



SWISS HERALD

November/December 2017 Edition

Swiss Society of Vancouver
P.O.Box 32021 Walnut Grove
Langley, BC V1M 2M3

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WANTED: COOKIE-BAKERS OF ANY AGE!



Barbara, our cookie-maker master is inviting other bakers to join her team. Every person creates their favorite cookies. ANY AMOUNT IS WELCOME! They will all be put in bags (ca. 100) and every senior will receive one at the Christmas Senior's Luncheon.

The more people volunteer, the bigger the bags!

Please call Barbara Wirsching at **604-671-6792** by November 25th and let her know what kind of cookies you will contribute. There will be a "packing-the-cookies party" at Lotti Frowein's place shortly before the Luncheon's date.

IN MEMORIUM



Lebenslauf of my father, Walter Boppart

by Elisabeth Boppart

Many of you have known Dad for many years, some of you as early as when he first moved to Vancouver back in April 1955. Dad lived life to the fullest, following his dreams of adventure and giving all for his family, community and God.

Walter was born in St. Fiden, Switzerland, the 6th of 8 children, to a relatively poor working class family. His father was a lamp-lighter, his mother a very tired housewife. They lived in a 3-bedroom apartment, a few blocks from where his future wife would be born. At an early age he met Felix, a class-mate and Mom's eldest brother. Mom and Dad grew up together, although there was no spark at this early age.

Dad completed his apprenticeship as a bricklayer and eventually became a foreman. Like many of his generation, he had a yearning for adventure and in 1953 he boarded a BOAC flight to Ghana on the Ivory Coast.

There he worked on a project building a school and he acquired a taste for pepper soup and curry. He often told stories of driving around on his Royal Ensign motorbike or in his MG, and of chasing after his mischievous pet monkey.

A year later he returned to Switzerland, but it was too small for his liking. By August he arrived by freighter to the frontier of Canada. His first stop in Sudbury was clearly not the natural surroundings he dreamed about, so after just 6 months he packed his bags, hopped on a train to Vancouver in the hopes of catching a boat to Australia. Needless to say, Vancouver convinced him to stay. Soon he had a job working as a field engineer for Crown Zellerbach that took him on amazing travels around BC – Bella Bella, Bella Coola, Elk Falls, Kelowna and Armstrong.

Walter was a gifted letter writer to those back home in Switzerland. Mom fell in love with him through his letters and in 1958 Elisabeth came to Vancouver, after having her own adventures in Italy, France and the US. A year later Mom asked her brother Peter, a priest, to officiate at their wedding in a small chapel in Banff, Alberta, with their friends, the Steiners as witnesses. Dad said his greatest coup was to marry Mom - she was such a good partner; and the best mother any children could have.

With Swiss precision, Liz, a daughter, came along the next year, later followed in rapid succession with Meg, Tom, then Stephen, all in 4 ½ years.

We grew up a happy family on Alden Lane, even though Mom and Dad had to watch every penny. Early Christmases, had us finding homemade gifts from Christkindli that Mom and Dad had made - a wooden rocking horse, a furnished doll house, a doll's cradle, a toy oven and truck to ride on. Christmas was always special in our house; singing Swiss Carols, feasting on Mom's cookies and lighting candles on the tree were a Christmas Eve tradition. We often boasted to our friends at Midnight Mass about the gifts we had already opened.

A favourite memory of Liz and Meg's is stomping on grapes before they went through the homemade wine press – no wonder Dad's wine tasted so bad. We all took turns with the chores,

washing dishes, polishing shoes on Saturday night, cleaning our rooms and weeding the vegetable garden before we could play with the neighbours. Dad taught us how to ride a bike, and work out fractions. He loved being a Dad and would say our prayers with us at the bedside, then tuck us in and say, "Bheuti Gott", Schlaf guet (God protect you, sleep well).

When we were young most of our family holidays involved camping. Our trips took us all over BC, Washington State, and down to California. We have many camping memories including one of Dad holding an ax, chasing a bear in his underwear. Now there's a visual...

