

October 2014 Postillion

by Rossana Delucchi

www.SwissClubDC.org



President's Message

Dear Swiss Club members,

This is the time of year when we schedule our General Assembly, and we invite all our active members to come hear a recap of our activities and finances for the past fiscal year which ended on September 30.

The meeting will be at the Embassy of Switzerland on Friday, October 17, and will start at 7:00pm. The board members will be on hand to answer any questions you may have. We'll follow the business part with our traditional potluck dinner. Drinks will be provided by the Swiss Club.

We look forward to your participation at this annual event, and we thank you in advance for your commitment to the Swiss Club.

Until then,
Eveline Roberts

Swiss Club Annual General Assembly

Please join us for our General Assembly Meeting!

The Board of the Swiss Club of Washington DC cordially invites you to attend its annual General Assembly. We appreciate your participation, input, ideas and suggestions!

We will go over this past year's activities, as well as review financial reports. We will elect new board members and discuss next year's events.

We invite all interested Swiss Club members to step forward and join the 2015 Executive Committee. Are you interested in helping out? Please feel free to contact our president, Eveline Roberts chvd@aol.com with any questions or concerns you may have.

When: Friday, October 17, 2014 at 7pm

Where: Embassy of Switzerland 2900 Cathedral Ave., Washington DC (for directions [click here](#))

Food: Pot Luck, bring your favorite dish!

(Microwave available and the Swiss Club will provide drinks)

Check <http://www.swissclubdc.org> for updates.



KaffeeKlatsch: Come join our Language Club Coffee Hour!

We talk, we sip coffee, and we eat pastries...
What a great way to spend a Saturday morning!
We usually have participants speaking French, Swiss German, and sometimes, Italian. Come and enjoy good conversation and good food!

When: Saturday, October 25, at 9am

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

[MAP](#)

No need to register



Swiss Shooting Day results

We started off under blue skies and a slight breeze and ended up right at 3pm with a strong wind and pelting rain. By then everyone had taken a turn at the range and submitted their score sheets, and the winners are:

Small Caliber:

- 1st Catherine Gees
- 2nd Erica Gees
- 3rd Christian Haudenschild

300 yard range:

- 1st ChristianHaudenschild
- 2nd MathiasKuhni
- 3rd Erica Gees

In addition to the shooting contests everyone got a chance to meet with Cowboy Anton Hermann and his helpers and try target shooting with a revolver.



Congratulations to our winners and a big thank you to the Swiss Rifles for hosting us at the Thurmont Conservation Sportsman's Club.

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

The Swiss Benevolent Society of Washington (SBS) will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary next year. Founded in 1865, it is the oldest Swiss organization in Washington. There are several Swiss benevolent groups in other parts of the country. Some have functioned almost like insurance companies, where members pay dues and can get assistance when special needs arise. The SBS's sole mission was and continues to be to help Swiss in need. It was established as a membership organization with the yearly dues of \$3.00 (\$45 in today's Dollars). In some cases travel assistance was extended to individuals who visited or migrated to the United States, and for various reasons had to return back home. Others needed short-term financial assistance, while some needy elderly and sick were visited and helped with medical and dental expenses, and grocery gift cards. In many cases a loan was given, with the expectation that the money would be paid back, but at times some loans were forgiven.

In 1980 the membership of around 100 voted to change from a membership organization to an entity managed by a Board of Trustees. This has been the structure since then. Board members are chosen from other Washington-based Swiss organizations. The same year a scholarship program was initiated to help Swiss and descendants of Swiss with the ever increasing cost of college education. Eligibility to apply for grants has been extended to Swiss descendants of the tiny West Virginia community of Helvetia.

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the 2014 award recipients. They are: Noelle Brahimi, this year's Monique Fürst-Price Honorary Scholarship recipient (Virginia Tech Graduate School); Emily Biggs (West Virginia Wesleyan College); Joel Cox (University of Maryland); Shannon Hall (University of Maryland); and Andrea Zemp (University of Maryland). We wish them all a successful and productive school year. The Board of Trustees extends the Swiss Washington community our sincerest appreciation for its continued support.

Campbell Graeub, President; Alfred Kessi, Treasurer; Regula Guess, Secretary

Save the Date: Raclette Evening!

Don't miss out the Swiss Club Raclette Evening!

When: Saturday, November 15

Where: at the Swiss Embassy **More information coming soon.**

At the Raclette Evening on November 15, there will be a **Silent Auction** for the benefit of the Swiss Benevolent Society of Washington, much the same as last year when the generous amount of \$ 2,600 was raised. A few donations for the auction have already been received. Ambassador Sager has donated a NespressoPixie machine, a second coffee maker was received from a former Embassy staff member, and Reto Weber's effort has resulted in the donation of 2 Swissrail Passes from the Swiss National Tourist Office. Other items are now being collected. We are trying to make this an auction of Swiss treasures and not of run-of-the mill garage-sale items. The auction is a perfect time for you to part and contribute a special Swiss treasure which you no longer need. The gift is a tax-deductible item. If you have such an item(s) you are asked to contact Campbell Graeub (Tel [301 652 2007](tel:3016522007) or campbellgraeub@gmail.com) to list the items and minimum auction starting price. If you wish to be named as the donor, please let him know. Donated items need to be brought to the Raclette Evening about half hour before the starting time.



Swiss Club Events for 2014

General Assembly, Friday, October 17, Swiss Embassy
KaffeeKlatsch, October 25, Swiss Bakery
Raclette, Saturday, November 15, Swiss Embassy
Jass, Sunday, November 16, Perret's Residence, Springfield
Grüttibenz, Sunday, December 7, Swiss Bakery
Samichlaus, Sunday, December 14, Swiss Embassy

Swiss Club Quiz

The answer to the August Quiz: left to right in the beautiful picture of the dancers, singers and fahnenschwingers at the Swiss National Day are: Anneli in the AppenzellTracht, Anne in the Zürich workday Tracht, Bill in a Luzern Tracht, Sarita in a Tracht from Zug, Erwin in an Obwalden Tracht, Liz in a Bern Tracht, Al in a Tracht from Nidwalden, Ursula in a black Bern SonntagsTracht, and Janet in a Basel (Stadt) workday Tracht. The Folklore Group has a carefully maintained collection of these costumes that can be worn by new members joining the fun of Swiss folklore dancing. Contact Ursula for more information at u.banzhaf@gmail.com

New Quiz: Switzerland has a near 100% (mandatory) health care coverage by over 60 competing, private insurance agencies commonly called "Krankenkassen", some of which are non-profit and somewhat organized like credit unions. Nevertheless, on September 28 the Swiss voted on a popular initiative that intended to change this into a federal single payer system. What percentage of the voters rejected this proposal?