



August 2009

www.kcwiss.org

Ticino Abend

Sunday - September 13, 2009

5:00 p.m.

The novel event that many have inquired about and want to make reservations for is almost here. A relaxing evening at our Chalet will showcase the Italian flavors of our Swiss culture with a family-style dinner in an Italian setting. Our esteemed chef, Chris Montemore, has designed the menu and will labor many hours to present this occasion of fine dining.

Ticino Abend Menu

Anti-pasta

Melanzane alla Griglia De Sensie
(Grilled Eggplant w/ pepperoni)

Zucchine alla Griglia
(Grilled Zucchini)

Salame Di Parma Con Fruitta
(Salami w/ fresh fruit)

Casio w/ Panne Integrite
(Assortment of Cheeses w/ Fresh Bread)

Fumacato Salmone & Trota
(Smoked Salmon & Trout)

Bucatini Pomodoro/Amatriciana
(Pasta Tomatoes)

Porchetta
(Roasted Suckling Pig)

Polenta ai Funghi
(Polenta w/ Mushroom Ragu)

Pere Budino di Pane
(Pear Bread Pudding)

Castagnaccio
(Chestnut Tarte)

Adults are \$25 per person. KCSS member children up to and including 12 years of age are free; member's children 13 to 18 years of age are \$10. Non-member children up to 12 years of age are \$5; non-members 13 to 18 years of age are \$15.

Diners may wish to complement this fabulous menu with a traditional Italian wine, selected by our chef and offered for \$10 per bottle; or you are welcome to bring your own.

The first 60 reservations are guaranteed seating. Please use the event coupon in this newsletter. An accurate count of paid reservations must be determined by September 6, 2009.



Schutzenfest and Raclette Dinner

Sunday - October 18, 2009

(Yes, this is a date change.)

Shooting to begin at 1:30 p.m.

Food served at 3:30 p.m.

The last outdoor event of the year is anticipated for the crisp autumn weather, the friendly shooting competition and the tangy aroma of the flavorful, warm raclette cheese cooking on the grill. This event honors the shooting expertise of that famous Swiss archer, William Tell.

Raclette Cheese Dinner \$ 6.00

Hot Dog Dinner \$ 2.00

Please bring the assigned dish according to your last name:



- A - J Vegetable type dish
- K - R Salad
- S - Z Dessert

Complete the event coupon in this newsletter to make your reservations. There will be prizes for . . . well, just come and see.

Report on Bundesfeier Celebration August 1, 2009

The celebration of Swiss independence day delighted every Swiss heart as well as all the senses. Visually, the Chalet grounds were a sight to behold with the enormous Swiss flag as the initial greeter, followed with the colorful streak across the bucolic scene made up of cantonal flags wafting in the gentle breeze. Small Swiss flags stood as sentinels of good cheer in a line on the Chalet roof from the eaves to the peak. The carpet of freshly mown grass played host to dining tables, festively decked out in red gingham tablecloths, with the grounds lighted by strings of colorful Swiss lanterns.

A line of miniature Swiss flags strung along the Chalet eaves seemingly kept time to the music. The three piece band, the Alpen Spielers, inspired a bit of high-stepping on the dance floor and kept toes tapping under the tables throughout the evening. When the band wasn't playing, **Charlie and David Abend** provided recorded music for our enjoyment. The sounds of **Franz Leuthardt's** traditional Alpen Horn, children playing games, organized by **Christie Fritschi**, and the official greeting from the Swiss President played after dinner was enjoyed by all. The happy sounds of the Lampion Parade across the grounds at dusk included the band, tonal accents of two large of Swiss cowbells, and ended at the bonfire in the north meadow. The lights of the lampions and the mellow flicker of the fire gave a warm glow to the

happy faces of the singing group led by **John Kupfer and Peter Mori**.

For some Swiss, it's the aroma and taste that are the strongest draw to the Bundesfeier. The tangy cold potato and green bean salads were made by professional chefs, **Gus Riedi** and **James Thomasson**, who also grilled the brats to perfection, with an assist by **Chris Kohlstaedt**. The rolls and delicious nussgipfel were produced by **Andre's** first-rate staff.

