



Newsletter

POSTILLION



AGENDA 2009

Saturday, November 7	Raclette Suisse Romande	7:00 pm Swiss Embassy
Friday, November 13	Annual General Meeting	7:00 pm Swiss Embassy
Sunday, November 29	Grittibenz Baking	2:00 pm Swiss Bakery
Sunday December 6	4 th Jass Tournament	1:00 pm Swiss Embassy
Sunday December 13	Samichlaus Party	4:00 pm Swiss Embassy

* Events are subject to change

AGENDA 2010

January	Fondue Dinner	Swiss Embassy
February	Fastnacht	TBA
March	Egg Hunt	Swiss Embassy
April	Fahrt ins Blaue	TBA

* Events tentative and subject to change. When in doubt, please call the number on the registration form or visit www.swissclubdc.org for the latest information

Message from the President

Dear Swiss Club Members:

A flurry of activities arose this fall and will continue to be offered, maybe even too much in a short period, so we had to cancel a few due to insufficient number of registrations, bad weather or logistic problems. However, I prefer that lively pace over a club that's falling asleep. We call on all to activate your membership (renewing now is good through all of 2010 and very convenient with the form enclosed in this Postillion) and to participate in the remaining events of this year which you see listed in the Agenda above.

I would like to draw your special attention to the Annual General Assembly on November 13 at the embassy where we have an invited guest speaker and fabulous pot luck food trying to beat even Reto's famous raclette at the Soireé Romande, November 7 at the embassy. Please call me ahead if you would like to be a candidate for the board; we are looking forward to welcoming dedicated members to this rewarding activity. You can also announce your candidacy at the Assembly meeting.

Communication is essential for the vitality of our club. For the electronically inclined, we have a functioning new website www.swissclubdc.org that will be updated at least once a week and show more actual club news, photos, links to other events of interest to our members, previous Postillions, and more new features. For those who prefer printed media, we'll present a draft of a printed member's phone book at the General Assembly (finally!) and send out more Postillions with more content (this is #5 already for this year).

Looking forward to seeing many of you many times in the near future

Christian Haudenschild

For more information, visit our website at 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



Swiss Club Board & Volunteer Coordinators...

OFFICERS

- President:** Christian Haudenschild, christian.haudenschild@swissclubdc.org, Tel: 301-251-5808
- 1st Vice President:** Eric Russi, eric.russi@swissclubdc.org, Tel: 301-585-5844
- 2nd Vice President:** Ursula Banzhaf, ursula.banzhaf@swissclubdc.org, Tel: 703-248-1144
- Secretary:** Claudia Tobler, claudia.tobler@swissclubdc.org, Tel: 240-672-6590
- Treasurer:** Pete Amstutz, pete.amstutz@swissclubdc.org, Tel: 703-242-4224
- Publicity/Website:** Stef Kvamme, stephanie.kvamme@swissclubdc.org / Andy Ruefenacht, andreas.ruefenacht@swissclubdc.org, Tel: 507-351-9608

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

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

VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

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

The 4th Jass tournament will be held December 6th, 1:00 pm at the Swiss Embassy, hosted by Jürg and Monika Roth and Senta Speight. Please contact Senta at senta.speight@swissclubdc.org

News

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Georgetown University Medical Center today announced the creation of a center that may help advance a cure for one of the deadliest forms of cancer. The Otto J. Ruesch Center for the Cure of Gastrointestinal (GI) Cancers will fund gastrointestinal cancer research, drug discovery and patient advocacy efforts at the Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Jeanne W. Ruesch generously made the \$6.75 million gift in memory of her husband, Otto, a Swiss born immigrant, a prominent Washington-area businessman and philanthropist who died of pancreatic cancer in October 2004 at the age of 64, after being treated at Lombardi. Otto Ruesch was a beloved and generous member of our Swiss Rifles and he was vice president of the Swiss Club 1992/3.

VOLUNTEERS

A club is only as strong as its members so we are always happy to have our members volunteer to make our events successful. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Christian at christian.haudenschild@swissclubdc.org.

Other Swiss Groups ...

