



the Kansas City
Swiss Society

APRIL 2005 NEWSLETTER

ANNUAL CHALET CLEANUP
SATURDAY, APRIL 23 at 9:00 AM

Readers, excuse me please while I put aside the impersonal voice of the secretary to share an observation with you.

In last April's newsletter, when I wrote the Chalet Cleanup article, I reminded you that, since spring was "just around the corner," KCSwiss should think about volunteering our services to clean up the Chalet and grounds. As I wrote it, I realized that the bit about spring being around the corner was illogical. By astronomical reckoning, spring officially arrives in the Northern hemisphere either on March 20 or 21, and I was writing the April newsletter, after all. "Spring is here already, Dummchen!" I told myself.

However, I knew that anyone used to the vagaries of Midwestern weather would understand clearly my meaning: "Even though the weatherman has been forecasting lows in the 20's, highs in the 40's, with the possibility of sleet for weeks, we must not lose hope. A new season is coming. Regardless of today, KCSwiss, we must think spring thoughts, thoughts about all of us working *together* to make our Chalet Swiss-clean!" I wanted to put everyone in the mood to volunteer for this very important event.

As luck would have it, last April's cleanup day was lovely. Something akin to a party atmosphere prevailed, as in the days of the pioneers and their communal barn-raising, crop harvesting, corn shucking and quilting bees. Our participants seemed to enjoy raking leaves, hacking undergrowth and brush with machetes, turning flower beds, cleaning out gutters, and making firewood from rotten trees. But then that's the Swiss for you.

As I write the April 2005 newsletter, I find that there is no need to hint disingenuously at the coming of spring. Even the early-blooming magnolia put out their purple display without the usual frost turning their little buds black. This year the colors of Kansas

City have been glorious! The sight of so many flowers abloom in early April has brought joy to our hearts, and we know that spring is not around the corner - **it's here!**

BUT, readers, if this is what I wanted to share with you, I would have let the secretary tell you all about the pretty flowers. And she probably would have quoted that poet who "wandered lonely as a cloud" and "dances with the daffodils." (Not exactly in William Tell's manly league was this Wordsworth fellow).

My issue is this: Apparently with these April flowers come July bugs! Bugs, bugs, they are everywhere! Open your windows and doors to enjoy the balmy breezes and before you know it, little black flying things swoop through the screens of doors and windows to orbit around your head during the dinner hour. At this very moment, *mein Mann*, who is usually the epitome of decorum and dignity, is running about the house, fly-swatter in hand, trying to dispatch a housefly!! An April housefly, and one so big that in a match with a hummingbird, I would put my money on that fly. And a friend has reported *mammoth flying cockroach* sightings! Is this, I ask, the price we pay for a real spring in April? So we have flowers now, but what kind of bugs will we have in August?? Frankly, if this is a trade-off, I'd prefer April being around the corner! Thank you for your attention. Back to you, Madam Secretary.

Excuse the interruption, please. Spring does seem definitely to be here. Since we can anticipate a pleasant Saturday, April 23, please do join your favorite Swiss group at the Chalet and help with the cleanup activities. **Carl Ryffe**, our new president, and his Board have many ideas for new and exciting ways to use the Chalet and its lovely grounds. But to be successful, we need to spruce up, beautify, landscape and do everything we can to get ready for the exciting season of activities that lies ahead. Besides this event follows Earth Day, April 22. and it seems appropriate, does it not, that we should all do our part to clean up our planetary home? A new tree is being planted on the Chalet grounds to join the

others which the Society has contributed to the Chalet property. Perhaps if we all work together to clean up the environment and plant trees and flowers and nurture the woodland on Chalet property, we can make our contribution to keeping our favorite planet cool and the aforementioned bugs in their proper season.

Please bring your gloves, weed-eaters, shovels, rakes, charged clippers, pruners, hammers, chain saws, and any special tool this list might have overlooked. Oh, bug spray! How could I have forgotten that item! If you have any perennials from your home beds that need a new resting place, bring them along. Also bring your own Gatorade or similar quencher – hard work does make us thirsty, after all, and even the Swiss sweat. Lunch will be provided for all participants, including iced tea and soda pop.

If you will help with the cleanup, call:
Carl or Debora Ryffe (816) 333-6861 or
Tom or Kay Willy (913)341-4618
and tell them how many helpers there will be in your party. Let them know by **April 21** so they will have the numbers for food preparation.

