

SEATTLE SWISS SOCIETY INC.



February 2016

seattleswiss.org

seattleswissclub@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fondue Party	Monroe Swiss Hall	Mar 20
Jass Tourney	HC Goetschel's home	Apr 9
Spaziergang	Any ideas?	Apr 17
First of Aug	Edgebrook Club	Jul 31
Fall Hike	Stevens Pass	Aug 27-28
Fall Dinner	Cafe de Paris	Oct 22
Xmas Party	Monroe Swiss Hall	Dec 4

Frühlingsspaziergang

Coming soon - our second annual **Spring Walk!**

On Sunday, April 17th we will set off for a nice stroll on a beautiful trail somewhere in the Seattle area (suggestions please!). The route will feature a stop for some beverages and nourishment. We plan to hike as a group at a relaxed conversational pace that will be suitable for all ages. Leashed dogs are welcome, too.

Walk, talk, eat, drink. Sounds like fun!

We will have more information which we will share via email.

Contact Rick Bützberger: 747-444-1098
buetzli@gmail.com

FONDUE PARTY "Fondue isch guet und git a guet i

It's almost time for our annual Fondue Party!

Please join us for our traditional Swiss Cheese Fondue on **Sunday, March 20 at 3:00 PM** at the Monroe Swiss Hall.

Chef Roland Oberholzer has agreed once again to be in charge of preparing the fondue. The cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for guests.

We ask that you bring an appetizer, salad or dessert to

share. Also please bring your fondue pots, burners and forks (all marked with your name). Without them we are unable to serve our many guests.

As you know, good Swiss Kirsch is an important ingredient for a nice fondue and donations will be greatly appreciated.

To sign up, please complete the **Reservation Form** on page 4, and let us know what you will bring.

JASS TOURNAMENT!

April 9th - 1:00 pm

VENUE CHANGE! This year's Jass Tourney will be held at the Mercer Island home of Honorary Consul Philippe Goetschel. Please call him at **(206) 395-4812** no later than **April 3rd** if you would like to participate, and to find out what you can bring.

As you are aware, this party is to determine the Jass champion. However, if you are a player with limited experience, you are invited as well. We will have 1-2 tables for aspiring players and you may also observe the "masters".

Swiss in Seattle?



Seattle Swiss Facebook Photos

www.facebook.com/SeattleSwissSociety/photos_stream

Masthead color courtesy of Brenda Sexton and associates at Sexton Communications LLC.
 253.315.2338 | Brenda.Sexton@comcast.net

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Chrüsümüsi

Hoi Seattle Swiss Club members!

I talked to a long-time member of our club the other day, and he told me that he thinks in the next 15 to 20 years, there won't be enough members to keep the club alive. That's a sobering thought. And, honestly, it does seem that way when I look around. The Alpenrose yodel choir has a hard time finding enough members to actually sing and perform, and the Jassers struggle to find four people for a game of Schieber. But, even as it seems we don't have enough members, I do see interest from new members, other people who are somehow connected to Switzerland who are interested in joining us. The challenge we face is how to get them involved, and stay involved. I'm sure that we are all familiar with how difficult a busy schedule can be sometimes. Too often, members have to choose between attending their child's soccer game or participating in a Swiss Club activity. The board is constantly brainstorming ways that we can encourage our new members to help us foster, care for and take part in the Swiss heritage that brings us all together.

What can we do? Well, we can start by engaging with new members, making room for them, connecting with them. Of course, it goes both ways – new members have to be willing to participate and make time for their Swiss Club.

I have a very clear vision for our Swiss Club: a vision where our little Switzerland in the Pacific Northwest thrives, with young and old Swiss celebrating Swissness, where "Schwyzerdütsch" is heard and where "Kameradschaft" is alive and well.

At the very heart of the Seattle Swiss Society is the idea of togetherness - kameradschaft. Think about this: why did you join our club? ... It's probably because you, or a relative, or even a friend lived in or visited Switzerland. Or maybe you just really like cheese and chocolate! But no matter who you are, what you do or how old you are, you joined this club because you have some sort of connection to a small country in Europe, and so does every other member here. It is that Swiss heritage that we all share that brings us together and makes this club exist in the first place.

I see that heritage come to life when I hear our members talking about little dorfs in the country, or whether they are a Coop or Migros family, or if they did or didn't celebrate Fasnacht or Carnival. A majority of our members come from the Swiss-German parts of Switzerland, but if your connection is to the Swiss-French or Swiss-Italian parts, it doesn't matter... we are all here to celebrate this little detail that connects us all: our Swiss heritage.