The delight for our sense of touch was the warm hand shakes and kisses as we greet one another in the Swiss tradition. This evening's additional treat was the rich texture of the embroidered Pro Patria pin in honor of its 100 year anniversary. Throughout the evening, the extremely mild August weather, which felt more like June, delighted everyone.

Each of our successful events happens only with crews that work behind the scenes in preparation and to clean up. Friday evening's crew consisted of **Karl Ryffe, Frank & Pat Bisang, Bruce Hiller, Don Neese and Jim and CeeAnn Neuenschwander**.

Saturday **Liz Kohlstaedt, Bruce and Tim Hiller, Rosie von Fintel, and Linda Scott**.

Sunday's volunteers for taking down flags, lights and stacking tables and chairs were **Chris Kohlstaedt, Gus and LaVerne Riedi and Jim and CeeAnn Neuenschwander**.

Harry Newby procured supplies and ordered the rentals and Henry Kupfer was on site to receive the rentals. Last, but not least, **Roger Fisher and his merry band of volunteers** stepped up to run the registration and sales table in Harry Newby's absence. A round of applause for all.



Kansas City Swiss Society Bundesfeier - 2009

(Go to www.kcswiss.org for full color photo.)

Preserving Our Chalet

How can you help?

Our Swiss Society has been most fortunate to have Chalet Kupfer and the surrounding acreage for our meeting place and venue for events. The gigantic trees that grace the rolling hills present the perfect location for the Chalet nestled into the landscape.

As reported in the last newsletter, the south wall is in need of rebuilding to maintain the structural integrity of the Chalet. Several individuals are hard at work preparing for this major undertaking. Lee Kupfer has been working with Jim Neuenschwander in planning the project. Many talents are needed. If you would like to contribute one or more of the following, please call Liz Kohlstaedt at (816) 554-2339.

We will fill the slots on a first-come first-serve basis, so if you have your heart set on helping in a particular way, call soon. Work will be mainly on weekends. As with any project, dates are tentative.

- 1) **Provide food for hungry workers:** Team up with friends and /or other interested members. This provides an opportunity to observe the work and contribute to the project.
 - Breakfast beverages rolls, muffins, snack bars, fruit , etc.
 - Lunch for a hearty working crew might be anything cooked on the grill along with a side or two.
 - Afternoon refreshments that include drinks and a snack to pep up the crew.
- 2) **Diggers and Movers:** (Sept. 19th and 20th)
 - Handy with the 'business end of a shovel.'
 - Pushy with a wheel barrow to move dirt.
- 3) **Be a Smashing Volunteer:** (Sept. 26th and 27th)
 - Assist with demolition of wall.
 - Debris haulers are invaluable here.
- 4) **One Block at a Time:** For the professional builders, support is critical. (Oct. 3rd and 4th)
 - Mortar mixers
 - Block movers
 - Rebar handlers
- 5) **Closing the gap, adding lights and color:** (Oct. 10th and 11th)
 - Help install the custom-made windows
 - Give it Juice (Help wire it up)
 - Grab a brush and paint it pretty

It's time to roll up our sleeves, pull together and demonstrate our Swiss "can do" attitude.

Highlights of the Board and Members' Meeting – August 19, 2009

The board, officers and several members met at the Chalet to attend to Society business. Minutes of the last meeting were approved and the Treasurer's Report accepted as presented. Two new memberships were approved and are introduced in this publication.

A review of Bundesfeier found attendance at 127, and the weather couldn't have been better. Several suggestions from members will be considered for next year. The group photo was appreciated and fun and is posted on our web site - www.kcswiss.org. The remaining Pro Patria pins will be offered for sale at future events.

Planning for the upcoming Ticino Abend on September 13th was accomplished with a few details yet to be decided upon. Two other private events hosted by members will take place prior to this date.

Bruce Hiller presented a draft of a Requirement Proposal with major functions – 10 springboard ideas – for the Society's web site. A general discussion ensued regarding security and new capabilities. Further input is needed to finalize the draft and cost the project.

