

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Grüezi Swiss Club Members:

I hope this newsletter finds you healthy, happily preparing for the holidays.

November brought with it a wonderfully successful **Raclette Evening** with Silent Auction, raising over \$1300 for the SBS. It is always good to see the spirit of giving among our Swiss Family.

December is a very busy month not just for the Swiss Club. To help celebrate the holidays, we have many fun events planned for you. We start off with our **Grittibenz** Baking afternoon here at The Swiss Bakery on December 2nd. Next is our annual Christmas Party, complete with **Samichlaus**, on December 9th at the Embassy. We finish off the month with a new event, a Swiss Club **Lesezirkel**, on December 17th.

Wishing all of you Happy HO HO Holidays,

Reto Weber

Swiss Club Agenda for 2012

Grittibenz Baking, Sunday December 2, Swiss Bakery (sold out)

Samichlaus Party, Sunday December 9, Swiss Embassy (almost full)

Lesezirkel, Monday December 17, (new)3101 New Mexico Ave NW, Sutton Tower, Apt 219, Washington DC 20016

Who is willing to help with a new Event ?

Please contact Alexis tel 703-774-3132.



Holiday Grittibenz Baking for kids - SOLD OUT

Come and bake your own Grittibenz!

Join us for an afternoon of holiday baking in a professional bakery, hot cider and cookies! Each participant will be able to make at least one Grittibenz. Light refreshments will be served. Participate in this truly unique Swiss Tradition!

Swiss Club's Reto Weber on "10 Vor 10"



If you have access to a computer, click http://www.swissclubdc.org/sc_videos.htm

We invite you to our annual Christmas Party

This event is almost full. Space is limited to the first 100 who register. Please contact Eveline at tel: 301-460-9571.

Enjoy dinner with the traditional "Schinken im Teig" served by the Swiss Bakery. Samichlaus will visit and bring something for all the children. He will have a special reward for all who tell a story, recite a poem or sing a song.

When: Sunday, December 9th
from 4 - 7pm

Where: Embassy of Switzerland, 2900 Cathedral Ave., Washington DC

Who: **Members Only**~ Free to all members! Cash bar will be available for Swiss wine & beer. We will have our favorite Swiss vendor booths for your holiday shopping. Pre-Registration is required. **Absolutely no admission without prior registration.**



Swiss Club Lesezirkel

Attention all 'Bücherwürmer' - or bookworms!

The Swiss Club of Washington D.C. offers its members and friends who love to read books in German an opportunity to share their passions with like-minded friends. Marcus Geisser, originally from Arbon am Bodensee, looks out for fellow Bücherwürmer - book worms - who are passionate not only about reading books, but also about exchanging views about the books they have read. The first session of the Lesezirkel - reading club - will convene on Monday, evening, 17 December, 2012, in Marcus' flat in Tenleytown, next to the American University. The book is Alex Capus' "Léon und Louise". The book of the Swiss author Alex Capus received highest praise, and was amongst the nominee of the German Book Award 2011. It is hoped that this love story set in the war torn part of France in 20th century will lead to animated debates. Every participant is asked to read the book in advance.

What: Lesezirkel featuring **Alex Capus' "Léon und Louise"**

Where: 3101 New Mexico Ave NW, Sutton Tower, Apt 219, Washington DC 20016

Registration:

Although the event is free of charge, we'd like to know to expect you! Please let us know that you are coming. Contact Marcus Geisser to register. He can be reached at 202-492-2904. He would also be happy to answer any questions or to help you find a copy of the book.

Refreshments will be provided. If you would like to bring a drink or a snack to share, it would be welcomed...



Raclette Evening Silent Auction Success for SBS

At the November 10 Raclette Event the Swiss Club sponsored a **Silent Auction** to benefit the **Swiss Benevolent Society (SBS)**. It was a huge success. Over sixty items were donated for auction. The 125 people in attendance showed a keen interest in bidding for the exclusively Swiss items, all of which were sold. Included were gift baskets, chocolate baskets, selections of Swiss wines and liquors, a men's and ladies Swatch, gift certificates, packages of Raclette cheese, and many and many more items. The sale **totaled \$1,300, benefiting the SBS** for the purpose of helping Swiss in need living in the Washington Metropolitan Area and the small Swiss settlement, Helvetia, in West Virginia.

