



April 2005

Newsletter

POSTILLION



Volume 1, Issue 3, 2005

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Jass Clinic 2005

Our last event at Dick and Elsbeth's place. Thank you to Elsbeth & Dick for holding and leading this event! Read the article on page 8

Dear Fellow Members,

Message from the President

While some parts of Switzerland are experiencing heavy snow, temperatures in the DC area are finally warming up, allowing for flowers and trees to blossom and making this area so beautiful. Looking back, I am sure that we had all hoped that the sky would clear for Easter. But the hospitality of Werner Kunz and the excellent food and service we received during the Easter Brunch at the Harbor Court Hotel in Baltimore made us quickly forget about the outside drizzle. Thank you Werner! As always, Jass is a popular activity at the club. The first Jass reunion was a great success thanks to our wonderful host, Maya Wittwer. For the second Jass reunion, which is coming up on June 19, we expect an even more (friendly) competition now that Elsbeth Backus has coached and trained some beginners and enthusiasts in April. Please feel free to join us—it is never too late to learn and enjoy jass! In response to a request echoed by many of you, on May 20 we will be trying something “new” with a wine tasting organized at the Embassy. At this event, a choice of fine Swiss and international wines will be presented—certainly an opportunity not to miss. We are also in the process of organizing a distinctive first of August, which will be hosted on Sunday, July 30 at the Kümmler Farm, about an hour and a half drive from Washington DC. We expect at least as much fun as during the previous years! The Ambassador, Mr. Blickensdorfer has confirmed his presence and we will add “Costini”, a Swiss National Day tradition from the Canton Ticino, in addition to the traditional sausage menu. In any case, please register, plan for the little extra travel...and let us know if you wish to help: there are many opportunities for volunteers.

Since our last edition of the Postillion, we have received a number of responses to our survey and thank you for your efforts. However, we would like to receive even more responses and strongly encourage all of you to share your views and expectations of the Swiss Club by May 10. The results of the survey will be presented shortly thereafter

I hope you will enjoy reading this edition of the Postillion and look forward to seeing you soon at one of our events.

Happy Spring to all!

Michel Maechler, President

For more information, visit our website at www.swissclubdc.org

Most of our events are for members, however members' friends are welcome

Swiss Club of Washington D.C.
2900 Cathedral Ave N.W.
Washington D.C. 20008
info@swissclubdc.org



Other Swiss Groups ...

Die Stauffacherin
(Swiss ladies group)
Susanne Adams
703-836-8247

The Swiss Rifles
Alfred Kessi
302-292-2901

Folklore Group
Erwin Buerlimann
703-548-6349

Swiss Benevolent Society
Campbell Graeb
301-652-2007

AGENDA 2005

May 20	Wine Tasting
June 19	2 nd Jass
July 30	1 st of August Celebration At Kumkli Farm VA (See below)
September 18	3 rd Jass
October 1	Fahrt ins Blaue
October 28	82 nd annual membership meeting @ Embassy of Switzerland
December 11	4 th Jass
December 18	Annual Christmas Party @ Embassy of Switzerland
January 14-16, 2006	Sky Weekend Wintergreen West Virginia

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Wine Tasting

*Friday May 20th, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.
at the Swiss Embassy
2900 Cathedral Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C.*

The Swiss Club is glad to invite its members to a Wine tasting event. The event will be held at the Embassy of Switzerland. Cheese, bread, and snack will be served. Music and entertainment will be provided.

Come and Join Us !

Fees for the event:

Members: \$ 5.00
Non Members: \$ 7.00

Parking space is very limited close to the Embassy due to the construction of the new residence. Please, use the public transportation system.

Please register by **May 16, 2005**. Fill out the following form and send it along with your check (made payable to the Swiss Club of Washington D.C./non-refundable) to Susann Kollmar, 5423 McKinley St., Bethesda, MD 20817. for more information please e-mail to Susann.Kollmar@swissclubdc.org or telephone: 301 571 0977

Registration deadline is May 16, 2005

Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Number of adults members: _____ Number of adults non-members: _____

Enclosed a check with the amount of \$ _____

Send registration form with check (made payable to the Swiss Club of Washington D.C.) to Susann Kollmar, 5423 McKinley St. Bethesda, MD 20817



NEXT EVENTS ...

2nd Jass Tournament

*Sunday, June 19th, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.
2501 Glenallan Ave #3
Silver Spring, MD 20906*



Message from the "Jass board"

Dear Jasser and dear Swiss Club members!

The event will be held at the Sylvie Bertholet's place (opposite to the Glenmont Metro station) in Silver Spring
Deadline for registration: June 13 !

Come join us and have fun!!

Registration fee \$ 5.