FONDUE DINNER AND ANNUAL MEETING **March 12, 2005**

The annual meeting of the **Kansas City Swiss Society** was held on March 12, 2005, at **Andre's on Main**, following the annual fondue dinner. Outgoing **President Jim Neuenschwander** called the meeting to order. He commented positively on the number of members present and expressed thanks to those members who had come early to help set up and to those who had volunteered to help with serving. Speaking for all Society members, Jim gave a special thank-you to the **Bollier** family for organizing the fondue dinner. Then he proceeded with the business of the meeting.

The membership read and approved the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 2004. **Peter Groner** presented the Treasurer's Report for 2004, and Board member **Tom Willy** attested to the Directors' review of the data. The membership voted to approve the Treasurer's report. The main item of business was filling Board positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Three Year Director. After acknowledging the contributions of the current Board and recognizing them by name, **Jim** spoke for the **Nominating Committee** and present their nominations: **Carl Ryffe, President; Dan Bonderer, Vice-president; Kay Willy, Secretary; Harry Newby, Treasurer; June Bockelman, Historian; and Jim Cottrell, Three Year Director.** There were no additional nominations from the

floor, so the candidates were elected by acclamation.

After the election, Jim turned the floor over to **President Carl Ryffe** who had a few comments for the membership. Carl thanked **Jim** and **CeeAnn** for their help in grooming him for the presidency. Carl said that he has been a member of the KCSwiss all of his life and knows that tradition is an important part of the KCSwiss heritage. He said that he plans to continue these traditions and with the Society's help, start new ones which can help the Society thrive for generations to come.

Then Jim reviewed the accomplishments of 2004, noting that the Society is in sound financial shape, the membership remains stable and that the events are well-attended. **Chicago General Consul Hermann Buff and his wife** honored us by attending the KCSwiss Bundesfeier celebration. Much time and effort has been invested in the past two years in continuing to improve Chalet Kupfer and beautify the grounds, and to continue this project, Jim told the membership that the Board had formed a Chalet Improvement Committee to look into ways to make this facility more inviting to members and more useful for member functions. Members of this committee are **Alan Coleman, Paul Mischler, Gus Riedi, John Kupfer, and Jim Neuenschwander.** He stressed that the committee welcomes ideas from the Society. Also the Society web site is now on-line. The URL is **www.kcswiss.org**. And there is a display until April 10 at the Main Kansas City Library called **"The Art of Structural Design: A Swiss Legacy"**. The display focusses on the influence of Swiss engineers **Robert Maillart, Othmar Ammann, Heinz Isler, and Christian Menn** who are among the most influential and innovative structural designers of the 20th century. In conclusion, Jim thanked the **Bolliers** for their constant help, and reminded the membership that October of this year will be the 50th anniversary of Andre's in Kansas City.

Marcel Bollier then spoke briefly to the membership. He thanked his family, especially his wife **Connie**, for all of their help over the years. Of **Elsbeth**, the **Bollier** matriarch, Marcel said, "Mom keeps us on the straight and narrow." He commented in a humorous vein that in the world of family businesses, the third generation often spells the end, but he knew that this would not be so with **Andre's** because of the talent and commitment of son **Rene** and his wife **Nancy**, and he praised his sister **Brigitte** and **Kevin Gravino**, her husband, for the success of the new **Andre's Rivaz** in Johnson county. Marcel also mentioned that the Swiss Embassy web site lifted his Consular burdens. People now find the information they once had to call him to obtain on the web site. Following Marcel, **John Kupfer** talked to the

members about the **St. Joseph Swiss Society's New Glarus trip** and encouraged KCSwiss to join them. He spoke enthusiastically of the vision he has for what the KCSwiss can do this year in terms of projects and activities. Among his long list of suggestions was reestablishing the nature trail which once existed on the Chalet property; using the trail to conduct nature walks, coupled with teaching activities, such as tree identification; gathering seeds and the like; organizing sports activities to be played on the grounds; holding singing events, done in the Swiss style; using the Chalet for Jass games; and using the Chalet for birthday parties, weddings, anniversaries and other family-oriented gatherings. John proposed that such activities could enhance our efforts to be a vital and attractive Society, one that provides its members with opportunities to enjoy quality activities with friends and family.

