

Postillion Newsletter

September 2013 by Rossana Delucchi



Message from the President

Grüezi Swiss Club Members and friends of the Swiss Club!

The Club's Fall Season is starting with a busy agenda: **Leseszirkel** followed by the very popular **Fall Fest** and our 3rd **Jass** tournament. Please look for details and registrations below in this postillon.

For those who missed the **Swiss National Day**, there are beautiful pictures on our web site under photo gallery. Thank you Hannes for keeping our website up to date and thank you again to all who participated and the many who worked so hard to make this event a success. I am looking forward to seeing you there. With my best wishes,

Reto Weber

Swiss Club Leseszirkel

Join us for a multi-lingual session!

The next compelling session of the Leseszirkel will take 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 central character is 'Richard Burton', the extraordinary and notorious traveller. Although much of the book is based on facts from Burton's life, it is also very freely imagined. 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. "Iliya Trojanow has turned Burton's unbelievable life into believable fiction, achieving a rounded and satisfying portrait that traditional biography could never match", says Ben Macintyre in The New York Times Book Review. It is also available in English (The Collector of the World), for those who feel more at ease reading it in English. **The discussion can be a combination of Swiss, German, and English.** This book is available in hard copy as well as electronically. It is available on Amazon, and you can also download it on your Kindle. Please get in touch with Marcus (call 202.492.2904) to get more details. Every participant is asked to read the book in advance.



What:

Leseszirkel featuring "Der Weltensammler" or "The Collector of the World" by Ilija Trojanow

When:

Monday, September 2nd, at 7pm

Where:

Location to be determined by participants who register their interest with Marcus Geisser.

Registration for Leseszirkel

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 or 202-492-2904. He would also be happy to answer any questions or to help you find a copy of the book.



Fall Festival Picnic with the Swiss Rifles Club



Swiss Rifles

We will have a BBQ, shooting lessons (beginners welcome), a shooting contest, and other activities, such as pumpkin decorating.

When:

Sunday, September 8, 2013 from 11am to 3pm ~ rain or shine

11am - 2pm ~ Shooting Activities

11am - 3pm ~ Other Activities & Games

12pm - 1pm ~ BBQ Lunch

Where:

Thurmont Conservation and Sportsman's Club (TCSC)
11617 Hunt Club Road, Thurmont, MD 21788

About 1 hr north of the DC beltway. Directions: From beltway (I-495), take I-270 North (about 32 miles) and continue north onto U.S. Route 15 (about 7.4 miles) north to Old Frederick Road exit. Take Old Frederick Road north (about 4.4 miles) to Hunt Club Road. Turn right onto Hunt Club Road and follow to the end, pass gates (Swiss flags, "members only") to club grounds parking (free) near clubhouse. Bring your own lawn chairs, rain gear, mosquito spray, and sunscreen!

Shooting:

We will have a shooting contest with prizes! Swiss rifle (Karabiner 31) with electronic scoring, 300 yard range. Small caliber shooting (children and teens ages 8 to 18), 50 yard range with telescope, and short range colt (revolver) shooting with the cowboys. Rules will be explained by Swiss Rifles members to small groups before they go to the range. Shooting only with instruction and supervision by expert Swiss Rifles members. Wear regular outdoor clothing. The shooters stand or sit on wooden chairs, please bring your own sun glasses or goggles along. Ear plugs will be provided.

Ammunition cost is \$6 for 10 rifle shots.

Do you want to join the Swiss Rifles? Registration forms at the entrance.

Registration for the Picnic

Only current club members and their escorted guest may attend this event...

Names: _____

(Cell) Phone: _____

Email (if available; please write clearly!): _____

REGISTRATION FEES for Swiss Club members:

____ Adults (12 and over): \$15 each ____ Children (ages 4 to 12): \$5 each

REGISTRATION FEES for Guests accompanied by members:

____ Adults (12 and over): \$20 each ____ Children (ages 4 to 12): \$10 each

Admission includes: BBQ lunch, coffee, soda, water & dessert, pumpkin for children. Children under 4 years of age are free.

