

FEBRUARY 2005 NEWSLETTER

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SWISS SOCIETY

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2005

7:00 P.M.

**ANDRE'S, 5018 MAIN STREET
KANSAS CITY, MO**

DINNER PRICE: \$14.00 PER PERSON

All members of the KCSwiss, please plan to meet at Andre's on March 12 for our Annual Meeting. As you well know, the Annual Meeting is always such a special event. New members may ask us old timers what makes it so. Let's count the ways the Annual Meeting is special:

- The traditional Swiss fondue dinner created by the culinary geniuses at Andre's certainly makes this a special occasion.
- Many of our Swiss friends will be present, insuring that we will share in scintillating, enlightening, and provocative conversation.
- We can participate in a true "every vote is sacred" democratic experience as we elect a new slate of officers for the Society.
- Everybody dresses up! The Swiss Society at its *haute couture* best is truly a sight worth seeing!

You know you really shouldn't pass up an extraordinary opportunity like this, so join us on March 12!

For those of you who have never attended an Annual Meeting before, the dinner begins with a sampling of Andre's fantastic hors d'oeuvres - crispy and flaky little bread pillows and sticks made of puff pastry. Next comes a fresh garden salad with Andre's dressing, and then the traditional Swiss fondue, made with the very best cheeses, and bread cubes for dipping. Many might guess that when the fondue pot is empty, the best is over. However, many more would say that there is one more experience to look forward to - the memorably delectable desserts (after all, this is Andre's!). Water and coffee are provided. You may bring your own wine or beer.

To ensure we have enough fondue equipment, Jim Neuenschwander asks you to help, if you can, by bringing the following items:

- A fondue pot and stand(burner). Please note that Andre's uses a gel fuel. If your fondue apparatus doesn't use this type of fuel, please bring your own fuel.
- Fondue forks - please bring them to share so that we can accommodate everyone. Put your name on the forks you bring so you can find them when the meeting is over.

During the business portion of the meeting, the Society will elect from a slate of candidates new officers for the next two-year cycle. If any Society member is interested in being a candidate or would like more information, please call **Rosi von Fintel (816-407-7672)** or **Jim Neuenschwander at (913-451-4603)**. **Remember: Serving on the KCSwiss Board of Directors is a resume builder!**

Since this is our Annual Meeting, attendance will be limited to **members only**. **We request that you not bring visitors or children.**

We need to have an accurate count of the number of diners who will attend so there will be enough food for everyone to enjoy. **Please mail your reservations to Peter Groner by Monday, March 7. Seating is limited, so please respond as soon as you can. (Note the price for the meal is a dollar more this year than last, but this reflects the increase in the cost of the cheeses used in the fondue).**

One last request: We could use a few extra hands to help with setting up the tables and serving. If you could be there at about 6:30 pm to help out, please call **Jim N. at (913) 451-4603. Thanks!**

THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

The last Swiss Society event of 2004 was the Holiday Party held Andre's on Main. Sixty of our members, both old ('old' as in having been a KCSwisser for many years) as well as new ones, came together to enjoy the spirit of the season. There were cookies and sweets for all to sample, along with the traditional hot chocolate and Gluhwein. Board games set up on a couple of tables were just the right items to keep the *Kinder* happy until our jolly Swiss Santa made his appearance. With some resonant "ho ho ho's," Santa gave each child a treat from his bag of goodies, and every boy and girl left Santa's lap with an angelic smile.

We want to thank all the members who did their part to add to the joy of the day: the good cooks who supplied the cookies and cakes and Santa and his modest elves for making the treats which made our children happy.

The Society would like to thank the Bollier family for allowing us to have the use of Andre's with all the extra work that entails for them. We know how much of themselves this family gives constantly to our group. Their support of the KCSwiss Society and its activities has been unstinting and goes beyond reasonable expectations.

Our humble newsletter is hardly the appropriate place for a formal "thank you for your unbounded generosity" tribute in their honor. All we can do within these pages is to offer them our sincerest thanks for everything they have done for us.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

The Board met on January 30, 2005, at J. Gilbert's. The nominating committee reported on their progress in locating candidates for the elections to be held at this year's Annual Meeting. Last year's accomplishments were reviewed and items needing to be addressed in the new year were discussed. The time and place of the next Board meeting will be announced.

UPDATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY!

NEW MEMBERS

Roy and Jan Busdiecker
12504 West 123rd Street
Overland Park, KS 66213
Tel. 913 - 239 - 0270

Roy Busdiecker is Harry Newby's cousin. They are related through the Linder family, who were from Herzogenbuchsee.

TELEPHONE NUMBER CHANGE

Stuart and Hazel Knutson
Tel 816 - 942 - 3070

ANNUAL DUES NOTICES

Notices for the annual dues for 2005 have been mailed, and many of you have already responded. If you have not, please pay as soon as possible. Dues remain at \$25.00 for a family and \$18.00 for an individual. Send your coupon and money to:

Peter Groner
6532 Oak Street
Kansas City, MO 64113

THINK APRIL !

Although gloomy, gray, lowering, depressing, despiritizing, enervating February is lingering on, we can easily lift the pall it casts on us: just check the calendar and have faith in the dependability of the seasons. Glorious April is in the wings, eagerly waiting to make her entrance - April, month of showers, soft sunlight, warm breezes and tender green everywhere! (Okay, April has a few thunderstorms, a tornado here and there, occasionally snow and hail, . . .)

So, you tidy KCSwiss, wrap your minds around the idea of the annual spring clean-up of the Chalet grounds! This will most likely be scheduled toward the end of April, and the next newsletter will tell you the exact date. We need volunteers to help with this job, so join your friends and help get the Chalet in shape for a new season of cooking and socializing and who knows what else the new Board can come up with for you. Look for more information in the next newsletter.

WILLIAM TELL FESTIVAL

According to John Kupfer, the St. Joseph Swiss Society is once again organizing a trip to New Glarus, Wisconsin, to participate in the William Tell Festival, among many other activities. This will happen September 2 to 5th, 2005. The next newsletter will contain specific information on this expedition, including the agenda, locations, and price.

OUR WEB SITE

Pepe Strub has agreed to host the web site that the Board has discussed off and on for the past few years. He will be working on getting it set up for us and then he will oil it and tweak it whenever its needs oiling and tweaking. The rest is up to us. The Board will post general info about the KCSwiss. Each newsletter will be posted as well as the yearly events calendar and information. If you have a contribution to post on the site, pass it on to Kay Willy. Also the Board would like any suggestions you have for things you would be interested in seeing on the site. Maybe there are questions you would like to have answered (Do squirrels live in Switzerland and if they don't, why not? Same for snakes.) Maybe Swiss recipes or humor.

Here are a few url's that you can look at to see what other Swiss sites are doing with their broad band space. These will give us something to think about as we begin to set up our site.

<http://www.swiss.org.au/> - an Australian "umbrella" page for the Swiss Societies of Australia

<http://www.sdswissclub.com/> - San Diego

<http://www.swissocietyny.com/> - New York City

<http://www.seattleswiss.org/> - Check this one out because there are webcam views of Seattle, West Coast mountains and Switzerland!