Life was simple but very good.

Mom and Dad showed us by example how to care for the disenfranchised. Dad visited inmates at Ocala prison, and Mom and Dad adopted numerous lost souls. They always shared their blessings with others and taught us to do likewise.

We all inherited the wanderlust of our parents and when we were away, the letters continued to flow from Dad telling us how proud he was of us and offering guidance. The strong family bonds Mom and Dad forged have sustained our family, now three generations on. Our connections to Switzerland remain strong, even with the grandchildren. Dad really found his calling as a Papa to the grandkids, perhaps his favourite role – as infants, he would carry them around and whisper Swiss songs in their ears.

Dad was especially pleased that his children loved hanging out together and that his grandchildren also enjoyed each other's company. He counted himself a blessed man.

Dad told us that his life far exceeded his expectations.

Bhueti Gott Papa, Schlaf guet.

IN MEMORIUM:

WALTER KUHN



DOB: June 16, 1927
Died in July or Aug.
2017. Was a resident
of the Salvation Army
Care Home at Kerr
Street in Vancouver.



ERNST EICHENBERGER

Former Consul in Vancouver
1990-1994

DOB: November 24, 1939
Died Oct. 28, 2017 in Switzerland



Saturday, December 9, 2017

SWISS SOCIETY CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

In honour of our Senior Members

**Delta Town & Country Inn
6005 Highway 17 at Highway 99 in Delta**

You will enjoy a good meal, some entertainment,
have the opportunity to chat with old friends
and make new acquaintances.

**Doors open: 10:00 a.m.
Program starts: 11:00 a.m.**

Cost of the luncheon is: \$25.00 for 2017 Swiss Society Senior Members
\$36.00 for all others wishing to attend.

Reservations required by November 28th
Contact: Edvige Weingand at 604-953-1963 or
email: edvigeweingand@telus.net



SENIOR'S SECTION

Werner Rutishauser: 604-929-6923

Membership: Susanne Wilson: 604 888-6949 or membership@swiss-society.ca

Filmnachmittage fuer Senioren



For Swiss members who are 55+

im Deutschen Haus
4875 Victoria Drive (Ecke 33rd Ave),
Vancouver, BC

Kosten: \$ 6 fuer Kaffee und Kuchen

Next Date: November 19th.

Bitte anmelden bis am Montag vorher

Veronika Sans 604-730-9781 oder

Elisabeth Schuepbach 604-583-3742

CHOIR SECTION

Oct 29th

Our choir has resumed the rehearsals in September. We all enjoyed the summer off but now we are back on track.

First I have to report with sadness that we are losing our long time conductor Dubravko Pajalic at the end of the year. We are very thankful for the long service and all the skills we have learned from him. We wish him all the best in his new adventures.



We are currently practicing for our performance at the Seniors' Luncheon on Dec 9th.

Our own Christmas concert will be Saturday Afternoon, Dec. 16th at the All Saint Anglican Church in Burnaby. We have decided to make this an afternoon concert for many reasons. First the weather was not favorable last year and if we have a winter like the last it is hard to get to places after dark. We all hope to see you there this year.

Silvia Kinvig, President



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Vancouver Swiss Choir presents our annual Christmas Concert.

We are pleased to invite you to a treasure of traditional and old favored Christmas music with some original Swiss songs and yodels. This year we have the pleasure to bring you a Christmas concert in collaboration with

Guests: Christina Lips & Sonja Essinger, Flute Players

Director: Dubravko Pajalic

Date: Saturday Dec. 16th 2017

**At: All Saints Anglican Church
7405 Royal Oak Ave.
Burnaby**

**Time: 2:30pm Door opens
3:00pm Concert starts**

**Cost: \$15.00 Ticket from choir
members or at the door, Children under 12
free**

After the concert we would like to invite you for coffee,

tea and treats in the church basement.