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

The Swiss Rifles
Walter Braendli
302-995-1035

Swiss Benevolent Society
Campbell Graeub
301-652-2007

Folklore Group
Erwin Buerlimann
703-548-6349

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL 2010 +

The membership year runs from Jan. to Dec. Membership is required to attend club events

Check: New Member Renewal Swiss National Swiss Descendent Friend of Switzerland

If a Swiss National or Descendent, canton of origin: _____

Last name: _____ First: _____ Date of birth: _____

Spouse Name: _____ Spouse Date of birth: _____

Dependent children (under 18) and 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: _____

I prefer to receive the Postillion **in color by email only** **printed B/W by postal mail**

I would like to volunteer or help organize a Swiss Club event: **YES**

I would like to be included in the club's printed membership directory: **YES** **NO**

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+)

Make check payable to **Swiss Club of Washington, D.C.** Mail to Eric Russi, Swiss Club of Washington, 2100 Washington Ave. Apt 6D, Silver Spring, MD 20910

My favorite club events:

Fondue/Raclette dinner ___ Wine Tasting ___ Walking/hiking ___ Films ___ Fall Festival ___

Cultural Evening ___ Christmas Party ___ Other _____ Comments and suggestions:



From Our History...



Our guest speaker at the Annual General Meeting on November 13 is **June Vail**. She is a professor in the theater and dance department at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME. Her presentation is fascinating, well researched, well illustrated, and of great interest to all Swiss and friends of Switzerland in America:

The Hitzes in the USA: Families, Fatherland, Faith and a Waltz

Landammann Hans Hitz' family emigrated from Davos/Graubünden in 1831 and settled in Washington DC – first on a dairy farm in Washington Heights, later on Capitol Hill. For generations Hitz men and women quietly (and sometimes controversially) distinguished themselves through public service, teaching, and law. Illustrated with 19th and 20th century photographs and diaries, *Families, Fatherland, Faith and a Waltz* tells stories of some extraordinary Hitz family members and their contributions to American social movements, such as womens' rights and education for the deaf, and to government institutions, such as the American Red Cross, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the U.S. Supreme Court. The Hitz family also played an important role in founding Swiss community associations such as the Gruetli Verein of Washington and Die Stauffacherin (still existing today!).



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NEXT EVENT: Raclette Soirée Suisse Romande +

Reminder for those who have already registered:

Raclette Evening Saturday, November 7, 2009 7pm Embassy

As the last Fondue/Raclette event was overbooked and the earlier regional evenings (Ticino and Basel, so far) were very popular, we thought that a Raclette alone combined with a touch of the culture west of the Röschtigrabe would be attractive on a cold November evening. The Swiss Bakery will bring enough ovens so we don't have long lines, the beautiful Suisse Romande aerial video will be shown again, maybe a French movie, a new treasure of old Edith Piaf and Georges Brassens songs that we just rescued onto CDs will play, maybe a dance Vaudoise to the music of "La goutte du Dézaley" will be performed, and all songs and other entertainment that our Compatriots Romands can think of will be featured. (Translation: on a besoin des volontaires! Téléphonnez Christian 301-251-5808)

Admission includes: raclette all you can eat (with potatoes, silver onions & cornichons) dessert, hot tea
Cash bar for Swiss Fendant, Dôle, and other drinks; Swiss Bakery specialties also available.

There is still time for late registration. Please contact Yvonne Worrell Pover, yvonne.pover@swissclubdc.org, Tel: 703-370-3303



A Visit From Switzerland



"A Visit from Switzerland," Activity Booklet for Children Available through Embassy

A new 24-page, cartoon-illustrated story and activity book with coloring pages, puzzles, and facts about Switzerland and Swiss in the United States, is available through the embassy. The free booklet is supported by SwissRoots,

Email: was.info@eda.admin.ch

POSTILLION appears 4 to 6 x a year
Advertisement: business card \$ 25 /
1/4-page \$50 / 1/2-page \$100 /
full-page \$150



+ 87th GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SWISS CLUB

Friday, November 13th 2009 7:00 pm

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

Food: Pot Luck, bring your own favorite dish! (Microwave available)

The Swiss Club will provide the drinks, and there will be a door prize!

