

Postillion Newsletter April 2013

By Rossana Delucchi



Message from the President

Grüezi Swiss Club Members,

March has been busy with three great events. We started off with the first Jass tournament of the year and want to thank Kay and Martin Perret for being our gracious hosts. The Kaffee Klatsch in mid-March provided an opportunity to some of our newer members to meet for coffee in a small group setting for an hour or two and connect with some of our more active members. The Easter Egg Hunt a week ago was hugely successful with close to 90 participants. A special thank you goes to Claudia Tobler and her family elves for organizing and running this very popular family event. Coming soon on Sunday, April 14 is our Farmer's Breakfast. We look forward to seeing you then. Since the event fills up fast, we added an extra seating this year.

Don't forget to visit our website at www.swissclubdc.org and view our Photo Gallery where all the pictures from our March events have been uploaded. A big thank you to Hannes Hofer, our webmaster, for regularly updating the website.

Reto Weber, Swiss Club of Washington DC

Your opinion counts, call me at 703-624-6880

Swiss Club Agenda for 2013

Les Armaillis de la Gruyère and The 18th Street Singers Friday, April 5 7:00 p.m. See below
Swiss Farmers Breakfast Sunday April 14, Swiss Bakery, 5224 Port Royal Road, Springfield VA 22151

Kaffee Klatsch Saturday, May 4, 9am, La Madeleine, 7607 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda MD 20814
Spring Bike Ride Sunday May 11, location tbd

Billy Goat Trail Hike Saturday in June, Great Falls, MD
2nd Jass Tournament Sunday, June 23, Zeender Residence
Kaffee Klatsch Saturday, July 13, location tbd
Swiss National Day July/August, Swiss Embassy
3rd Jass Tournament August/September, location tbd
Fall Festival Picnic Sunday September 8, Thurmont, MD
Kaffee Klatsch Saturday, September 28, location tbd
General Assembly Friday, October 18, Swiss Embassy
4th Jass Tournament Sunday in October, location tbd
Kaffee Klatsch Saturday, November 2, location tbd
Raclette Evening Saturday, November 16, Swiss Embassy
Grittibenz Baking Sunday, December 8, Swiss Bakery
Samichlaus/Christmas Party Sunday, December 15, Swiss Embassy

Would you like to volunteer to help at an event? Please contact Alexis tel 703-774-3132.

Les Armaillis de la Gruyère and The 18th Street Singers Friday, April 5 7:00 p.m.

The all-male Swiss choir Le Chœur des Armaillis de la Gruyère was originally established in 1955, and is composed of singers from the farm lands of the Alps near Gruyère/Bulle. They officially represented Switzerland at the international expos of Brussels and Montreal. Performing in Swiss traditional costumes and singing in French, they have an extensive repertoire ranging from early to contemporary music, including mountain songs, Gregorian chant, as well as catholic and orthodox pieces. On April 5, they will give a joint concert with Washington DC's own 18th Street Singers.

The Lansburgh Theater, Harman Center for the Arts, 450 7th Street, NW. (Near Metro station Archives) Tel 202-547-1122 For tickets (\$ 15) and more information: www.18thstreetsingers.com.

The choir will also give a solo performance on April 4 at St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Annapolis (Church Circle, Annapolis MD 21401) at 6pm., and will sing Sunday morning in the Washington Cathedral

Swiss Club Farmer's Breakfast

We invite you to our annual Swiss Farmer's Breakfast

When: Sunday, April 14, 2013

Time: Seating #1 at **9 am**,
Seating #2 at **11 am**,
Seating #3 at **1 pm**

Location: Swiss Bakery, 5224 Port Royal Road,
Springfield, VA 22151



Breakfast will include:

A wide assortment of Swiss Breads and Rolls, variety of Swiss Breakfast Pastries, Birchermüesli, Röstli with Meats and Eggs, Swiss Cheeses, Fresh Fruit, Yogurts, Marmalades, Honey, Butter, Coffee, Ovomaltine, Caotina and Juice.

Cost: Members \$20, Kids \$10. Guests or Non-members \$25, kids \$15
Space is limited so register ASAP. We have added one additional seating.

Registration for Swiss Farmer's Breakfast

Name(s): _____
(Cell) Phone: _____ Email (if available, please write clearly): _____

Are you a Swiss Club Member for 2013? yes / no

1st seating 9am-10:30am : _____ people
2nd seating 11am-12:30am : _____ "
3rd seating 1pm-2:30pm : _____ "

____ x \$20 each Swiss Club Member Adults ____ x \$10 each Swiss Club Member Children (age 6 to 12)
____ x \$25 each NON Swiss Club Member Adults
____ x \$15 each NON Swiss Club Member Children (age 6 to 12)

Total amount enclosed \$_____, paid by check # _____ Make check payable to Swiss Club of Washington DC and send with this registration form to: Martin Perret, 5604 Inverchapel Rd., Springfield VA 22151.
If you have any questions please contact Martin at: Tel. 703-203-9014.
Registration Deadline is Wednesday, April 10, 2013.