The Vancouver Swiss Choir is looking for a **CHOIR-CONDUCTOR** for the New Year 2018.

About the job:

- Permanent part time paid position
- Experience in choral conducting
- Available for weekly rehearsals (Thursdays) and some weekend performances in and out of town
- Ability to research traditional Swiss songs and to introduce new Swiss material

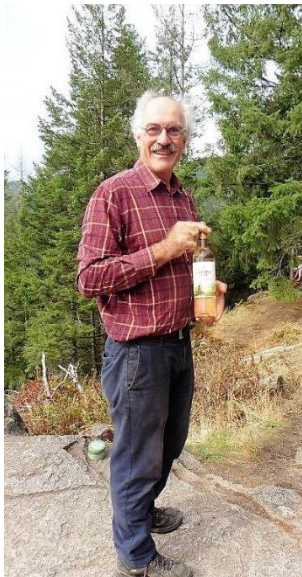


If you know of anybody who is interested in the position, please forward the information to

Dorli Meier: 604 853 0890 or E-mail: rbrulhart@hotmail.com

SWISS OUTDOOR CLUB

Dear friends;



September 23th, 2017, on a beautiful sunny fall day, 29 hikers gathered at the Minnehada parking lot for the "last walk with Joe up to the High Knoll" to spread his ashes. Joe has been to this wonderful Mountain many times during his lifetime with friends and especially the Swiss Outdoor Club. The one hour walk up there was at times a little challenging for some of us. Once we gathered up on the High Knoll, Andres Schneiter said a few words before he spread Joe's ashes and we all said farewell to Joe. Then we had a little bit of wine and toasted with each other to Joe and reflected on the good times we had with him.

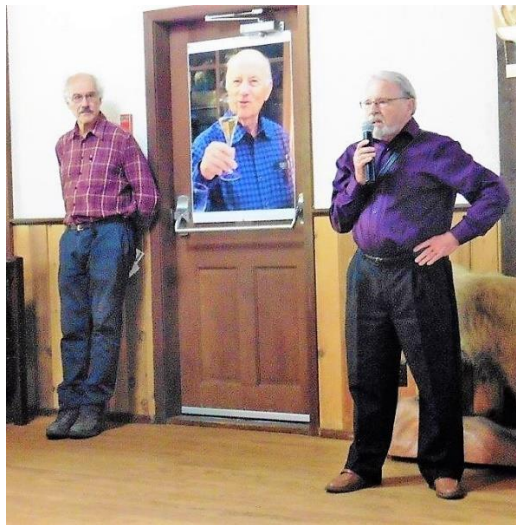
After our hike we all went to the Swiss Mountain Range Chalet to meet many of Joe's friends and former UBC colleagues.



Andres Schneiter welcomed everyone with a few words. With his summary of Joe's life he touched in different ways our hearts and souls.

Despite Joe's knowledge and his Ph.D. in agricultural sciences, when talking with him he was able to make everybody feel equal. He was kind, gentle, very patient and a wonderful friend to many. Andreas invited anyone who wished to say a few words about Joe's life. Some of his former colleagues from UBC and friends had a few special words to say. I too said a few words, because he shared a lot of his photography skills with Christel and I.

Maja Joehl prepared plenty of very delicious Swiss food for every one to enjoy. Thanks very much! A special thanks also to the Swiss Mountain Range for providing their Chalet to make this Celebration of Life for Joe Mueller possible.



Joe, thank you for everything you have done during your lifetime for many of us. You are now at a better place, where there is only peace and happiness which we can not find on this earth. Rest in peace until we meet again.

Kind regards,

Alfred Eigenmann Coquitlam BC.

A note from the editor:

Dear Alfred;

Since years you've been a frequent provider of photos and summaries of Swiss Society Vancouver Events.

Without those reports the Swiss Herald would only have poor information about all the different activities.

I am sorry that you are going through a tough time with health issues and I wish you all the best for a speedy recovery, and Christel a lot of patience and support! I do need your help, Alfred! Take good care of yourself.