The Chalet Committee Chair, Jim Neuenschwander, reported on projects that have been successfully completed. The drainage system from the main room and kitchen has been totally redone, inside and outside. The chain gate, providing added security to the property, is in place. The cabinet in the main room has been modified, re-stained and re-hung by Gus Riedi.

Jim summarized the plan that he and Lee Kupfer have been working on regarding the rebuilding of the Chalet's south wall. See the related article in this publication for more details.

The meeting was adjourned.



Sunshine Report

We are happy to report that David Ryffe has rebounded from a recent bout of ill health to enjoy an evening out at the Bundesfeier.

Call John Kupfer at (816) 941-0860 to give him membership information for this report.

Welcome New Members

Kenton and Ann Schwarz

The Schwarz's are from Gower, Missouri where they own and operate the Schwarz Weis Dairy Farm. Kenton's origins in Switzerland are in Canton Bern.

James and Shari Thomasson

James and Shari have been involved as friends of the Society for several years. James is another of our professional chefs who has willingly shared his talents to the delight of all.

Membership Information

Family Membership - \$25.00
Single Membership - \$18.00

As a friendly reminder, a family membership is considered members of the same household.

2009 Board of Directors and Officers

President Liz Kohlstaedt
(816) 554-2339
Vice President Chris Montemore
(816) 737-0594
Secretary CeeAnn Neuenschwander
(913) 451-4603
Treasurer Harry Newby
(913) 888-0095
1 Year Director Tony Case
(913) 897-7875
2 Year Director Bruce Hiller
(816) 468-6418
3 Year Director Linda Scott
(913) 661-9198

Schedule of Social Events

- ★ Ticino Abend
September 13, 2009
- ★ Schutzenfest-Raclette
Sunday - October 18, 2009
(This is a change.)
- ★ Weihnachts Fest
Sunday - December 5, 2009

+++ A Little Swiss News +++

Source: The Swiss Review

+ At the beginning of 2009, there were more than 250 fewer communes in Switzerland than just ten years ago. Migration from peripheral and mountainous regions and increasingly complex responsibilities are encouraging communes to merge. However, many villages still insist on maintaining their independence in spite of problems, and mergers are not always voluntary.

+ On 15 June, the cantons of Geneva and Basel-City signed a hosting agreement, which will enable Basel's Swiss citizens abroad to vote via the Internet using the Geneva system. OSA welcomes this agreement, which will send out a signal to the other cantons and represents an important step towards enabling Swiss citizens abroad to participate in federal referenda via the Internet.

+ How about giving up everything in Switzerland to start a new life abroad? Around 30,000 Swiss people do precisely that each year. The five-part documentary series "Auf und davon" follows families and individuals on their adventure of moving abroad.

"Auf und davon" starts on 4 September 2009. The programme can also be downloaded as a podcast at www.sf.tv/podcasts.

Event Registration Coupon: *Ticino Abend*
Sunday, September 13, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

Name: _____

Names of your party attending: _____

Enclose: \$25.00 Adults _____ Member's children up to 12 years of age - free _____
Member's young adults 13 to 18 years of age - \$10.00 _____
Non-member children up to 12 years of age - \$5.00 _____
Non-member young adults 13 to 18 years of age - \$15.00 _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

By September 9, 2009, reservation must be received by mailing to: Harry Newby, KCSS Treasurer, 8038 Halsey St., Lenexa, KS 66215

First 60 reservations are guaranteed seating.

Event Registration Coupon: Schutzenfest & Raclette Dinner
Sunday, October 18, 2009
Shooting begins at 1:30 p.m. --- Food served at 3:30 p.m.

Name: _____

Names of your party attending: _____

Enclose: \$ 6.00 Raclette _____ \$2.00 Hot Dog _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____

By October 13, 2009 mail to: Harry Newby, KCSS Treasurer, 8038 Halsey St., Lenexa, KS 66215

CeeAnn Neuenschwander, Secretary
9012 W. 115th Terrace
Overland Park, KS 66210

Address Change Requested