Total number of: Adults _____, Children _____

of these, how many intend to shoot? _____ (ammunition paid at the range)

Total amount enclosed \$ _____, paid by check # _____

Please make check payable to "Swiss Club" and mail with this registration to:

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

Please call her at (301) 460-9571 with any questions. Deadline for print edition recipients

Sept. 6, 2013

Swiss Club 3rd Jass in 2013

When: Sunday, September 22, 2013 at 1:30pm

Where: Backus Residence
10601 Oaklyn Dr
Potomac MD 20854



For registration: Please contact Marc Borbely at 202-557-1083

Deadline for registration: September 18th (we need tables of 4)

Registration fee: \$5 for Swiss Club members, \$10 for guests, collected at the Jass.

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. Recently, the French speakers have outnumbered all the other languages!

[La Madeleine](#) is a French Country Café in Alexandria. It is located one mile away from the King St metro station on the blue or yellow line. There is street parking and a couple of parking garages very close by as well.

When: Saturday, September 28th at 9am

Where: La Madeleine, 500 King St, Alexandria, VA 22314



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 attend at the last moment...

Swiss Club Quiz

Answer to the August Quiz: This picture shows an award winning Berner Sennenhund and his trainer, taken at the Swiss National Day celebration at the Swiss Embassy. It is worth to get access to a computer, as more pictures of this beautiful event are posted on the Photo Gallery of the Swissclubdc.org web site:
http://www.swissclubdc.org/sc_gallery.htm#

September Quiz: The Swiss militia army is a proud institution unique to Switzerland. September 22 is a voting day. What will the Swiss vote about on this day?



Save the date!

On Friday, October 18th, we are going to hold our **General Assembly** at the Swiss Embassy. We hope to count on your presence. Your attendance is highly appreciated!

Member's Corner

As our Swiss Club Family grows, we congratulate Pete and Kate Amstutz on their son, **Christian Anthony Amstutz**, 8lb 11 oz geb. on Aug 15, 2013 in Fairfax, VA. Proud grandparents are Pete & Heidi Amstutz.

Gilberte Ecuier, from Bethesda, MD, died June 25, 2013 at her home at the age of 90. Born in Lausanne she has lived in the America since 1960. She leaves no known relatives neither here nor in Switzerland. She was educated in Lausanne and Bern in the health care field. As a governess to a diplomatic family she came to this country and remained here. For over 40 years she volunteered in the ER of the Suburban Hospital where she served over 12,000 hours. The Hospital supervisor said "she was more dependable than any of our staff". Gil loved animals. In her small one-room apartment she always had a live-in cat. Every day she would go down to the back of the building to feed stray cats and dogs. A mother fox with her 3 off-spring found the hand out, pleasing Gil enormously. One day the 3 puppies appeared without the mother. Assuming the mother fox was killed the animal rescue people were called, alerting the apartment management which called a halt to her daily routine.

Gil will be remembered by many for her charm, kindness, and unassuming role, most positive and optimistic outlook on life. For many she was the lady, with the beautiful gray hair and always dressed in all white. She was the winner of the top door price of 2 business class Swiss tickets 5 years ago. This was her last trip to her homeland.

A service was held at the hospital on August 7. Her wish is that her ashes be spread near her adoptee's mothers at the base of her favorite mountain in Switzerland.

Campbell Graeb

Swiss Benevolent Society Honorary Scholarship Awards

The Swiss Benevolent Society is pleased announce that this year **two Monique Fürst Price Honorary Scholarships** have been awarded. They go to Emily A. Biggs (attending West Virginia Wesleyan College) , and Sharon N. Hall (University of Maryland). The Board of Directors congratulates them for their scholastic achievements, educational goals and references that were submitted. Award amounts are also based on financial needs.

Ms. Price made a generous donation to the Swiss Benevolent Society for the purpose of assisting young students with their high educational expenses. Her gift has been set aside to meet those wishes. Founded in 1865, the SBS is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable organization. All donations and income go directly to Swiss, or descendants of Swiss, living in the Washington Metropolitan Area, and the tiny Swiss settlement of Helvetia in West Virginia.