Christina



RESULTS OF THE OUTDOORS CLUB SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

As a result of a motion raised during the January 2017 AGM to review the future of the Swiss Outdoors Club, we held a special General Meeting on October 23. Letters by the Executive explaining the situation and pleading for help were published several times in late spring. Good responses were received but not enough.

Present Status:

The Outdoors Club is functioning relatively well and has increased its membership. The cabin is being used well and reservations are ahead of 2016. Cash flow is in order. The issue is that with the exception of the Waldweihnacht, events and hikes are poorly attended and crucially, most of the executive, some having been active since inception wants to retire. Most importantly, we need a new President and a new vision.

After a lengthy discussion of several options, and some younger members coming forward with good suggestions, it was decided to carry on until our AGM at the end of January 2018. The executive will stay in place until then to facilitate a transformation and handover to a younger generation. If this is successful, a new executive will then take over. ***A crucial element of this “transformation” is to redefine the Outdoors Club to be attractive to the younger members of the society, Swiss community and outdoors enthusiasts in general and perhaps work with other outdoors clubs.***

If this happens we will witness an exciting new era of the club.

If it cannot be achieved by the AGM, the outdoors Club will cease to exist in its present form with no further discussions. The Mt Baker Cabin will henceforth be managed by the Swiss Society who can then decide to keep it or sell it. The Swiss Society Executive may have a person or two dedicated to organize a few outdoor activities for remaining members perhaps interested in such.

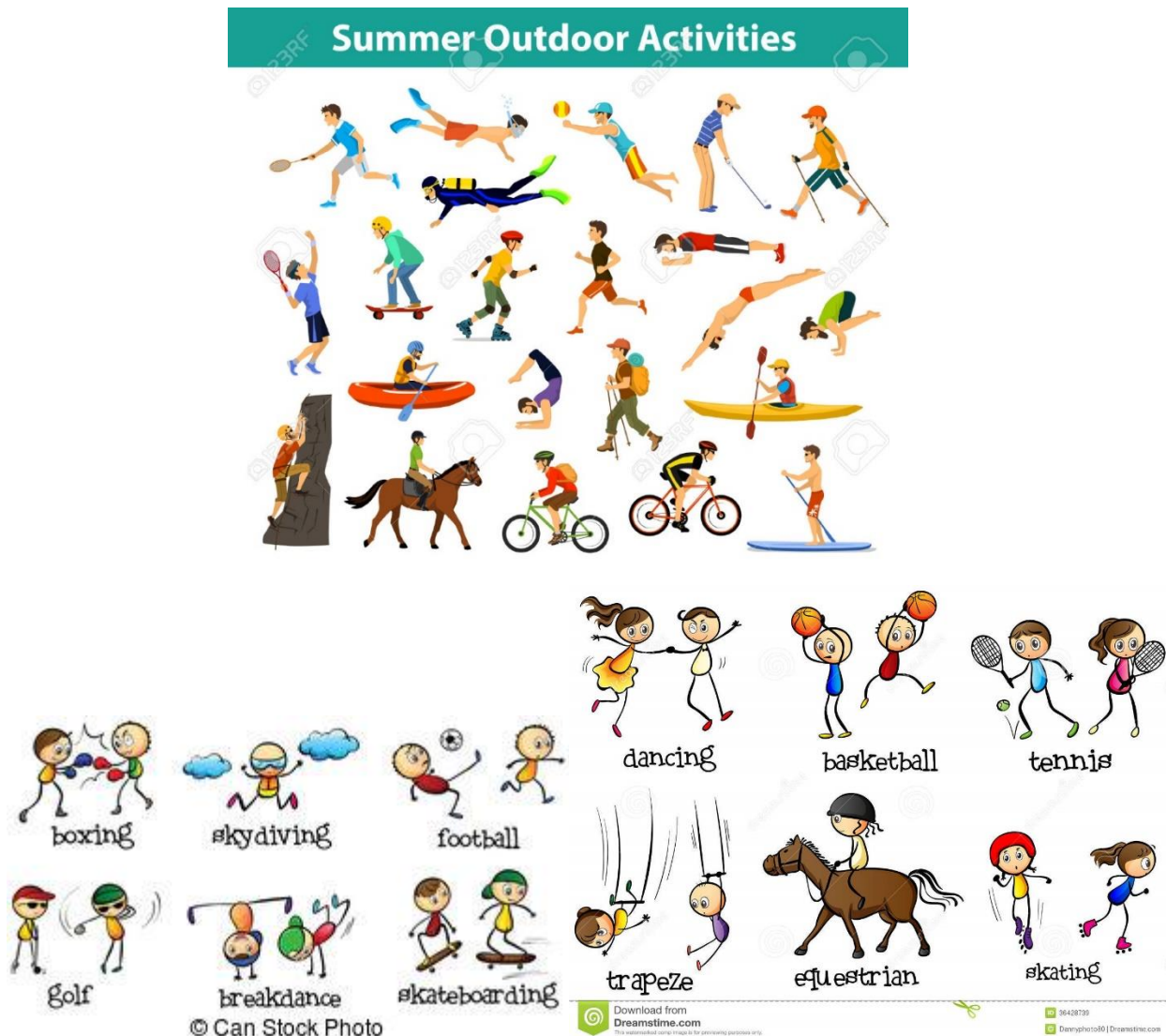
This outcome would be a great loss. Yet it was agreed that we cannot continue as usual. We have been asking for help and pleading since 2010!

