

SWISS NEWS OF OREGON



A bi-yearly publication of the Helvetia-Alpengluehn Singing Society

20921 NW Bendemeer Rd. Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

www.helvetia-alpengluehn.com

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Volume 15, Issue 1

Serving Communities in Oregon & S.W. Washington

May 2015

2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

	Tillamook Swiss Breakfasts Swiss Hall (3rd Sunday of the month) 8-11am
	Tillamook Swiss Men & Women's Meetings Swiss Hall at 5:00 pm (cards), 6:00 pm (dinner-potluck), 7:00 pm meeting (2nd Sunday of the month)
	Swiss Ladies Luncheons (last Wednesday of the month)
May 16	Springfest <i>Bethany Presbyterian Church</i>
Jul 19	Helvetia Swiss Picnic <i>Helvetia Church</i>
Jul 31	PSI Golf Tournament <i>Scappoose, OR</i>
Aug 1	PSI Schwingfest <i>St. Helens Fairgrounds</i>
Aug 16	Helvetia Culture Fest <i>Pacific Crest Alpacas</i>
Aug 21-23	Swiss Kids Camp <i>Wemme, OR</i>

HELVETIA-ALPENGLUEHN SINGING SOCIETY

By **Shelby Aeppli Imholt** 503-648-1307 or stiholt@frontier.com

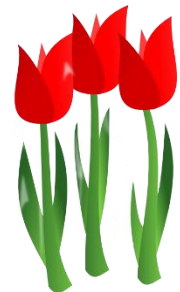
Der Frühling ist da! Spring is here! Let us sing a new song! The Helvetia-Alpengluehn Swiss Singing Society is preparing for our upcoming **Springfest Concert, Dinner, Dance & Bake Sale**. Under the expert direction of Mr. Clifford Barron Fairley, we once again have an exciting evening of music planned. You'll want to mark your calendars now for **Saturday, May 16th, 2015** at Bethany Presbyterian Church, 15505 NW Springville Road, Portland, OR 97229.

We are thrilled to welcome again as our special guest, **Larry Wilder**, western singer, yodeler & songwriter. Larry Wilder has performed over 2,000 shows on national and international stages, bringing

his heart and passion for Americana music directly to his audiences. As a prolific songwriter, he has written many original songs that reach into the soul of his Americana roots and connect strongly with his enthusiastic fans. Larry's upbeat and warm personality keeps the show moving and the people involved. You just might want to sing along! And, don't forget, Larry has the distinction of being named the 2008 National Western Music Association Yodeling Champion!

After the concert, we will have even more music for dancing by **Fred Vogel, Sr.** and **Fred Vogel, Jr.** on their accordions. You will want to take part in this fun evening for sure!

Doors open at 5:00 pm. **Sausage** dinner will be served from **5:30 to 7:00 pm**. The **concert** will start at **7:30 pm**. Beverages and our popular **bake sale** will be available before and after the concert. Enjoy **Swiss delicacies**, such as **Brätzeli, Biberli, Läcknerli and Rüeblli Torte**, along with American favorites as well. Buy something to take home for your family get-togethers! Price for the concert is \$10 at the door or \$8 in advance from choir members. (Children 18 and under are free). Dinner tickets will be \$8. Pre-sale tickets are available from choir members or by calling (503) 246-8632 or (360) 693-7866.



A hearty, happy birthday to our beloved Honorary Member, **Freda Nordquist**, who celebrated her 100th birthday in February! Freda's daughter, Nancy Kelley, has shared some of her mother's story with us.

"Freda's parents were born in Switzerland: mother, Elisa Franziska Hess, on 11/24/1891 in Alpnachdorf and father, Henry John Leuthold, on 5/12/1889 near Bern. They met in Oregon when Elisa's sister (Elizabeth) married Henry's brother and they married in 1912. Freda was born in Bayview, OR on 2/25/1915. With an older brother Clarence and sister

Marguerite, her family moved to Portland. Brother Henry Carl was born in 1918 while her father worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad.

