic on July 29 at the Richland Park Barn. Once again we had perfect weather. Schweizer Männerchor Helvetia performed a popular program of Swiss folk songs and alphorn. Thanks to all who worked to make this event possible!



2018 Steinstossenkönigin Suzanne Miller and Steinstossenkönig Alex Frick

Swiss Nationality Room Committee (SNRC) Report

The Swiss Nationality Room Committee continues to be focused on its fund raising campaign to endow the Swiss Room Scholarship with sufficient funds to be able to award a scholarship every year. We are hoping to achieve our endowment fundraising goal by the end of this year. We had a good turnout of our committee members at the Swiss National Day Picnic. It was especially good to see Richard Sink (the master craftsman who did the custom woodworking and made the furniture in the Swiss Room) at the picnic, who came up from West Virginia with his wife Sarah and son Daniel.

Lebendige Traditionen / Tradition vivantes / Tradizioni viventi / Tradiziuns vivas

Bechtelistag Frauenfeld

Frauenfeld, the capital of Canton Thurgau, celebrates Bechtelistag (Berchtoldstag / Berchtold's Day) on the third Monday in January, marking a custom which dates back to the Middle Ages. Shortly after the town of Frauenfeld was founded in the middle of the thirteenth century, nobles and members of the higher classes of society started to socialize regularly in their own drinking establishment. They called themselves the "Constables' Association". In 1430 another association was formed by tradesmen, who named themselves "Zum wilden Mann" ("The Savage Man") and also ran their own drinking establishment. In 1640 the two associations combined into one, creating a new association which owned property, granted loans and collected interest. Members met at the beginning of the year for the presentation of the accounts and to celebrate with food and drink. Since 1811 the tradition has been celebrated with a feast of "Salzisse" sausage, bread, and wine. The feast begins promptly at 6 pm in the Rathaus and follows a strict program including speeches and music. When the Berchtold feast ends at about 11 pm, the doors of the Rathaus are opened to admit partygoers of all ages and both sexes. After midnight those wearing costumes compete for prizes awarded for the best masks. Most restaurants in Frauenfeld remain open all night so that the attendees, particularly the younger generation, can celebrate for as long as they wish. For many people, the evening of Berchtold's Day, called "Bechtelisnacht", is "the night of nights" in Frauenfeld.



Bechtelisnacht in front of the Rathaus © Frauenfelderwoche, 2010



Costumed partygoers at Bechtelisnacht © Frauenfelderwoche, 2009



The Constables' Feast with musical entertainment from the Frauenfeld City Orchestra © Richard Wagner, 2006

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

**SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON REGISTRATION FORM**

Date: December 8, 2018

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Place: Teutonia Männerchor, 857 Phineas Street, Pittsburgh

Price: \$25.00 per person / \$10.00 Children 12 & Under

Chef Michael Twigg (formerly executive chef at the University Club) will be creating a special menu --- salad, entrée [choice of Beef Rouladen (Swiss German: Fleischvögel) or Lemon Chicken], two sides (spätzle and mixed vegetables), and dessert. Coffee/soft drinks included; alcoholic beverage available for separate purchase. Price includes sales tax and gratuity.

The Kinderchor and Jugendchor will be singing Christmas carols for us at 11:30. After the luncheon, we will have our annual business meeting and a Tombola to raise current use funds for the Swiss Nationality Room Scholarship.

Please return the below form by **Tuesday, December 3**, with check payable to the "Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh", to:

Lyndall Huggler
908 Fairview Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238

PLEASE BRING PRIZES FOR THE TOMBOLA!

SASP CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON REGISTRATION FORM

<u>Name</u>	<u>Entrée (Beef or Chicken)</u>
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____

SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

2019 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please remit your membership dues for 2019 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 **January 31, 2019**, 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, please let us know if you can help with: Board of Directors / Auditors / Folk Festival / Swiss National Day Picnic / Christmas Luncheon / Events Helper / Publicity / Newsletter / Website / Swiss Singers / Swiss Nationality Room / Membership Recruitment / Anything Else That Floats Your Boat!
Thanks!

Enclosed are my Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh dues (\$15.00*) for calendar year 2019.
(*optional \$300.00 for a new life membership, which may be paid \$75.00/year for 4 years)

Name:	_____	Additional Family Members at this
Address:	_____	address or at college (name / age):
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Phone(s):	_____	_____
e-mail:	_____	_____

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

_____.



Swiss Room Scholarship Challenge



*Time to Reach
the Summit!*

Thanks to the generosity of the Isaly family, we are currently engaged in a **Swiss Room Scholarship Challenge** to bring our endowed scholarship fund up to the \$100,000 level. That important goal represents the summit of our fundraising effort, as our endowed fund at the University of Pittsburgh will then be able to support one scholarship recipient each summer **in perpetuity!**

The Isaly family has already matched dollar-for-dollar \$10,000 in gifts from our Swiss Room donor community since December 2017, and our **endowed fund total currently stands at approximately \$80,000.**

Please help us “summit the mountain” by giving as generously as possible to the **Swiss Room Scholarship Fund today!** Your gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Isaly family, up to the point we reach our \$100,000 goal!

Make your gift online at: <http://www.giveto.pitt.edu/node/1822>

(or email/text Swiss Room fundraising chair Philip Bottonari for a gift form -- bottonari@alumni.nd.edu; 412-216-5144)

**Danke, merci, grazie,
grazia fitg, thank you!**

*“I don’t exaggerate when I say winning the Swiss Room Scholarship is a dream come true.”— Andy Aukerman
Swiss Room Scholarship recipient, summer 2018*