The time has come for a major paradigm shift where our younger members take over, redirect activities to their liking as we did 40 years ago and create the enthusiasm to carry on, organize hikes, expeditions, discover, and challenge each other while enjoying the rewards and friendships that will evolve. We have laid the foundation and will help and guide as desired but YOU have to carry the torch. It is unreasonable to expect 70-year olds to lead exciting trips for 30 year olds!

Anybody interested in participating and creating this new Outdoors Club, please contact our President, Jacques Goldschmidt. You/ we have three months!

Andres Schneiter for the executive of the Outdoors club.

Here are some ideas for new Outdoor Activities that make lots of fun in a group:



SWISS OUTDOORS CLUB

Invites you to a

Waldweihnacht

17 December 2017 at 6 pm



Location: Mount Seymour Road at the last sharp left turn before the ski hill parking lot (Swiss Flags will be at road side); turn right into parking lot of Seymour group camp site.

Program: At 6 pm we will proceed to a forest clearing and have a good old fashioned Christmas sing along near a Christmas tree with real candles. We will continue along the trail to a cabin in the woods and warm up by a roaring wood fireplace and sit around tables covered with goodies. Gluehwein and hot chocolate milk will be served.

If all the children are good Santa will make an appearance.

Important: Please come well dressed for cold winter conditions: snow boots, warm clothes and walking sticks, as well as rain gear may be needed. **Bring flashlights or head lights to find your way.**

For more information please contact:

Jacques Goldschmidt : 604-996-6253

Email: Goldschmidt.jaques@gmail.com



Swiss Outdoors Club

New Year's Eve 2017 Fondue Party

We invite members and friends to our cabin in

7552 Canyon View Dr.
Glacier Springs, WA.

December 30, 2017, come in the morning and get 2 days of snow play in before meeting in the evening of the 31st around a warm and cozy wood stove.

Please bring a pouch of Swiss fondue mix and bread for the New Years' Eve meal together. We will enjoy some wine and hot tea, potluck salad and baked goodies.

All other meal you supply your own.
Also bring your own sleeping necessities.

For registration and more information please contact:

Jacques Goldschmidt: Goldschmidt.jaques@gmail.com
Or call: 604 – 996 - 6253

VANCOUVER DORFMUSIK



Dear Music Enthusiasts;

The Vancouver Dorfmusik will be the special guest at the Richmond Community Band's Annual Winter Concert at the Gateway Theatre, 6500 Richmond Road in Richmond on Friday Nov. 17, 8 pm.

