



November 2008

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Kumli Farm, Flint Hill, VA



photos courtesy of C. Tobler, L. Wilson and S. Kollmar



## AGENDA 2008/9

<b>Dec 7</b>	4th Jass Tournament
<b>Dec 14</b>	Xmas Party
<b>Feb 7, 09</b>	Fondue Evening

## Message from the new President

Dear Members of the Swiss Club,

I am looking forward to serving as your president. I am starting with an active, vital and prosperous society thanks to my predecessor, the hard working board, the many volunteers, the affiliated Swiss groups, the support by the embassy and thanks to you, the participating members. Fortunately, here there is no need for fundamental change, but rather a call to keep a good thing going and growing by adding new ideas and engaging new people. I wish to express lots of thanks to the departing board members, to welcome the new elected second vice president, Ursula Banzhaf, and to congratulate all who continue on the board with established and new responsibilities.

Most enjoyable in a Club like ours are the personal contacts and communications between members. To facilitate these, we currently need more help in form of a new program

coordinator and a new editor for the postillion and the web site. Just call me or any bord member for these positions or anything else you may want to contribute (for example, hosting an evening celebrating a canton like we did before for Ticino and Basel?).

Or even better: come to one of the upcoming events (Jass, Dec. 7, Xmas Dec. 14, Fondue, Feb.7, forms inside this postillion) and we can talk about your active role in the Club in person. These are also fine occasions to renew your membership early for the next calendar year full of beloved traditions and with a few pleasant surprises.

With my best wishes for the holidays and a happy and successful New Year!

Christian Haudenschild

For more information, visit our website at [www.swissclubdc.org](http://www.swissclubdc.org)

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

Swiss Club of Washington D.C.  
2900 Cathedral Ave N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20008  
[info@swissclubdc.org](mailto:info@swissclubdc.org)



## Board of the Swiss Club and volunteer coordinators ...

### OFFICERS

- President:** Christian Haudenschild, christian.haudenschild@swissclubdc.org, phone: 301-251-5808
- 1st Vice President:** Eric Russi: eric.russi@swissclubdc.org, phone: 301-585-5844
- 2nd Vice President:** Ursula Banzhaf, ursula.banzhaf@swissclubdc.org, phone: 703-248-1144
- Secretary:** Claudia Tobler, claudia.tobler@swissclubdc.org, phone: 240-672-6590
- Treasurer:** Pete Amstutz, pete.amstutz@swissclubdc.org, phone: 703-242-4224
- Publicity/Website:** vacant

### BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

- Yvonne Worrell Pover: yvonne.pover@swissclubdc.org, phone: 703-370-3303
- Paul Amstad: paul.amstad@swissclubdc.org, phone: 410-465-5417

### VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

- Jass Coordinator:** Senta Speight, senta.speight@swissclubdc.org: 301-530-0699



New Elected Board



Parting Board Members

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#### **MEMBERSHIP FEES:**

<b>Family</b> \$50	<b>Single</b> \$35
<b>Student</b> \$15	<b>Senior couple</b> \$25
<b>Senior Single</b> \$15	

## Other Swiss Groups ...

**Die Stauffacherin**  
 (Swiss ladies group)  
 Rosmarie Stucki  
 202-572-8219

**Swiss Benevolent Society**  
 Campbell Graeub  
 301-652-2007

**Folklore Group**  
 Erwin Buerlimann  
 703-548-6349

**The Swiss Rifles**  
 Walter Braendli  
 302-995-1035

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 Tel. 619-557-4797



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL 2009

The membership year runs from January to December

Membership is required to attend club events

Renew early and enjoy a full year of club activities!