OFFICERS FOR 2005

PRESIDENT: Carl Ryffe	(816) 333-6861
VICE-PRESIDENT: Dan Bonderer	(816) 523-4799
SECRETARY: Kay Willy	(913) 341-4618
TREASURER: Harry Newby	(913) 888-0095
1 YEAR DIR.: Gus Riedi	(816) 333-3505
2 YEAR DIR.: Tom Willy	(913) 341-4618
3 YEAR DIR.: Jim Cottrell	(913) 341-7172
SUNSHINE: Pauline Clifton	(816) 923-0223
INVENTORY: Harry Newby	(913) 888-0095
HISTORIAN: June Bockelman	(913) 381-0523

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MARCH 24 BOARD MEETING

The March Board Meeting was held at the Chalet under the direction of new president **Carl Ryffe**. The Board mainly discussed new items, including the web site, the events calendar and the **Wilhelm Tell Festival in New Glarus, Wisconsin**. It was decided that this year, anyone interested in attending the Tell Festival should sign up with the **St. Joseph Society**. Carl suggested that the Board should use the interest shown by our group's attendance as a measure of support for this type of venture. (More information about the Tell Festival can be found through a link on kcswiss.org.)

The next Board meeting remains unscheduled at this time. TBA.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

STEAK COOKOUT..... SUNDAY, JUNE 26
BUNDESFEIER.....SATURDAY, AUG 6
SCHUTZ/RAC. SUNDAY, OCT 9
HOLIDAY PARTY.. SUNDAY, DEC 4

**STRAWBERRY PICNIC
MAY 22, 2005**

The Swiss Society is so lucky to have this event as a regular happening on its calendar and to have the **Luethardts'** beautiful farm property as the venue. The next newsletter will have more information on this enjoyable event, but until then, imagine these things:

- beautiful day, blue skies, green hills
- happy children romping on the lawn
- happy adults sitting in lawn chairs sipping strawberry champagne and chatting with friends
- the aroma of cervelats (a very tasty sausage) roasting over an open fire
- two **very** big bowls – one holding a mountain of sliced strawberries and the other, whipped cream (obviously Dr. Atkins would approve of this picnic's food fare)
- a hay ride, IF it is a beautiful day with blue skies

So mark this day on your social calendar. This is an event everyone in the family will enjoy! Invite friends too and especially that family member you haven't spoken to in years.

ANNA NEESE

The KCSwiss are saddened to learn of the death of its long-time member **Anna Neese**. Her funeral will be held 11 a m Saturday the 16th at St. Peter's United Church of Christ, burial at Mt. Moriah South.

EDMOND AND BETTY DOUDIN

Gertrude Mischler has information for friends of **Edmond and Betty Doudin**, a couple who lived in Kansas City in the 1960's. Although it has been many years since they moved to New Jersey, some in the Swiss Society will remember the couple's Loose Park wedding 40 years ago. Unfortunately Betty is in poor health and Edmond takes care of her full-time. Gertrude believes that cards from their KC friends would be bring pleasure to them. Their address is

2250 Fostertown Road
 Mount Holly, NJ 08060
GENEALOGICAL SEARCH

TRIP AND MORE!

Ms. Evelyn R. Williams of **San Jose, CA**, recently contacted the KCSwiss to ask if any members had information relating to her great-grandfather **Michael Ochsner**. His Swiss parents immigrated to the US in 1846. The 1870 census showed him living in Kansas City, MO, with wife Ellen and 2 daughters, Alvira and Drusilla and brother Conrad. Daughter Drusilla married Nicholas Hawkins in Kansas City, MO in 1891. The 1900 Census showed Ochsner and his wife still living in Kansas City. She is hopeful that someone in either the KCSwiss or the St. Joseph group might possibly have knowledge of the family. Let the Secretary know if you can help Ms. Williams.

Our friend Herb Ziegler has offered us this for our thoughtful consideration. THANK YOU, HERB.

IRISH PRAYER

Take time to work,
It is the price of success.
Take time to think,
It is the source of power.
Take time to play,
It is the secret of perpetual youth.
Take time to read,
It is the foundation of wisdom.
Take time to be friendly,
It is the road to happiness.
Take time to love and be loved,
It is a privilege from God.
Take time to share,
Life is too short to be selfish.
Take time to laugh,
Laughter is the music of the soul.

