



POSTILLION NEWSLETTER

Print Edition December 2011

Message from the President

Dear Swiss Club Members:

are you in a festive mood already? I don't mean the commercial shopping craze (although the economy could use some gift this time), but rather the sweet, familiar smell of freshly baked Grittibänz, the happy smile on the children's (and adult's) faces when they create these tasty little figures, the huge tree at the embassy with many traditional Swiss decorations, the glow of the real candles, the almost real Samichlaus, the unique flavors of the Glühwein, the superb food, the sounds of the carols and the charm of the children's performances that they offer to Samichlaus. All this and more is for you when you join us in the two remaining events of this year, that are announced in this issue of the Postillion.

This is my last message as an active president of the club, but it is not a good-bye, as I'll remain on the board as a past president according to our bylaws. I enjoyed my tenure tremendously, and I wish to thank all, and especially the board members and the people at the embassy, for the encouragement and support that I was given throughout these eventful three years.

With best wishes for happy holidays, yours

Christian Haudenschild

Swiss Club of Washington DC. Your opinion counts, call me 301-251-5808 or email me at christian.haudenschild@swissclubdc.org

Swiss Club Agenda for 2011...

Grittibenz Baking, Sunday December 4, 1 pm, Swiss Bakery
Samichlaus Party, Sunday December 11, 4 pm, Swiss Embassy

Who is willing to help with a new Event? Please contact Reto at tel. 703-624-6880

About other Swiss Groups....

Swiss Rifles: Walter Braendli, 302-995-1035

Swiss Folklore Group: Erwin Buerlimann, 703-548-6349

Die Stauffacherin: Regula Guess, Johanna Steinhauser, 301-656-0112

Swiss Benevolent Society: Campbell Graeb, 301-652-2007

Bake your own Grittibenz...

When: Sunday, December 4th, 2011 from 1 to 3 pm

Where: The Swiss Bakery and Pastry Shop
5224 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22151

Join us for an afternoon of holiday baking, hot cider, cookies, and fine company. Each participant will be able to make at least one Grittibenz. Light refreshments will be served while all the Grittibenz get baked.



Participate in this truly unique Swiss tradition! Every year, local bakeries in Switzerland offer Grittibenz for sale to be enjoyed on St. Nicholas Day (December 6th). Join us to make your very own Grittibenz at the Swiss Bakery in Springfield. What is this little man, one might ask? We can say for certain that a Grittibenz is made from a very lightly sweetened Zopf dough and tastes delicious. Usually pretty simple in design, the shape of a Grittibenz 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 Grittibenz originally came from the German speaking central plain, the Basel and Neuchatel area, and that "Gritti" refers to the figure's legs being apart and Benz is the short form for Benedikt. There is some dispute about how far back he dates, but he has definitely been known since the 16th century. It's most widely believed that the Grittibenz represents Santa Claus in a very simplified form.

Hurry, first come first serve, space is limited.

Registration Fee of \$10.00. Please make **check payable to: "Swiss Club"** and mail with this registration to:

Eveline Roberts, 14624 Chesterfield Rd., Rockville, MD 20853.

eveline.roberts@swissclubdc.org tel: 301-460-9571

Name(s) and age(s): _____

Are you a Swiss Club DC Member for 2011?: yes / no (application form 2012 in this Postillion)

Cell Phone or phone: _____

Email (if available; please write clearly): _____

SWISS CLUB OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL 2012

The membership year runs from January to December. Membership is required to attend club events. (check www.swissclubdc.org for activity calendar)

Renewal (* if no changes, only last name, first name, signature and date are needed)

New Member Swiss National Swiss Descendant Friend of Switzerland

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

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

Spouse Name: _____ Spouse Date of birth: _____

Names of dependent children (under 18) and year of birth for each (for Family membership)

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

Home address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home/Cell phone: _____ Business phone: _____

Occupation: _____ **E-mail** _____

Optional second newsletter to this email (family members only) _____

*Date: _____ *Signature of applicant _____

I have **no access to a computer** and would like to receive the newsletter by regular mail **yes**

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 **telephone directory**: **YES** **NO**

*Enclosed is my membership check in the amount of \$ _____ for:

_____ \$45.00 Family membership (couple and dependent children under 18)

_____ \$30.00 Single membership _____ \$15.00 Student or Au Pair

_____ \$15.00 Single senior citizen (65+) _____ \$25.00 Senior citizen couple (both 65+)

Make check payable to **Swiss Club of Washington, D.C. , and mail to:**

**Eveline Roberts, Swiss Club of Washington, 14624 Chesterfield Road,
Rockville MD 20853**

Annual Swiss Club Christmas Party...

We invite you to our Christmas Party, including Dinner with the traditional "Schinken im Teig" served by the Swiss Bakery. Cash bar for beer and Swiss wine will be available. We have a corner with our favorite Swiss vendors for your holiday shopping.

WHEN:

Sunday December 11th, 2011, 4pm to 7pm

WHERE:

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

MEMBERS ONLY, free to all members.

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 6, 2011)

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.



Registration for Christmas Party...

Name of adults:

Name of children:

Cell Phone:

Email (please write clearly):.....

REGISTRATION is FREE and needs to be postmarked by Tuesday, December 6th.

Mail registration to: **Heidi Amstutz, 9907 Trosby Court, Vienna, VA 22181**

Questions? 703-242-4224 evenings or email at ptamstutz1@verizon.net

NOTE:

For safety reasons, the room capacity is 90 persons, requiring registration on a first come first serve basis and **no** registrations at the door. Please add your email or phone so we can confirm your registration.

Board Members and Coordinators 2011

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: Jacqueline Ebell, jacqueline.ebell@swissclubdc.org tel: 202-330-3974

Treasurer/Membership: Eveline Roberts, eveline.roberts@swissclubdc.org tel: 301-460-9571

Coordinator: Reto Weber, reto.weber@swissclubdc.org tel: 703-624-6880

Publicity Officer: VACANT - filled by Christian Haudenschild & Reto Weber

Webmaster: Johannes Hofer, hhofer@verizon.net tel: 703-250-0639

JASS Coordinator: Senta Speight, senta.speight@swissclubdc.org tel: 301-530-0699

Board Member: Yvonne Worrell Pover, yvonne.pover@swissclubdc.org tel: 703-370-2600

Board Member: Hisham Shaheen, hisham.shaheen@swissclubdc.org tel: 703-969-0924

Board Member: Lukas Sieber, lukas.sieber@swissclubdc.org tel: 202-258-0609

Board Member: Benjamin Arthur, benjamin.arthur@swissclubdc.org tel: 443-943-8647

Board Member: Rossana Delucchi, rossana.delucchi@swissclubdc.org tel: 571-239-1210

Swiss Embassy Liaison: Sabine Jenkins, sabine.jenkins@swissclubdc.org tel: 202-745-7957

Some pictures from the Raclette Evening





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NEWSLETTER PRINT EDITION December 2011

Grittibänz, Samichlaus Registrations

2900 Cathedral Avenue
Washington DC 20008



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Springfield, VA 22151
703-321-3670

Burke Town Plaza
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Burke, VA 22015
703-569-3670

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