

Postillion Newsletter

May 2013

By Rossana Delucchi



Message from the President

Grüezi Swiss Club Members,

This month we have the **Kaffeeklatsch** right on the first Saturday of the month. Please join our group for a cup of coffee at La Madeleine in Bethesda. When you are done come and pay a visit to the **National Cathedral's Flower Mart**. Yes, spring has finally arrived after a kind of long winter.

On Saturday May 11th we will be out in nature for a **bike ride**, walk or just a simple train ride from Cumberland to Frostburg, Maryland. This year's Fahrt ins Blaue is also our Bike Day. We are looking for additional help to organize the **Swiss National Day**. Any help is welcome; it can be as a sponsor or volunteering as an MC, Grill Chef or raffle seller. We have lots of work ahead for this event and are looking forward to receiving extra hands. We are always glad to hear from you (call me at 703-624-6880). With best wishes,

Reto Weber

Swiss Club Agenda for 2014

Kaffee Klatsch Saturday, May 4 La Madeleine, Bethesda
Spring Bike Ride Sunday May 11, Frostburg.
Lesezirkel, June 17, 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 Saturday August 03, Swiss Embassy
Lesezirkel, September 2, location tbd
3rd Jass Tournament August/September, Backus residence in Potomac
Fall Festival Picnic 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

Swiss Club Kaffee Klatsch

Come join us for Language Coffee Hour!

This is a regular event for people wanting to drink coffee, eat good food, and have conversations in one of their favorite languages. Come speak Swiss-German, French or Italian! All skill levels are welcome and all ages are encouraged.

La Madeleine is a cozy café in Bethesda with a fireplace! It is conveniently located only one block away from the Bethesda metro station on the red line. There is a very small parking lot at the café, and a public parking garage on the corner of Woodmont Ave and Edgemoor Lane, one block away, that offers free parking on Saturday mornings.

When: Saturday, May 4th.

Where: La Madeleine, 7607 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814

Registration for Kaffee Klatsch: Although the event is free of charge, we'd like to know to expect you! Just let us know how many are coming and what language you'd like to speak. Please contact Alexis Sullivan with any questions and to register. She can be reached at **703-774-3132**. If you are not sure you can plan ahead, feel free to appear at the last moment...



Spring Bike Ride & Fahrt ins Blaue

Join us for a spring bike ride and "Fahrt ins Blaue". The ride starts in Cumberland, MD, where we will board the train at 11:00 AM. The train departs at 11:30. You should be there at 10:30 to allow for parking time, getting the tickets, take pictures of the train, etc. It is an old steam engine that will take us up to Frostburg. You should be in Cumberland at least ½ hour before departure. The bikes will be loaded onto the last rail car and off loaded in Frostburg. Those of you who want to just come along for R&R ride are welcome as part of the Fahrt ins Blaue. The train will stay in Frostburg for 1 ½ hour before returning to Cumberland. There are several restaurants at the Frostburg train station easy accessible from the train. Those who want to tour Frostburg will go up a steep hill, which you can do by foot or bike. Those who want to bike back to Cumberland will find a well-marked trail along the R&R tracks on an unpaved path. We suggest you take a trail bike with you. It is beautiful scenery in that part of MD. **Please make sure you have water, a helmet, and an air pump.**

Since this is a weather dependent event, we may have to cancel at the last minute. For last minute updates or for any questions, please contact Martin directly on his mobile phone at **703-203-9014**.

When:

Saturday, May 11th at 10am in Cumberland (Rain Date: Saturday, May 18th at 10am)

Starting Point: Parking lot in Cumberland train station.

Lunch: In Frostburg either by the R&R station or in the town of Frostburg.

Bike rentals in Cumberland:

If you want to rent a bike in Cumberland you may do so at the following place in Cumberland:

<http://www.ctcbikes.com>

Registration for the Bike Ride and Fahrt ins Blaue.