EXCUSE THE TARDINESS OF YOUR NEWSLETTER, OR "IT'S A HARD-KNOCK LIFE"

Some of us have to learn the hard way. It takes pain to shape us up. Your Secretary knows better than to upgrade a computer program before writing something on deadline. We all do, right? But she just couldn't wait to try out all the new "features" this upgrade offered. She challenged the Fates, loaded the new program and began typing away. It's amazing what a colossal mess a computer program can make of a newsletter when it decides to do that. Those insidious little program sprites were very busy hiding parts of the newsletter in undiscoverable places. Sorry for the inconvenience- to you and me.

THE ST. JOSEPH GRUETLI VEREIN'S NEW GLARUS

We have to admit that our **St. Joseph** sibs are very busy doing interesting things, and if we didn't think so highly of them all, we just might be jealous. They are planning a big group trip to the Wilhelm Tell Festival in **New Glarus, WI**. Those of you who were at the Annual Meeting heard John Kupfer talk about this, and if you check www.kcswiss.org, you will find the link to the **Wilhelm Tell Festival** page. There you will find the activities that are mentioned on the info sheet on the next page. If you are interested in joining our **St. Joseph** friends, fill out the reservation form and send, with some money, to **Mr. Ron Golden** at the address on the form. If you have never been to this Festival before, it is worth a visit. **New Glarus** has long Swiss ties, for an **American** town anyway and its residents capitalize on their Swiss-ness with all manner of events which harken back to the Heimatland.

Then there is **House on the Rock**. Anyone who enjoys the unusual definitely needs to add a visit to his/her memory bank. One image your Secretary retains from her tour of this bizarrely interesting and unSwiss-like museum is that of the prosthesis leg, small and shapely, and in the leg's thigh, a compartment with a little door. Open the door, and there is a little gun, the type a woman would carry. What stories that display generates, all to answer the question **WHY?**

RON GOLDEN REMINDS US THAT RESERVATIONS FOR THE NEW GLARUS TRIP NEED TO BE SENT TO HIM BEFORE MAY 5, 2005. ANY QUESTIONS? CALL HIM.

Also Ron asked that the newsletter tell you of **two trips to Switzerland** he has organized..

SEPTEMBER 12-21 (Two groups. A has 49 signed up and is closed; B has 38 and places for 6 more)

SEPTEMBER 21- OCTOBER 5 (One group with openings)

Among the exciting things our lucky travellers will do is to help the Appenzellerhunde, those wonderful little Swiss herding dogs, bring those lovable Swiss cows down from their spring pastures!

Cost of the trip is \$2150/person. But Ron assures us that this sum covers just about everything. Talk to him about this trip to the most beautiful country in the world! It sounds like fun!

WILLIAM TELL FESTIVAL
NEW GLARUS WIS.
SEPT. 2nd TO 5th 2005

FRIDAY: Leave St. Joseph at 7 AM. Lunch on road. Arrival about 4 PM. at the CHALET LANDHAUS INN. Dinner on your own at the many Swiss food establishments in town. In the evening they will have a lantern procession downtown.

SATURDAY: Full buffet breakfast. We will leave The Inn to go to The House On The Rock. In the afternoon we will go to Mt. Horeb and Little Norway, have lunch, shop, and visit the famous Mustard Museum. Back to New Glarus for a Fondue at The Landhaus. The Hotel New Glarus will have a Polka Party on Sat. night.

SUNDAY: Breakfast at The Inn. 8 AM. Church in the Tell Grounds in the woods. Or church at the Swiss Church downtown at 10 AM. After church will be a Procession of traditional Swiss Dress on the Church lawn. (You can join in if you want) 1 PM. We will go to the Wm. Tell Fest grounds for the Drama. Art fair will be held in the park downtown 9 AM to 4 Pm. Dinner will be at the New Glarus Hotel, Alpine-Yodel fest will be held at the Swiss Church Lawn in the evening.

MONDAY: Breakfast at INN. Leave for home 8:30 AM. Stop for Cheese. Lunch at a Shopping center. Arrival in St. Joseph about 5;30 PM.

COST: \$ 290 PER PERSON Double Occupancy. Lodge Members \$250
\$ 50 Deposit with Application. Balance Due July Meeting.
Single charges addition \$ 165

Reservation Application

NAME

ADDRESS _____ **PHONE**

AMT ENCLOSED _____

MAIL OR GIVE TO: RON GOLDEN
468 LAKE SHORE DR
BIG LAKE, MO 64437

PH 816-294-7915