Many weekends they had a party; as Marguerite said, "Sandwiches, an accordion, and a keg of beer; any excuse for a party." Freda was raised with the rich Swiss culture of good food, music, friends, and a loving family. She attended Duniway School and Commerce/Cleveland High School. Freda left school at sixteen to work in the Farmers Market bakery in downtown Portland. Pretty and friendly, Freda was chosen queen of the Farmers Market Rose Festival float. She learned to play the accordion and was often performing at dances and parties.

Freda married William Wahl in 1939 and had three children: Bill, Nancy and Patricia. Later, Freda married Lloyd Nordquist who passed away in 1967. Freda sang in the Helvetia Alpengluehn for many years as an alto in the '60's – 90's. She has enjoyed gardening, dancing, cooking and her many grandchildren and great grandchildren."

After celebrating her mother's 100th birthday, Nancy traveled to Moscow, Russia to visit her son and daughter-in-law and to be present for the birth of a new grandson, Baren Alexander Bond, who was born on April 1st weighing in at 9lbs 2oz. Congratulations to the whole family!



We are happy to welcome a new member to the choir. Soprano **Aengy Pedrazzini**, is 16 years old, was born in New York and has lived in Oregon for 4 years with her parents who are both from Ticino, Switzerland. Aengy is multilingual and has already been helping us with the pronunciation and translation

of some of our songs. Along with singing, Aengy also likes to cook. Welcome, Aengy!

We are sad to have lost Honorary Associate Member, **Helen Brooks**, who passed away recently. She will always be remembered for her many years of friendship and support of our club and other Swiss clubs as well as the wider community in which she lived. We send our good wishes to her family.

If you like to sing, please consider joining the Helvetia-Alpengluehn Swiss Singing Society when we begin rehearsals again in the fall. (Contact us for exact date.) We welcome new members. No audition is required. Rehearsals are held on Monday nights promptly at 7pm at the First Church of the Nazarene, 6100 SW Raab Road, Portland, OR 97221, on Sylvan

Hill. Contact President Teresa Grossen-Brandt at (503) 629-5925, if you have any questions. All ages welcome. If you're not able to join us in singing, consider joining as an associate member.

PORTLAND SWISS, INC.

By **Joanne Odermott** at 503-640-9675 or jojodermott@hotmail.com

The annual Christmas party was held at the Rheinlander restaurant on December 14 with 34 adults and 7 children in attendance. Santa had gifts for the children and we enjoyed the restaurant's Munich Feast, along with Swiss music and singing.

The annual meeting was held on April 13 and Carol Vireday was elected president, replacing Kerry Nussbaumer. We thank Kerry for his four years of service as president. We know that Kerry will stay active in the club for years to come.

Scholarship applications went out the first of the year. Winners will be announced at a later date. Students who are members of PSI or children or grandchildren of PSI members are eligible. Check our fall newsletter for more information.

Burn the Böögg was held on March 28 at the Helvetia Winery. Attendance was down from last year. Put it on your calendar for next spring. It is a fun afternoon to visit, snack and then watch the burning of old man winter. Well, we hardly had a winter this year in the Portland area, but we burned him anyway.

Mark your calendars for July 31 (golf tournament) and August 1 (**Swiss Festival/Schwingfest**). Contact Kathy Reimers 503-648-1380/klrpjr@aol.com for information about golf and Joanne Odermott 503-640-9675/jojodermott@hotmail.com for information about the Swiss Festival. We have lots of room for camping at the Columbia County Fairgrounds. The fairgrounds will be open from Friday morning until Sunday at noon.

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

Freda Nordquist celebrated her 100th birthday on February 25, 2015. A party was held at the home of her daughter, Nancy Kelley.