Registration for this event is not required, however, if you let us know you are coming, we will know to expect you. The cost for the train ride: adult \$35.-, Senior 60+ \$33.-, child 0-12 \$18.- Plus lunch. You also have the option of bringing your own picnic lunch and finding a shady spot under a tree. You can also bike the trail r/t for no cost for the energetic people. RSVP to: Martin Perret, 5604 Inverchapel Road, Springfield, VA 22151, or Tel. 703-321-3021. Registration deadline is Sunday, May 5. Please include your name, cell phone #, and number of adults & children attending.

Save the Date!

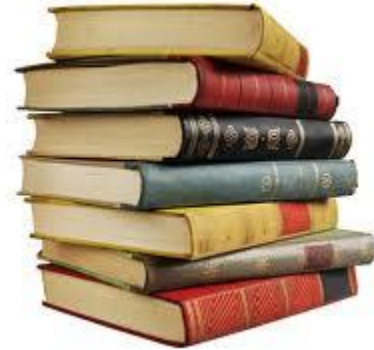
Please join us for our 2nd Jass Tournament of the year, to be held in Bowie, MD on June 23rd.

Inexperienced Jass players are always welcome!



Lesezirkel in June and September

The Lesezirkel continues to attract interest. We have four permanent members, but more are welcome! For June we will read a shorter book, only 200 pages, and for September we will read a book that is also available in English for those who are more comfortable reading in English. The discussion can be a combination of Swiss, German, and English!



On Monday, 17 June, we will meet to discuss the latest novel of contemporary German writer

Leif Randt, Schimmernder Dunst über Coby County.

In this book, Randt focuses on those privileged few living in an enclave of culture and well-being. As he plays with the longing for a better and more beautiful life, Randt succeeds in writing a light-hearted, enjoyable parody about the coziness of a well-oiled zone of existence that constantly celebrates and reproduces itself. Interestingly, the story is set in a fictional American city. For this novel, Randt received the 2011 Ernst Willner Prize.

For the second session, that takes place **on Monday, 2 September**, we have chosen **Der Weltensammler by Ilija Trojanow** that everybody who loves to travel will enjoy. The story is inspired by the life of Sir Richard Francis Burton (1821-1890). The book focuses on three of Burton's many stations: India, (Saudi) Arabia, and East Africa. Trojanow tells also a story about Burton's changing identities, a process of 'going native' -- and yet also of reaching an understanding of the limitations of trying to become part of another culture. It is also available in English (The Collector of the World), for those who feel more at ease reading it in English. Both books are available in hard copy as well as electronically. Anybody who is interested in joining the Lesezirkel in June or in September, kindly contacts Marcus Geisser, at 202-492-2904.

Swiss Club Board Members

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Swiss Club Quiz

Answer to the April Quiz: The Swiss businessman was Henry Dunant, who later (1863) founded the Red Cross together with four others: Gustave Moynier, Dr. Louis Appia, Dr. Th. Maunoir, and general G. H. Dufour. If you have access to a computer, here is his short biography on the web site of the International Committee of the Red Cross:

<http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/misc/57jnvq.htm>.

The date of his birth, 8 May, is celebrated as World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day. Of course, there would be many interesting quiz questions in this context: What other international organization that still exists today did Henry Dunant found? What has Henry Dunant in common with Barack Obama? In which war was Dufour general? What was Dufour's relation to Napoleon III ?

But since it is finally spring and the sun is shining, I thought of another quiz question. You know that sundials often are decorated with some inscription, like: "Mach es wie die Sonnenuhr, zähl die heitren Stunden nur" (in my clumsy English translation: "Sundials tell you: do it right, count only hours that are bright.") Last time I was in Switzerland, I photographed,



exactly at 12 noon, a sundial in the Tessin with an inscription in Latin that made me think of the dark side of sunshine. I vaguely remembered from my Kantonsschule days that umbra means shadow, cum means with, sine means without, and nihil means nothing. Actually I should say "nihil" translates to "nothing", because in this context it means a lot.

QUIZ: What is the meaning of this inscription?

As usual, answers for no prizes whatsoever are appreciated. (message to 310-251-5808) I got many correct answers last time, four of them on the telephone from

members without computers.

Pictures from the Easter Egg Hunt





and from the Swiss

Farmer's Breakfast





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