Please check the appropriate box:  New Member  Renewal

I am a Swiss National or  Swiss Descendent or  I am a Friend of Switzerland

If Swiss National or Swiss Descendent, canton of origin: \_\_\_\_\_

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_ First: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

List first names of dependent children (under 18) and give year of birth for each:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to receive information and our newsletter by e-mail? YES / NO (circle your answer)

I will be glad to volunteer to help during a Swiss Club event: YES / NO (circle your answer)

I would be glad to help organize a small Swiss Club event: YES / NO (circle your answer)

My name, address, and telephone number may be included in the club's membership directory, which will be distributed to members for their personal use only: YES / NO (circle your answer)

Enclosed is my membership check of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 Family membership (couple and dependent children under 18)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35.00 Single membership \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 15.00 Single senior citizen (65+)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 Student or Au Pair \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25.00 Senior citizen couple (both 65+)

Please make check payable to **Swiss Club of Washington, D.C.**

Mail to: Swiss Club of Washington, D.C., 2900 Cathedral Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20008



## PAST EVENTS ...

# Fall Festival at the Kummli FARM !

It does not get much better than this, folks..

The Swiss Club Fest at the Kummli Farm in the Shenandoah Valley, Saturday, October 18, 2008

It promised to be a gorgeous weekend in Washington; the leaves had just started turning colors, brilliant hues of yellow and red, as we headed out for the Skyline drive. Traffic was heavy on Route 66, partially due perhaps to the Gold Cup event, partially simply due to the fact that it was the day for a drive into the country.

As we approached the farm, we were struck by the resemblance to parts of Switzerland, and when we arrived at the farm, it was as if we had traveled somehow through space and time. It was a little windy and slightly overcast, as would be at this time of year in Northwestern Switzerland. And the farm was just precious.



First things first, once arrived we got out our meal tickets and had some delicious field salad, crusty bread and Bratwurst and we listened to the wonderful sounds of three Alphorns. What could be more authentic than sitting in a barn, having a glass of Rivella, listening to the familiar tunes and eating a Swiss hot dog. Reto from the Swiss Bakery had brought excellent pastries and pretzels and sausages to partake on the grounds of the farm or to take home.

For the children, the Club had arranged a pumpkin carving contest, and as prizes, the children with the most interesting pumpkins won the ever popular great red and white t-shirt. Next came the hayride of hayrides, which lasted nearly an hour, and took us all over the rolling meadows of the farm, starting at the stables with the great Virginia thoroughbreds, across a small brook, and past the grazing Angus cattle and their young calves. What a great mix of Swiss and American families, enjoying the beautiful scenery, the Blue Ridge Mountains in the distance reminding us of the Jura, and everyone happily sharing reminiscences and experiences.



Once, back at the barn, it was time to announce the winners of the Swiss trivia contest and sing some traditional Swiss songs along the versatile Swiss keyboardist, and also meet Mr. Kummli, our gracious host. A pity more of us could not come, as the farm could easily have accommodated twice or three times our numbers. All the same, those of us who made the trip were full of praises for our host and his choice for a farm. A more idyllic setting one would have to look hard to find. Mr. Kummli received a bottle of Wine, a T-shirt, some Landjaeger and a Buendner Nusstorte from Adrian Wiestner, the President of the Swiss Club.

As we drove back on 66 with the sun setting, we looked back on a truly fabulous day. Thanks to the involvement of many volunteers of the Swiss Club that made this day possible.

Mike Herzfeld



## 86th GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the SWISS CLUB

The Swiss Club of Washington DC held its 86th Annual General Assembly Membership Meeting on Friday, November 7, 2008.

The Embassy of Switzerland generously permitted use of its facilities. Approximately 25 Club members came to celebrate the years' achievements, conduct Club business, and connect with old and new acquaintances alike. Notably, Simone Schoch celebrated her 60th year of faithful attendance, eliciting applause and cheers from other members. Adrian Wiestner, President, presented the formal agenda of the evening. Topics included a review of past events and discussion of future goals and activities. The National Day Celebration was the crowning success of the year, and while it did not draw the same record number of people it did in 2007, well over 600 people attended and generated a profit of approximately \$2,000. Following the President's introduction, Pete Amstutz presented a brief overview of the Club's financial position. The Club's balance sheet reflects approximately \$23 thousand of cash in the bank. Net income for the year stood at approximately \$2,300. In light of the Club's cash position, the Executive Board had unanimously approved a \$200 donation to the Swiss Benevolent Society. In addition, the Executive Board again decided not to raise membership rates for 2009. Claudia Tobler, Secretary, then briefly discussed issues relating to membership and necessary amendments to the Club's bylaws. The membership then turned to the task of electing the Executive Board for 2009, led by Campbell Graub who undertook the nominating functions.

At the outset, the Club was sad to note the resignation of Adrian Wiestner and Elizabeth Wilson from the Board. Their efforts and contributions to the Club's success during their respective terms have been invaluable and will be deeply missed. The members then elected the following: Christian Haudenschild as President; Eric Russi as First Vice President; Ursula Banzhaf as Second Vice President; Pete Amstutz as Treasurer; Claudia Tobler as Secretary; and Paul Amstad and Yvonne Pover as Board Members at large.

**Open board positions include the Program Coordinator and Webmaster/Publicity Director. Both roles are essential to the Club's operations and members are encouraged to consider joining the Board in such capacity.**

President Elect Christian Haudenschild concluded the General Assembly Meeting by sharing some welcoming remarks. He respectfully noted the departure of Adrian Wiestner and Elizabeth Wilson, who had contributed so much of their time, energy and love to the Club. He also thanked the membership and current Board members for their continued support and on-going efforts. Finally, he thanked Margrith Ledermann, representing the Embassy of Switzerland, for the Embassy's continued cooperation and support of the Club, and invited Ms. Ledermann to share some comments. The official portion of the night's activities thereafter adjourned, and members enjoyed a delightful rum torte, along with other sweet pot luck delectables.

Claudia Tobler, Secretary

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**Pierre Estoppey**  
Phone 410-924-4908  
E-mail [pestoppey@comcast.net](mailto:pestoppey@comcast.net)



# SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

Swiss Review, October 2008 / Nr. 5

*Washington, D.C.*

## *Swiss Benevolent Society*

The Swiss Benevolent Society of Washington, D.C. (SBS) was founded in 1865. It is the oldest Swiss organization in Washington, and has the mission of helping Swiss in need that reside in the Metropolitan Area. Over the 143 years of its existence, direct help was provided to individuals who encountered financial difficulties.

In the early years the SBS would also extend travel assistance for some to return to Switzerland. Frequently this was done through loans, expected to be repaid.

For years the Society membership remained constant around one hundred. An annual meeting was held, typically a dinner meeting. A small group of active members oversaw the general welfare of members. This included visiting the homebound, delivering flowers for special occasions, buying groceries or other necessities. The SBS has on occasion supported Swiss cultural and charitable events, such as hosting a group of young Swiss cancer patients for a visit to Washington. As direct service to members diminished, the membership voted in 1998 to dissolve the SBS as a Membership Society and converting it to an organization controlled by a small Board of Directors. Board members are drawn from the other local Swiss organizations.

In 1980, with the ever-increasing costs of college education, a Scholarship Program was initiated to help Swiss and descendants of Swiss with at least one Swiss grandparent. Eligibility to apply requires residency in the Washington Metropolitan Area, except for the residents of the tiny West Virginia community of Helvetia, which was settled by Swiss in the mid 1880s. While the Scholarship Program is now the major focus, limited assistance to individuals in need, elderly and shut-ins have continued as cases are brought to the Society's attention. The assets currently stand at \$130,000. It has been a longstanding policy to maintain a strong assets base, allowed to grow with inflation, while dispersing annual income and donations for aid and grants. With the loss of dues-paying members the SBS funding of programs now depends exclusively on donations, gifts and the income from interest bearing assets. In good years as much as \$7,000 in scholarship grants are awarded.

In the last three years considerable assistance in several critical cases was provided.