The Hillsboro Tribune recently featured an article about **Lorraine Schiebel**. At the age of 90, she has been playing the organ and piano at Helvetia Community Church for eight decades. "It's given me a lot of pleasure" she was quoted as saying. A surprise birthday party was held at the church. She

earned money for her first organ lessons by sweeping the floor of Shadybrook School (\$1.25 a month). After only about a year into her lessons, her instructor died, and she was pretty much “self-taught” after that.

Mayor Jerry Willey, on behalf of the Hillsboro City Council, recently awarded **Don Odermott** with a commendation for his 20 years of service to the City. Don started in 1994 as the Light Rail Project Engineer for the City, representing both the interests of the City and Washington County as well as its citizens through the design and construction of the Light Rail extension into downtown Hillsboro. Later Don managed the design and construction of Hillsboro Stadium, the City Main Police Precinct, and co-managed the development of the Hillsboro Civic Center before becoming the City's Transportation Planning Engineer in 2006. Don presently manages Transportation Planning for the City, responsible for identifying the City's future transportation needs and planning the designing and construction of ongoing transportation infrastructure expansions.

Tom and Shelby Imholt became grandparents for the first time on August 29, 2014. Eleanor Grace Imholt was born to Tom's son, Eddie Imholt and his wife, Athena. Shelby Imholt recently entertained at the Ripon Spring Schwingfest. Tom reports they had a great time.

SWISS LADIES CLUB

By Sherri Vetsch Contact information: **Sally Schoch**
503-647-5578 or sschoch@helvetia.us

As a relatively new member, I am reminded that Swiss Ladies Club provides a unique opportunity to join together with a common denominator of “Swissiness!” It is an opportunity to share much more than our heritage and our connection to a beautiful tiny country and culture. It is a wonderful support group, and comforting to know we can join our efforts to pass on some of the diverse traditions and ways of the various Cantons from which we emanated. Each month we have a meeting the last Wednesday of the month. Anyone interested is very welcome to join us for a noon lunch at local restaurants!

This last month we had a lively discussion on how to continue to make our heritage accessible through our **Swiss Kids Kamp** and are looking forward to making sure our kids program endures in the future. We want to continue to teach our children and grandchildren about their Swiss roots through music, language, crafts and other traditions. We will also

continue our wonderful **Scholarship** program which continues to assist kids with their education.

Our club is very happy to have another new member this month, Schatzi (Nancy) Brooks Sheer. She is the daughter of the late Duce and Helen Brooks. We are looking forward to seeing Schatzi at our next meeting.

This last February it was with sadness we had to say good bye to member Helen Brooks, our wonderful friend. Helen was a unique Swiss icon. As I was looking though some information on the Brooks family, I came across a wonderful article on-line called “Brooks Memories; an interview by Sharon Barthmaier.” One of the funny stories related was of their wedding day. Duce and Helen were married in November 1942, and at this time music was not allowed in their church. Helen wanted music, so her friends stood outside in the vestibule to sing for the ceremony!

News of members businesses: The **Sweetrock Swiss Bakery** has a new location at the historic Rock Creek School, about a block from the famous Rock Creek Tavern. It has a self-serve bake shop in the lobby, and member Diane Vireday informs us it will be stocked with a bunch of the Swiss goodies we love. In the future there will be a café, a farmers market, and eventually a Bed and Breakfast! For more information, go to Sweetrockfarm.com.

