

SWISS IN PITTSBURGH

Newsletter of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh

Volume 28, No. 1

Summer 2019

Greetings everyone! I hope you are all doing well and are enjoying your Summer. Planning and preparations are under way for the **Swiss National Day Picnic, Saturday, July 27**, at the Richland Township Community Park Barn. Please make plans to attend, and respond by sending in the registration form included with this newsletter. Also, please be mindful that Richland Township is asking us to refrain from parking on the grass --- please use the parking lots!

If the Summer heat is making you wish for Winter, this issue's "Living Traditions of Switzerland" should help!

Hopp Schwiiz!
Lyndall Huggler

Coming Events – Save the Date !!!

July 27	Swiss National Day Picnic @ Richland Park Barn
December 7	SASP Christmas Luncheon @ Teutonia Männerchor

Swiss Nationality Room Committee (SNRC) Report

- Our fundraising continues with periodic outreach to past donors and to the Swiss community. We are more than 97% of the way towards fully endowing our scholarship fund, thanks to many generous donors.
- The Swiss Nationality Room Committee works closely with the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh, or SASP (www.swisspittsburgh.org), to promote Swiss culture and events. This year the SASP sponsored a Fasnacht party on March 9 at the Hofbräuhaus in Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh Swiss reflected on the oldest document Fasnacht event in Switzerland, which was a jousting tournament held in 1376 in Basel. They don't joust any longer in Basel, but Fasnacht continues to be an important celebration that starts before the sun rises on the Monday after Ash Wednesday when drummers and piccolo players begin marching through the streets in costume.
- On July 27, we will celebrate Swiss Nationality Day at the Richland Township Community Barn. Swiss Nationality Day is officially on the First of August each year. It was on that date that the Federal Charter of 1291 documented the eternal alliance of the original three Swiss cantons. This celebration has been an annual event for many

decades for the Pittsburgh Swiss community and friends. We will enjoy a picnic of traditional Swiss foods, hear the beautiful singing and jodeling of the Schweizer Männerchor, and play games for both adults and children. One of our games is the traditional Swiss Steinstossen, or stone-throwing. We compete to see who can throw a heavy stone the farthest distance from a standing position.

- The Swiss Nationality Room Committee's Vice-Chairman Arthur Erbe has just published a new book of poetry entitled *Continuum*. Published by The Poet's Press (www.poetspress.org) in Pittsburgh, the book is available from Amazon. Continuum illustrates the ways time affects our lives. The poems explore how each month, day, moment and memory shapes how we think about the passing of the hours. Arthur was also, coincidentally, the first professor to hold a class in the Swiss Nationality Room.

Respectfully,

Swiss Nationality Room Committee

Nancy Flury Carlson, Chairman

Arthur Erbe, Vice-Chairman

Walter Schaller, Secretary

Jim Shock, Treasurer

Fasnacht Party



A good time was had by all at the Fasnacht Party in March at the Hofbräuhaus Pittsburgh. From left to right: Betsy Seiders, Pat Ostertag, Jackie Murer, Koni Ostertag, Alphonse Murer, Frank Gloor, Betsy Gloor, Walter Schaller, Lyndall Huggler. (Thanks to Bill Hook for the photograph!)

Arthur Erbe Explores Echoes of Time

Arthur Erbe in his new book of poetry, entitled *Continuum*, says in the poem "One Second" that, "The past is a country with no borders." *Continuum* illustrates the ways time affects our lives. The poems explore how each month, day, moment and memory shapes how we think about the passing of the hours. Poems in this collection explore how certain months evoke events, how specific days record an event, how time passes during one day.

The content of these poems follows specific forms. Some poems are long and slim; others follow a thought process in a looser pattern, and still others find their own form by following the meaning of an experience recorded.

This journey through time evokes feelings of delight, discovery, loneliness, regret, and dream-like situations. Although most poems explore the real world, there are occasions when the poems contain elements of surrealism. However, reading about the journey gives the reader a sense of a life richly lived, of introspective desires and how we cannot escape from time.