I strongly believe that someday we will have too many players and not enough tables to play a Jass! Heritage is something that is passed on... let's keep that in mind as we invite new members into our club, or into our family. We might all be very far from "home," but we all have each other, and together we have a lot of Switzerland.

From the board,

Roland Oberholzer

FROM THE HONORARY CONSUL

Philippe Goetschel

Based on the kind feedback of Toni Tschanz and others I would recommend the following steps to assure you get your AHV payment without fees transferred directly to your US bank account in US Dollars:

1. Verify with your credit union or bank that you will not get charged a fee for incoming ACH payments
2. Write a letter with your name, date of birth, AHV number to Schweizerische Ausgleichskasse SAK, Avenue Edmond-Vaucher 18, Postfach 3100, 1211 Genève 2, Switzerland.
3. State in your letter that you wish to have your AHV deposited directly to your bank account in the US.
4. Attach a voided check that shows your bank routing number and bank account number
5. For additional questions you can contact them at +41 (0)58 461 91 11 or at sedmaster@zas.admin.ch or oaie@zas.admin.ch

FALL DINNER RECAP

Last October 24th 60 of our members and guests enjoyed a wonderful dinner at a new venue, Café de Paris in Edmonds. We were offered a choice of entrees which was a pleasant change. We think we'll be returning! A special Thank You! to the Vogeles of Zero One Vintners for their generous donation of wine.

FONDUE CLASS RECAP

A small group of lucky members were coached by experts in the art of making a proper Swiss fondue on November 18th. Many thanks to Pattie and Dick Reutimann for hosting this event!

CHRISTMAS PARTY RECAP

Once again we had a great turnout at our annual celebration at the Monroe Swiss Hall. As usual we had a delicious selection of potluck items to go with our turkey and ham. Santa made an appearance, much to the delight of the children, who eagerly (for the most part ;-)) shared their desires with him.

CHEESE TASTING RECAP

On December 17th 20 of us were fortunate enough to enjoy a selection of Swiss cheeses provided by Carla Hanvold from Willis Marketing (Promoter for MIFORMA Cheeses) at Urs & Leslie Berger's café SUISSE. We also had a nice choice of wines and some even had a cup of the Bergers' fantastic hot chocolate.

SHELLEN-URSLI FILM

The NW Film Forum showed this delightful family movie to sold-out audiences on January 29th & 30th. The Saturday screening featured commentary from director Xavier Koller, followed by a reception hosted by Swiss Consul General Hans-Ulrich Tanner and Honorary Consul Philippe Goetschel. Many thanks for a great event!

IN MEMORIAM

We lost two long-time members in 2015, Werner Dreier and Walter Schefer.

LINKS & STUFF

Seattle German resources: www.seattleaufdeutsch.com

From Gerard Wirz: www.iloveseatle.org

Barbara Curran wants Swiss teachers for the Greater Seattle German-American School - 206-349-3609

barbara@curranonline.com www.sagaschool.org

Monroe Swiss Colony

monroeswisscolony@yahoo.com

Monthly Meeting & Potluck Luncheon - 1st Sundays
Doors open at noon, lunch at 1 pm, then we have our meeting.

July/August - no meetings

Monroe Swiss Hall - 18500 Tualco Road, Monroe

For hall rental and club information, contact:

thorpe84@msn.com or call 425-327-4363

Tacoma Swiss Clubs

Joe & Louise Hospenthal at 253-896-2593

www.tacomaswissclubs.com

Swiss Club Helvetia of NCW (Leavenworth)

For information contact **Martin & Heidi Stoller**
(509)782-5808

Please Renew Today!

Seattle Swiss Society

Online Renewal & Membership Application

Now accepting



Philippe Goetschel

Honorary Consul

Consulate of Switzerland

6920 94th Avenue SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040
206 395 4812

seattle@honrep.ch



www.swissemb.org

YOUR 2016 BOARD

President	<i>Roland Oberholzer</i>	425-889-2411
VP & Newsletter	<i>Rick Bützberger</i>	747-444-1098
Treasurer	<i>Patty Richert</i>	425-444-7672
Secretary	<i>Dick Reutimann</i>	206-232-7022
Events Chair	<i>Doris Oberholzer</i>	425-353-0788
Trustees	<i>Pattie Reutimann</i>	<i>Debbie Amandoli</i>

AUSLÄNDER CORRESPONDENCE

Samantha Oberholzer

Growing up, I saw my parents do a lot for their community – whether it was my mom coming into my 5th grade class to teach me and my peers about art, or my dad making extra Thanksgiving dinners to bring by the homeless shelter on his way home from work. As they say, actions speak louder than words and I can now see that these actions had a profound impact on me.

