Message from the President

Bonne Année à tous,

As we start a new year I first want to thank Reto, our retiring president, for leading the Swiss Club with his tireless energy, and endless enthusiasm to our Swiss heritage. Heidi Amstutz is leaving the board to devote more time to her other commitments - thanks, Heidi, for all the hours you spent on behalf of the Club.

Four new board members were elected at the October General Assembly: Marc Borbely; who will in time take over as Membership Coordinator; Joel Cox, as Treasurer: Susann Kollmar, who will assist with organizing our events; and Bernie Unti, our new Secretary.

We have prepared a tentative schedule of events for this year, so take a look at it below. Our first Jass tournament will take place on January 26. The always popular fondue dinner is scheduled for Saturday, February 8. Remember, reservations are taken on a first come, first serve basis, and even though we give a deadline to register, it does happen that the event fills up before such date.

We are always on the lookout for new ideas, and we welcome any suggestion you may have. Simply get in touch with one of the board members to share your thoughts.

And don't forget to renew your membership by paying the 2014 dues which remain the same as last year. See below on how to proceed.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as can join us in celebrating our Swiss traditions in 2014.

With best wishes,

Eveline Roberts
Swiss Club President
eveline.roberts@swissclubdc.org or chvd@aol.com

Membership Dues

Our membership runs on a calendar basis, and come January we remind you to send in your 2014 dues. Please, download your Membership Form here and send it in with your payment to the address listed at the bottom of the form.

We also wish to thank all the members who have already sent in their membership renewals for 2014.

Only new members who have joined the Swiss Club since October 2013 do not have to renew their membership, but everyone else does.

Members enjoy the following benefits:

- Attend the members only Samichlaus (Christmas) Party at no cost
- Attend the Easter Egg Hunt at no cost
- Pay the reduced member price for all Swiss Club events
- Get priority registration for events with limited seating
- Attend members only events, such as the General Assembly
- Receive our monthly newsletter and reminders for upcoming events.
Samichlaus Visit

On Sunday afternoon, December 15, Samichlaus descended on the Swiss Embassy in Washington, DC, for a wonderful session of singing, gift-giving, and good food. Several dozen children gathered just outside of the dining hall to charm Samichlaus into their presence, and they were not disappointed. Samichlaus had presents for every child who brought a drawing or shared a song or personal anecdote, and there were a lot of young takers! Samichlaus heard songs, poems, personal stories, and spoke with children in English, French and Schwyzerdütsch.

Over one hundred children and adults who attended dined on Schinken im Teig and Bûche de Noël provided by the Swiss Bakery. A beautiful tree decorated by members of the club, adorned in part with small Swiss flags, crowned the festivities. Together with the Grittibenz baking party at the Swiss Bakery, held just a few days before, the Samichlaus Party was a sure and welcome sign of the holiday season’s advent.

Lesezirkel Come join us for our German Book Club!

Monday, January 20th at 7pm in Rockville

January’s gathering will discuss the impressions of a German award-winning journalist who travelled on foot through the US. Hartland: Zu Fuss durch Amerika was written by Wolfgang Büscher and is available on Amazon. Join us for a Lesezirkel in Rockville on January 20th at 7pm. Easily accessible by car or the red line at Twinbrook station. Contact Martin Jenni at martinjenni@gmx.ch for more information and for details on the gathering.


Jass Tournament #1 Join us for the first Jass Tournament of the year!

Sunday, January 26th at 1:30 pm
Roberts Residence
14624 Chesterfield Road
Rockville, MD 20853

The deadline for registration is January 22nd

Registration: Please contact Eveline Roberts at eveline.roberts@swissclubdc.org or at 301-460-9571 to register.
Registration Fee: $5 per Swiss Club member and $10 per guest, collected at the Jass.
Fondue Night  
February, 8th, at 6pm  
Join us at our traditional and very popular Swiss Fondue Dinner!

Enjoy a festive evening of cheese, wine, and good company at the **Swiss Embassy**. Dinner includes all you can eat fondue, dessert, and non-alcoholic drinks. A cash bar will be open for beer & wine. Seating is limited and sells out regularly, so make your reservation now! (we accept reservations until all the seats are full).