Arthur says, "Writing these poems gave me a sense of the past and how I remember specific incidents and events that left lasting impressions which are recalled and often expanded by my imagination." Linking poems gave him insights into his life and how he writes. This process is a continuum that has no end but expansive beginnings. Reading these poems will give readers insight into their own memories and the pleasure of the art of poetry. Arthur is the vice-chairman of the Swiss Nationality Room at the University of Pittsburgh.

Continuum may be purchased on Amazon.com or from The Poet's Press.

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Lebendige Traditionen / Tradition vivantes / Tradizioni viventi / Tradiziuns vivas

Inferno Ski Race in Mürren

The Inferno ski race was first held on January 29, 1928, making it one of the oldest ski races still held today, and the world's largest amateur race. Until 1965, participants had to climb the evening before the race from the Allmendhubel mountain station (1907 meters above sea level) to the Mürren Ski Club's chalet (at 2432 meters) in the Engetal, and then had to take the path to the Schilthorn the following morning using climbing skins attached to touring skis. Since 1968, a cable car has been running to the Schilthorn summit. Today, the number of participants is limited to 1,850, and hundreds of eager participants are turned away every year. Most of the participants in the race win their places by lottery. The varied topography is what makes the 14.9-kilometre long, 2,170-metre descent so attractive today; the course can also be skied at other times. The organization of the race was for a long time in the hands of the Mürren and Lauterbrunnen ski clubs. Today, the International Inferno Ski Race Association Mürren, founded in 1999, organizes the events in the Inferno week, supported by two to three-hundred volunteer staff members, mainly from the ranks of the local ski clubs.

The Mürren Inferno ski race is of great importance for the region of Lauterbrunnen and especially for the village of Mürren, and has contributed a lot to putting Mürren on the map. Over the years, it has retained its essence and has remained a notoriously popular local ski race. The Inferno ski race is a key event in the history of skiing – for the region it is a living tradition.



Some participants in the race wear high-tech clothing and use the latest skis; others prefer an old-timer look. 2009 © Inferno-Rennen / Bruno Petroni



Inferno Downhill Challenge Trophy, featuring every winner since 1928 © Inferno-Rennen



Participants in the first Inferno race in 1928. Doreen Elliott, who was the fastest woman and won fourth place, is standing next to the winner, Harold Mitchell (5th from right).

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

SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH
SWISS NATIONALITY DAY PICNIC REGISTRATION FORM

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2018
 at the Richland Park Barn in Bakerstown
 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

<u>Schedule of Events</u>	<u>Price</u>
2:00 p.m. Social Gathering	\$20.00 – Age 13 & over
3:00 p.m. Games & Activities	\$10.00 – Picnic Only (without Buffet)
4:00 p.m. Schweizer Männerchor Helvetia	FREE – Children 12 & Under
4:30 p.m. Buffet Luncheon	
6:30 p.m. Tombola	

Things to Bring!

- Tombola Donations to benefit the Swiss Nationality Room Scholarship Fund!
- Food to Share (not required, but we are grateful to the Buffet Luncheon participants who also bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share!)

Directions – Route 8 to Red Belt / Bakerstown, proceed North on Heckert Road at the stop sign, then turn right at Van Velsor Drive into the Richland Township Park

PLEASE RETURN THE BELOW REGISTRATION FORM, BY JULY 20, WITH YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, to:

Lyndall Huggler
 908 Fairview Road
 Pittsburgh, PA 15238
lynbeth@msn.com

SASP SWISS NATIONALITY DAY PICNIC REGISTRATION FORM

Names: _____ Price (\$20 Buffet / \$10 Picnic / 12 & Under Free)

1. _____	\$ _____
2. _____	\$ _____
3. _____	\$ _____
4. _____	\$ _____
5. _____	\$ _____
6. _____	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____