The Society is a 501(c)(3) taxexempt organization allowing contributions to be fully tax-deductible. Board of Trustee members are volunteers and there are literally no overhead expenses, which means that all contributions flow directly to those we support. The Board members are: Wm. Campbell Graueb; President, Cassandra Wait, Secretary; Alfred Kessi, Treasurer; Stefano Ghielmetti, Regula Guess, Andrew Graueb, Elizabeth von Kaenel, Reto Weber, and the ex/officio member Swiss Consul Margrith Ledermann Prestofelippo.

To keep the SBS able to respond to the ever increasing demands for scholarships and the other special needs, the Board of Trustees asks for your gifts and donations and thanks you in advance for your generosity.

CAMPELL GRAUEB, PRESIDENT SBS

[graeub@verizon.net](mailto:graeub@verizon.net)

301-652-2007

### Swiss Benevolent Society Contribution

I/We wish to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Swiss Benevolent Society Fund in support of the Scholarship Program and to aid Swiss compatriots who are in special need

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Checks made out to Swiss Benevolent Society should be mailed to: Alfred Kessi, Treasurer, 8 High Pond Drive, Newark, DE 19711



## Would you like to learn to play an ALHORN?

The Swiss Club and Amy Atkins and Friends, who played the Alphorn at the National Day in 2007 and at the Kumkli farm this fall are giving an "ALPHORN WORK SHOP" in 2009.

We are looking for about 6-9 interested people who would like to spend a Saturday afternoon on a crash course in playing this unique instrument and know more about the alphorn.

The plan so far: Amy Atkin and 2 of her friends would come to DC and teach us some history and the basics around the alphorns. In small groups, with expert supervision, we will get a chance to learn some basics on how to play an Alphorn. The price will be approx. \$60 per person.

Interested? Please email Susann Kollmar : [skollmar@hotmail.com](mailto:skollmar@hotmail.com). We need a commitment from at least 6 people to get started. Dates and time will be worked out with those interested in joining this exceptional Alphorn class.

## LOOKING FOR APARTMENT

On behalf of a new employee (young male/single) arriving from Switzerland, the Embassy is looking for a reasonably priced, furnished (temporary) or unfurnished (extended stay)

ROOM / APARTMENT / HOUSE

in the Washington NW, Bethesda or Rockville area, for the end of January 2009.

Should you have or know of anything available, please contact Margrith Ledermann Prestofelippo at 202-745-7936 or by email at [was.vertretung@eda.admin.ch](mailto:was.vertretung@eda.admin.ch).

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# NEXT EVENTS ...

## Swiss Club Christmas Party

Embassy of Switzerland  
2900 Cathedral Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

### Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 2008

### 4 pm to 7 pm

This is a MEMBER-ONLY event and it is FREE to all members! \*\*

There will be classical music, our traditional dinner and after dessert Sami Chlaus will visit and will bring something for all the children !

**CHILDREN:** Please prepare a poem or song for Samichlaus. Make it short, so there is time for all others too!

No one will be admitted to the Embassy without prior registration!

Seating is limited. First come, first serve!

Please register by filling out the registration form and no later than Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> (deadline)!

\*\* If you would like to attend the Christmas Party and you are not a member, you can become one for the event and your membership will count for 2009 © (application on page 3)

*A note to the parents:* Please retain your children from running on the stairs and hallways. The Embassy and the Swiss Club are not liable for any injuries.

Mail your registration form to: Paul Amstad, 3993 High Point Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Questions: call Liz at 703-481-5810 (evenings) or 202-745-7939 (daytime)

\_\_\_\_\_ ✂ \_\_\_\_\_

Member's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of adults over 16: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children: \_\_\_\_\_

Childrens' names and ages: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





## FONDUE EVENING 2009

We have tentatively set the date of  
Saturday, February 7, 2009  
for our annual Fondue gathering.

### RESERVE THE DATE !!!

Details will follow!



FIGUGEGL:

"Fondue isch guet und git e gueti Luune"



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