

which reminds us of an ancient Alpine sound. Both of Herr Leuthardt's performances have deep roots in Swiss tradition. We are indeed fortunate to have his professional-level performances to enjoy right here in Missouri.

As for musical entertainment, at the moment we aren't certain if we will have live performers as we have in the past. Our newly traditional source of Bundesfeier entertainment, Betty Simon and her Hudiaäggeler, (or as some call them, the "Um-Pah Band") are unavailable. It seems Ms. Simon once toured with Fred Waring and the Pennsylvanians. If you are not the age of the person writing this or older, you don't have a clue, do you? And you probably don't care. But Fred and his guys were the rockers of their day! Ask your grandparents. They'll tell you. Ms. Simon is playing in a show called "A Tribute to Fred Waring Show" in Green Bay, Wisconsin and can't be with us. Carl is doing his best to locate another musician or musical group for us, but it looks like you will just have to be surprised at Bundesfeier. At this writing, your Secretary has nothing more to report! Also we are waiting for the arrival of the CD containing the President's Speech to the Swiss Abroad, which has not arrived yet. The change of Consulates has put a rut in the normally smooth Swiss road. But we are still optimistic.

Now for the food part. Promptly at 6:30, we will line up at the grill for our traditional Bundesfeier meal - bratwurst (hotdogs for the under 12's (Remember: 11 years, 364 days or less), potato salad, bean salad, and rolls, with the beloved nussgipfel for dessert. A variety of beverages will be available, including soda pop, beer, tea and coffee.

At dusk there will be a Lampion Parade for the children. They will walk with their lampions alit to the bonfire where their elders will join them to sing traditional Swiss songs.

Be assured it will be another lovely Bundesfeier, one to make you happy to have your Swiss connections. Once again your Secretary must tell you that she doesn't see how you can miss being a happier soul after spending the evening in the company of the good people who have some tie with that small country in the heart of the Alps. Why not invite a few friends to join you for the fun.

BUSINESS

Reservations for the Bundesfeier are not required, but we encourage you to send in the event coupon in advance. Harry has requested that he receive coupons by July 31. Since this will help in estimating the amount of food

needed and also in simplifying ticket sales at Bundesfeier, there will be a discount for each of your prepaid adult dinner tickets:

RECEIVED By 07/31

Adults (12 to ∞).....\$12.00
Children (5 - under 12).....\$5.00
Children under 5FREE

AFTER 07/31 or at Bundesfeier

Adults\$13.00
Children (5 - under 12)..... \$5.00

This year the Pro Patria badges have a nature and well as national theme: a small Swiss flag mounted on a larger apple green maple leaf. It is a colorful design which is very appealing. We ordered only 40, since we did not know how nice they would be, so be sure to buy one - \$4.00 at the sales table - before they are gone. This money goes into an endowment fund which the Foundation is establishing for innovative not-for-profit projects with a social emphasis. While you are at the tables buying extra tickets, pick up your 2006 Membership Directory and save the Society the cost of mailing them. Don't forget to send your coupon and payment to Harry Newby by Monday, July 31, to get your discount.

WE NEED HELP!

The "We hate to beg, BUT . . ." Part:

We could really use help setting things up for the Bundesfeier. For example: On Friday, August 4, rental tables and chairs will be delivered to the Chalet, and at 7:00 pm, we will start setting them up. Our Time Management Consultant says 6 sturdy souls can do this in almost no time.

Beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 5, we will need more hands to help hang the large Swiss flag, the canton flags and decorations, and the lights. We need others to put table cloths on tables and set up the Chalet kitchen, spray for wasps (oh, yes!) and do anything else that needs to be done. The above-mentioned TMC says 10 folks could get this done, but the more, the better.

During the Bundesfeier, we will need workers for shifts of an hour or so, depending on the job, since some take less time: dispensing ticketed drinks; working in kitchen to make coffee and tea; setting out food; serving food; selling tickets for dinner, extra brats, extra soft drinks, beer and selling Pro Patria flag badges, etc. And when the party is over and the celebrants have gone home, we know the truly dedicated among us will stay around for the

cleanup. You will get a Swiss merit badge for displaying an excellent attitude and showing exemplary Swissness. So if you can join the Totally Meritorious, call one of the following members and tell them you are signing on and for which day, job, and preferred time slot. We will post the job sheet at kcswiss.org so you can see what needs to be done.

Kay Willy: 913-341-4618 (nacien@earthlink.net)
Jim Cottrell: 913-341-7172 (jcottrell@kc.rr.com)
Carl Ryffe: 816- 333- 6861 (cdbir@yahoo.com)
Newby:913-888-0095 (harrynewby@hotmail.com)

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THE WAY THE SYSTEM WORKS - OR DOESN'T A Word of Explanation from our Inventory Chairman

Most of the events sponsored by the Kansas City Swiss Society center around meals at the Kupfer Chalet. Supplies for these events are purchased and stored at the Chalet. The Inventory Chairman is responsible for making sure that the Society has what it takes to serve our meals.