If you want to join the game please register with Susann Kollmar (301) 571 0977 or susann.kollmar@swissclubdc.org, by June 13, 2005.

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Pierre Estoppey
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E-mail pestoppey@comcast.net



MOTHER'S DAY

Latest News! IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Harbor Court Hotel has cancelled the Mother's Day Brunch Buffet. The Hampton's restaurant at the Harbor Court will serve the traditional "à la carte" brunch.

Please, call the hotel directly at 410-234-0550 for reservations and details.

Unfortunately the Swiss Club cannot offer a special pricing.



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First of August

July 30, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.

This year the First of August celebration will be held in Virginia at the Kummli Farm. It is located about 90 minutes west of Washington, D.C. on the route 66 in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The exact address is 4 Windsor Lodge Lane in Flint Hill, VA 22627. The site is fantastic, quiet, and midst of nature.

The Board is ready for the challenge and we hope that a huge number of members will attend this event, regardless of the distance. In order to do so, the board will facilitate transportation. One of the ideas is to have car pools. In order to facilitate this organization, we invite people, who have room in their car or need transportation to call Susann at 301 571 0977 or e-mail her at Susann.kollmar@swissclubdc.org (please, e-mail if it is possible)

Moreover, because this event involves a lot of preparation the Board is also looking for volunteers. It is important to have enough volunteers during the event itself in order to share the load but also to make the guests happy and comfortable. Thus, if you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please, read and fill out the form on page 8.

Thank you very much for your support.

The Executive Board.



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PAST EVENTS ...

First Jass Tournament 2005

Let me share some of my impressions with you from the first Jass tournament of the season and *my* first tournament as well! The afternoon began at the home of our gracious hosts, Alex and Maya Wittwer of Chevy Chase (Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Switzerland), where all Jass players assembled for the big event. One by one, the players arrived until the number was complete.

We all enjoyed a welcome drink professionally and cordially served to us by the Wittwer's eldest daughter, Eva. Annette, their youngest daughter, helped out by being a very good player on a Jass foursome. There we got to know each other and had some friendly conversation before we left the cheery, sunlit meeting room, and proceeded to our "Jass Ecke" down the hall.

All of our needs were met from having Jass tables, beautifully prepared for play and professionally equipped with writing instruments and Jass tally sheets, to availability of snacks and drinks for the "heated" stress of competitive play! Let the games begin! There were three rounds played with eight games to each round. The partners were randomly chosen for each round and most of the time there was a different partner for each game, although I must say there was at least one person who remained at the same table for the entire tournament!

All was played in a professional manner without too many "cries" of exasperation or frustration. After all, the cards you receive have a lot to do with the outcome of your game, even if you are a seasoned Jass player.

Two and a half hours later, there emerged a winner for the afternoon and a group of people who had an enjoyable experience, whether their totals were over 2000 or not! Coming into first place was Elsbeth Backus with 2243 points. Second place was Arnold Brossi with 2220 points, and third place was Imelda von Arx with 2113 points. All received first, second, and third place prizes. I, myself, had just started to learn Jass in November so I was grateful to have this experience to put what I learned to good use. You have to start somewhere!

The crowning event was also the delicious "z'Vieri" offered, buffet style, by Maya Wittwer. The rousing Jass play was only enhanced by this deliciously sweet ending!

We all look forward to the next tournament in June and hopefully anyone who has not yet learned the exciting and intricate game of Jass had the opportunity to attend the "Jass instruction" held on April 16th at Elsbeth Backus' house in Potomac, Md. Now, with this "trump" in hand, you can only be a winner!

Jean Amacher

Reston Women's OB/GYN Care, PC Eveline B. Marquardt, MD

Dr. Marquardt is from Switzerland.
She speaks French, Swiss German, German and Spanish in addition to English.

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Switzerland at the Flower Mart, May 6 / 7, 2005

Switzerland will be this year's honorary country for the 66th annual Flower Mart on the grounds of the Washington National Cathedral May 6 and 7. The family-centered outdoor festival that raises money for the gardens of the National Cathedral attracts twenty thousand visitors and celebrates a different country each year. Switzerland is the only country to have been selected twice for this honor in the last decade, having served in the role the last time in 1996.

Along with the regular offerings of the Flower Mart, the Swiss Embassy will have an official tent and host a number of attractions featuring Swiss culture, music, art performances, food, entertainment, and flowers. Specific Swiss attractions include a cheese making demonstration with a fondue tasting out of a giant fondue pot, the performance artists of the renowned Swiss "Teatro Dimitri," short films and lectures on Switzerland, and a chance to win over 200 exciting prizes at the Embassy Tent.

