

SEATTLE SWISS SOCIETY INC.



February 2015

seattleswiss.org

seattleswissclub@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Raclette	Feb 26	Patty Richert's
Fondue	Mar 22	Monroe Swiss
Jass	Apr 12	Rueggs'
Spatziergang	May 3	Kirkland
National Day	Aug 2	Edgebrook
Hike	Aug 29	Stevens Pass
Fall Dinner	Oct 23	TBD
Xmas Party	Dec 6	Monroe Swiss



JASS PARTY

April 12th - 1:00 pm

This year's Jass Party will be held at the home of Martha & Tony Ruegg. Please call them at **425-747-3608** no later than **April 6** if you would like to participate, and to find out what you can bring.

Rueggs', 4218 135th Place SE, Bellevue

As you are aware, this party is to determine the Jass champion. However, if you have participated in the Jass lessons or are a player with limited experience, you are invited as well. We will have 1-2 tables for aspiring players and you may also do some kibitzing how the "masters" do it. Please let Tony know your ability level.

FONDUE PARTY "Fondue isch guet und git a guet i Luune"

It's almost time for our annual Fondue Party!

Please join us for our traditional Swiss Cheese Fondue on **Sunday, March 22 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 \$20 for members and \$25 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.

As a special treat the "Cascade Alphoms" will be playing for us. They are two Swiss-trained players who will raise the Swiss ambiance of our event to a new level. Bring your children and grand-children. They will enjoy watching and listening to these traditional instruments just as much as we will.

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

Spring Spatziergang

Announcing a new Seattle Swiss event:

First Annual (?) **Spring Spatziergang**,

on **May 3rd** in Kirkland. We have a great new six mile long flat walking trail on the old BNSF right of way.

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Chrüsimüsi

Roland Oberholzer

Your board was unanimously reelected! A few of our more hardcore members showed up and survived the challenge of listening to the ramblings of the president, electing the board members, approving our financials and getting a heads up about the events planned for this year - and there are lots. Make sure to mark your calendars and join us so that we can make this a great and active club mitenand!

The board will be addressing the declining membership revenue - out of 200 members only 50 actually paid the fee. The board will try to figure out a better way of communicating the fee payment plan.

Speaking of membership, as I elaborated on at the general meeting, it is of great interest to us to foster an environment where kids and teens also feel welcome to our club and have the urge to join us for our events. This requires encouragement from both parents and the club. Those of us who are active members need to provide an "unterlage", a platform, where the younger generation feels comfortable to participate and meet other kids, not just "older" members. It will require a little push from you, the parents, to make sure your kids participate (we also insisted that our daughters come with us and now look where one of them ended up - in Switzerland!). We would also like for you to tell us what kind of events would be of interest to your children. Only by growing and participating can we build on the "unterlage" that already exists and continue strengthening and supporting our Swiss community.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

January 30, 2015

The annual general meeting of the Seattle Swiss Society was held at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, with 30 members in attendance. We reviewed the meeting minutes and treasurer's report and recapped the events of 2014 and presented the calendar of the events for 2015. Please make sure to check the website for up to date information on the events. The current Board members were unanimously approved by the membership to serve another term. The Board received a round of applause and a thank you from the membership for their service during the past year.

Upon completion of our official business we enjoyed a traditional "Würstsalat" served with wine, bread and tasty desserts and coffee. Special thanks to Margret and Hanspeter Aebersold for making the scrumptious Würstsalat! The board would like thank everyone who participated and helped set-up, clean-up and contributed in making this a successful meeting.

FROM THE HONORARY CONSUL

Philippe Goetschel

On January 15 the Swiss National Bank unexpectedly lifted its peg of the Swiss Franc to the Euro. As a result, the Swiss Franc briefly appreciated by 20% but has since weakened a little. Such appreciation of any currency so quickly has never happened since the early 1970s. As of the this writing on February 20, one Swiss Franc is worth about \$1.07 compared to \$0.98 on January 14. What does this mean? For AHV recipients this means that they have just received an 8% raise. On the flipside, a visit to Switzerland has just become 8% more expensive. For the Swiss economy it will make exports more expensive and less competitive. Most observers foresee a small recession later this year.

The Bundesrat has been busy putting together a proposal for implementing the Masseninitiative that the Swiss people approved almost a year ago. On the table are "Kontingente" or upper yearly limits for immigrants from the EU and from third countries. This would put Switzerland at odds with the bilateral agreements on free people movement inside the EU. The EU has shown little understanding of granting the Swiss yet another "Extrawurst". Regardless of how the negotiations will be going it is safe to say that Swiss citizens will be slightly favored in the job market.