Since the gift of the Chalet by the Kupfer family, the Society has added to the storage facilities for organizing our supplies. Cabinets have been added to the east walls of the doorway area, the kitchen, and the meeting hall. Paul and Gertrude Mischler donated most of these cabinets. Cee Ann Neuenschwander provided a good-looking cover for one open cabinet. The Society provided new tops and had some mounted on the walls. Our refrigerator was made available when Fritz and Doris Rytz returned to Switzerland.

Since we do not occupy the Kupfer Chalet, we have a problem with bugs and mice. We do our best to discourage these visitors. However, we do want to keep everything used for food service covered. If you examine the supply cabinets and drawers, you will see that we try our best to maintain the original wrappings or use plastic bags of various types. We encourage members to open packages carefully so that they may be closed with a tie wrap. If a plastic grocery bag is used, we tie the handles to close the bag. Unwrapped items are discarded.

Fortunately, a computer makes it possible to maintain and update the inventory of the supplies that we keep and add to for each event. We are careful to watch the number

of servings provided by each item we buy so that we will have what is required to serve everyone. We tend to buy medium-sized quantities so that we do not have much left over at the end of the year. At the beginning of each year, we discard perishable items left over from the previous year.

The officers and directors make plans for each event at the Chalet. This includes the date and time of an event, food and beverages to be served, prices to be charged and some of the basic responsibilities. This includes who will make purchases, collect reservations, and prepare food items. At the same time, members are aware of the needs of Society events and request items to be provided as necessary. Most of the time, the system works. Not always. The inventory chairman is very sorry to acknowledge that the sour cream was not available for baked potatoes at the recent Steak Cookout.

-Harry Newby, Inventory Chairman

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MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The KCSwiss would like to welcome two new members, Eugene Duerst and his wife Mary, who live at 12538 West 123rd Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66213. Eugene is retired from the George Hormel Company. Eugene has an interesting Swiss Roots fact: his great-grandfather was one of the founders of New Glarus, Wisconsin. In fact, he was from Glarus, Switzerland before coming to the US. So welcome to the KCSwiss, Eugene and Mary. We are looking forward to meeting you.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

NEW GLARUS TRIP

September 1 - 4, 2006

SCHÜTZENFEST, RACLETTE SWISS ROOTS SHOW AND TELL

October 8, 2006

Just a FYI note:

John Kupfer is happy to declare the New Glarus trip is a "done deal," with 39 travelers, including 26 members of the Society. He thanks everyone for their help in making the trip possible.

**LETTERS FROM ANNE-LAURE:
A New Kind of Reality**

Americans love reality, at least in the reality tv version. What happens on the island is top water cooler conversation at the office the next day, or so I've read. And those of a certain age like exploring virtual reality, but I'm too old to understand or appreciate that. And of course, there are movies and tv shows that are important to all of us. With all of the "reality" available to entertain us, it is so easy to become immune to what is happening to real people.

Our Swiss friend Anne-Laure Schalbetter could be a subject for reality tv. Show title? Waiting Room. Hourly promo: "Tune in tonight to learn if Anne-Laure will find that heart she must have to stay alive!" The very thought of such a show makes us squirm with discomfort. Its utter taste-lessness offends. The wait for a heart would be too much "reality," even the Hollywood entertainment mill. Too morbid. Too real.

But this is a serious and necessary subject for discussion, one that has become Anne's mission: making people aware of the need for donated organs. As you know, Anne has a congenital heart defect, which is bad enough, but last year a virus attacked the undamaged part of her heart, leaving her incapacitated. She wants to help people overcome their natural squeamishness about the subject of donating organs by helping them imagine the difference signing a donor card would make in someone else's life. She wants to share the daily realities of her own life in the belief that if we get to know a person who is praying for the chance to live productively, to be a mother and wife, daughter and friend again, all because a stranger signed a donor card, we will understand what this small physical gesture will mean for someone else. Anne realizes that this may not happen for her, but in her own words, she says, "I think it's not too bad if people think about their organs and can ask themselves about what they can do for others !!!! Maybe after the article some of them will sign a donor card !! Good job!" Did you hear her French-Swiss accent as you read that? Read these with a French accent and humor!

. And now, welcome the Anne-Laure's World, a Real Life Reality Drama.

February 4, 2006

Dear friends,

Usually we say in French "No news. Good news!" We don't have really good news. Since December my heart is weak, the left part is dead since (has been dead for) 10 years, and now the right caught a virus and everything is out . At the end of the month (February), the doctors wrote me down on the Heart Transplantation list. We knew that one day I would get a heart, but I was sure it would be in ...10 years. I was sure when Noémie arrived 9 years ago, that I would have some time to help her to become a Lady !!