About other Swiss Groups

Swiss Rifles

Walter Braendli, 302-995-1035, walter.brandli@comcast.net

Swiss Folklore Group

Ursula Banzhaf, 703 248-1144, u.banzhaf@gmail.com

Die Stauffacherin

Regula Guess, 11505 Hornfair Court, Potomac MD 20854, rguess2000@yahoo.com

Johanna Steinhauser, steinhauser.johanna@gmail.com

Swiss Benevolent Society

Campbell Graeub, 301-652-2007, graeub@verizon.net

Swiss Club Quiz

Answer to the March quiz : The inspiration for the artistic Basel Fasnacht costume came from the work of the Dutch painter Piet Mondrian (1872-1944). The first correct answer came from Jeni Tutweiler 4 hours after the Postillion was sent out.

Now some history: The decisive battle between the Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph and the French Napoleon III had already been fought in Magento, but because the leaders were not quite clear about the movements of their opponents, the two armies of practically equal strength almost incidentally fell on each other again at Solferino in Northern Italy. Since they still together had some 285,000 men and 760 cannons, they decided to fight another battle on June 24, 1859, in which not one yard of territory was won, no tactic nor strategic advantage was achieved, no political goal was met, and no national nor other prestige was gained. For that outcome the battle would not even make it into the history books. The only results were 125,000 casualties (40,000 dead and 85,000 wounded); there were no victors, only victims on both sides, in utter horror, agony and desperation, as almost no medical care was available (there were more vets for the horses than docs for the soldiers, and food, water and other supplies were left behind). Only some 9,000 of the wounded found their way to the Chiesa Maggiore in nearby Castiglione, where a young Swiss businessman, who originally came to see Napoleon III about some problems in Algeria, had recruited volunteers, mainly women and girls from Castiglione, but also tourists and travelers in the region, to give as much help as possible with whatever little medical knowledge they had, to every wounded, friend or foe. In their misery, they were all brothers ("tutti fratelli" as he wrote later, remembering the ordeal and also asking for better medical training of volunteers in peacetime).

QUIZ: Who was this Swiss businessman and what did he and four others found in the aftermath of that battle, just about 150 years ago?

As usual, answers for no prizes whatsoever are always appreciated at 301-251-5808 (leave message).



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Farmer's Breakfast Registration

2900 Cathedral Avenue
Washington DC 10008

Swiss Benevolent Society 2013 Scholarship Program

The Swiss Benevolent Society of Washington D.C. 2013 Scholarship Program has commenced. Awards may be made in an amount of up to \$2000 each. 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. Applicants must be Swiss Nationals, or be of proven Swiss descent, with a least one grandparent of Swiss nationality. Applicants must be legal residents of the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area or the Swiss settlement of Helvetia, West Virginia for at least one year prior to the start of classes. Proof of residency is required. High emphasis will be placed on financial need of scholastically qualified individuals.

Applications may be obtained by sending request to the Swiss Benevolent Society, Regula Bolliger Guess, 11505 Hornfair Court, Potomac, MD 20854, or to rguess2000@yahoo.com. Completed applications, with all supporting material, must be submitted by July 1, 2013.

The Swiss Benevolent Society was founded in 1865 as a charitable organization to help Swiss or descendents of Swiss living in the Washington, DC area who are in need of assistance. In addition to annually awarding scholarships, help is extended to Swiss who are ill or need assistance. If you know of someone who is in need of help, we ask that you contact Society at the address below or call Campbell Graeb at 301-652-2007.

The Society is no longer a membership organization that collects annual dues. It depends, therefore, entirely on donations and the income from its nominal reserve fund. Your financial support is respectfully requested. Contributions are tax deductible. If you would like to make a contribution to the Society's Charitable and Scholarship Programs, please complete the contribution form below. The Society wishes to express sincere appreciation to local Swiss for their past support; a special thank you to those members of the local Swiss community who make annual contributions. Without your support, the Society's work would not be possible.

We have received a generous donation from a long-standing Swiss Club member, Monique F. Price ,who lives at Westminster in Lade Ridge, Va. The Board of Trustees has decided to name one of this year's scholarships in her Swiss Maiden Name, The Monique Fuerst Honorary Scholarship.

I/We wish to support the Swiss Benevolent Society Charitable and Scholarship Program. Please make checks payable to the Swiss Benevolent Society and mail to address below. Thank you for your contribution.

**Swiss Benevolent Society
Attention: Regula Bolliger Guess
11505 Hornfair Court
Potomac, MD 20854**

Name:

Address: