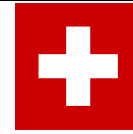


# SWISS NEWS OF OREGON



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

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[www.helvetia-alpengluehn.com](http://www.helvetia-alpengluehn.com)

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Volume 15, Issue 2

Serving Communities in Oregon & SW Washington

November 2015

2015-2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS	
Nov 19	<b>Helvetia-Alpengluehn Novemberfest</b> <i>Bethany Presbyterian Church</i>
Dec 13	<b>Portland Swiss Inc. (PSI) Christmas Party</b> <i>Rheinlander Restaurant</i>
Jan 10	<b>PSI Annual Meeting</b>
Jan 31	<b>PSI Fondue Party</b> <i>Location TBA</i>
Apr 2	<b>Burn the Böögg</b> <i>Helvetia Winery</i>
May 14	<b>Helvetia-Alpengluehn Springfest</b> <i>Bethany Presbyterian Church</i>
July 17	<b>Helvetia Swiss Picnic</b> <i>Helvetia Church</i>
Aug 6	<b>PSI Golf Tournament</b> <i>Scappoose</i>
Aug 7	<b>PSI Schwingfest</b> <i>St. Helens Fairgrounds</i>
Aug 21-23	<b>Swiss Kids Camp</b> <i>Camp Arrah Wanna, OR</i>
TBA	<b>Helvetia Culture Fest</b> <i>Pacific Crest Alpacas</i>
	<b>Swiss Ladies Club Luncheons</b> (last Wednesdays of the month)

**HELVETIA-ALPENGLUEHN SINGING SOCIETY** By Shelby Aeppli Imholt  
503-648-1307 or [stimmholt@frontier.com](mailto:stimmholt@frontier.com)

It's windy; it's raining; it must be autumn in the NW! Let's celebrate the season by singing some new and old favorite Swiss songs in celebration of life here on this beautiful planet. The Helvetia-Alpengluehn Swiss Singing Society is preparing for our upcoming **Novemberfest Concert, Dinner & Bake Sale**. Under the expert direction of Mr. Clifford Barron Fairley, we will present an evening of music featuring the talents of each and every member of the choir with special solos and ensembles to delight the audience. Come join us **Saturday, November 21, 2015** at Bethany Presbyterian Church, 15505 NW Springville Road, Portland, OR 97229.

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, Birewegge** and **Basler Lächerli**, as well as **American** favorites like **pumpkin pie** and **fudge**. Buy something to take home for your family get-togethers! Price for the concert is \$10.00 at the door or \$8.00 in advance from choir members. (Children 18 and under are free). Dinner tickets will be \$8.00. Pre-sale tickets are available from choir members or by calling Shirley Bankston at (503) 246-8632.

Director Cliff Fairley and his wife traveled this summer to Iowa to visit family and then onto New Glarus, Wisconsin for the 41<sup>st</sup> North American Saengerfest. Here is a recounting of his experience:

*"When I heard that there was to be a Saengerfest in New Glarus, I jumped at the chance. I contacted my old friend, Deb Krauss Smith, the director of the Monroe Swiss Singers, to get the Grand Concert Music, and she invited me to sing with her choir.*



*There are two Swiss Singing Alliances in this country, the Pacific Coast and the North American, and they each do things a little differently. In the North American Alliance, each member choir (around 15 choirs) performs one unaccompanied song on stage in front of the other choirs. There is a panel of three judges. Deb Krauss Smith sent me the competition song for her choir, "Heiwehglüt" about three months ahead and gave me strict instructions that it had to be memorized, word and note perfect, no small task when you cannot rehearse it with the choir!*

*The competition was fascinating. Some choirs were excellent. The Monroe Swiss Singers won a Silver Medal. I thought it should have been gold; the choir was so well rehearsed and well balanced! As we walked onto the stage, I was surprised to see*

*Greg and Barbara Vesey from Tacoma in the front row. I know they were surprised to see me as well! The Grand Concert was held on Saturday night in the New Glarus High School gym. Announcers for each of the songs were pre-recorded on video and shown on a large screen. The gym was full, and the concert went smoothly.*

*Hannah Okray, a Helvetia Alpengluehn singer, also attended the festival and sang in the grand concert. Her family has a farm about two hours north of New Glarus. She proudly pointed out to me the boxes of Okray potatoes the caterers were using for the festival. She also had a new dirndl made by a dear friend, which she happily wore for the Grand Concert.*

*Many meals were served under a huge tent on a city street on the town square, and there was lots of live music during and after meals, provided by local musicians and bands from Switzerland."*

Since our last newsletter The Helvetia-Alpengluehn has lost two beloved members. Honorary Member Freda Alice Nordquist passed away May 22, 2015 at 100 years of age and Associate Member Lawrence (Larry) J. Salimena on May 26, 2015 at age 73. We send our thoughts and prayers to the families of these two very special people. They will be dearly missed.

We are happy to welcome a new member to the choir. Soprano, Patricia Feetham was brought to us by fellow singer, Marie Ofner. We are so happy she has joined us. Welcome Pat!

If you like to sing, please consider joining the Helvetia-Alpengluehn Swiss Singing Society when we begin rehearsals again, after the holidays. Contact us for the exact date. We welcome new members, either as singers or associate members. 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.

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### PORTLAND SWISS, INC.

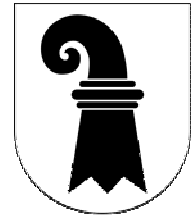
By Joanne Odermott 503-640-9675 or  
jojodermott@hotmail.com

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The golf tournament at Wildwood Golf Course was held on July 31 with 52 golfers participating. The first place team was Tony Roos, Jim Evans, Russ Knoebel and Krey Younger. Awards were given out at the fairgrounds after a delicious BBQ served by Dave Emmenegger and his crew. The following were hole sponsors for the tournament:

INDERBITZIN DISTRIBUTORS  
 SWISS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB OF TACOMA  
 RESER'S FINE FOODS  
 AVAMERE HEALTH SERVICES – RON ODERMOTT  
 PETE AND KATHY REIMERS  
 RFM SEATING – DOUG REIMERS  
 ARCHITECTS VAN LOM – MILTON VAN LOM  
 ROSALY AND MERYL DIVENS  
 MEMORY OF CHUCK AND ELDA HARRIS  
 ALDERBROOK LIGHTING – DAVE EMMENEGGER  
 GREG VESEY INSURANCE, INC.  
 V & K CONSTRUCTION  
 RAINDROPS TO RIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL  
 RESTORATION – KERRY NUSSBAUMER

The following day, August 1<sup>st</sup> and Swiss Independence Day, found a nice crowd at the Columbia County Fairgrounds for the PSI 98<sup>th</sup> annual Schwingfest and Swiss Festival. Like last year, it was a warm day, which may have kept some away. If people were looking for shade, it was readily available. Some had set up their own canopies and both sets of bleachers were covered. A nice breeze throughout the afternoon made it quite comfortable. Next year if it is warm again, "be brave" and "be there" to enjoy the good food, camaraderie, wrestling, camping, music and Sunday breakfast.



A total of 26 senior, junior and buebe schwingers competed. The first place senior wrestler was Daniel Thomi from Vancouver, B.C. With only two wrestlers in the junior division, they competed with the seniors. Brenden Spahr from Frances, WA took first place in juniors. Justin Werner from Frances, WA was the first place winner in the 12-14 age group. Marshall Brockway from Frances, WA took first place in the 9-11 age group. Charlie Edgar from Frances, WA was the first place winner in the 6-8 age group. First place winners in the Steinstossen were (men) Brendan Spahr, (women) Samantha Spahr, boys (5-6) Austin Isom, (7-10) Marshall Brockway, (11-14) Tony Christen, girls (7-10) Makayla Werner, (11-14) Gabby Brockway and (men over 70) Al Odermott.

Shelby Imholt entertained with her wonderful singing and yodeling while people enjoyed lunch in the hall.

At the conclusion of the wrestling, names of the lucky winners for the Drawing were posted. Winner of the \$200 prize was Joe Marty from Toledo, WA. Fritz Von Allmen from Warren, OR was the lucky winner of \$100 and Dan Holdener from WA won \$50. A big thank you to those who donated prizes and to those who purchased tickets. We can always use more prizes. The money goes to our scholarship fund. Our two winners of \$500 scholarships this year were Katie

Hall and Laurent Leonhard. Applications for the scholarships will be available after the first of the year. Contact Joanne Odermott for information.

After a delicious pork chop or bratwurst dinner, dancing began to the music of the Blaser Orchestra. When the orchestra finished at midnight, some guests from Switzerland began to play their Schweizerörgel and dancing continued into the wee hours. What a grand time! Thanks to all who worked so hard to make the entire weekend happen.

Mark your calendar for August 6 & 7, 2016. Those are the dates for next year's golf tournament and Schwingfest now known as Swiss Festival. Take advantage of the convenient campsites available. Contact any club member for more information. Wrestling practice will begin in the spring. Contact Don Odermott at 503-324-3289 or [trancongroup@gmail.com](mailto:trancongroup@gmail.com) for more information.

The Portland Swiss Christmas party is scheduled for Sunday, December 13 at 1:00 p.m. at the Rheinlander Restaurant. There will be limited seating and reservations will need to be made and paid for in advance. More information is forthcoming.

Dues for annual members will be due after January 1, 2016. PSI wishes you a healthy, joyous and blessed holiday season.

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## SWISS LADIES CLUB

By Sherri A. Vetsch Contact: Sally Schoch 503-647-5578 or [sschoch@helvetia.us](mailto:sschoch@helvetia.us)

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Recently, the Swiss Ladies Club entered a restaurant for one of their monthly "fun" meetings. My mom, Evie Vetsch, was wearing a sparkly Swiss T-shirt. There were several people eating lunch, and one of them exclaimed out loud, "I'm Swiss! Are you Swiss?" Another person said, "I'm part Swiss!"

I began to think, why are people so happy to be Swiss? Let's think about this for just a minute. Are you happy to be Swiss, or even partly Swiss? I looked it up on the internet, so the following must all be true!

Do you know some of these facts? Swiss people are some of the happiest people on this earth! Why:

- 1) We are raised to be somewhat frugal and reasonable...leading to more financial security.
- 2) We live longer – average about 82.5 years.
- 3) HELLO!!! We have Swiss Chocolate! Oh, come on now, you know you love it, and it makes us feel good!
- 4) Swiss people are more fit than other people... our heritage is love of our outdoors.
- 5) There are many outstanding Swiss athletes and examples of courageous independent heroes.
- 6) They have a minimal military and an example of excellent mediation.
- 7) Many Swiss speak more than one language -- This is quite different than most people.
- 8) Swiss are known for being hard workers, focused, but still enjoying family and comradery.
- 9) We matriculate from one of the

most diverse and beautiful places on this planet! 10) Oh... Come on.... We all know Swiss people are smart! Although Einstein was born in Germany... he studied in Switzerland. 11) The concept of Democracy... Swiss come very close to a pure Democracy, and it works for them. 12) Swiss have a great sense of time... Swiss time is perfect! 13) Oh my goodness... do I even have to mention we have Swiss CHEESE! I think these are all good reasons why people love to be called Swiss! But, I did find a couple weird things about Switzerland that most people don't know, (but don't affect us in the U.S., thank goodness.) Do know that in Switzerland it is illegal to flush a toilet after 10 PM?! Maybe that is not enforced, but, I digress...

The Swiss Ladies had a wonderful event in the Kids Camp at Camp Arrah Wanna near Mt. Hood. We didn't have as many kids as usual, perhaps due to the forest fires and air quality, but it didn't really affect the camp site and the kids had a wonderful time learning about their heritage, cooking, dancing, archery, crafts, language and love of their heritage. So many thanks for the volunteers who give so much of their time to make sure these kids have an amazing time. This takes a large effort by many folks. The Swiss Ladies are happy to sponsor most of the expense of this outing, ensuring the kids have a great experience to remember.

My sad news is my Mom, Evelyn Vetsch, passed away suddenly on October 20th. She was going to be 90 next month. She is survived by her husband,



Richard and Evelyn Vetsch

Richard Vetsch, and her children, Robert and Pamela Vetsch, Anita (Vetsch,) and Eric Eggertsen, and myself, along with so many beloved cousins and friends. Condolences may be sent to Vetsch Family at 22670 NW Reeder Rd., Portland OR 97231.

We welcomed another new member, Antonia Milroy, and we are happy to enjoy her wealth of intellect and lively experience as an author, and professor of Neuroscience. We are always looking for new members to join our goals of promoting Swiss heritage and comradery. Please consider joining us for lively conversation and joy of heritage!

We are sorry to say another of our members, Millie Kappenthuler, had an accident. Cards of cheer may be sent in care of Sandy Gernhart, 620 SE 168th Ave, # BB16, Vancouver WA 98684.

Maybe you would like one of our wonderful cookbooks? We are really proud to announce they will be available on Amazon, as well as through the Swiss Ladies Club. They make a great gift!

I don't know about you, but I am very proud of my heritage. I am happy to say I am a Swiss/ American. Thanks to my folks, who taught me to be proud of where I inherited my DNA; and I am happy to be a member of our Swiss Ladies Club, promoting our happy, proud, cheesy, chocolatey, (and other reasons) heritage!

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**JODELKLUB EDELWYSS NEWS** By Pierre Vireday, President. Contact phone 503-289-3395.

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**“Mir sind immer na da”--  
“We are still around”...**

The Jodelklub “Edelwyss” is looking for a new rehearsal set-up as we have lost our home base in Wilsonville. We are looking for a small room (church, school, basement, man-cave) that would accept 8 to 10 guys two or three times a month for 2 ½ hours (no food is needed, but water for thirsty singers). We can afford \$25.00 per session. Please help us locate a suitable spot within a 40 mile radius of South Portland. Contact Pierre Vireday at 503 289-3395.

This just in, the Jodlerklub will practice soon at my place on the Marina (life jackets available) and the next practice will be at Daniel Fey's place in Yamhill. Dates and addresses will be mailed to members.

In the last 2 months we met for two Practices/ Performances with and for two of our older members: Dick Vetsch and Casper Ott. A big thanks to two ladies, Sherri Vetsch and Tildie Ott, who helped by graciously receiving us and allowing us to include Dick and Casper in our singing.

Our member Bob Ulrich is very much involved with the next singing & jodeling event in Ripon in 2017.

On a personal note, I am proud to announce that my daughter Carol Vireday and her son Adrian Luginbuhl, have become Swiss Citizens with voting privileges. Carols' oldest son, Benjamin Luginbuhl is also applying for dual citizenship.

As you can see, the Jodlerklub “Edelwyss” is still kicking and all the members wish you all the best to your families for the beautiful Fall Season.




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## Confederation of Oregon Swiss, Inc. (COS)

Contact: Hildegard Miles 971-506-1254 or email: [hildegardmiles@gmail.com](mailto:hildegardmiles@gmail.com)

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Almost 3 years ago, a few Swiss Individuals got together with the idea to create a new and separate Swiss Association. In January 2015, the Confederation of Oregon Swiss, Inc. (COS) was created with the purpose to unite the efforts of organized Swiss societies, individuals, and other interested non-profit groups to encourage, educate, and strengthen the Swiss heritage and culture in our area.

The main purpose of this new organization is to develop a multi-cultural and multi-faceted Swiss Hall facility that would be large enough to host events like: Swiss Concerts, Swiss wrestling events, Swiss Kid's Camps, auctions, dances, luncheons, weddings, anniversary celebrations, meetings, BBQs, and other events.

There is lots of work to be done and you may ask how you can help or get involved with this organization. 1) Become an Individual Member. 2) Be a Volunteer, we need help with logo and website design, fund raising, and more. 3) Make a donation. 4. Make a non-monetary contribution. Please 'Like' us on Facebook.

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## REMEMBRANCES



**John Marti** passed away on May 16 at the age of 90. He is survived by his wife, Alice, five sons, six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

**Glen Grossen** passed away on May 16 at the age of 86. He was raised on the family farm in Helvetia. He was drafted into the US Marine Corp and served during the Korean War. Glen was a farmer all his life. He was preceded in death by three brothers: Wilfred, Roy and Albert. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Laurine, and three children, Mark, Marianne (fiancé Kevin Evers) and Debbie (Mike) Morgan. Glen is also survived by two brothers, Elmer and Ben, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

**Freda Nordquist** passed away on May 22 at the age of 100. She enjoyed her family, playing the accordion, singing and gardening. She is survived by her children, William, Nancy and Patricia, her sister Marguerite and many grandchildren and great

grandchildren. Clarence Badertscher was a dear friend in her later years.

**Lawrence “Larry” Salimena** passed away May 26 at the age of 73. He worked for First Interstate Bank/Wells Fargo for 30 years. Larry was a member and past president of East Portland Rotary and he and his wife, Pat, hosted over 20 exchange students. He was active in Boy Scouts, the Elks, Club Paesano and the Arthritis Foundation. Larry is survived by his wife, Pat, sons, Geoff Latham (Melody), Geno (Erin) and Giovanni (Cheryl), daughter Gina Smith and seven grandchildren.

**Margaret Ruhlin** passed away May 29 at the age of 66. Margaret helped open the Meridian Park hospital and worked there for about 20 years. She later worked in several other hospitals in the Willamette Valley. She then went to work for the State of Oregon and worked on case studies for grants. She retired as head of records for Coffee Creek Correction Facility. Margaret is survived by her sister Barbara (Michael) Hales, two nieces and a nephew.

**Marguerite Beard** passed away August 2 at the age of 89. Born to Austrian immigrants and

farmers, she attended Sauvie Island grade school and Scappoose High School. After completing secretarial school, she worked for Union Oil for 30 years. She enjoyed ballroom dancing, golfing, bowling, traveling and playing cards. She also loved the outdoors and gardening. Marguerite was preceded in death by her husband, William and is survived by stepchildren, nephews and nieces.

**Vincent Dobbin** passed away October 16 at the age of 92. He was born in South Dakota and came to Oregon on his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. He purchased a farm in Hillsboro and he and his wife, Elaine, have lived there for 70 years. Vincent was involved in many community projects and programs and received many awards for his service. He is survived by his wife, Elaine, sons Ken (Nancy) and Ron (Kelly), four grandchildren and one great grandchild.

#### NOTEWORTHY NEWS

Matt and Michelle Maller welcomed a son, Tate Matthew Maller, born June 10. Grandparents are Terri and Kip Kaiser and great-grandparents are Pete and Kathy Reimers. Matt joins big sister Arli. Congratulations to the proud family.

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**Portland Swiss Inc.**  
**537 NE 38<sup>th</sup> Court**  
**Hillsboro, OR 97124**