Actually with my 'young' age and my healthy organs (the others one), they give me 93% chance. It's not too bad. I hope I will do ski again, swim with head under water (great for a cardiac child - never done!!) , Nordic walking, but before we must hope we will find the nice and right "jewelry".. Usually the waiting time is 10 months, but it can be 4 months or 3 years. Never know.

I am pretty positive and the family too, I am just afraid to be really weak, always in bed during months and months, to do nothing... already to go to my kitchen it's a mess.

My English will be better (good point); I am looking at some American programs in English ("Desperate Housewives, Ally McBeal")

NB Don't forget to remind your friends with a moto or a scooter they have to sign their organs card !!

With my love, Anne laure

June, 2006

Hi!! We are still alive!!

This year Noémie did her Holy Communion, what a nice moment, intensive and great party with all the family, with nephews and babies - we are always more now!!! Noémie was quiet and really moved (I can say that??) emotive. Anyway I was so happy to live it.

Another family event: my brother waits for a baby ...I mean my sister-in-law, of course, from Brasilia. We are waiting impatiently for the name - Jesus Pedro Treina or Ronaldo or Maria Esperanza Assomption???? It will be the surprise.

Christophe works in Berne. He is enjoying his new job and is only twenty minutes from home, which works really well. He is at the Officer School. He is actually commander of a Swiss Armed Forces centralised training course for French and Italian officer candidate.

I am still waiting for a nice thin motor biker donor of 70 kg or less with a "gold heart." It's a word game in French it means "generous."

Actually I cannot use roller-skates but I have something new. I have a roll chair, a Swiss roll chair (an American wheelchair). I can still go to town and roll with friends. It's a new step for me mentally but now I am happy to move and be able to drive again. I can go to the malls and restaurants. You can imagine the choice; stay home and be quiet at home or take a roll chair... there was no long negotiation!! At least I am able to get around and go out. I am tired most of the time. I have a nice housewife for washing, cleaning and laundry for 8 hours a week. I have help from friends and neighbours for shopping. Great!! Thank god for neighbours they can be fantastic and suddenly important in your life. It is best to be nice to them!!! Christophe does a lot as soon as he comes home at around 5-6pm. It's frustrating knowing that I just can't do anything really...just trust things will be alright. I think that's what we call "humility" which can be a good lesson.

My physical state has deteriorated but mentally I am strong. Noé-mie and Christophe do well, considering the situation. Everyone does the best to maintain a normal life. Life is full of piano, homework and exams. Mummy is always there, believe me!! My family is really involved and we have a lot of family meetings. We are together for all occasions (Holy Communion, birthdays and other events). I think we all need to feel close and probably feel stronger together. Anyway it's helping the loves of my life. Noémie is scared but that is very natural and not necessarily a bad thing. It is normal for her to feel this way.

Christophe and Noémie are driving with our camper this summer for 2 weeks to Germany - Legoland - and to Tessin. They have invited our nephews to go too. I am organising to meet all my girlfriends during this time. They will come home for a special tea and talk.

I still have so much to do. I want to visit Down Under, to see New York (Ah New York my dear!!); see polar bears in Manitoba, and especially to see my baby grow up.

In Switzerland, doctors say that waiting for a heart takes around one year. In Switzerland our transplant rates are not really good. We would like a new law: if you sign a donation card, the family cannot refuse to give the organs. Now it's the opposite, the family chooses. Politicians realize with surprise that the Catholics are more conciliatory about organ donation and the Protestants are more scared by the clinical death subject. They have discovered that the best organ donation district is Tessin (in the south and catholic!). Actually Spain has the best organ donation rates in Europe. Organs can be given until you are 72 years old (lungs, eyes and kidney). You have to be younger only 42-45 years old to give an heart. In Lausanne, where I will be transplanted, they receive on average a heart once a month. I have been waiting for only 3 months and must continue to wait and see. I am sure a small and quite special organ will be somewhere for me and we just have to be patient.....

NB - Sorry, my English is becoming really rusty.....I am becoming a desperate housewife!!

Love
Anne Laure

Anne Laure appreciates your concern for her and your hopes and prayers for her recovery

Saint Roger (Federer, that is)

"It is important, if you set yourself up as a saint that you are saintly"

Congratulations, to Swiss culture for producing one of the very few saints in the field of sports. He is modest, charming, generous, courteous, patriotic, philanthropic, kind to animals, cute as a button, good to his mom, patriotic, recycles, drug-free, non-polluting, studious, sensible- Oh, let's not forget - he plays a great game of tennis. Didn't he win some big tennis game recently? Wimbledon? Against Nadal, maybe? Four Wimbledon titles now, I think.

Yes, St. Roger it is!