The board cordially invites you to participate. We appreciate your input, ideas and suggestions. As a further attraction, we have invited a guest speaker to make this an interesting event worth attending.

AGENDA:

1. Call to order
2. Reading and approval of the minutes from the 2008 assembly
3. The president's report
4. The treasurer's report
5. Reports of Folklore Group, Swiss Rifles, Die Stauffacherin, Swiss Benevolent Society, Jass Group
6. Communications: new web site, Postillion, printed phone directory
7. Upcoming Club Activities
8. Election of new members of the board (vacancies and job descriptions below)
9. Questions, Miscellaneous
10. Featured Guest Speaker: Professor June Vail:

The Hitzes in the USA: Families, Fatherland, Faith and a Waltz

11. Open Discussion
12. Adjournment

Board vacancies:

Treasurer, who shall: maintain accurate accounts of all financial transactions, opening them upon request to the Executive Committee and auditors, render a financial report for the Annual Meeting sign all Club disbursements

Program Director, who shall: coordinate all the clubs programs, record experiences and lessons from previous events to support assigned event organizers develop and present ideas for club activities to the Executive Committee

Members at Large: Board position without special assignment; a great way to get familiar with the board duties, help out in various activities and eventually choose a specific task later.

Please consider participating and call or email your candidacy to the president.



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PAST EVENT...



The Kumkli Farm Fall Festival near Shenandoah National Park attracted 51 guests, among them 17 children. The weather turned from gray and overcast to sunny, much to everyone's delight. The beautiful horses with their 8 month old foals were a big attraction. The animals were really gentle and loved to be petted. The guests even had a chance to see an opossum sleeping in the corner of a shed.

One of the biggest attractions of the picnic was carving the pumpkins Claudia

had purchased. She showed the children how to excavate them (a tough job!) and then to carve them. What fun it was to see grinning pumpkins, toothless pumpkins, and many others. When the work was finished, the children were rewarded with prizes for their artful handicrafts. For some of them it was their first time carving a pumpkin.

Another activity the youngsters enjoyed was climbing aboard the big tractor and pretending to drive it. The hayride was another highlight for young and old alike. It gave the participants an idea of the vastness and beauty of the farm.

By the time they returned from the hayride, the food Reto and his helpers had prepared, was ready. There is nothing better than a tasty grilled sausage with a roll and side salads. Of course the dessert that followed was enjoyed by everyone, too. Swiss music provided a true Swiss ambiance.

The treasure hunt took people out into the fields following the lampions and clues on the cards. Those who preferred to stay close to the barn filled out their questionnaires. After all the answers were evaluated, prizes were given out for the best ones. Not to leave anyone out, all participants received some Toblerone chocolate.

The sing-along gave people a chance to sing songs they remembered from their childhood. We sang in three different languages. To wrap up the event, Ursula performed a yodel for the Kumklis.

The picnic would not have been such a success were it not for all the helpers! A big thank you goes to our host Alfred Kumkli and his wife Susanne. Christian moved "half of his household" of supplies for the picnic. He was also our DJ. Pete and Heidi took care of the registration, shopped for supplies and helped Reto sell baked goods. Paul single-handedly manned the drinks for the thirsty crowd. Claudia provided the pumpkins and her expertise in helping the kids carve them. Eric lent a helping hand on all fronts. Reto, assisted by Ueli, Berit, Karl and Paula, provided and served all the delicious food.

~ Ursula Banzhaf



ANNUAL SWISS CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY



Sunday December 13th, 2009 4pm to 7pm

Embassy of Switzerland

2900 Cathedral Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20008

**MEMBERS ONLY, free to all members.
Sorry, no guests**



If you are not a member and wish to attend, complete the 2010 membership application form on page 3 and return with this form and your check for membership dues.

Traditional Schinken im Teig dinner served by the Swiss Bakery

Cash bar for beer and Swiss wine

Shopping opportunities at Swiss Bakery, Swiss Traditions/Arbonne, and Naef Toys

Santa will visit and bring something for all the children

He will have a special reward for all who recite a poem or sing a song

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED (postmarked by December 5, 2009)

Absolutely no admission without prior registration

Space is limited to the first 90 persons who register. We will notify you if there is no more room.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

.....(clip here).....