Several months ago, I set out to accomplish my own volunteer project, which was not as simple in Switzerland as it might have been in the U.S. More and more articles and reports about the incoming refugees appeared in the news and I felt that I needed to do something to help.

After work and during my lunch breaks, I visited the hotels in Lucerne and explained what I was trying to do: collect toiletries that they have for guests and donate them to the asylum center in Altstätten, right on the border between Switzerland and Austria, near St. Gallen. But what I didn't realize before is how out of the ordinary my plan was. I'd walk into a hotel, speak to the person at the front desk, explain what I was doing (in Swiss-German, which made me nervous) and then wait for a response, which often came in the form of a question about what exactly I was trying to do.

See, in Switzerland, there are organizations and “vereins” that do this sort of thing, not random individuals. Picking up trash in the park? That's someone's full-time job.

Organizing donations for the refugees? Someone is hired for that. Sure, people will donate clothes and bags, but that's the first thing people think of when they need to donate something so donation and refugee centers had all the clothes and shoes they needed.

I went to a department store and asked the cashier in the beauty section if she had samples of lotions or soap that I could donate... she snapped at me because she thought I was just making up an excuse to get free samples for myself!

Eventually, I worked out a plan with the Radisson Blu in Lucerne and they donated the bottles that room service cleaned out of guests' rooms – some hadn't even been used – and on the weekend we delivered them in person to the “Empfangs- und Verfahrenszentrum.”

I've lived in Switzerland for over four years now, and this was one of the biggest culture shocks I'd experienced since moving here. Something that seemed so logical and so normal to me was incredibly difficult for others to comprehend. Nonetheless, I accomplished my mission and learned something in the process: Switzerland really has their stuff together, but a little bit of good ol' fashioned, American-style volunteer work doesn't hurt.

About the correspondent

Samantha Oberholzer is an expatriate living in Nidau and working as a copywriter in Lucerne. When she's not riding the train she enjoys other typical Swiss things like schwingfescht, chäs and schoggi. She blogs about her adventures at www.cup-of-culture.com.

GENERAL MEETING RECAP

Your club held its annual meeting on January 29th. Prior to the meeting some members gathered for a memorial for Werner Dreier, who passed away in December.

Highlights of the assembly were brief remarks by Honorary Consul Philippe Goetschel and Consul General Hans-Ulrich Tanner, who was visiting from San Francisco. Your

Board was reelected, and Pattie Reutimann volunteered to fill the Trustee position vacated by Jan Palmer. We extended a hearty Thank You! to retiring Events Chair Margaret Aebersold for her years of exemplary service in planning and coordinating our functions.

Many thanks to those who helped out at the meeting,

2016 Membership Dues - Please Remit by March 31st

If you have not already paid (except Honorary Members), please use the [Online Payment](http://seattleswiss.org) at seattleswiss.org or complete this form and send it together with your check made payable to **Seattle Swiss Society** to:

Patty Richert
4122 135th Pl SE
Bellevue, WA 98006

I / we enclose the following dues: **Family or Couple: \$30.00**

Single: \$20.00

First & Last Name(s): _____

If you have a new address, phone number, e-mail address (please note any changes below):

SUNDAY, MARCH 20 FONDUE RESERVATION FORM

Please complete and send with your check made out to **Seattle Swiss Society** no later than March 14th.

I/we will attend the Fondue Party at the **Monroe Swiss Hall**. Enclosed is a check for

\$ _____ for _____ members _____ guests (\$25 members, \$30 guests)

Name(s) as you would like them on the name tags:

We will bring our children: Name(s) and age: _____

No charge for members under age 12.

I/ we will bring: (please let us know how many of each you will bring)

_____ Fondue Pot _____ Burner _____ Fondue Forks _____ Bottle of Kirsch

Appetizer (ready to serve) _____ Salad _____ Dessert _____

Please mail with check to:

Patty Richert
4122 135th Place SE
Bellevue, WA 98006

We encourage carpooling!

I/we am/are unable to drive to Monroe,
_____ **Please arrange for a ride for me/us.**

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Image courtesy Димитрий-5-Аверин



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BELLEVUE WA 98006