There are also activities geared toward children including a craft area and a special cow waiting to be milked. In addition, a variety of plants, herbs, flowers, antiques and other crafts will be on display and for sale at the Flower Mart, along with a climbing wall, moon bounce, and antique carousel for the enjoyment of children of all ages. For more information on the entire program, visit www.cathedral.org/ahg/fm2005.shtml.

Gala Fundraiser, April 29th, 2005

In addition, the Embassy will host on the National Cathedral's grounds an open-air gala fundraiser on April, 29, 2005, to benefit the National Cathedral's Gardens, featuring authentic Swiss cuisine, music by the Swiss Army Gala Band and a raffle with a free trip to Switzerland as grand prize. Tickets for the Gala are available through the Flower Mart sponsoring organization, the All Hallows Guild (Karen Johnsen at 202-966-5765).

Welcome to the Swissclub

Murielle Arn-Hogle and Richard Hogle
Falls Church, VA

Lynell Marian Tobler
Owings Mills, MD

Renate and Rick Manville
Fairfax, VA



PAST EVENTS ...

Jass Clinic 2005

A special afternoon for beginners at Elsbeth's and Dick's house.

On April 16th, Elsbeth invited the Jass interested Swiss club members to learn how to play JASS. Eight people joined the game.

For me, the Program coordinator of the Swiss club it was high time to learn the Jass and I and all the other players had a wonderful time with our very patient instructors.

Elsbeth and Dick explained the game, gave hints and showed us how to improve our playing. We had a lot of fun! We played Trumpf and we tried "una uff" and "oba aba" and at the end everything was "kreuz und quer".

Thank you so much dear hosts and we all look forward to many more Jass events! However, as much as we learned, I need a ton of practice before the next jass tournament to compete with Elsbeth and Dick.

Susann Kollmar



Swiss National Day !

Help wanted! As you certainly know the Swiss National Fest will be held in Virginia this year. The Swiss Embassy ground is not available this year due to the construction of the new residence.

The board is looking for volunteers who would be willing to help us organize an unforgettable event in 2005. Below you can find the list of tasks that need to be done during the event. Please, make your choice and check the box to the appropriate tasks that you would be willing to help with.

Every volunteer will receive their registration fee back, and a Swissclub T-shirt during the event upon decision of the Board.

Please, send this information back to P.A. Girardin, 2501 Glenallan Ave. #3, Silver Spring, MD 20906. If you need any more information, please contact by e-mail pa.girardin@swissclubdc.org or by phone: 301 962 5076

I am willing to volunteer for the following tasks on **July 30, 2005**:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Set-up site | <input type="checkbox"/> Distribution of the food |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beer Bar | <input type="checkbox"/> Kids Games |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grills | <input type="checkbox"/> Raffle included sale of the tickets and give prices |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Café bar | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Name: _____ Phone #: _____ |



Swiss Benevolent Society

Announces 2005 Scholarship Program

The Swiss Benevolent Society of Washington has announced its 2005 Scholarship Program. Awards may be made in an amount of up to \$2000. High emphasis will be placed on financial need of scholastically qualified individuals.

Applicants must be Swiss Nationals, or be of proven Swiss descent, with a least one grandparent of Swiss nationality. Preference will be given to applicants whose legal residence is in the Washington, DC Metropolitan area or the Swiss settlement of Helvetia, West Virginia. Assistance to qualified applicants will be given to obtain a post high school education in any field of endeavor, for any formal educational instruction, including vocational school at any domestic or foreign institution.

Applications may be obtained by sending a self-addressed and stamped envelope to Cassandra Egloff Wait, Swiss Benevolent Society, 841 Lower Marlboro Rd., Huntingtown, MD 20639. Completed applications, with supported information, must be submitted by July 1.

The Swiss Benevolent Society was founded in 1865 as a charitable organization to help Swiss or descendents of Swiss in the greater Washington, DC area who are in need of assistance. In addition to annually awarding several scholarships, help is extended to the ill and elderly. If you are, or know of someone who is, in need of help, we ask that you contact us at the address below or call 301-855-2593.

The Society is no longer a membership organization that collects annual dues. It depends, therefore, entirely on donations from individuals and the income from its nominal reserve fund. Your financial support is respectfully requested. If you would like to make a contribution, please complete the form below, and mail check and form to the to the Society.

Swiss Benevolent Society Contribution

Please fill this form out on-line, print it and send it by mail to the address below.

I/We wish to support the Swiss Benevolent Society Charitable and Scholarship Program. My/Our contribution is \$ _____. Please make checks payable to the Swiss Benevolent Society and mail to:

Swiss Benevolent Society
C/O Cassandra Egloff Wait
841 Lower Marlboro Road
Huntingtown, MD 20639

Name: _____

Address: _____



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