Besides thanking the Embassy staff for arranging the setup and the many bidders, a big word of appreciation is extended to the donors of gifts. They deserve special mention: Alfred Kessi and Aquafin, Reto Weber and the Swiss Bakery, Edi Krall, Campbell Graeub, Christian Haudenschild, Elizabeth von Kaenel, Albert Uster Imports, and the German Gourmet.

December Swiss Club Quiz Question

Here is an European Sankt Nikolaus who looks more like the historical Bishop of Myra in about the third century. He is a more dignified figure than our jolly old ho ho ho guy, comes by foot and does not descend through a chimney, but he is also the patron of the children, keeps track of their behavior, distributes apples, pears, chocolates, nuts and cookies on December 6 (other gifts come later, on Christmas Day) and generally symbolizes everything good and generous. However, he is also accompanied by his wild and scary counterpart (the figure far left in the brown coat) who carries a "Rute" (a birch broom without a stick) to punish bad children, and a bag to carry the real bad ones back into the woods. This guy has many names, for example in Germany he is called Knecht (servant) Ruprecht.

Quiz: What's his name in Switzerland?



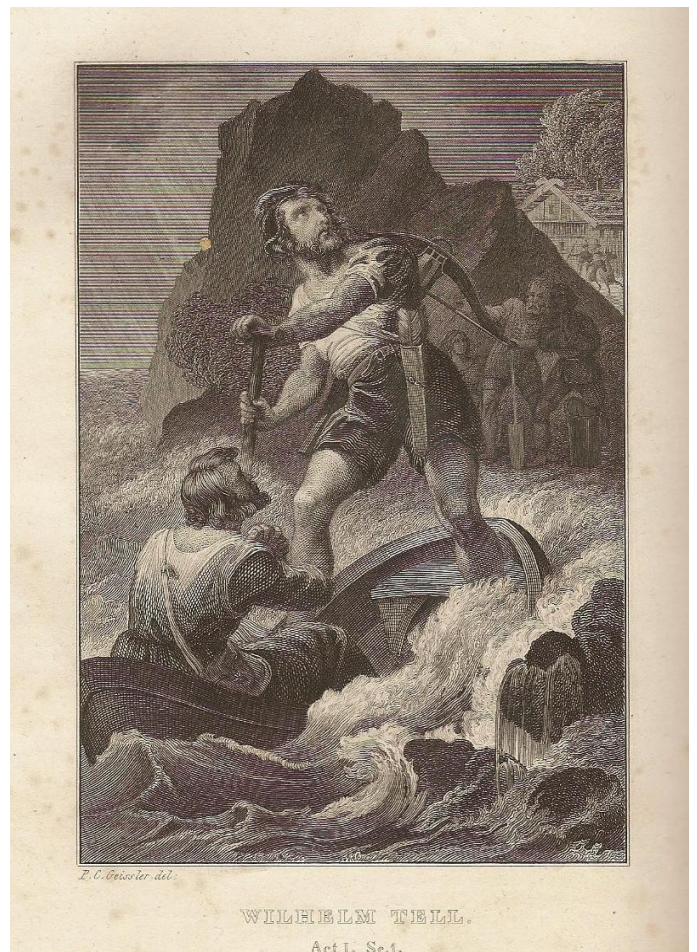
November Swiss Club Quiz Answer

Congratulation to the Winner: **Theodor Diener**

The stone, located in the Urnersee, was dedicated by the people of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden to the German poet Friedrich von Schiller (1759-1805) who wrote the drama Wilhelm Tell. Tell escaped from Gessler's boat by jumping on a rock nearby called the Tellsplatte.

Schiller's drama starts with another nautical deed of our national hero: Tell saves Baumgarten from the pursuit by the soldiers of another bad Landvogt (imperial administrator and suppressor of free people, named Wolfenschiessen, whom Baumgarten has just killed with his trustworthy ax in a bath tub because of threats to his wife) by taking him (Baumgarten) off shore in a tiny fisher-boat in the middle of a wild storm, against the advice of all his companions warning that this mission is impossible ("das täte keiner, der bei Sinnen ist"). Tell exclaims "Der brave Mann denkt an sich selbst zuletzt" (a brave man's least important thought is about himself). This is one of the many lines of Schiller's that became so frequently used that some say that his work consists almost exclusively of famous quotes.

Here is an illustration of this 18th century action movie that I found in my illustrated 1834 edition of the complete works of the poet.





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Samichlaus Sun December 9**

2900 Cathedral Avenue
Washington DC 20008



Raclette Evening 2012