Ticket prices are \$17 for Seniors and \$ 20 for adults.

Please order tickets from Urs Fricker at 604-274-0802 or email: julieturs@hotmail.com

Tickets are also available at the door.

Members of the Vancouver Dorfmusik and the Richmond Community Band would be pleased to welcome you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 19, 2017	Filmnachmittag	Seniors
November 20, 2017	Executive Meeting	SSV
November 24, 2017	Executive Meeting	Outdoors Club
December 9, 2017	Seniors' Christmas Luncheon	Seniors
December 16, 2017	Choir Concert	Choir
December 17, 2017	Waldweihnacht	OC, SSV
December 30, 2017 to January 1, 2018	New Year's at the Cabin	Outdoors Club
January 20/21, 2018	Ski Weekend at the Cabin	Outdoors Club
January 26, 2018	AGM	Outdoors Club

Fees for Advertisement in the Swiss Herald

Fees for design:

To make minor adjustments: Free

To make major changes to an ad: \$ 25

To create a new ad: \$ 50 – 100

Deadlines for sending in ads or articles:

20th of August, October, December,
February, April and June.

Fees for advertisement:

Ad Size	One Issue	Six Issues
One full page	\$ 150	\$ 825
½ Page	\$ 90	\$ 495
1/3 Page	\$ 60	\$ 330
¼ Page	\$ 40	\$ 220
Business Card (5 Lines)	\$ 20	\$ 110

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Telephone: 604-433-1911 Fax: 604-433-8970 Email: info@erechsteiner.ca

REALLY??



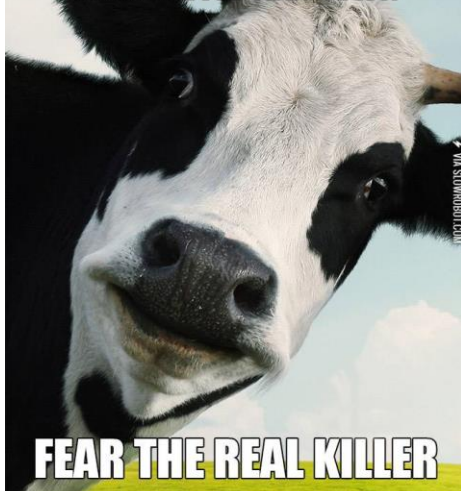
In Switzerland, Santa has a helper named Schmutzli who beats children with a broom.



Inflatable Poop

This giant inflatable dog turd by American artist Paul McCarthy was exhibited at the garden of a Swiss museum. The art work, titled "Complex Shit" and which is the size of a house, blew away from the exhibition, bringing down a power line and breaking a greenhouse window before it landed again. The wind carried it 200 metres (yards) from the Paul Klee Centre in Berne before it fell back to Earth in the grounds of a children's home.

EVERY YEAR SHARKS KILL ~10 PEOPLE.
EVERY YEAR ~50 PEOPLE DIE FROM
BEING STEPPED ON BY COWS.



FEAR THE REAL KILLER



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017/18

Title	Name	Email address	Phone Number
President	Karin Kapp	president@swiss-society.org	604-816-2082
Membership	Susanne Wilson	membership@swiss-society.org	604-888-6949
Secretary	vacant		
Treasurer	Margrit Ruevekamp	treasurer@swiss-society.org	604-945-0546
Seniors	Werner Rutishauser	wrutish@shaw.ca	604-929-6923
Choir	Silvia Kinvig	silkin56@hotmail.com	778-996-8775
Outdoors Club	vacant		
Youth Club	vacant	youth-group@swiss-society.org	
Advisor	Veronika Sans	vsans@prontomail.com	604-730-9781
Advisor	Marie-Louise Hanna	mhanna18@shaw.ca	

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Swiss Canadian Mountain Range	Frank Suter jr.	scmra.president@gmail.com	
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