**Please bring your own caquelon, rechaud, burner and forks, as none will be provided.**

Saturday, February 8th at 6pm  
Embassy of Switzerland  
2900 Cathedral Avenue  
Washington, DC 20008

**Registration Form:**

- _____ x $25 for Member Adult
- _____ x $10 for Member Child (age 6 to 12)
- _____ x $35 for Member’s Adult Guest
- _____ x $15 for Member’s Child Guest (age 6 to 12)

Total Amount Enclosed _______________________

Who will be attending?  
_________________________________________________________________  
_________________________________________________________________

Your email address?  
______________________________________

Your phone number?  
__________________________________

Please make your check payable to Swiss Club of DC and send it with this registration form to Alexis Sullivan, 2717 Colt Run Rd, Oakton, VA 22124.

If you have any questions, you can contact Alexis at 703-774-3132 or alexis.sullivan@swissclubdc.org.
**Save the Date**
Sunday, February 23 in North Potomac, MD, Jass Clinic with the Jass König ~ Join us and learn how to play Jass!

**Swiss Club Quiz**

**Answer to the December Quiz:** The letter is from Albert Einstein, asking the Aargau Education Department for admission to the Matura exam, which would allow him to apply to the Federal Polytechnicum.

**January Quiz:** With the U.S.A. having no diplomatic relations with Iran, who made it possible that Secretary of State Kerry could negotiate with this country about nuclear facilities? Sounds simple, but it's not.

**About other Swiss Groups**

**Swiss Rifles:** Walter Braendli, 302-995-1035, walter.brandli@comcast.net
**Swiss Folklore Group:** Ursula Banzhaf, 703 248-1144, u.banzhaf@gmail.com
**Die Stauffacherin:** Regula Guess, Co-President, regula.guess@yahoo.com
Christine Kursch, Co-President, cmimports@verizon.net
**Swiss Benevolent Society:** Campbell Graeub, 301-652-2007, graeub@verizon.net

**Swiss Club Events for 2014**

Lesezirkel, Monday, January 20, Rockville, MD
Jass, Sunday, January 26, Roberts Residence
Fondue Night, Saturday, February 8, Swiss Embassy
Jass Clinic with the Jass Koenig, Sunday, February 23, North Potomac, MD
Kaffee Klatsch, in March
Jass, in March
Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday, April 13, Swiss Embassy
Swiss Farmer's Breakfast, in April
Spring Bike Ride, in May
Billy Goat Trail Hike, in June
Jass, in June
Kaffee Klatsch, in July
Swiss National Day, Saturday, August 2, Swiss Embassy
Swiss Shooting Day, Saturday, September 6, Thurmont, MD
Jass, in September
General Assembly, in October
Kaffee Klatsch, in October
Raclette, in November
Jass, in November
Grittibenz, Sunday, December 7, Swiss Bakery
Samichlaus, Sunday, December 14, Swiss Embassy
Board Members and Volunteer Coordinators (new for 2014)
President: Eveline Roberts, eveline.roberts@swissclubdc.org
Past President: Reto Weber, reto.weber@swissclubdc.org
1st Vice-President: Martin Perret, martin.perret@swissclubdc.org
2nd Vice-President: Eric Russi, eric.russi@swissclubdc.org
Secretary: Bernie Unti, bernie.unti@swissclubdc.org
Treasurer: Joel Cox, joel.cox@swissclubdc.org
Event Coordinator: Alexis Sullivan, alexis.sullivan@swissclubdc.org
Publicity Officer: Rossana Delucchi, rossana.delucchi@swissclubdc.org
Membership Coordinator, Marc Borbely, marc.borbely@swissclubdc.org
Board Member: Claudia Tobler, DiaTobler@verizon.net
Board Member: Christian Haudenschild, christian.haudenschild@swissclubdc.org
Board Member: Hisham Shaheen, hisham.shaheen@swissclubdc.org
Board Member: Susann Kollmar, susann.kollmar@swissclubdc.org
Swiss Embassy Liaison: Juerg Bono, juerg.bono@eda.admin.ch
Webmaster: Johannes Hofer, hhofer@verizon.net

Samichlaus Pictures by Ben