Over a century of Dairy farming at the Vetsch Dairy on Sauvie Island ended in March. Member **Evelyn (Evie) Vetsch** reported her son, Robert



Vetsch, happily retired. We watched the trucks roll away with all the milking cows -- after 110 years of Vetsch family members milking cows every day, it was a bittersweet event. This was the last Dairy in Multnomah County, where there used to be over 400 family dairies! Evie's husband, Richard (Dick) Vetsch, (now 92,) ran the dairy in various locations

with his father Andrew Vetsch before settling on Sauvie Island in 1941. Robert joined him in the business in the early 70's. Heifers and calves still remain at this time, but instead of Dick's beautiful Alp cheese, we will have to get our families "Alp style cheese fix" from the Schoch Dairy & Creamery, located in Hillsboro, Oregon! (News article: <http://www.pamplinmedia.com/scs/83-news/254324-123880-last-dairy-on-sauvie-island-goes-out-of-business>)

Other member news: Member **Bev Yungen** is having a surgery and she may appreciate a card during her recovery. Also, Sandy Gernhart reports her mom, member **Millie Kappenthaler**, is getting along pretty well at her new assisted living location not too far from Millie's former home.

Remember our cookbook for a thoughtful gift. It contains many heritage recipes, as well as member favorites!

7th Annual Helvetia Culture Fest

Enjoy a Sunday afternoon in beautiful Helvetia as we celebrate the Helvetia community and its Swiss and Native American heritages. The seventh annual Helvetia Culture Fest will be on Sunday, August 16, 2015 from 1 pm to 5 pm at Pacific Crest Alpacas, 12995 NW Bishop Road, in Helvetia. The barn at Pacific Crest Alpacas offers stunning views of the Tualatin Valley.

To see highlights of previous festivals, go to www.HelvetiaCultureFest.org. Any questions? Call Cherry Amabisca at 503-647-5334.

JODELKLUB EDELWYSS NEWS

By **Stan Marugg** Contact information: Pierre Vireday 503-289-3395

The JODELKLUB is still alive! We meet two times each month at Denny's Restaurant in Wilsonville. Although our numbers are small, our hearts are big, our years are many, and our spirits are hoping for some new men singers. Anyone who enjoys Swiss Fellowship and singing is welcome to join us. If that may be you, call President Pierre Vireday at [\(503\) 481-1258](tel:5034811258). He will be glad to hear from you.

We have two members under doctor's care: John Reichen who has had additional eye surgery and

Hans Wittwer who is recovering from accident injuries.

Some of you will be glad to hear that we are practicing a new (old) song. We may have it ready for the Helvetia Picnic. Hope to see you there.

REMEMBRANCES



Andrew Kehrli passed away November 4, 2014 at the age of 85. He owned Kehrli's Dairy in Troutdale but made a career change and went to work for Multnomah County Fire District 10, where he served for 23 years. He is survived by his wife, Georgetta and children, Paul, Debbie and Terri. Also surviving are two grandchildren, a great-grandchild and sisters Marguerite Kehrli and Esther (Ron) Cox.

Helen Brooks passed away on February 5 at the age of 96. Helen was born in Helvetia and later settled on Century Farm on Skyline Blvd. with her husband, Duce. He predeceased her. Helen is survived by her daughter Schatzi (Nancy) Sheer, grandsons David and Danny and great-grandchildren, Hunter, Chase, Chloe, and Wyatt. Helen worked hard on the farm, planting, pruning and harvesting many acres of raspberries. She and Duce also had pigs and cattle. She was very involved with Swiss activities and wrote for the San Francisco Swiss Journal for 27 years. Many have fond memories of the many parties Duce and Helen hosted "on the windy hill".

Marie Noonan passed away on March 14, 2015 at the age of 108. She was born in Sarnen, Switzerland, and immigrated to the US in 1914. First settling in Cottonwood, Idaho, her family moved to Portland in 1924. Marie was predeceased by her husband, Larry, and son, Ron. She is survived by her son, Don (Mary), daughter-in-law, Mary Borland Norman, three grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and the Nitu family (her caregivers for four years).



Helvetia Swiss Picnic
July 19, 2015

At the Helvetia Community church

Schedule of Events

Church Services 9:00 & 10:30 am

Parade 11:45 am

Bring your own Picnic 12-1:15 pm

Games for the children 2:00 pm

Swiss Music Program 1:30-3:00 pm

Portland Swiss Inc.
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