The Swiss Leaks revelations have cast a long shadow over the country's private banking industry. HSBC has found itself at the centre of a media and political firestorm after dozens of news organizations published damaging details of how it helped French and German clients hide assets from the taxman between 2005 and 2007. This setback comes at a time when the financial industry was hoping that all tax scandals were resolved after the implementation of FATCA.

CHRISTMAS PARTY RECAP

The annual Christmas party was held at the Monroe Swiss Hall on Sunday December 7, 2014. There were roughly 60 members and children combined between the Seattle and Monroe Swiss clubs.

The children shared their Christmas wishes with Santa and baked cookies with Roland. All of the children received special goody bags.

Thanks again to the Wehrles, who have made it a tradition to donate the annual Christmas tree. The Seattle Swiss Society would also like to thank everyone who contributed and helped to make this a fun and successful event.

Photos by Lynn Bützberger

may be seen @ <https://flic.kr/s/aHsk6VzrbU>

It's Better Online!

You can help your Swiss club by stopping your paper copy of this newsletter. It's incredibly easy! Just send your email address to us at seattleswissclub@gmail.com, and we'll start notifying you when a fresh newsletter is available on our website, seattleswiss.org. Why? Full color, adjustable size, clickable links, and you help us save \$\$\$\$. Thanks!

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

Seattle Swiss Society

Online 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 2015 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>Margret Aebersold</i>	425-353-0788
Auditors	<i>Jan Palmer</i>	<i>Debbie Amondoli</i>

AUSLÄNDER CORRESPONDENCE

Samantha Oberholzer

Since I've lived in Switzerland, my dad has been encouraging me to go to Fasnacht (or Carnival if you're Swiss-French). It's something I vaguely remember being a part of as a toddler in Toronto but I was unaware of how big a deal it is until last year.

For those of you unfamiliar with Fasnacht – think Halloween with more homemade costumes, confetti and large bands making their way from one Fasnacht event to the next. (A work colleague actually takes two weeks of vacation during this time of year to tour the country with his Guggemusig-Gruppe!)

I've lived here long enough for most things to feel “normal”. I'm used to the stores being closed on Sunday, I know where to get all the groceries I need and I too become impatient when my bus is a minute late. But going out for Fasnacht last weekend with some close friends, I truly felt like an outsider, or a tourist in the best sense of the word. I was fascinated with this strange interpretation of my beloved Halloween. The entire street was closed and public transportation rerouted so that large party tents could be set up and Fasnächtlers could have free reign; musicians with tubas and sets of drums marched through crowds of partygoers.

It seems that Fasnacht is something you grow up with – the appreciation of the celebration is passed down from parents to children. If it isn't, then it's likely you'll have a more difficult time enjoying the festivities. I have a feeling it's a love-hate sort of thing. I loved it though! A good group of friends, a drink or two or three, a ridiculous costume and all that's left is to enjoy the Guggemusig! I started relatively small with Biel, or so I thought, but I have it from a good source (your Swiss Club president) that the real parties are in the smallest Dorfs in Innerschwiz, somewhere like Tuggen (your president's home town). He might be a little biased though. Prost!

About the writer:

Samantha is an expatriate living in Nidau, helping the watch industry thrive one text at a time. After three years in Switzerland, her mouth still waters while walking through the cheese aisle at Coop.

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

From the Publisher's Desk . . . **Stories Wanted!**

Do you have any news, information, thoughts or ideas that you would like to share with other members of the Club? Please contact your publisher/editor:

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

2015 Membership Dues - Please Remit by March 31st

If you have not already paid (except Honorary Members), please **use the Online Membership Application** or complete this form and send it together with your check made payable to **Seattle Swiss Society** to:

Patty Richert
4122 135th PI SE
Bellevue, WA 98006

I / we enclose the following dues:

Family or Couple: \$30.00

Single: \$20.00

First & Last Name(s): _____

I/we have a new address, phone number, e-mail address (please note any changes below):

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

MARCH 22 FONDUE RESERVATION FORM

Please complete and send with your check made out to **Seattle Swiss Society** no later than March 16th.

I/we will attend the Fondue Party on **Sunday, March 22**, at the **Monroe Swiss Hall**. Enclosed is a check for

\$ _____ for _____ members _____ guests (\$20 members, \$25 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-Аверкин



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BELLEVUE WA 98006