Christmas Party Registration

Name: Children's name(s):

Are you a Swiss Club DC Member for the year 2009? YES / NO

Are you joining now for 2010? YES / NO Include your application and membership dues

Phone number:

Email (please write clearly):

No. of adults: No. of children:

Mail registration to: Heidi Amstutz, 9907 Trosby Court, Vienna, VA 22181 Questions? 703-242-4224 evenings



NEXT EVENT...

Bake Your Own Grittibänz



Join us for an afternoon of holiday baking, hot cider, cookies, and fine company. Each participant will be able to make at least one Grittibänz. Light refreshments (cider, water, cookies) will be served (included in the cost).

Participate in this truly unique Swiss custom! Every year, local bakeries in the German part of Switzerland offer Grittibänz for sale to be enjoyed on St. Nicholas Day (December 6th). Join us to make your very own Grittibänz at the Swiss Bakery in Springfield, Virginia. What is this little man, one might ask? We can say for certain that a Grittibänz is made from a very lightly sweetened brioche dough, has a face and buttons made of raisins, almond and nuts, and tastes delicious. Usually pretty simple in design, the shape of a Grittibänz in the end is only limited by the baker's imagination. But where did this man come from? Here, our information becomes a little bit less certain. Some say the

Grittibänz originally came from the German speaking central plain or an area around Basel, and that "Gritti" refers to the figure's legs being apart and Bänz is the short form for Benedikt. There is some dispute about how far he dates back, but he has definitely been known since the 16th century. It's widely believed that the Grittibänz represents Santa Claus in a very simplified form.

Date: Sunday, November 29, 2009 (Registrations postmarked not later than November 22)

Time: 2:00 pm (ET) to 4:00 pm (ET)

Location: The Swiss Bakery, 5224 Port Royal Rd., Springfield, VA 22151 (Ravensworth Shopping Ctr)

(from Beltway (495), take exit 54A (Braddock Rd West), first light at exit cross Rt. 620 onto Port Royal Rd, enter Ravensworth Shopping Center right at this corner)

The member cost for this event is \$5.00 per participant. For non-members, the cost is \$10.00 per participant. Cost is regardless of age (except babies under 2 free). Please pay at the door or mail your payment in advance along with your registration form. No credit cards will be accepted; checks ok.

Registrant's Name: _____ Registrant's Email: _____

Registrant's Phone: _____ Member: Yes ___ No ___

Total # of Participants: _____ Of these, # who are children under 16yrs _____

Comments/Notes:

Please send registrations by email to ctobler@comcast.net or by mail to: Claudia Tobler, c/o Swiss Club of Washington DC Embassy of Switzerland, 2900 Cathedral Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008

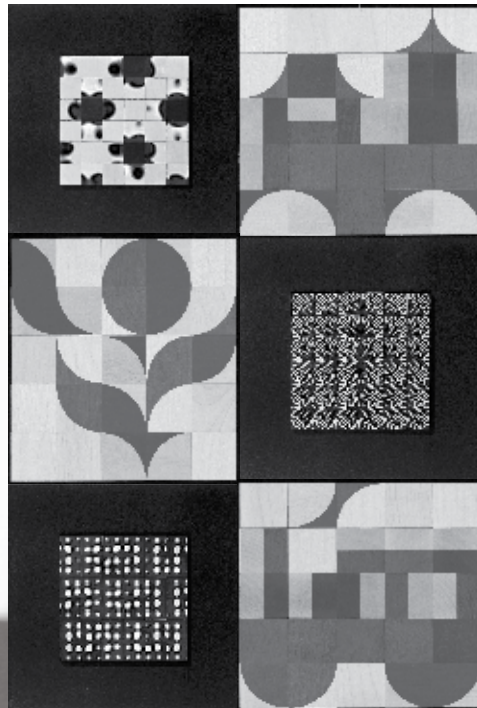


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